



Expert Workshop on Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification

Introduction and Objectives

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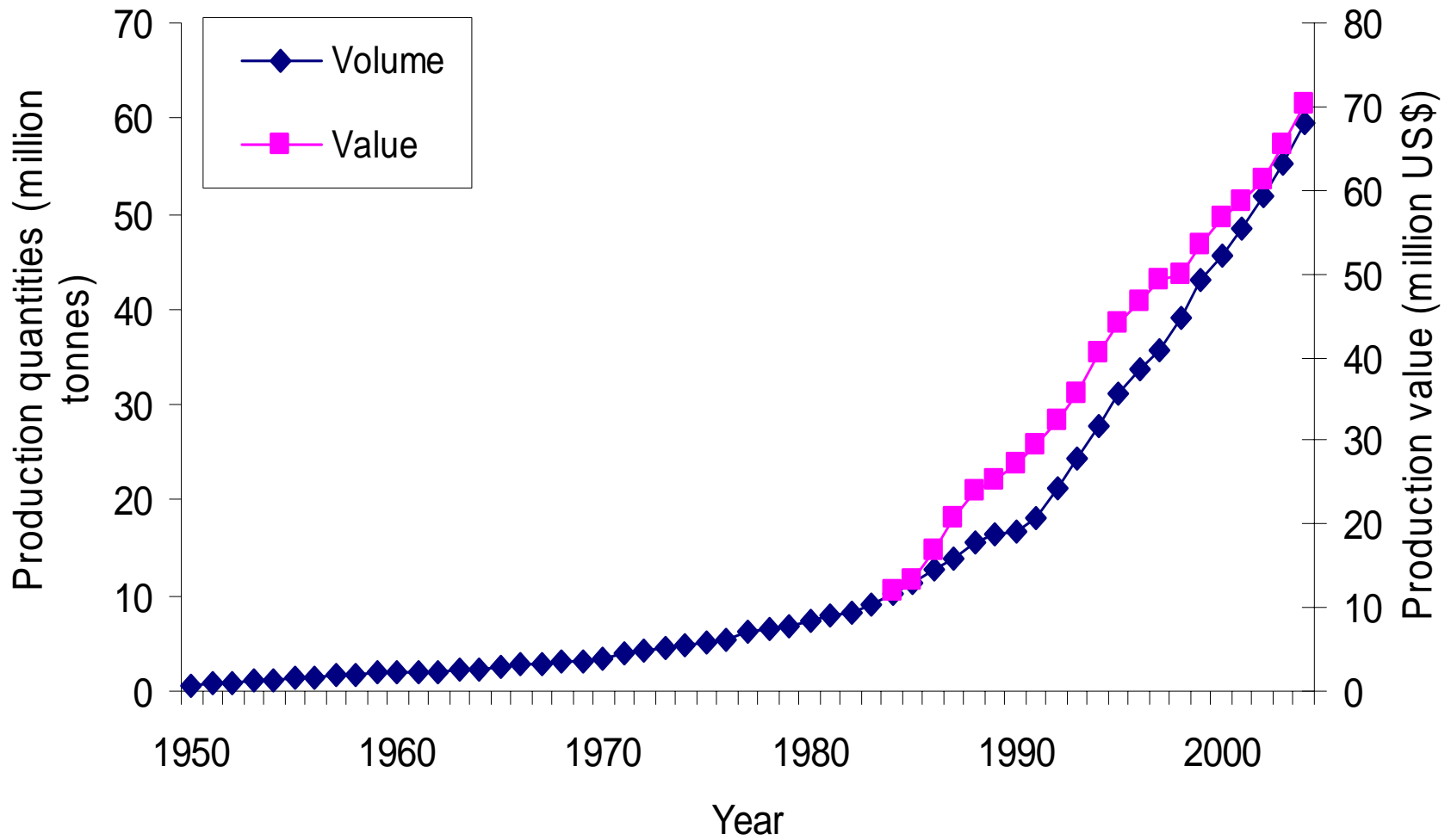
■ Aquaculture is:

- Currently the fastest growing food producing sector in the world
- Highly diverse and consists of many species, systems, practices, people, environments, and operations
- Developing countries and Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) produce the most
- Asia produces over 90%

