

PROJECT SUMMARY

Ref No.: MRIC-SCA-P15	Title: Tilapia (<i>Sarotherodon</i> sp.) farming in saltwater environments in Mauritius	
Local Company: Mauricoast Ltd		
Project Leader		
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Team Members		
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TECHNICAL ABSTRACT		
<p>The Covid-19 pandemic has put Mauritius into a vulnerable position in many sectors including food security. The country is strongly dependent on the import of food commodities and the pandemic induced pressure on international trade is highlighting the country’s need for a more resilient food production system. Soon after the first wave of the pandemic, the government has put many strategies in place to reinvigorate the agricultural sector and promote locally grown food. The present project proposes an innovative solution to boost the seafood sector. It is focused on the aquaculture of the commonly farmed freshwater red tilapia (<i>Sarotherodon</i> sp.) in marine environments. The development of an inland freshwater aquaculture in Mauritius is hindered due to its competition in freshwater use with other agricultural sectors and urban activities. By bringing this species to be grown in seawater environment, it allows for the growth of tilapia farming in the country. The choice of the fish species and the land-based farming model will allow for a fast production of aquatic protein to be available to the local consumers.</p>		
Key Words: Smart Agriculture, Tilapia, Food Security, Marine Aquaculture, <i>Sarotherodon</i> sp.		