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VIRTUAL COURSE

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26 March to 15 April 2021

# Design of an Active Surveillance for Tilapia Lake Virus (TILV) Disease and Its Implementation

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TCP/INT/3707: Strengthening biosecurity (policy and farm level) governance to deal with Tilapia lake virus



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CHECKLIST #6

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02 April 2021

# Checklist 6: TiLV Risk Profile

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TCP/INT/3707: Strengthening biosecurity (policy and farm level) governance to deal with Tilapia lake virus



## Learning objectives:

- To understand the requirements and criteria for Checklist 6
- To gain knowledge on the different levels of diagnostics in general
- To get to know the TiLV risk profile



## Outline : **TiLV risk factors** → Clustering of the cases

- Host : Susceptible species, Life stages, Stress
- Environment : Season, Climate, Contacts, Locations
- Agent : (Virulence, Survivability)



**Host** : Susceptible species

Life stages

Stress factors



# Susceptible fish species for TiLV

- Wild tilapia *Tristramellasimonis intermedia*
- Hybrid tilapia (*O. niloticus* × *O. aureus* hybrids)
- Nile tilapia (*O. niloticus*)
- Red tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp.)
- Grey tilapia (*O. niloticus* × *O. aureus*)



*Sarotherodon galilaeus*



*Tilapia zilli*



*Oreochromis aureus*



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cichlidae\\_\(10.3897-zse.96.55837\)\\_Figure\\_9.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cichlidae_(10.3897-zse.96.55837)_Figure_9.jpg)

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/St.\\_Peter%27s\\_Fish.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/St._Peter%27s_Fish.jpg)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blue\\_Tilapia.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blue_Tilapia.jpg)

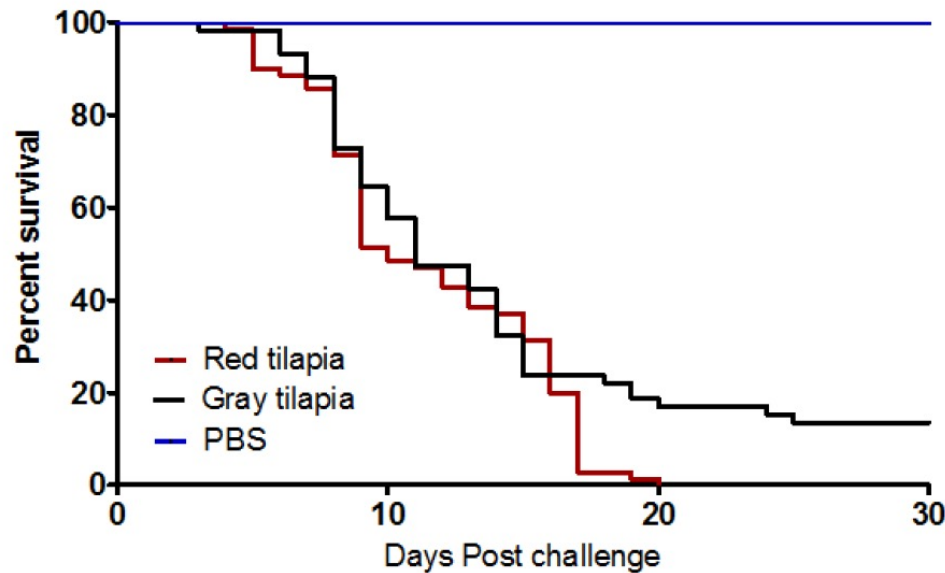
02 April 2021 6



# High mortalities after TiLV infection in tilapia



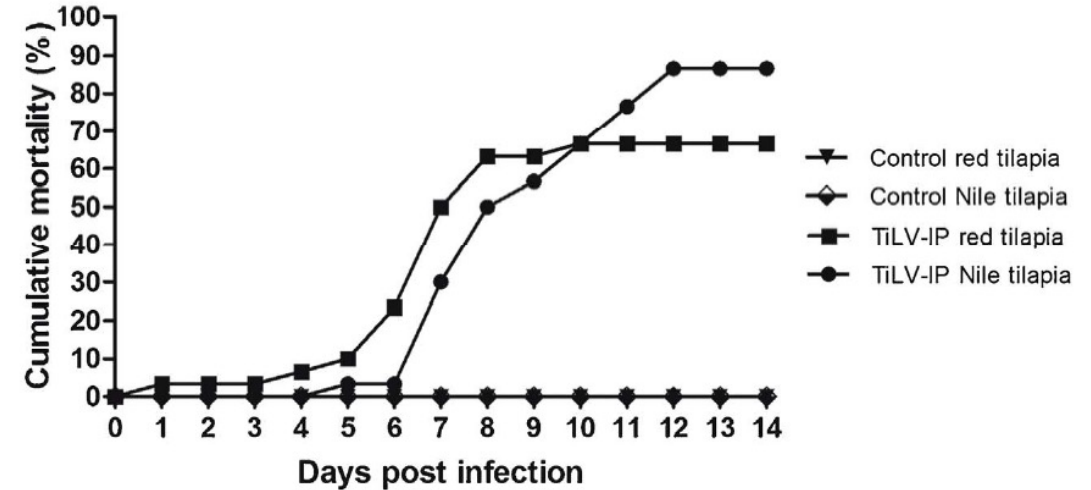
## Red and Gray tilapia



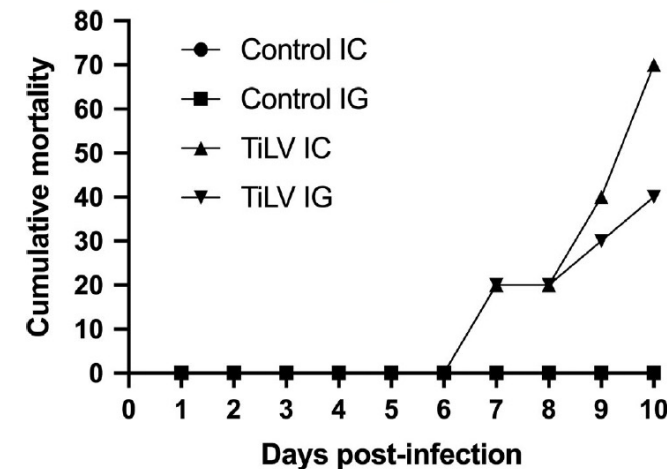
Mugimba et al 2020, Viruses

P. Tattiyapong et al.

## Nile and Red tilapia



Journal of Fish Diseases WILEY 1303



Nile tilapia with intragastric challenge

Pierezan et al 2019, J Fish Dis

02 April 2021



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Aquaculture

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# Most important warm water fish species are **resistant to tilapia lake virus (TiLV) infection**

Susceptibility of important warm water fish species to tilapia lake virus (TiLV) infection



Phitchaya Jaemwimol<sup>a</sup>, Pattarasuda Rawiwan<sup>a,b</sup>, Puntanat Tattiyapong<sup>a,b</sup>, Patrawut Saengnual<sup>c</sup>, Attapon Kamlangdee<sup>d</sup>, Win Surachetpong<sup>a,b,\*</sup>



*Cyprinus carpio*



*Trichogaster pectoralis*



*Barbodes gonionotus*



*Lates calcarifer*



*Anabas testudineus*



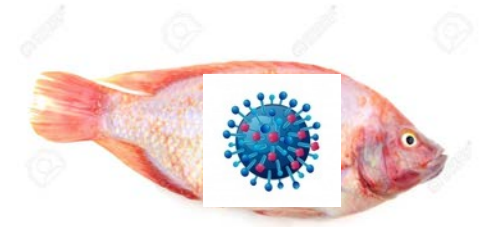
*Clarias macrocephalus*



*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*

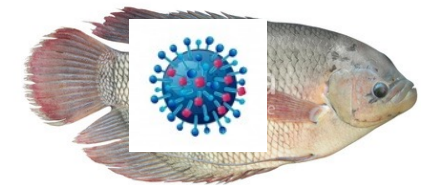


*Chana striata*



TiLV susceptible

*Oreochromis* spp.



