

## IMPACT

## Newsletter No. 8 August, 2012

### The MADE Extension Service

GAFRD can play a remarkable role in marine aquaculture development; strengthening its joint position between science/technology and productive approaches. Support to the private farmers means to transfer the scientific and technology acquisitions to them; this is one of the main targets of the MADE project; the extension service is the instrument for achieving the results.

Now, the project staff completed the demanding training phase, in Egypt and Italy. They are ready to do the best to increase the project sustainability, giving indications to the farmers in terms of technological, productive and marketing competences, according to sustainable and responsible approaches.

### The operative approach

MADE is organising a “technical window” in K21 Agami GAFRD Hatchery aimed to consolidate the dialogue between the Egyptian involved Institutions and the private sector, to register technical demands and needs. The “Best Management Practise” approach is the key to help the farmers for improving the productive process and for increasing their income. The project staffs are any case ready for technical field missions, for giving synthetic solution for specific constrains. The “Standard Operating Procedures” can constitute the detailed written instructions/indications for improving the productive performance, farm by farm, function by function.

### The service in action

MADE project, according to the priorities of GAFRD Authority, organised already several field missions for supporting the private sector. In the Dibah triangle, farmers know very well the sector “weakness points”; The demand is, first of all, for solving ecology issue; water quantity and quality. Secondly they need new technologies, both for the hatchery and for the cage, to fill the gap is affecting the marine sector, to compete in the so aggressive Mediterranean marketing context, but also so interesting for dynamic entrepreneurs, above all for sea bass and sea bream. Also in the Egyptian desert several land owners have already established fish rearing facilities, according to integrated aquaculture/agriculture approach. The first experimental tentative concerned fishes rearing in tanks used as water reservoirs for irrigation. The achieved successes encouraged the farmers to try fish farming/agriculture integrated system. The organic fish’s waste of intensive system can enrich the water sources, representing a fertilizer for land crops, such as alpha alpha (the green gold), providing also water for sheep and goats. Three different kinds of products from the same quantity of water. The main reared species in the arid lands are currently the Nile tilapia and the African catfish, when good quality freshwater from underground is available and mullets can also reared using underground brackish water.

Apart from the technical issues, legal procedure aspects related to the licence and approval for farm construction and cage installation in the sea are still too long and bureaucratic. They can often constitute a “threat” for the sector development itself. The sector “strengthening point” is any way represented by the market; both in term of farm/gate prices and people demand for the aquaculture products. The Egyptian/Italian partnership MADE project is supporting constitutes an “opportunity”; the Extension service staff is now well trained to face this professional challenge.



## NEWS IN EVIDENCE

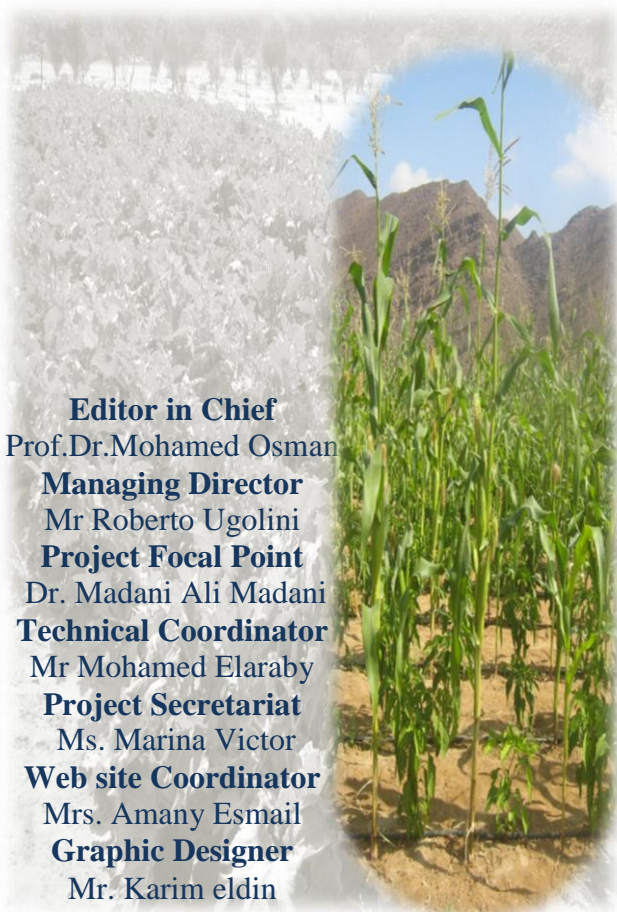
**Extension service** field mission on 9/10 July, to the South of Egypt, in the Red Sea coastal area. This is the first result of a strong cooperation effort between GAFRD and World Food Program. A team has been officially established; Mohammed Elaraby (GAFRD/Extension service); Hossam Abdel Baser (World Food Program/Red Sea Governorate); Shazly (Training Program /Resettlement of the Eastern Desert Bedouins Project - Red Sea). A technical survey mission has been already executed in the areas of Valley Jaddamy/Safaga, Valley Rabah/Safaga and Palm Valley/Alquossier. “We are thinking to an integrated approach between agriculture and aquaculture- Prof.Dr. Mohamed Fathy the GAFRD Chairman remarked- for implementing projects and business according to sustainable and responsible strategy”. “The target of this action is the exploitation of these area according to integrated approach, for plan cultivation and fish farming, to increase the income of the farmers, producing biological high value proteins”- Elaraby said.

Integrated fishery/aquaculture and agriculture approach can increase the enterprise self-financial system. The World Food Program is playing an important role in the development of several areas in the Red Sea, offering “start-up” opportunities to young graduates people, for instance through agricultural and livestock inputs, to help them to work in not easy climatic and geographical conditions. Fish production can offer another opportunity to the people in this area that is one of the poorest of the Country, still far from the strong economic circuits, such as the touristic and the oil sectors.



## MICROSCOPE

The Nile River draws one of the world's largest deltas, 160 km in length from Cairo to the Mediterranean coast. This is the region of the Lower Egypt, located between the two main branches of Damietta and Rosetta, flowing into the Mediterranean Sea. From Port Said to Alexandria the delta region includes about 240 km of Mediterranean coastline with several important water bodies, as the coastal lagoons of Manzala, Burullus, Idku and Maryut. Small scale fishery and aquaculture sectors are very important activities; about 300.000 acres can be used for aquaculture production. The most important aquaculture area is any case the Dibah Triangle, from Damietta, Manzala and Port Said. Here, more than 2,500 farmers are producing high economic and biological value species with about 35,000 feddan of ponds. Egyptian market is still profitable, above all during several periods of the year, such as the Ramadan. Sea bass and sea bream can achieve the value of 10 USA\$/kg at the farm gate. Anyway, farmers need assistance for improving continuously their job, both for them and consumers interests. MADE project extension service is dedicating a special attention to the Dibah productive context; technical missions have been already executed to consolidate the dialogue between the Institutions and the private sector



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