

Biosecurity and Health Maintenance in Aquatic Production

FAO defines biosecurity as 'a strategic and integrated approach that encompasses the policy and regulatory frameworks (including instruments and activities) that analyze and manage risks in the sectors of food safety, animal life and health, plant life and health, including environment'. FIMA has long history of work on aquatic animal health including development of global and regional technical guidelines in support of FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, thematic papers (e.g. surveillance, emergency preparedness, parasite checklists), disease diagnostic guide (regional and global), manuals (quarantine, pearl oyster health management), an internet-based information system (www.aapqis.org) and provision of technical support to regional activities. A number of regional (Africa, Asia, Latin America, Pacific Islands, West Balkan Region) and national Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) have been or currently being implemented all aimed at assisting participating countries in maintaining healthy aquatic production through regional and national strategies and appropriate capacity building activities. More recent work involves: (i) assessment and evaluation of national capacities in maintaining and managing aquatic biosecurity and developing a regional biosecurity framework for Africa; (ii) assessment of the impacts of international trading standards (aquatic animal health and food safety) on rural aquafarmers in selected low income countries in Asia-Pacific and Latin America and (iii) technical support to a regional workshop organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on aquaculture and aquatic biosecurity. The current project (i and ii) plans to target a number of low income FAO Member Countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. Further information can be obtained from Rohana Subasinghe at Rohana.Subasinghe@fao.org and/or Melba Reantaso at Melba.Reantaso@fao.org

FNOP/INT/102/NOR: Aquatic Animal Health and Aquatic Biosecurity Project (2005-2006). Commenced in 2006 and will be completed in 2007. Activities included (i) preparation of a Manual of Procedures for the Quarantine of n Aquatic Animal Quarantine Manual – its use within the frameworks of the risk analysis approach and aquatic animal biosecurity; (ii) updating of the FAO Diagnostic Guide to Aquatic Animal Diseases, a peer-reviewed diagnostic guide with contributions from more than 30 global experts on aquatic animal health; (iii) updating of FAO's web-based Aquatic Animal Pathogen and Quarantine Information System (AAPQIS) and (iii) implementation of regional training/workshops on Information Requirements for Maintaining Aquatic Animal Biosecurity (Asia) and Phase III of the Molluscan Health Management Training/Workshop. [Responsible Officers: MB Reantaso and R Subasinghe (FIMA)].

FNOP/INT/102/NOR: Aquatic Animal Health and Aquatic Biosecurity Project (2007-2008). Two components to the funding phase covering the period July 2007 to March 2008. The first consists of publishing the report and proceedings of the FAO Molluscan Health Management Programme. The second deals with improving national capacities in aquatic biosecurity maintenance and management and this has three components: (i) assessment and evaluation of national capacities in maintaining and managing aquatic biosecurity and developing a regional biosecurity framework for Africa; (ii) assessment of the impacts of international trading standards (aquatic animal health and food safety) on rural aquafarmers in selected low income countries in Asia-Pacific and Latin America and (iii) technical support to a regional workshop organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on aquaculture and aquatic biosecurity. The second project (i and ii) plans to target a number of low income FAO Member Countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. [Responsible Officers: MB Reantaso and R Subasinghe (FIMA)].