*Osphronemus goramy*





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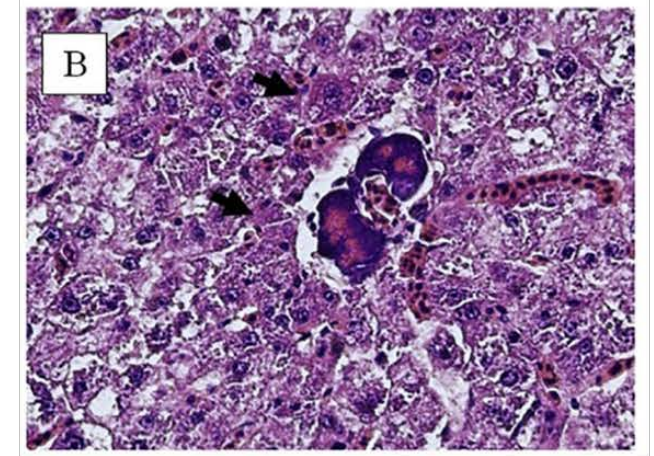
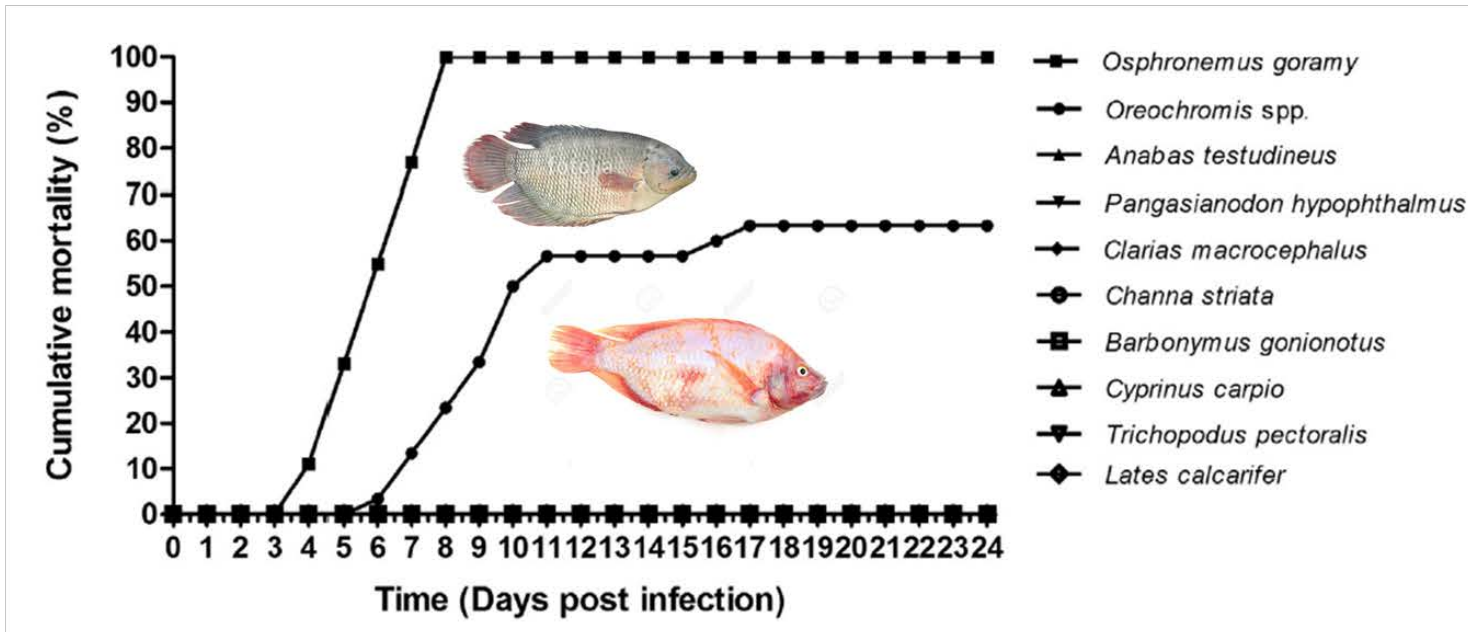


## Susceptibility of important warm water fish species to tilapia lake virus (TiLV) infection

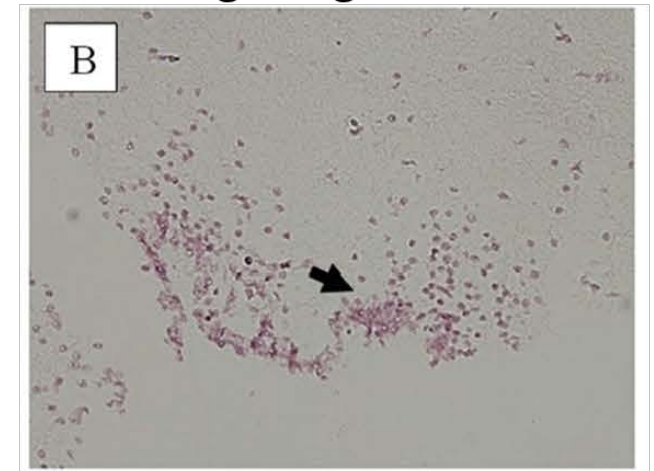


Phitchaya Jaemwimol<sup>a</sup>, Pattarasuda Rawiwan<sup>a,b</sup>, Puntanat Tattiyapong<sup>a,b</sup>, Patrawut Saengnual<sup>c</sup>, Attapon Kamlangdee<sup>d</sup>, Win Surachetpong<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

## Mortality of ten species after TiLV challenge

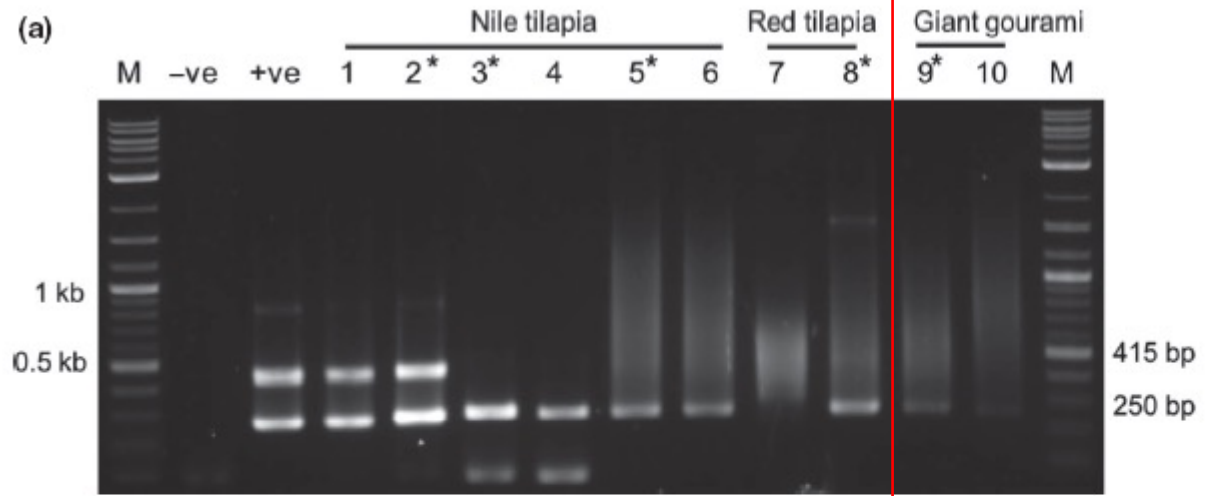


Syncytial cells in liver of giant gourami



In situ hybridization signal in the brain of infected giant gourami

# TiLV was detected in blood samples of two cultured giant gourami



(b)