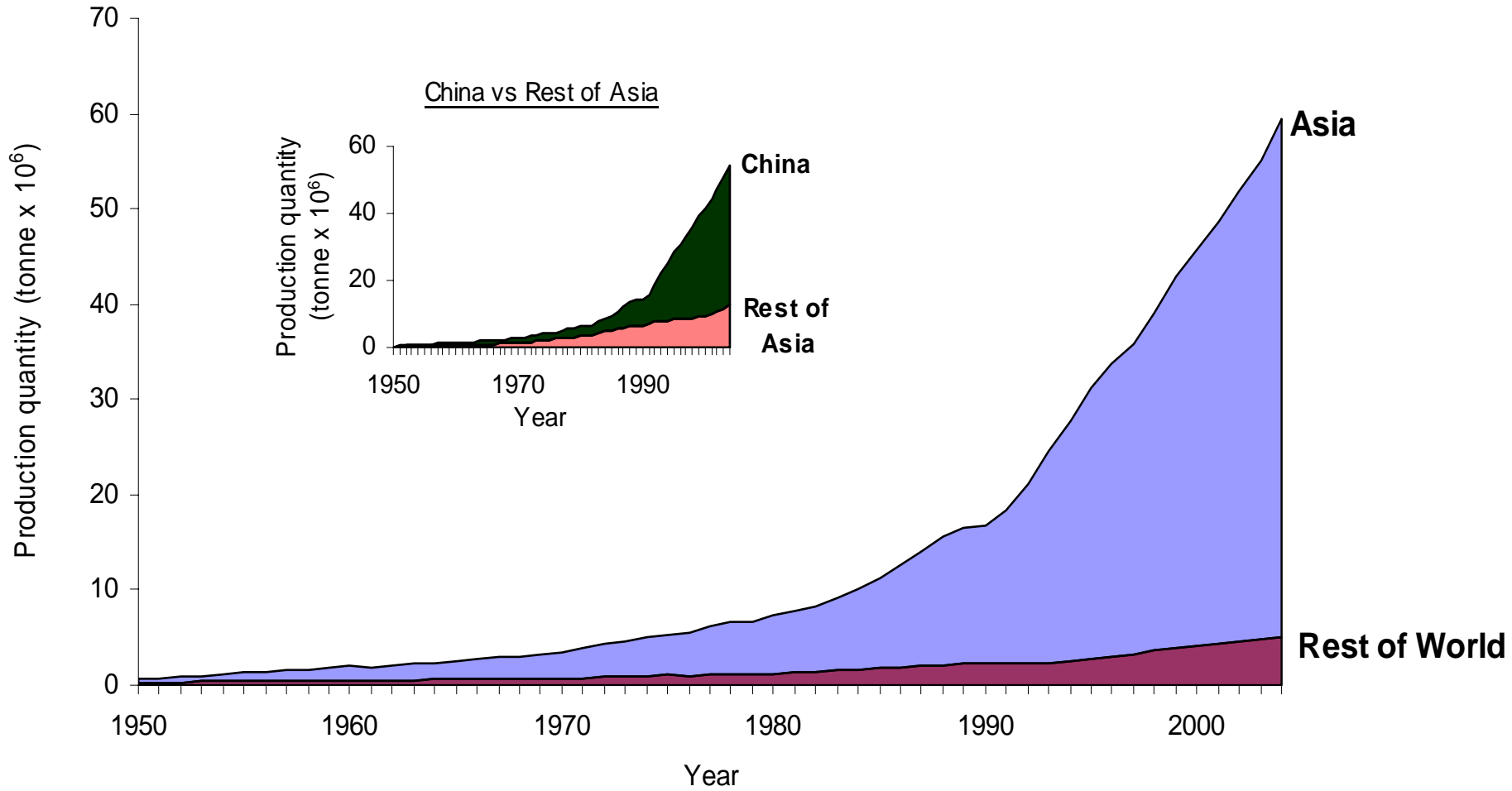
- Aquaculture now accounts for almost **50 percent** of the world's food fish!
- Total aquaculture production (excluding aquatic plants) for 2005 was over **50 million tonnes** with a farm-gate value of over **US\$ 65 billion**.
- Given the projected population growth over the next two decades, at least an **additional 40 million tonnes** of aquatic food will be required by **2030** to maintain the current per caput consumption.



