The Government of Indonesia recently adopted a food security law, outlining the importance of food security for the Indonesian population and the need for agricultural diversification.

**Food Security & Blue Growth**

More emphasis is being given to the promotion of fish and fish products as essential elements of the Indonesian diet, and providers of high quality protein. The blue growth sectors (primarily capture fisheries and aquaculture) are recognised as important sources of nutritious food that can contribute to environmentally sustainable economic growth, and social well-being.

In May 2014, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia and Wageningen University & Research centre, started a 3 year project to enhance the availability and accessibility of safe and quality fish and fish products for the Indonesian consumers.

The project is jointly funded by both governments, with Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) acting as the Implementing Agency. Dutch partners in this project are: RIKILT, IMARES, LEI, Wageningen University and the NVWA.

**Encouraging stakeholder collaboration**

The project is complementary, and adds value to planned interventions of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF). Bottlenecks and blockades hindering effective implementation of the policies and strategies will be addressed to improve the role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security. The project functions as a broker between knowledge institutes, policy makers and practitioners and brings different thinking together to address impediments in the fish value chain.

A cross-cutting condition is to strengthen collaboration between different stakeholders in the fish value chain sector, that are willing to jointly experiment with innovative solutions contributing to institutional change in the aquaculture and capture fisheries sector. Work has commenced at several selected sites, with activities for aquaculture in Java and Kalimantan, and for capture fisheries in Sumatra, Java and to a smaller extent in Ambon, the Moluccas.

Sustained government support, in collaboration with the private sector as a driver for blue growth, and the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector is seen as a must. Not only for the transfer of knowledge, but also for the development of joint businesses such as fish product development, technological advances in brood stock and fish feed, and the marketing and distribution of fish and fish products.
Project objectives:
- Increased availability of safe and high quality fish and fish products for the domestic market;
- Increased accessibility of safe and high quality fish and fish products for the domestic market;
- Improved aspiration of Indonesian consumers to consume fish and fish products, with an emphasis on fisheries and fish farming community members;
- Improved quality control in fish and fish products.

Theory of Change
Due to the declining productivity of capture fisheries, it is strongly believed that increased availability of fish and fish products cannot be achieved through increased fishing efforts. Instead the project looks for ways to reduce post-harvest losses in the capture fisheries value chain and increase freshwater aquaculture production through improved technologies and inputs.

Sanitation and hygiene issues in fishing ports and the lack of inspection and control with respect to food safety are addressed so that Indonesian consumers can count on healthy and safe fish and fish products, while avoiding threats to public health. To fight the use of formalin, a national task force has been established and the awareness of stakeholders has risen to change their current practices and use alternatives to preserve the shelf life of fish. A model to improve distribution channels will be rolled out to ensure that fish and fish products reach Indonesian consumers in a more efficient and quick way.

Investing in people is seen as critical as investing in on-the-ground measures. The capacity of various stakeholders has strengthened from landing and production to consumption. An example of this is how supporting public awareness has strengthened comprehension and appreciation by consumers of the nutritional benefits of including fish and fish products in their diet.

The project is also supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in innovative fish product design. Improvements have been made in handling practices of fishermen, traders and auctioneers, and enhancing aquaculture practices of small scale fish farmers to improve the viability and profitability of fish farms.

The programme adopts a training the trainers approach, which comprises a variety of activities aiming to stimulate learning. Three existing institutions; the ValCapFish Center (VCF), the Seafood Service Centre (SSC) and the Fish Quarantine Inspection Agency (FQIA) which were established and/or supported by the Netherlands government in the past, are central to this approach and essential for the sustainability of the project.

The above measures and interventions jointly contribute to fish food security and Blue Growth (environmental sustainability, economic growth and social equity) in Indonesia.

Nico Rozemeijer – project leader
Senior Advisor Collaborative NRM and Rural Development
Focuses on governance, policy development, organisational development.

nico.rozemeijer@wur.nl
T +31 (0)317 481 389