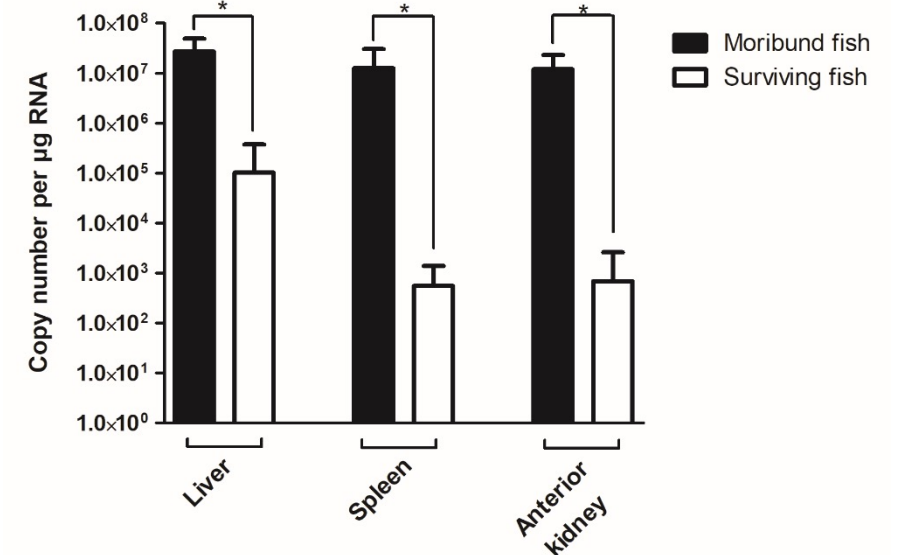
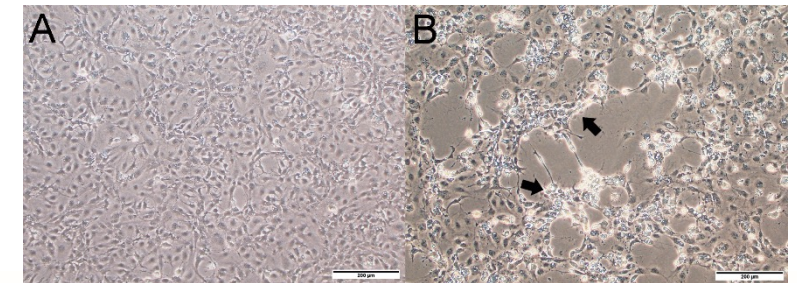
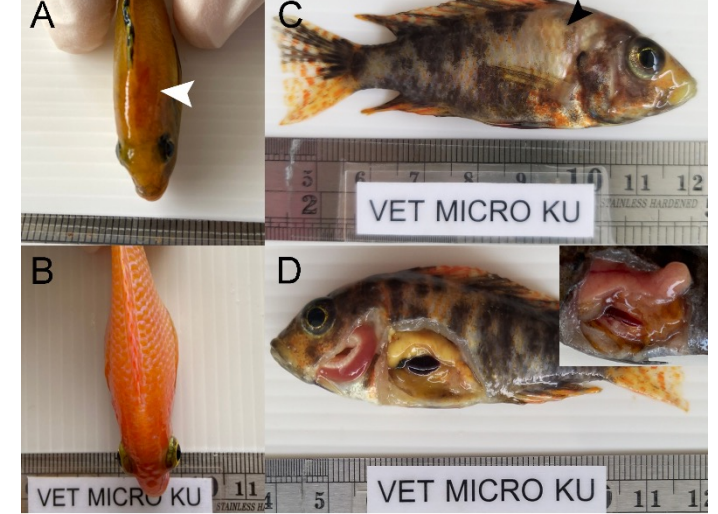
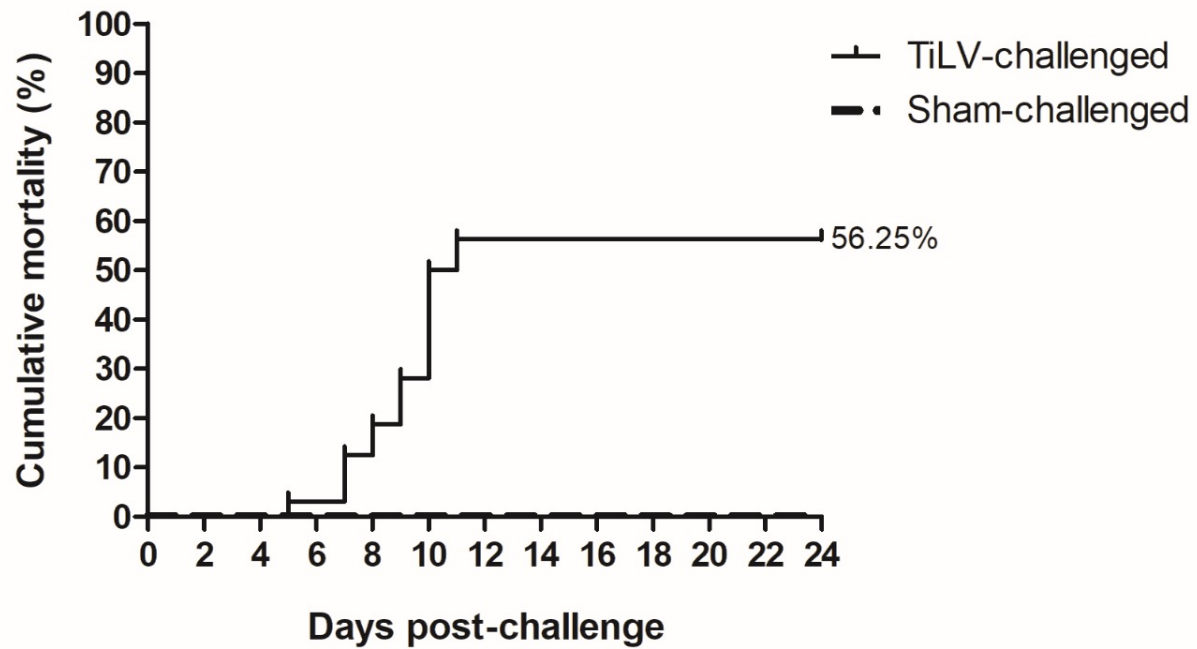
Samples	Origin	Amplicon selected for sequencing	% identity to the type strain Til-4-2001 (KU751816)
2*	Farm 1- batch 1	250 bp	97.2
3*	Farm 1- batch 2	250 bp	96.8
5*	Farm 1-batch 2	250 bp	98.0
8*	Farm 1- batch 3	250 bp	94.0
9*	Farm 1-batch 3	250 bp	97.6