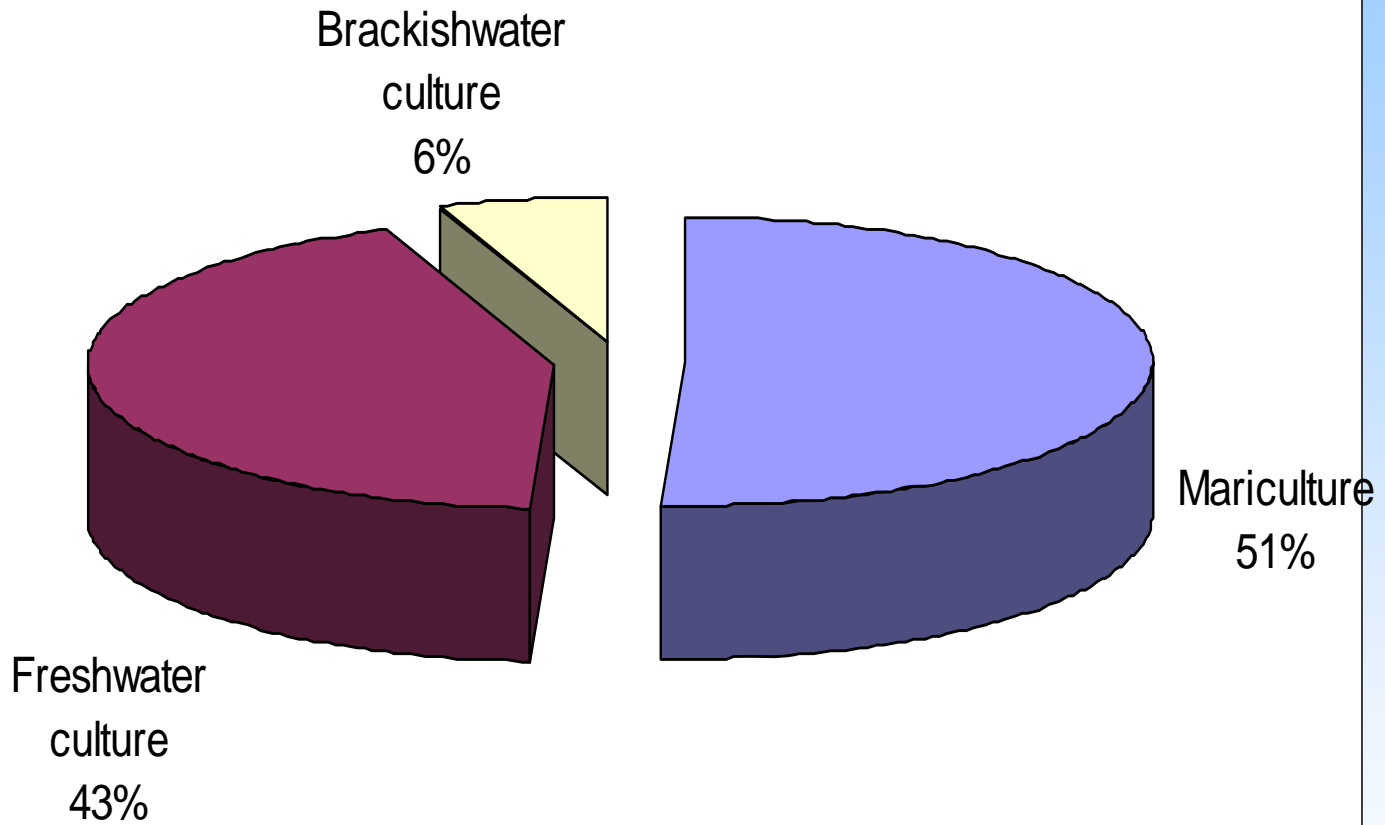
Global Aquaculture Production (includes plants)



Global Aquaculture Production



Aquaculture production by environment



Major issues and challenges

- **Sustainability of aquaculture** has been an issue debated for many years!
- The **role of aquaculture in food security** has also been a major issue of the sector for many years!
- **Social impacts and environmental sustainability of commercial or industrial aquaculture** has also been a major concern!

What is happening?

- The environmental, social and economic landscape within which aquaculture has performed well up to now, is changing!
- Society looks for “**Sustainability, Safety, Quality, and Equity**” of the products and production processes.
- Negative environmental and social impacts of aquaculture will further increase public scrutiny and criticism.
- This could certainly alter the policies that have so far fostered sector growth.



Major Concerns

■ Environmental sustainability

- How aquaculture ensures environmental sustainability?

■ Social equity

- How aquaculture delivers significant social benefits?

■ Safety and health of the consumer

- How aquaculture maintains food safety?

