



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Round-Table Discussion: Moving Forward through Lessons Learned on Response Actions to Aquatic Disease Emergencies



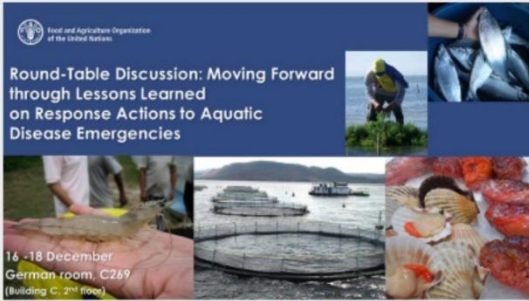
16 -18 December
German room, C269
(Building C, 2nd floor)



FAO and NORAD convene a round table discussion: Lessons Learned on Response Actions to Aquatic Disease Emergencies

13 December 2019

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A Round-Table Discussion on Moving Forward through Lessons Learned on Response Actions to Aquatic Disease Emergencies will be held at FAO Headquarters from 16-18 December 2019. The Round Discussion will bring together some 43 aquatic animal health experts from 22 countries to review country experiences in dealing with health emergencies in aquatic animals in both aquaculture and wild populations. During Day 1, presentations on the role of the Competent Authority and national experiences in dealing with aquatic animal mass mortality events will be presented by representatives of 10 countries (People's Republic of China, Ghana, Indonesia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Norway, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, United States of America, Zambia), followed by presentations of the role of NACA, OIE and FAO in supporting national disease outbreak investigations. On the morning of Day 2, a series of presentations on "Producer and research/academic sectors: role and activities/experiences related to investigating specific mass mortalities of aquatic animals" will be given by MSD (Belgium), IZSV (Italy), WBVR (Netherlands), CEFAS (UK) and MSU (USA), followed by a working group activity on "Essential elements of an effective and timely response action to aquatic animal disease emergencies". In the afternoon, a draft Decision Tree for Dealing with Aquatic Animal Mass Mortality Events (MMEs) will be presented by FAO as the basis for a guidance manual to assist front-line responders in dealing with investigations of MMEs. A Working Group discussion will be held on the Decision Tree, and the contents to be included in an associated guidance manual that will be developed. Finally, on Day 3, the participants will hear a presentation on the Global Burden of Animal Diseases, and will have Working Group discussions on "Considerations for developing a framework for the systematic impact assessment of aquatic animal diseases"; and a final session on "Identifying key elements for a project proposal to improve national response actions to aquatic animal disease emergencies." The Round-table Discussion is being lead by FAO Officers (Dr M. Reantaso, Dr H. Bin) assisted by Drs R. Arthur (Canada), D. Huchzermeyer (South Africa) and R. Subasinghe (Sri Lanka).

Annex 1

Annex 2

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/news/41211/en>



Purpose

- Take stock, share experiences and lessons learned on response actions to aquatic animal disease emergencies: **achieved**
- Review and make recommendations for development and improvement of the draft FAO *Decision-tree for dealing with aquatic animal mortality events*: **achieved through WGs**
- Make recommendations towards the development of a framework for a systematic assessment of the financial, socio-economic and other impacts of aquatic animal diseases: **many ideas were generated**
- Identify key elements for a project proposal to improve national response actions to aquatic animal disease emergencies: **ideas from ppt (see slides 3-5) and further discussions were generated**

Presenter	Recommendations
China	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish contingency plan at national level. 2. Improve the diagnostic capability of local aquatic disease prevention and control agencies. 3. Strengthen the awareness of disease reporting at farm level. 4. Governmental subsidize institution 5. Set norms to guide the implementation of stamp out, biosafety treatment and disposal
Ghana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved skills training in disease diagnosis and control both for the field and laboratory staff 2. Improved laboratory infrastructure in the country 3. Adequate and emergency funding for Fish Health activities 4. Legal backing for enforcement of laws and regulations relating to control of disease outbreaks 5. Institutionalize stakeholder coordination in the aquaculture industry.
Indonesia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional strengthening for emergency response; 2. Increased coordination between the government and the private sector; 3. Capacity building for field officers and fisheries counselors; 4. Prepare contingency plan documents; 5. Provision of budget; 6. Record keeping and documentation at level farm.

Presenter	Recommendations
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness of the industry about their responsibility to report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The industry needs to feel that reporting is useful (MEWA support) 2. A team to be deployed to the site within 24h for assessment and sample collection 3. Emergency diagnosis (PCR and histology within 24h) 4. Contingency plan previously agreed with the industry 5. Having the authority to enforce it
Norway	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A well implemented and updated contingency plan at farm, region and national level 2. Reporting and communication plan 3. Available capacity to handle abnormal amounts of dead animals 4. Early detection systems 5. Causal investigation, tracing and prediction
Philippines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disease Emergency Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>defined disease emergency response protocol needs to be place, that will serve as guidelines that will identify key agencies, personnel that shall be involved in response actions, step by step procedures to be undertaken from reporting and other actions to be taken (diagnosis treatment, disinfection, destruction/killing and disposal of dead aquatic animals)</i> 2. Legal basis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>for conducting disease emergency response</i> 3. Trained personnel (aquaculturist, extension workers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>disease recognition at the farm level (suspected emerging disease)</i>