**FIGURE 3** A. Representative PCR detection results of liver samples collected from Nile tilapia and blood samples collected from red tilapia and giant gourami. M, marker (NEB); -ve, no template control; +ve, positive control using RNA extracted from TiLV-infected fish as template; 1-10, tested fish samples; \* represents the samples that were sent for sequencing. B. Selected 250-bp amplicons (asterisks) were sequenced, and per cent identity to the type strain Til-4-2001 (KU751816) was indicated



# TiLV can infect ornamental African cichlids

- High mortality, virus detected in tissues



Yamkasem et al., 2021 (under review)



# Additional fish species susceptible to TiLV?

Turk. J. Fish. & Aquat. Sci. 21(4), 205-209  
[http://doi.org/10.4194/1303-2712-v21\\_4\\_05](http://doi.org/10.4194/1303-2712-v21_4_05)

PROOF  
SHORT PAPER



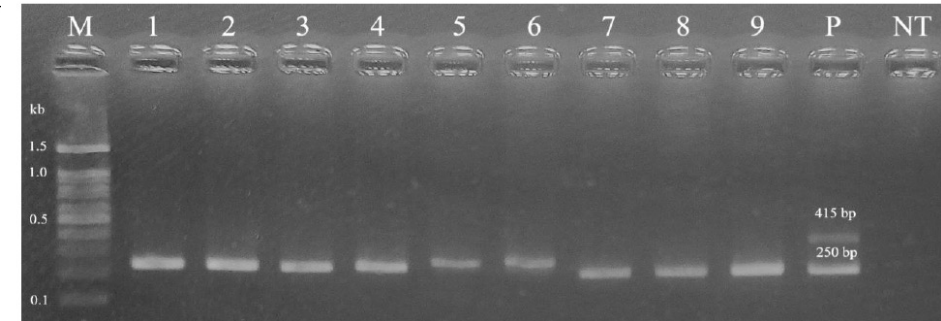
- No virus isolation and histopathology

## Detection of Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) in Healthy Fish from the Pre-Existing Disease Environment Using Different RT-PCR Methods

Patharapol Piamsomboon<sup>1</sup>, Janenuj Wongtavatchai<sup>1,\*</sup>

**Table 2.** TiLV detection in wild Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*, n=29), Climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus*, n=12), snakeskin gourami (*Trichogaster pectoralis*, n=9) and farmed barramundi (*Lates calcalifer*, n=20)

Samples	TiLV RT-PCR result*
<i>Collection Site 1</i>	
Nile tilapia	2/5
Climbing perch	0/5
<i>Collection Site 2</i>	
Nile tilapia	5/5
Climbing perch	0/3
Snakeskin gourami	0/2
<i>Collection Site 3</i>	
Nile tilapia	0/6
Snakeskin gourami	0/4
<i>Collection Site 4</i>	
Nile tilapia	0/10
<i>Collection Site 5</i>	
Nile tilapia	0/3
Climbing perch	0/4
Snakeskin gourami	0/3
Farmed barramundi	2/20

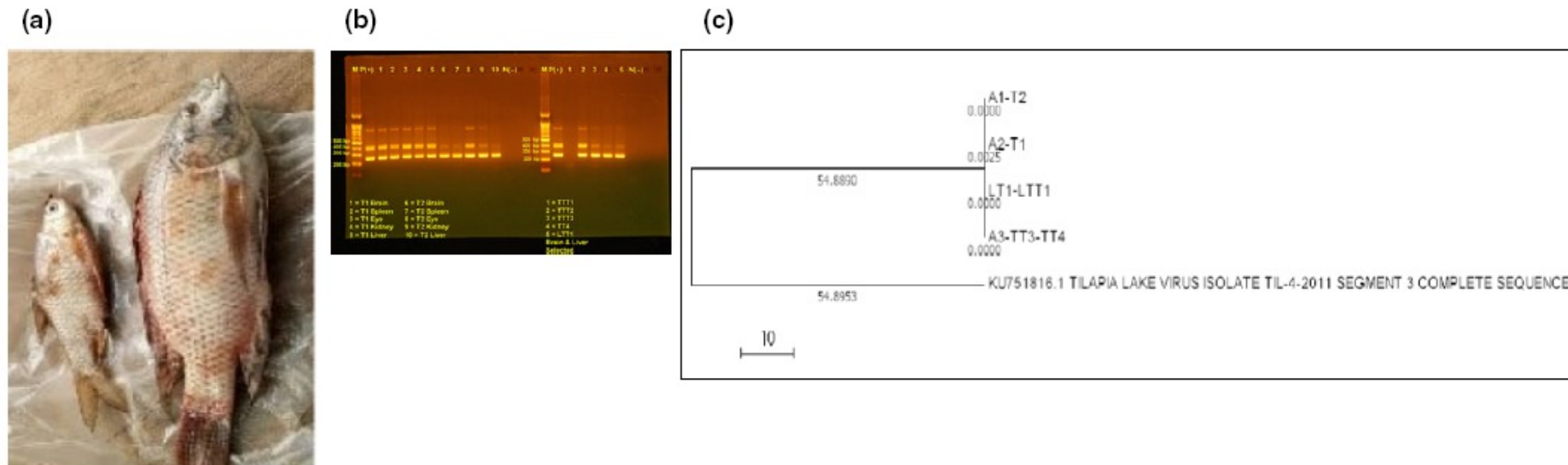


**Figure 1.** TiLV detection of samples obtained from Nile tilapia in the natural reservoir (Lane 1-7) and farmed barramundi (Lane 8 - 9) using semi-nested RT-PCR. M, 100 bp DNA ladder; NT, negative control; P, positive control.

## First detection of tilapia lake virus (TiLV) in wild river carp (*Barbonymus schwanenfeldii*) at Timah Tasoh Lake, Malaysia

- No virus isolation and histopathology

Azila Abdullah<sup>1</sup>  | Rimatulhana Ramly<sup>1</sup> | Mohammad Syafiq Mohammad Ridzwan<sup>1</sup> | Fahmi Sudirwan<sup>1</sup> | Adnan Abas<sup>2</sup> || Kamisa Ahmad<sup>1</sup> | Munira Murni<sup>1</sup> | Beng Chu Kua<sup>1</sup>



**FIGURE 1** (a) Clinical signs observed in river carp (left) and wild tilapia (right) showing reddish discoloration of fins, body and scales. Photo courtesy: Perlis Biosecurity Division, Department of Fisheries Malaysia. (b) Gel electrophoresis–polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique showed infected tilapia (TT) and river carps (LTT). N = negative control; M = DNA marker; P = positive control; 1 = TT1; 2 = TT2; 3 = TT3; 4 = TT4; 5 = LTT1. Photo courtesy (b): Lab-Ind. Resources Sdn. Bhd. (c) Phylogenetic tree showing similarity of the sequence from this study with Israel strain



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Aquaculture 515 (2020) 734567