Major Trends:

- Restricted aquaculture expansion will tend towards increasing intensification
- Continued diversification of species and need for their responsible use
- Continued diversification of production systems
- Increasing influence of markets, trade and consumption
- Enhanced regulation and better governance
- Drive for better management



COFI-AQ-III

■ The Third Session of the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

- was held in New Delhi, India, 4-8 September, 2006
- by the invitation by the Government of India
- was attended by 48 Members of FAO
- participated by representatives from one specialized agency of the United Nations and observers from four intergovernmental and four international non-governmental organizations.

BMPs and Certification

- Recognized the use of “better management practices” (BMPs) and certification as offering promise with regard to increasing public and consumer confidence in aquaculture production practices and products.
- Was mindful that currently, many non-governmental certification schemes have resulted in higher costs for producers without delivering significant price benefits to small-scale producers and expressed concern that the costs of such schemes were disadvantageous to small-scale producers.
- Commented that the emergence of a wide range of certification schemes and accreditation bodies was creating confusion amongst producers and consumers alike.

BMPs and Certification

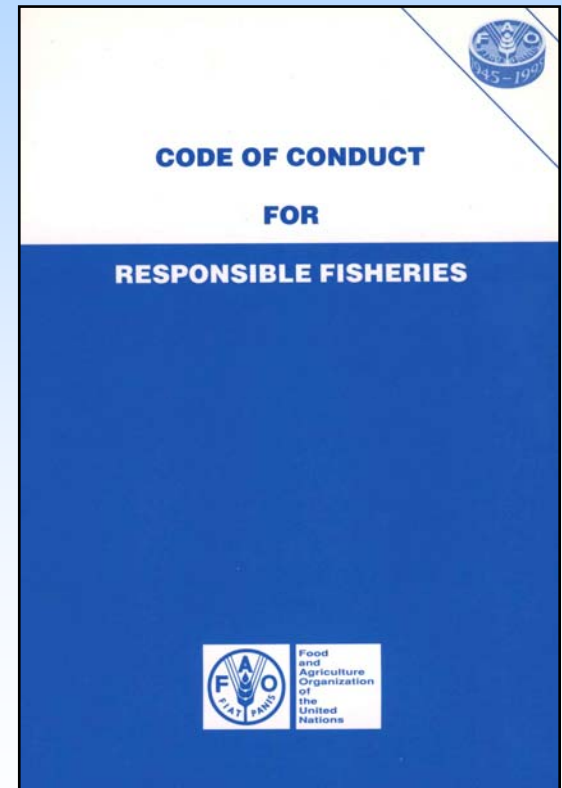
- Stated that there was a need for more globally accepted norms for aquaculture production, which could provide more guidance and serve as a basis for improved harmonization and facilitate mutual recognition and equivalence of such certification schemes.
- Requested FAO to convene an Expert Consultation and/or workshops which would assist in elaborating norms and reviewing the diverse options and relative benefits of these approaches.
- Encouraged FAO to play a lead role in facilitating the development of guidelines which could be considered when national and regional aquaculture standards are developed.

Available Specific Instruments

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)

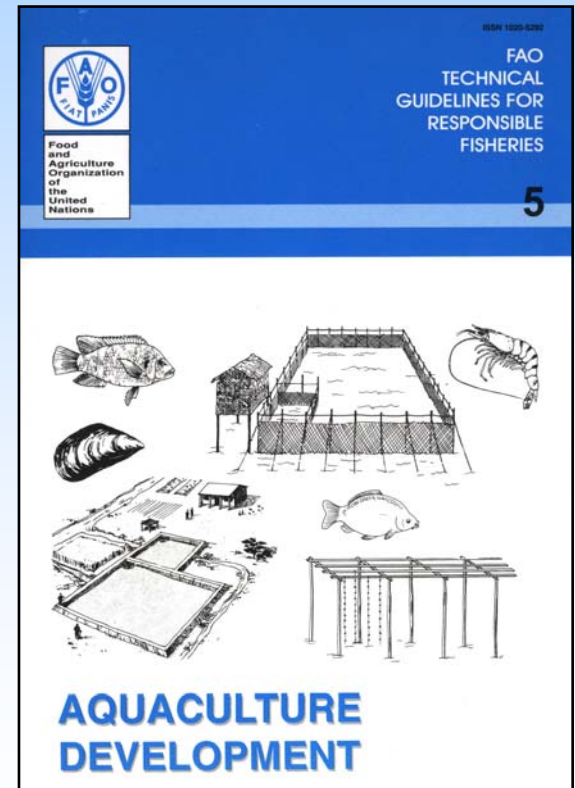
■ Goals:

