

Thank you for addressing the importance of sustainable aquatic food systems.

Aquatic foods are often overlooked in the discourse on food and nutrition security. Political priority is crucial for raising awareness and actions for the importance of sustainable aquatic food systems.

Food security goes beyond having enough food; it's about access to the right nutrients.

Aquatic foods have small environmental footprints. It provides high quality proteins and essential micronutrients that are vital for our health and development.

Documenting food safety and nutrients is vital for implementing knowledge-based food and nutrition policies. We must ensure access to food composition data, connect research and policy, and scale up the good solutions.

Food security is a top priority for me and our government. Together with partners in the Global Action Network on Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters, and together with partners in the Ocean Panel, Norway, mobilizes actions for sustainable aquatic food systems for food security. Norway has committed to continuing the work of the Global Action Network and bridging the UN Nutrition Decade and the UN Decade of Ocean Science until 2030.

Aquatic foods play a vital role in addressing nutritional needs in developing countries.

Through our strategy called "Combining forces against hunger –we emphasize the important role of aquatic foods:

1. Our Fish for Development Programme focuses on knowledge based management of fisheries and aquaculture and monitoring to ensure environmental and economic sustainability.
2. Through the EAF-Nansen Programme, we improve knowledge on nutrient composition of aquatic foods, preservation methods and local value chains.
3. We follow up of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, in partnership with FAO, to increase consumption of aquatic foods in low-income groups.
4. Our Ocean for Development program supports ocean governance and management.

We remain committed to support developing countries in promoting sustainable food systems.

Knowledge is key, for achieving sustainable aquatic food systems.

Let us pool our strengths together!