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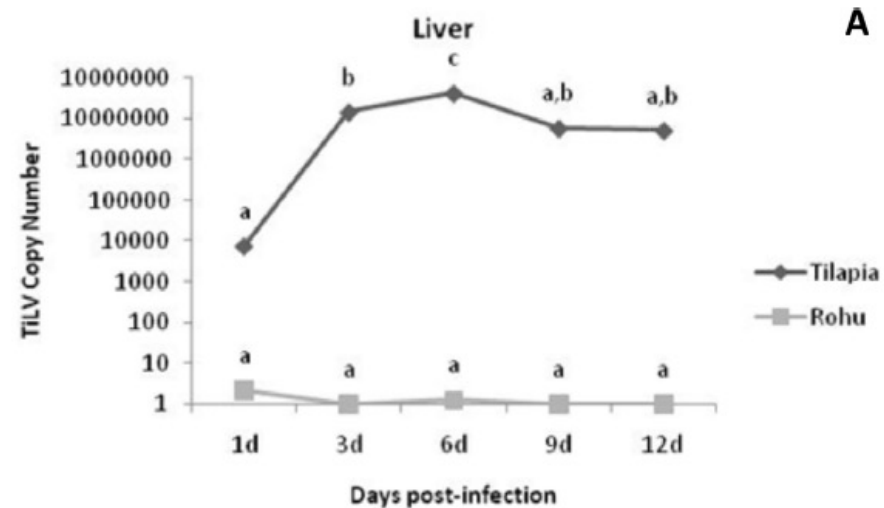
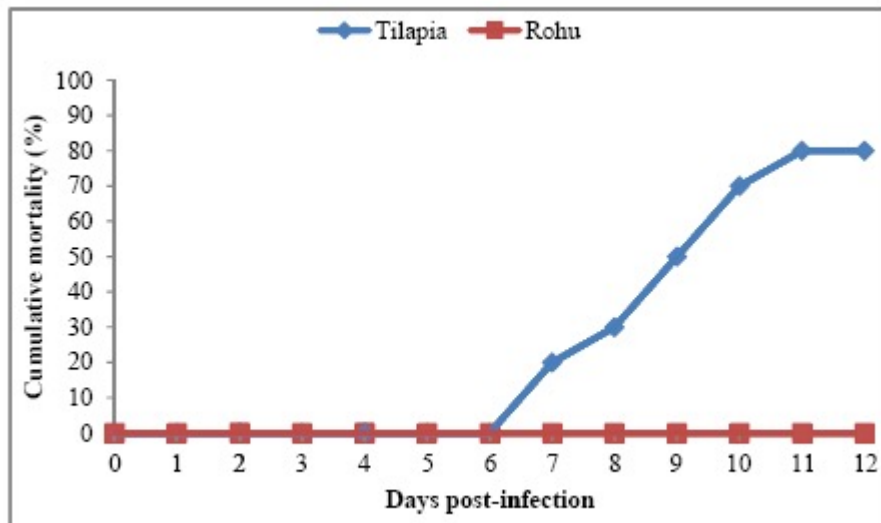


## Susceptibility of Indian major carp *Labeo rohita* to tilapia lake virus

Pravata K. Pradhan<sup>a,\*,1</sup>, Anutosh Paria<sup>a,1</sup>, Manoj K. Yadav<sup>a</sup>, Dev K. Verma<sup>a</sup>, Shubham Gupta<sup>a</sup>,  
T.R. Swaminathan<sup>b</sup>, Gaurav Rathore<sup>a</sup>, Neeraj Sood<sup>a,\*\*</sup>, Kuldeep K. Lal<sup>a</sup>



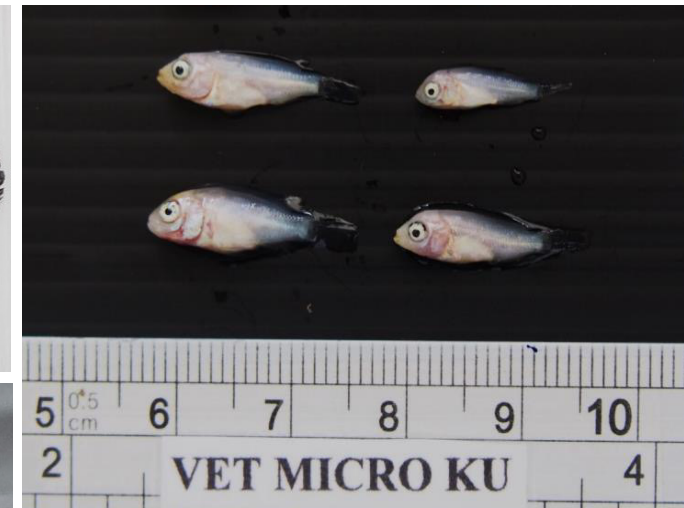
- No infection in Indian major carp





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# All life stages are susceptible to TiLV





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# Production-level risk factors for syncytial hepatitis in farmed tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus* L)

R M Kabuusu<sup>1</sup>  | A T Aire<sup>2</sup> | D F Stroup<sup>3</sup> | C N L Macpherson<sup>4</sup> | H W Ferguson<sup>1</sup>

**TABLE 3** Linear regression model for severity of excess tilapia mortality associated with syncytial hepatitis viral infection as function of production factors

Excess mortality	Coefficient	SE	F test	p-Value
Stocking density	365.651	59.599	37.6400	<.000001
Initial weight	-258.106	84.566	9.3154	.002405
Temperature	-1,025.331	122.099	70.5191	<.000001
Dissolved oxygen	5,768.980	749.898	59.1825	<.000001
# of pond cycles	340.179	82.853	16.8578	.000048
CONSTANT	-41,152.417	3,456.541	141.7449	<.000001

Correlation coefficient:  $r^2 = .24$ ; no confounding or interaction was established in both models.

- Chitralada strain had higher risk 
- Stocking density 
- Pond production cycles 
- Higher initial weight 





# Minimize handling to reduce stress that predisposes to disease

Grading or stress factors

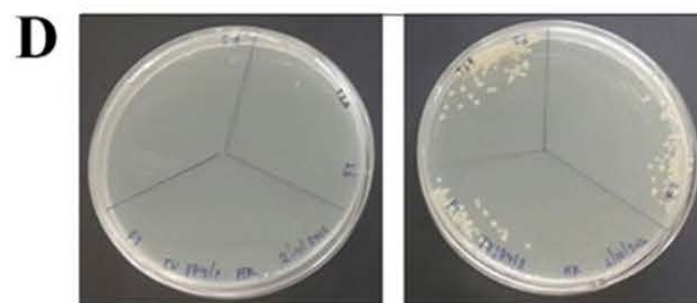
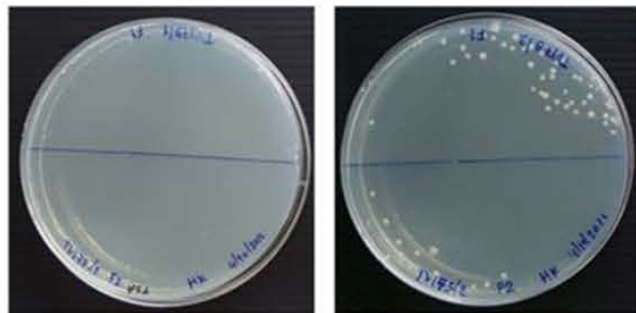
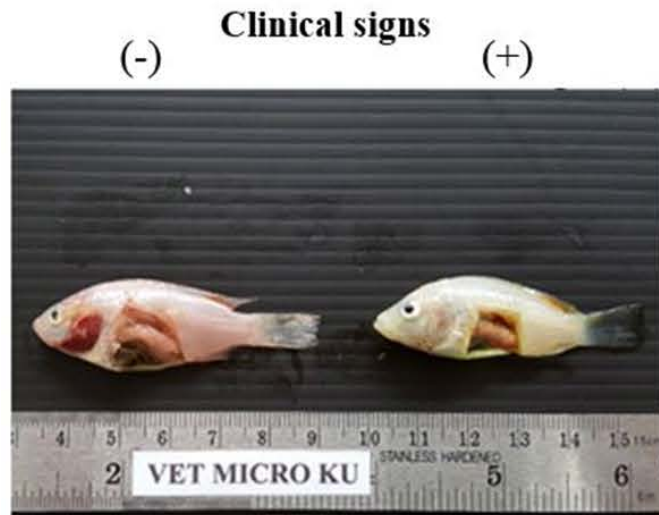
e.g. poor water quality, overcrowding