- **sustainable benefits from fisheries (including aquaculture)** in terms of food, employment, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world
- provides **principles and standards** applicable to the conservation, management and development of all fisheries (including aquaculture)

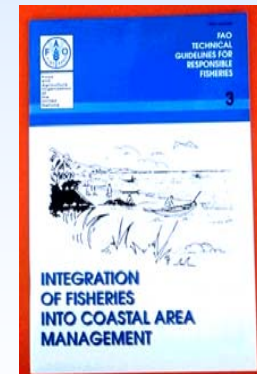
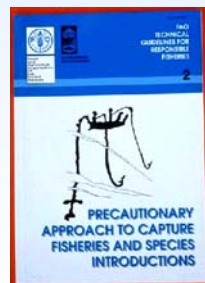
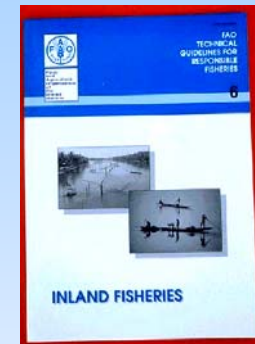
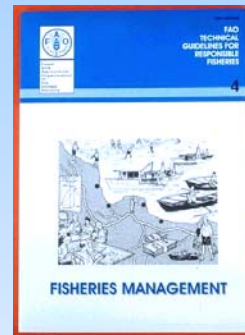
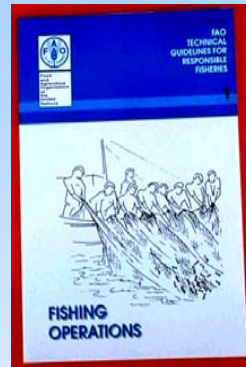


CCRF Article 9 – Aquaculture Development

- **9.1** - Aquaculture and culture-based fisheries within national boundaries
- **9.2** - Aquaculture and culture-based fisheries within trans-boundary aquatic ecosystems
- **9.3** - Use of aquatic genetic resources
- **9.4** - Responsible aquaculture production



Many other guidelines available



International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming

2006

International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming



International Ecolabelling Guidelines



GUIDELINES FOR THE ECOLABELLING
OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS
FROM MARINE CAPTURE FISHERIES

DIRECTIVES POUR L'ÉTIQUETAGE ÉCOLOGIQUE
DU POISSON ET DES PRODUITS DES PÊCHES
DE CAPTURE MARINES

DIRECTRICES PARA EL ECOETIQUETADO
DE PESCADO Y PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS
DE LA PESCA DE CAPTURA MARINA



Certification

- Many schemes
- Efforts and initiatives are increasing
- Expected to address sustainability issues, improve consumer acceptance and increase market access
- May also have negative impacts?
 - Cost
 - Small farmers
 - Compliance
- Public concerns
 - Transparency of the process
 - Stakeholder involvement

Certification

- There is a growing belief that:
 - Some harmonization of the process is necessary
 - Some minimal standards and procedures should be set
 - International recognition and agreement is required
 - Guidelines should be developed and adopted to provide more recognition

Scope

- Guidelines should set forth the minimum substantive requirements and criteria for granting a certificate (certification) of an aquaculture system, practice, or a product.
- Certification schemes may apply additional or more stringent requirements and criteria.

Why International Guidelines?

- Certification schemes could be used as new forms of barriers to trade
- The scientific basis of certification standards and criteria
- The potential difficulties for developing countries to participate in such schemes, especially the small-scale producers in these countries
- The potential confusion among traders and consumers which may derive from the utilization of a number of various and diverse product labels, themselves relating to different criteria and standards.

Scope of the Guidelines

- Guidelines should be applicable to certification schemes that are designed to certify and promote products from responsible production systems.
- They should focus on issues related to the sustainability of aquaculture.

Objectives of the Workshop

- To bring stakeholders together to initiate a process for developing guidelines for aquaculture certification as requested by the COFI/SCA
- To examine key issues concerning aquaculture certification
- To build consensus in scoping the contents of the certification guidelines
- To lay the groundwork for a programme of work on developing aquaculture certification guidelines, and
- To agree on a roadmap for developing the guidelines

Thank You!