Presenter	Recommendations
Thailand	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication and collaboration through active AAH network and stakeholders 2. Capacity building on AAH personnel in the region 3. Rapid and accurate disease detection 4. Implementation and enforcement of law and regulations 5. Emergency budget allocation
USA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early detection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory capability and through-put • Diagnostic assay Se/Sp • Surveillance (sampling & testing) power and robustness • Interpretation 2. Authority to respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises quarantine, hold orders, depopulation, C&D, recovery • National <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity (import controls), surveillance (zones, compartments), recovery 3. Resources to respond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds • Subject matter experts and trained personnel 4. Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal and external 5. Cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry-state-federal partnership

Presenter	Recommendations
Viet Nam	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Timely information on any potential AADE2. Smooth communication3. Consolidate working platform4. Capacity (human and funding)5. International support.
Zambia	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Diagnostic capacity (Reagents availability in the laboratory)2. Approved annual budgets for aquatic health implementation.3. Availability of materials and resources for fish disease surveillance and monitoring4. Development of legislation that allows extension staff to collect and ship fish samples for disease diagnosis (Quarantine regulations, reaction time guide and formulation of sampling guidelines)5. Communication systems from the fishing zones or aquaculture establishments.

Presenter	Recommendations
OIE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultivate collaboration and actions that yield common benefit 2. Emphasise implementation of standards 3. Investment in strengthening of Aquatic Animal Health Services 4. Continue to develop and refine important standards: biosecurity, response, declaration of freedom 5. Identify new threats, encourage sharing of information on emerging diseases.
MSD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timely access to fish health technical services in country 2. Identification of farm biosecurity gaps and improvements 3. Understand disease pathogenicity and characteristics 4. Routine farm or area disease surveillance 5. Seek help with open mind without resistance to change
MSU (VTC-specific)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove carcasses from ponds (Easier in smaller ponds) 2. Monitor pond temperatures daily during late fall and early spring 3. Increase aeration in ponds 4. Seek fish health professional help immediately with fish showing neurologic signs 5. Harvest of fish from VTC-affected pond to spare pond without fish

Presenter	Recommendations
WBVR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As diseases like IHN spread occurs across borders, epidemiologists in Europe should actively cooperate to understand and prevent the spread of IHNV. 2. Moreover, accurate notification by fish farmers seeks financially compensation. Must have been longer in NL, but was not notified, as farms get closed and farmers get no compensation. 3. There is a risk of aquatic animal disease via imports of (ornamental) fish to wild fish - in this case gibel carp - populations. 4. All involved persons, including fish importers should be aware of this, and appropriate prevention, hygiene, and waste water treatment should be in place.
CEFAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detection systems: field & lab (rapid/ accurate/ predictive?) 2. Effective Reporting systems (farm, national, international) 3. Rapid decision-making processes 4. Control measures implementation plans 5. Underpinning regulatory frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response –ideally- to be led at a country level by dedicated and appropriately resourced Official Services

FIAA: Lessons learned

- The Task Force while it made a difference in identifying the causative agent, it was an *ad-hoc* action, need a more institutionalized mechanism
- Local task force is very important
- Skills and knowledge need to be passed on to locals as they are in the frontline of any disease emergency.
- Importance of detailed documentation; post-mortem evaluation after an outbreak
- Contingency plan
- Risk profile for major aquaculture species
- Enhancing awareness of emerging epizootics and improving diagnostic capacities at national and regional levels

FIAA: Lessons learned

- Proactive reporting of diseases as a mechanism for early warning
- Emergency preparedness as a core function of national authorities with advance financial planning
- Empowering farmers to manage disease and other risks
- Importance of bringing together government, producer sector and academe to look at the disease event from their respective lens
- Strong national commitment from national authorities
- Importance of regional and international cooperation
- Risk communication is important – how to have a communication strategy during a MME that does not create panic to the public

FIAA: Lessons learned

- How to break stigma of reporting
- How to deal with illegal trade
- Efforts of donors sometimes not sustained
- How to deal with scientific publications preceding national Competent Authority (CA) recognition of disease event
- How to deal with scenario where CA does not recognize private sector initiative to send samples for laboratory tests outside the country just because of the fact that they are not official samples.
- Spill over of pathogens from aquaculture population to wild population and vice-versa

Products

- Summaries of experiences and lessons learned on response actions to aquatic animal disease emergencies
- Recommendations for further development of the *FAO Decision-tree for dealing with aquatic animal mortality events* and supporting guidance
- Considerations on a framework for the systematic impact assessment of aquatic animal diseases
- Recommendations for the development of a project for improving national government and private-sector response actions to aquatic animal disease emergencies
- A meeting report, including summaries of all presentations and results and recommendations arising from the Working Group activities and plenary discussions.