→ predispose fish to TiLV infection

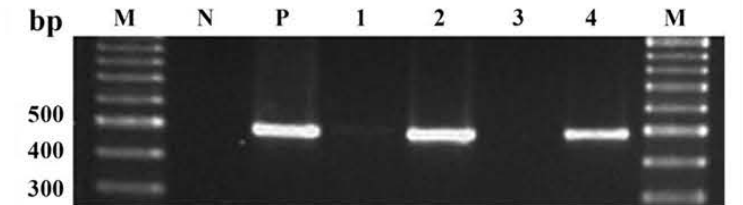




# Co-infections of TiLV and bacteria worsen the clinical outcome



**Bacteria and TiLV are frequently found in the moribund fish.**

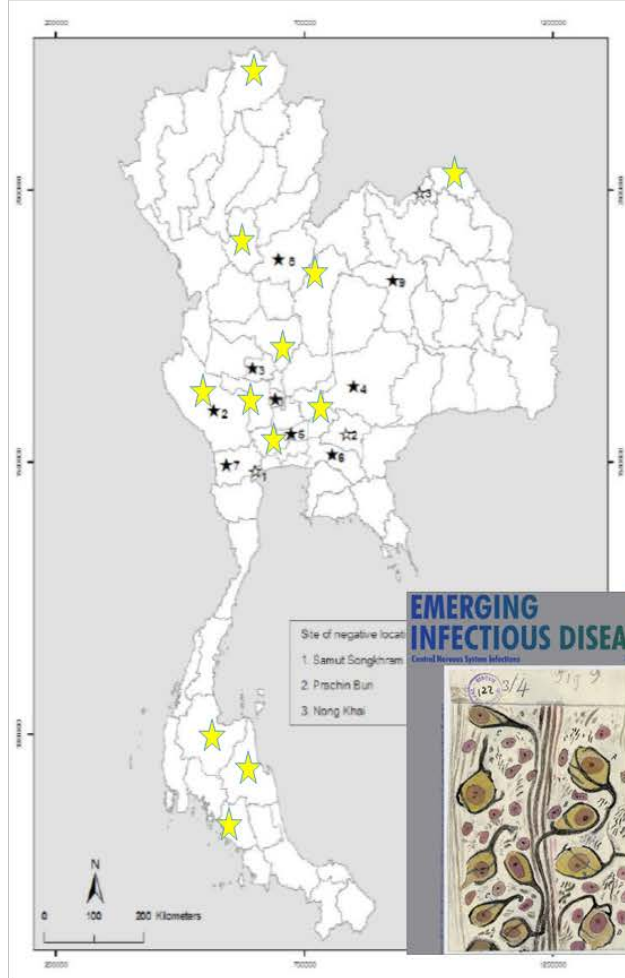


Nicholson et al., 2020 Aquaculture. 734746



# Multiple infections of TiLV and other pathogens

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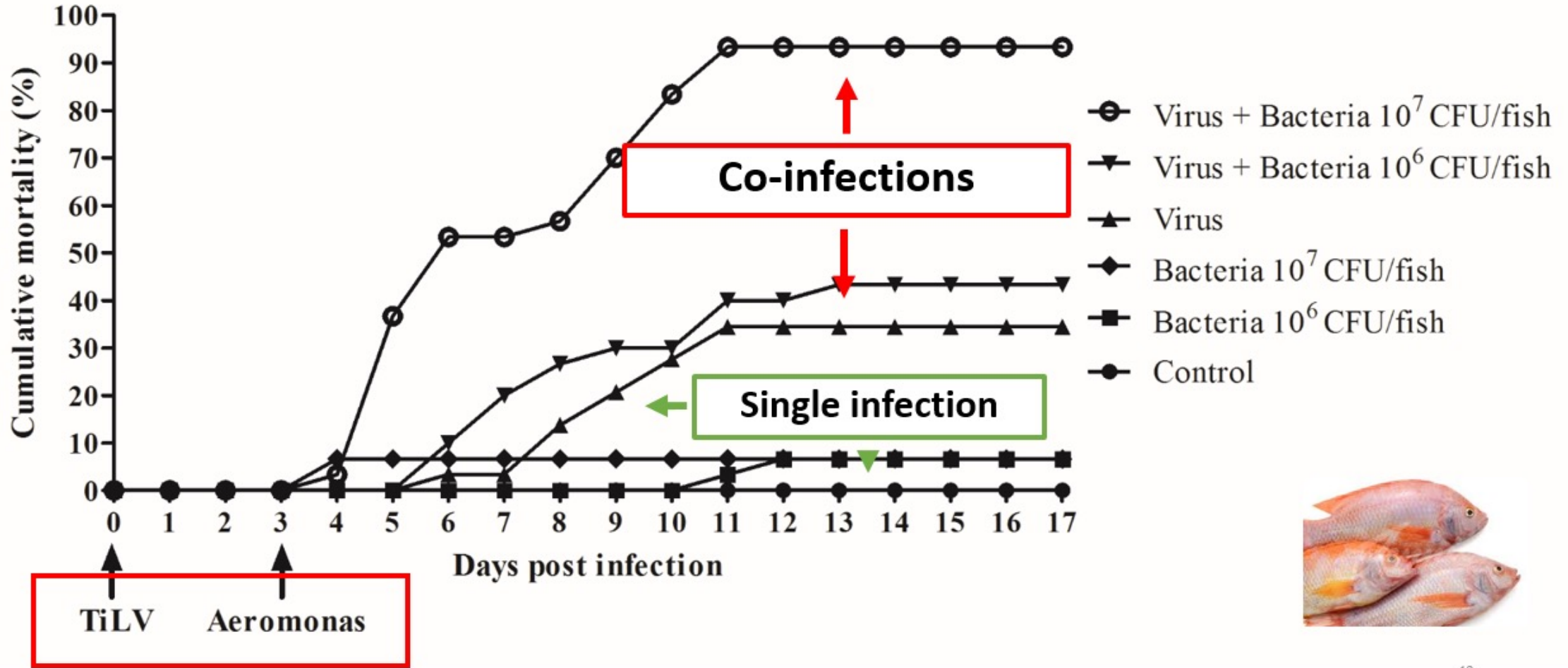
Technical Appendix Table 1. Description of TiLV outbreaks in Thailand\*

