

Appendix 1- Information for participants

Thank you for considering to participate in this study. Below, you will find information about the purpose of the study and describes your contribution and your rights as a participant, if you agree to take part.

1. Research topic

“Sustainability of pond and cage aquaculture development in Bono/Ahafo regions and the Volta lake in Ghana

2. Research objectives

This research aims to highlight and discuss sustainable best practices in pond and cage aquaculture developments in Ghana. The area of study is delimited to aquaculture activities in the Bono region, Ahafo region, and Volta lake. The reason for choosing these areas is based on 3 main criteria: type of fish cultivated, level of access to a reliable source of water and the number of fish farming activities observed in these regions.

I am particularly interested in discussing the social and political impacts of aquaculture development in Ghana, the interaction among the various actors in the cultured fish or aquaculture value chain (production, processing, consumption) in the Bono region, Ahafo region and settlements around the Volta lake in Ghana.

I also seek to discuss the main challenges the industry faces and highlight possible solutions proposed by the participants and governing bodies.

A structured questionnaire, informal or semi-structured interviews are the main tools used to collect the data.

Participation

You are humbly encouraged to take part in this research conducted by Belinda Pascaline Agyei from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). The purpose of this study is as stated above to assess the sustainability of pond and cage aquaculture industry in your region. This study will contribute to the completion of my master’s thesis by June 2021.

This is a voluntary exercise, and should you decide, with your free-will to contribute in this research, you will need to sign the participation consent form. This is after I have answered any follow up questions to your satisfaction.

This study consists of an **online survey** or **interview** that will be administered to individual participants. You will contribute with answers to a series of questions related to the sustainability of the aquaculture industry in your region.

The interviews shall be carried out online via zoom, skype, WhatsApp video/audio calls (with end-to-end encryption) or any other means which may be suitable to you as a participant in this study.

The interviews shall be recorded and ethics regarding data protection and anonymity shall be adhered to.

3. Time required

Participation in this study will require roughly 10 minutes to fill the survey and roughly a maximum of one (1) hour of your time for the online interviews.

4. Risks

Only minimal risks associated with everyday life and the tightening of measures against the COVID-19 spread are perceived to delay data collection. However, since most of the interviews and surveys will be carried out online, we can cooperate in making flexible time to achieve our goals.

5. Benefits

Our common interest is to be active players in ensuring the sustainability of the aquaculture sector in Ghana in general. Thus, your views and voice truly matter.

6. Confidentiality

The results of this project will be coded in such a way that your identity as a participant will not be attached to the final form of this study. As a researcher, I only have the right to use and publish non-identifiable data.

However, while individual responses are confidential, collective data will be presented representing averages or generalizations of all answers from various participants. The collected data will be stored in a secure location accessible only to me as the main researcher. Upon completion of the study, all information gathered regarding individual respondents with their answers (including audio/video recordings during interviews) will be destroyed.

Participation & Withdrawal

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You have the right at any point in time to withdraw your participation without any consequence.

For any further information, questions, suggestions or concerns regarding this study, kindly **contact:**

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