



CAPTURE FISH PRODUCT QUALITY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN DEVELOPING WORLD

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Introduction

- ✓ Trade is crucial for economic growth and food security.
- ✓ Fisheries products are the world's most widely traded foods (FAO, 2016)
- ✓ Economic importance of fish includes being major source of foreign exchange revenue, and employment in some developing countries (FSA, 2015)

Introduction(Contd.)IN

- In 2016, about 35 percent of global fish production entered international trade in various forms for human consumption or non-edible purposes(FAO 2018).
- In developing countries, the production system is mainly artisanal, and fish are marketed mostly in five different forms; fresh, smoked, dried, salted and frozen.

Introduction (Contd.)

- Smoked products offer the healthiest advantage to reducing coronary heart disease (CHD) in food consumption;

Introduction(Contd.)

- ✓ Most of the potential traders in developing countries lack resources to prepare/comply with requirements of food safety standards
- ✓ Some countries are now banned from international trade due to non-compliance (poor quality practices in fisheries activities and processing) with international fishing standards

Introduction(Contd.)

- **Goal:** To assess international fish trade in hot -smoked fish by developing countries
- **Objective :** To investigate limiting factors to international trade in hot-smoked fish by developing countries.



Methodology

- ✓ Focused group discussions were held with members of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders (AwFishNet), Nigeria Chapter and key informants representing officers of then competent authority, the Federal Department of Fisheries.
- ✓ Questions were asked on what they considered to be barriers to international fish trade with respect to product quality of hot smoked fish.
- ✓ Secondary data: Literature review was used to buttress points and establish effect of products quality in international trade by developing countries



Table 1: Barriers to international fish trade in Nigeria (Responses by AWFISHNET, Nigeria)

S/N	Comments	Suggested solution
1.	Lack of information and inadequate data	There should be a proper record and documentation of what is required so everyone will be aware and act as expected
2.	Lack of technical know-how and basic amenities	All inclusive stakeholders forum to hold at periodic intervals for updates on standards, certification requirements and improved technology.
3.	Quality issues and funds	Integration of training workshop for stakeholders along the value chain (fish production, processing and trade) to enlighten on source of funds, good manufacturing/ hygienic practices, technical knowledge and latest equipment.
4.	Transportation, logistics and extortion	The use of vacuum packaging or modified atmosphere packaging. Transportation means and logistics should be such to maintain the hygienic and safe conditions of the products. Shipping lines should not delay food items.
5.	Very few international accredited/certified analytical laboratory (ISO 17025)	High-tech equipment should be provided to analyze various required products parameters International accreditation of analytical laboratory should be simplified and obtainable by analytical laboratories in developing countries. There should be adequate and periodical trainings to enhance competence of laboratory staff



Table 2: Constraints to products standards/certification (Responses by AWFISHNET, Nigeria)

S/N	Comments	Suggested solution
1.	Long certification/ inspection processing time	Prompt response and attention by regulatory officers for product assessment to avoid depreciation of value having spent a long time before assessment
2.	Steep certification fees and complexity	<p>Developing countries should participate in the activities of international standards-setting processes to protect their peculiar interest and to inform their domestic enterprises about any planned change for early adoption.</p> <p>The authorities should consider adaptability of technical standard to socio-economy and environmental condition of developing countries</p> <p>.</p>
3.	Small scale business models	Technical standards should support integration of small-scale actors from developing countries



Table 3: Constraints of regulatory authority (Responses regulatory officers in Nigeria)

Comments	Suggested solution
1. Inadequate human resources(staff)	Government should employ enough staff to attend to potential fish exporters in issues of certification and documentation.
2. Inadeqaute quality control analysis and capacity building	Regulatory officers from developing countries should be sponsored for training to update skills and laboratory must be fully equipped for complete analyses.



Conclusion

- Standards have a stronger impact on the fishery sector because fishery is extremely high-risk food
- Often governance problems lead to poor compliance by countries.
- A holistic approach is needed which promotes private and public cooperation in establishing an efficient quality infrastructure



Recommendation

- ✓ Development of internationally harmonized standards would assist the processors and exporters.
- ✓ Developing countries should intensify ways to gain credence of quality standards and certification bodies in order to compete better at international trade.
- ✓
- ✓ Standards should be harmonized.
- ✓ Socio-economy and environmental conditions of developing countries should be considered in s



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