Outbreak	Date	Location	Species	Ectoparasite†	Laboratory diagnosis	
					Bacteria identification‡	TiLV Identification§
1	15/10/2015	Ang Thong	RT	ND	ND	+
2	30/10/2015	Ang Thong	RT	ND	ND	+
3	11/11/2015	Ang Thong	RT	ND	ND	+
4	29/12/2015	Kanchanaburi	RT	ND	No growth	-
5	29/12/2015	Chai Nat	RT	ND	<i>Flavobacterium</i>	+
6	29/12/2015	Kanchanaburi	RT	ND	<i>Flavobacterium, Aeromonas</i>	+ (TV2)
7	29/12/2015	Chai Nat	RT	ND	<i>Flavobacterium</i>	-
8	05/01/2016	Nakhon Ratchasima	RT	1+	<i>Flavobacterium</i>	+ (TV3)
9	05/01/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	ND	No growth	+
10	15/01/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	2+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+
11	15/01/2016	Chachoengsao	T	3+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+ (TV4)
12	15/01/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	ND	ND	-
13	19/01/2016	Ratchaburi	RT	1+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+ (TV5)
14	04/02/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	0	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+
15	05/02/2016	Kanchanaburi	RT	ND	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+
16	09/02/2016	Kanchanaburi	RT	1+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+
17	16/02/2016	Samut Songkhram	RT	2+	ND	-
18	16/02/2016	Samut Songkhram	RT	3+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+
19	18/02/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	3+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	-
20	26/02/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	2+	<i>Flavobacterium, Aeromonas</i>	+ (TV1)¶
21	27/02/2016	Samut Songkhram	RT	1+	No growth	+
22	30/03/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	ND	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+
23	28/04/2016	Nakhon Ratchasima	RT	ND	ND	+
24	28/04/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	ND	ND	+
25	06/05/2016	Pathum Thani	RT	2+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+
26	06/05/2016	Prachin buri	T	0	<i>Streptococcus</i>	-
27	10/05/2016	Pathum Thani	T	1+	ND	-
28	13/05/2016	Nong Khai	T	3+	ND	-
29	20/05/2016	Phitsanulok	RT	0	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+ (TV6)
30	20/05/2016	Phitsanulok	T	0	<i>Streptococcus, Aeromonas</i>	-
31	23/05/2016	Chai Nat	RT	0	<i>Aeromonas</i>	-
32	24/05/2016	Khon Kaen	T	2+	<i>Aeromonas</i>	+ (TV7)

\*Outbreaks of massive tilapia death were investigated in 9 provinces during Oct 2015 to May 2016. Epidemiologic information and laboratory findings were shown.



# Co-infections of TiLV and bacteria worsen the clinical outcome





# Environment :

- Season and climate
- Contacts, locations



# Permissive temperature for TiLV

- Normal temperature for tilapia aquaculture **24-28°C**
- In Israel, outbreak occurs during **hot season** (May to October) Eyngor et al., 2014
- TiLV associated with "**Summer mortality**" in Egypt
- In Thailand, the disease could be found throughout the year



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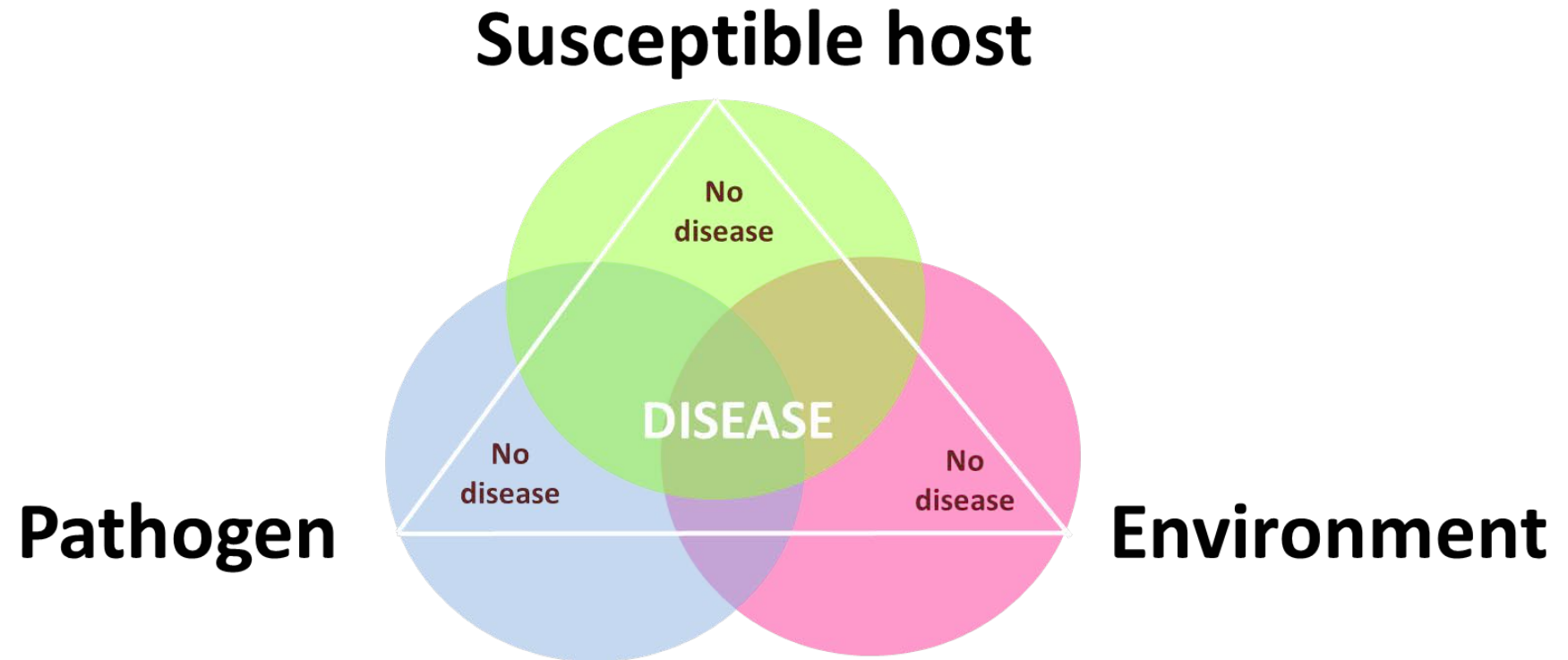
# Permissive temperature for TiLV

TiLV-affected countries	Mortality impact	Onset of mortality	Susceptible life stages (weight in grams)	Susceptible temperature (Celsius scale)	References
Israel	Mass mortality	N/A	N/A	22-32°C	Eyngor et al. (2014)
Ecuador	>80%	4-7 days post-transfer from hatchery to a farm facility	3 g	25-27°C	Ferguson et al. (2014)
	90%	N/A	3 g	N/A	Del-Pozo et al. (2017)
Egypt	5%-15%	N/A	>100 g	>25°C	Fathi et al., (2017)
Thailand	20%-90%	Peak in 14 days	1-50g	N/A	Surachetpong et al., (2017)
	20%-90%	N/A	Fertilized egg, yolk sac larvae, fries, and fingerlings	N/A	Dong, Ataguba, et al. (2017))
Philippines	33.79%	N/A	Fingerlings	N/A	OIE (2017a)
Chinese Taipei	6.40%	N/A	N/A	N/A	OIE (2017b)
Malaysia	0.7%-15%	N/A	N/A	N/A	OIE (2017c)
	25%	Peak in 5-9 days after the first death	7-20 g	N/A	Amal et al. (2018)
India	80%-90%	N/A	20-80 g	N/A	Behera et al. (2018)
Mexico	0%-2.71%	N/A	N/A	N/A	OIE (2018)
Peru	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	OIE (2018c)
	Low mortality	N/A	Fingerlings < 2g, 80 g	N/A	Pulido et al. (2019)



