

# TCP/RER/3205: Inception planning workshop “Advice to central Asian governments on the feasibility of commercial fish and livestock feed production” Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 24 -26th June 2009

Mohammed R. Hasan<sup>1</sup> and Raymon van Anrooy<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service (FIMA)  
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Rome, Italy  
Mohammad.Hasan@fao.org

FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia (FAOSEC)  
Ankara, Turkey  
Raymon.vanAnrooy@fao.org

A sub-regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) “Advice to central Asian Governments on the feasibility of commercial fish and livestock feed production” [TCP/RER/3205]” was approved in January 2009. The governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are the recipients of this TCP. The project’s development objective is to strengthen the capacity of the ministries of agriculture of the participating countries in taking appropriate decisions and formulating adequate policies in support of increasing access to and availability of high quality commercial aquaculture and livestock feeds in the countries of Central Asia.

The project is implemented under the overall supervision by FAOSEC in Ankara, Turkey with FIMA, FAO HQ, as the lead technical unit. Duration of the project is from January 2009 to October 2010. The respective governmental national focal agencies implementing the national activities of the project are: Kyrgyzstan: Ministry of Agriculture – Department of Fisheries; Uzbekistan: Ministry of Agriculture – Uzbek Fisheries Development Center, Tajikistan Ministry of Agriculture – State Unitary Enterprise (Tajikriba); and Kazakhstan: Ministry of Agriculture – Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries. Stakeholders and beneficiaries include both the public and private sectors involved in aquaculture and livestock feed production.

The first activity of the TCP was an Inception Planning Workshop, convened at Hotel Shodlik Palace in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 24 to 26 June 2009. The workshop, was hosted by the Uzbek Fisheries Development Center of the Uzbek Agricultural Scientific and Production Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The workshop discussed follow-up project activities and finalized their modus operandi with primary focus on the following: a) project concept, rationale, envisaged outputs and broad outline of activities and the feasibilities of carrying out the different activities, b) share experiences and review information available on fish and livestock feeds, feed components, supply and demand issues, trade in feeds, custom tariffs for commercial feeds, and technological issues related to feed processing and marketing, c) review of the draft questionnaire outlines that were prepared for different surveys to be carried in all four countries, d) discuss a draft methodology for the (pre-) feasibility/assessment study, ensuring that both traditional and modern feed production technologies can be considered and that various feed alternatives are taken into consideration and agree on a common methodology to be used by the project in the four countries, e) in-country logistics for conducting different project components including training and survey plans for each country, f) overall work plan including the time-frame of implementation and responsibilities of all project holders, and g) other important issues/problems to be addressed before launching the field activities.

Six presentations by fish and animal feed experts from the four participating countries consisted of country overviews of the current state of aquaculture and aquafeed production and two overviews on the state of livestock and animal feed (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). International experiences on the global state of aquaculture and livestock feeds were presented respectively by international experts for aquafeed and livestock feed. The aspects of financial feasibility were presented to sensitise the participants and further

introduce a methodology for conducting the feasibility study. During the plenary, extensive discussions were held on the design, scope and strategies for implementation of different project activities with country specific considerations including some related logistic and procedural issues. The structure of the feasibility study report was discussed in detail. In order to acquaint the participants with the situation in Uzbekistan, a half day field visit was organized to an aquafeed plant and a fish farm.

The main outputs of the workshop were:

- Better understanding of the aquaculture and livestock sub-sectors in the four participating countries and the importance of this TCP for sustainable development of these two sub-sectors;
- Increased understanding of the project concept, rationale, mechanism of project implementation and envisaged outputs and preparation of a work plan of the project for the next 12 months (July 2009 - June 2010);
- Outputs related to the implementation of different activities of the project with specific reference to participating countries include:

- ▶ nature and extent of the information to be collected for the different surveys to be carried out and suggestions for revision of draft questionnaires and guidelines to be used for these surveys. The type of surveys to be carried out are: a) general demographic information; b) overall assessment of aquaculture; c) overall assessment of the livestock and poultry sectors; d) assessment of fertilizers and feed resources of the country; e) aquaculture and feed management practices; and f) aqua- and animal feed plants in respective countries,
- ▶ a common methodology for carrying out fish and animal feed production feasibility studies in the region;
- ▶ an outline for preparation of database of the locally available feed ingredients to be used for production of aqua- and livestock feed; and
- ▶ agreement on venue and date of the next regional expert workshop to discuss the findings of the national level activities and preparation of feasibility analysis report.

The workshop recommended that the project should concentrate on aquafeeds, poultry feeds and supplements of cattle feed, assess requirements for introduction of appropriate technology, collection of input and output information for aquaculture and livestock, assessment of human resource capacities as well as provision of financial and extension services. The collection of data for the feasibility study and advice on better quality feed production on the basis of best international practices will be one of the core activities of the project, as well as the development of new approaches by feed



M. R. HASAN, FAO

*Preparation of grass carp fingerling transportation from Government Fish Farm, Tashkent, Uzbekistan*



R. VAN ANROOY, FAO TURKEY

*Soviet style control panel in animal feed plant near Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Old, but still functioning*

companies for distribution of the feed in the region. It was recognized that if all the participating countries gather all the necessary information, the project would be able to come up with high quality outputs that would help to address the problems confronted in both the aquaculture and livestock sectors.

The workshop was attended by 22 participants (16 from four project participating countries (two each from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan and 10 from Uzbekistan), 3 international consultants, 3 from FAO and 2 observers from the feed industry. The workshop was facilitated by FAO officers (Raymon van Anrooy, Mohammad R Hasan and Abdul Baki Mehraban) and international consultants.

More information on the project can be obtained from Mohammad R. Hasan at [Mohammad.Hasan@fao.org](mailto:Mohammad.Hasan@fao.org) or Raymon van Anrooy at [Raymon.vanAnrooy@fao.org](mailto:Raymon.vanAnrooy@fao.org)