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WorldFish and CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire formalise Host Country Agreement to establish regional innovation hubÂ

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The Government of the Republic of CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire and WorldFishÂ signedÂ the Host Country Agreement that will establish WorldFishâ??s regional innovation hub for West Africa.Â

The agreement marks a major step forward in a partnership that began when Ivorian officials first visited WorldFish headquarters in January 2023.

Under the Host Country Agreement, the Government of CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire will provide $3 million and a dedicated office and research infrastructure in Abidjan, Loka, Jacqueville and Mopoyem.

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CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire currently imports close to $1 billion of fish annually. By partnering with WorldFish, the government aims to boost domestic production, reduce its import bill and create new opportunities for jobs, nutrition and climate resilience.

Dr Essam Yassin Mohammed, Director General of WorldFish, said the agreement signals a decisive moment for regional cooperation.

â??CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire is putting real commitment behind a shared vision for science, innovation and impact across West Africa. This hub will accelerate research and strengthen local capacity so countries can produce more of their own aquatic foods and open up new paths to prosperity in the communities and markets that rely on this sector.â❧

Sidi TiÃ©moko TourÃ©, Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire, said the agreement marks an important step for CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire and the wider West African region.

â??The establishment of the WorldFish Regional Office in CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire is a major strategic choice, making our country a hub for coordinating regional research programs, a space for supporting public policies, and a catalyst for innovation to assist countries in their transition to sustainable, high-performing, and competitive aquaculture.â?

The hub will connect WorldFishâ??s global scientific network with partners across West Africa, supporting broader efforts to strengthen food and nutrition security, drive innovation and build resilient aquatic food systems across the region.â?¯