

Executive Summary

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) model as a Key Strategy to unlock the potential of the African aquaculture feed industry.

Aquaculture in Africa is expanding rapidly, yet growth is constrained by limited availability, high costs, and inconsistent quality of formulated fish feeds, the largest production expense, accounting for 60–80% of total costs. Many local feed mills operate below potential due to outdated technology, weak supply chains, inadequate financing, and poor-quality control. As a result, farmers often rely on expensive imports, undermining profitability and competitiveness.

A Public–Private Partnership (PPP) approach, anchored within African Union (AU) frameworks and supported by AU-IBAR, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM), and AfCFTA, offers a strategic pathway to overcome these barriers.

These organizations play a pivotal role in:

- Creating enabling policy and regulatory environments for feed industry investment.
- Harmonizing feed quality standards and certification across countries.
- Facilitating intra-African trade and market access through AfCFTA.
- Mobilizing technical and financial support via continental programs.
- Coordinating knowledge-sharing, capacity development, and innovation.

Importantly, African organizations have already piloted PPP models that demonstrate the viability of this approach. For example:

- AU-IBAR and partners have facilitated regional PPPs linking research institutions with private feed producers to improve feed formulation using local ingredients.
- The African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM) has promoted PPPs in fish feed and hatchery development as part of its Aquaculture Action Plan.
- Regional Economic Communities (e.g., COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC) have advanced PPP-based feed projects that leverage private investment while ensuring compliance with regional quality standards.
- National examples, such as Egypt's large-scale tilapia and feed industry, Nigeria's catfish feed PPP models, and Ghana's public–private feed extension partnerships, illustrate how collaborative models reduce costs and boost competitiveness.

By combining public sector policy support, infrastructure and regional coordination with private sector investment, innovation, and technical expertise, PPPs can modernize production, strengthen supply chains, enforce standards, and expand access to affordable, high-quality feeds.

Key issues to address include: low feed production capacity, high input and energy costs, disorganized raw material supply chains, weak enforcement of standards, limited financing for SMEs, poor research–industry collaboration, and low farmer technical skills.

Priority actions:

- Establish national PPP frameworks for aquaculture feed production, aligned with AU and REC strategies.
- Mobilize investment in modern milling, storage, and distribution systems.
- Develop organized supply chains for local raw materials.
- Enforce harmonized feed quality standards with accredited regional labs.

- Expand access to finance through credit guarantees and blended schemes.
- Strengthen research–industry partnerships for innovation in feed formulation.
- Deliver farmer and producer training on feed management.
- Promote cross-border trade in feeds and inputs under AfCFTA.

Conclusion:

A well-structured PPP model building on successful examples already championed by AU-IBAR, RECs, AFRM, and member states is essential to create a competitive, resilient, and sustainable aquafeed industry in Africa. By unlocking investment, reducing costs, and ensuring consistent quality, PPPs can transform aquaculture into a driver of food security, job creation, and Blue Economy growth.

The time to act is now: investing in PPP-driven feed systems, coordinated at both national and continental levels, is critical to meet Africa's growing demand for fish sustainably and equitably.



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