Conference abstract

Sana Abusin and Noor Elemadi

University of Qatar

Social and Economic Survey Institute SESRI

sabusin@qu.edu.qa

Globally food security is experiencing big threats of increase in population and per capita consumption in one side and diminishing of resources such as land, water, energy and nutrients that used to produce these foods in the other side. This urge scientist to come up with smart sustainable systems to meet these pressures. Therefore, the sustainable fish production, such as aquaculture (fish culture) gain more attention to fill the protein gabs.

Primarily at the national level, the State of Qatar, like the majority of countries in the Gulf region, depends on food imports to meet food demand. Before 2017, Qatar depended on food imports. Estimates suggested that Qatar imported approximately 90% of its food. The recent blockade of Qatar and previous export restrictions that the country's suppliers imposed have raised concerns of alternative supply-side strategies to meet the country's food demands.

In this empirical paper, we studied fish consumption socio-economics characteristics and attitudes towards consuming fish in Qatar. Fish consumption is very important to study because it has social, economic and environmental implications. Socially, Qatar is in the process of total shift from food security to self-satisfaction especially after blockade. Qatar also launching the food security strategy where fish statistics are important. Economically, studding fish consumption, will help in the estimation of the local demand and hence identify the gap between production and import. In addition, it will help managers on having views of the some socio-economic characteristics and attitudes for the sector consumer, which assist in improving the consumers' satisfaction and markets at the same time controlling for any expected food waste. Environmentally, fish consumption will help manager in stock management by identifying fish species that are under pressure of high consumption and hence make necessary policies to manage the marine fishery in a sustainable way. The State of Qatar, have established aquaculture production centers. These aquaculture production centers are currently producing *tilapia* and shrimps. IN addition, we explained how the Qatar community react to the emerging aquaculture products *tilapia*.