

Sino Agro signs MoU for 60,000t aquaculture farm in Angola

Sino Agro Food, the firm behind the shrimp 'megafarm' in south China, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to consult on a planned 60,000-metric-ton-capacity aquaculture farm in Angola.

In the company announcement, the firm said it will “engage in efforts to develop a vertically integrated farming system in Angola”, modeled on the firm's Aquafarms 4 and 5, which refer to phases one and two of the megafarm.

The intention is to build a farm which will produce 60,000t per year of primarily tilapia, African catfish and Malaysian tiger shrimp, as well as 150,000t per year of feed, and fruits and vegetables, it said. Arable land with clean water springs has been identified for the farm in the municipalities of Porto Amboim and Cela in Kwanza Sul, and Ambaca in Kwanza Norte.

The MoU has been signed with Nortus Aquacultura e Pesca, a private company headquartered in the Angolan capital of Luanda.

According to Sino Agro, the MoU document will serve as registration for a funding request by a regional government aquaculture agency to Angolan authorities, for inclusion in the China Credit Line to Angola.

Solomon Lee, CEO of Sino Agro, said: "Capital Award, the firm's wholly owned subsidiary, has the experience and knowledge developing just the kind of aquaculture assets envisioned in Angola, where various projects are being funded through an existing cooperative understanding between China and Angola."

"We are delighted to partner with Nortus to tailor our technology to the project aims and to the physical conditions of the project locales. For some time Capital Award has evaluated opportunities to export its expertise. This opportunity presents the best set of commitments to proceed."

Rui Sancho, principal at Nortus, said: "Nortus has extensive knowledge of the aquaculture industry and the mandates of the Angolan regional and national agriculture agencies, as well as existing relations with the proper authorities to guide the project to funding and fruition."

"Nortus appreciates SIAF's [Sino Agro] great experience and know-how in the development of projects to reach the full potential of



Angola's ambitions to improve the food diet of the populations of Angola, other parts of Africa, and to export surplus product."

Megafarm

Sino Agro's flagship project, the megafarm, has been beset with problems.

When Undercurrent News visited the megafarm in November last year -- which Sino Agro has said could produce 100,000t of shrimp annually by 2024, and theoretically 300,000t -- Sino Agro had yet to harvest any shrimp, and was running two years behind schedule. While Sino Agro looked to solve the technical problems farming freshwater shrimp, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, and raise additional funding, the megafarm was primarily being used to farm fish, such as jade perch.

The challenges with this endeavor also appeared formidable, however, given profitability issues at China's largest existing RAS jade perch farmer.

After Undercurrent's reports Sino Agro issued a statement defending its track record farming fish and shrimp.

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