# Impact of environment and farm locations

## *The disease triangle*





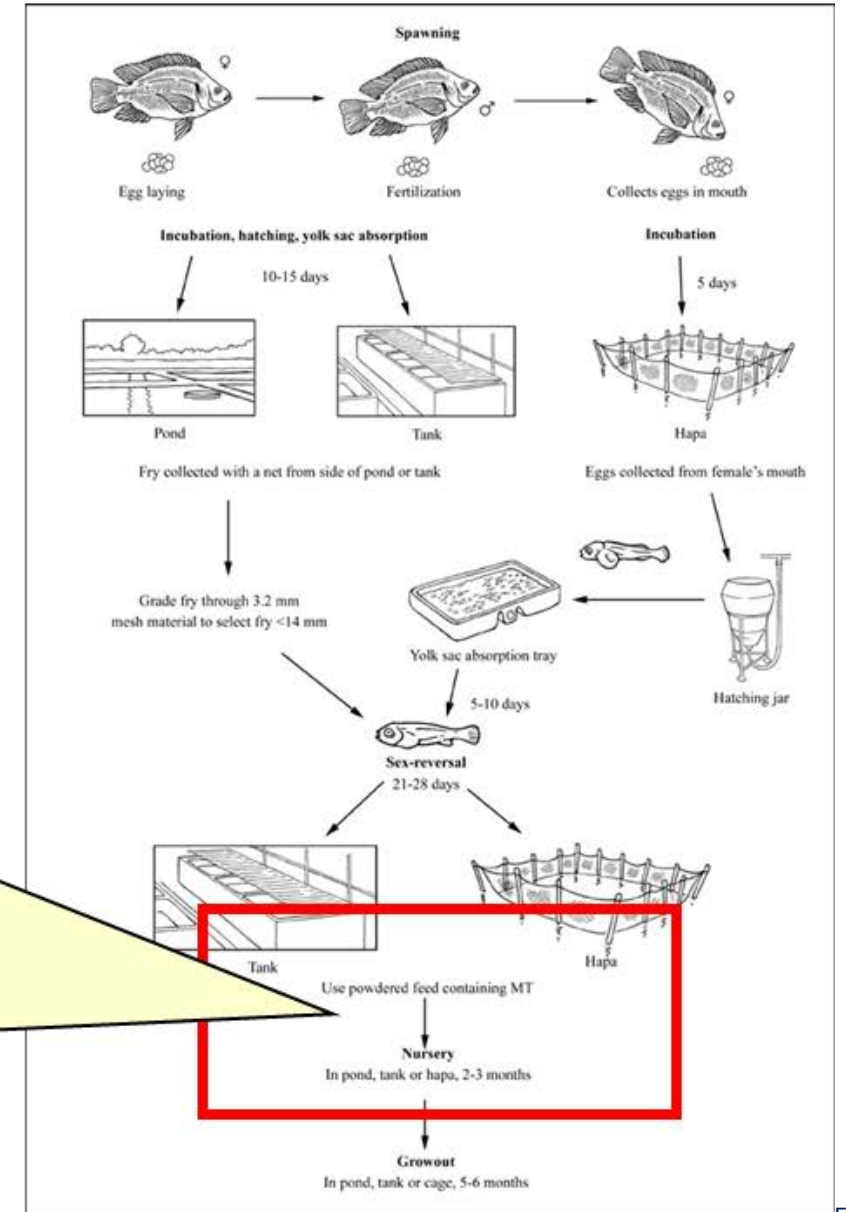


# Critical control points

**Tilapia production cycle**  
**Fish transfer to grow out pond**

**Nursery**  
**(in ponds, tanks, hapas)**  
**2-3 months**

**Growout**  
**(in ponds, tanks, cages)**  
**5-6 months**





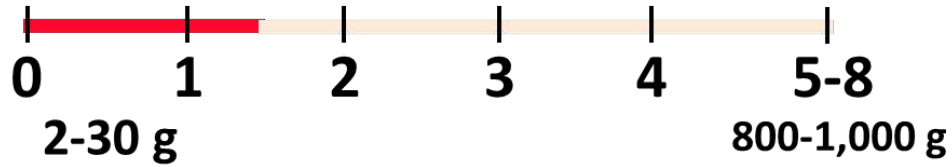
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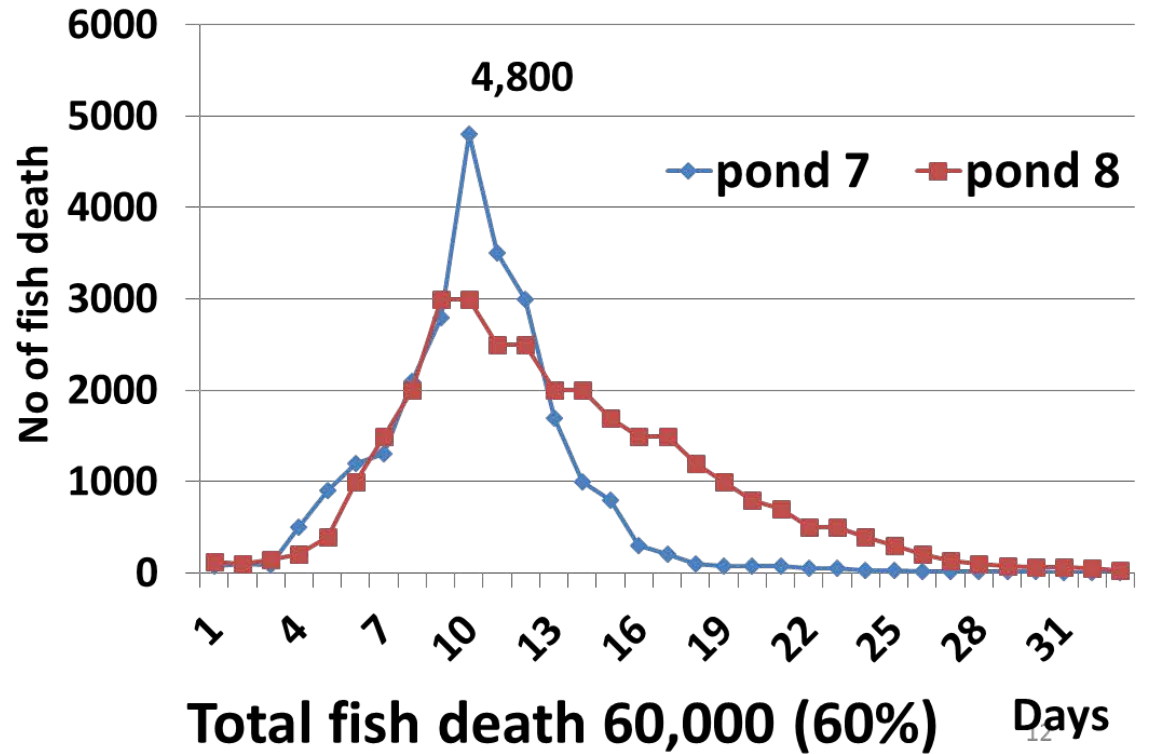


# Tilapia One Month Mortality Syndrome (TOMMS)

Months in cage/pond culture



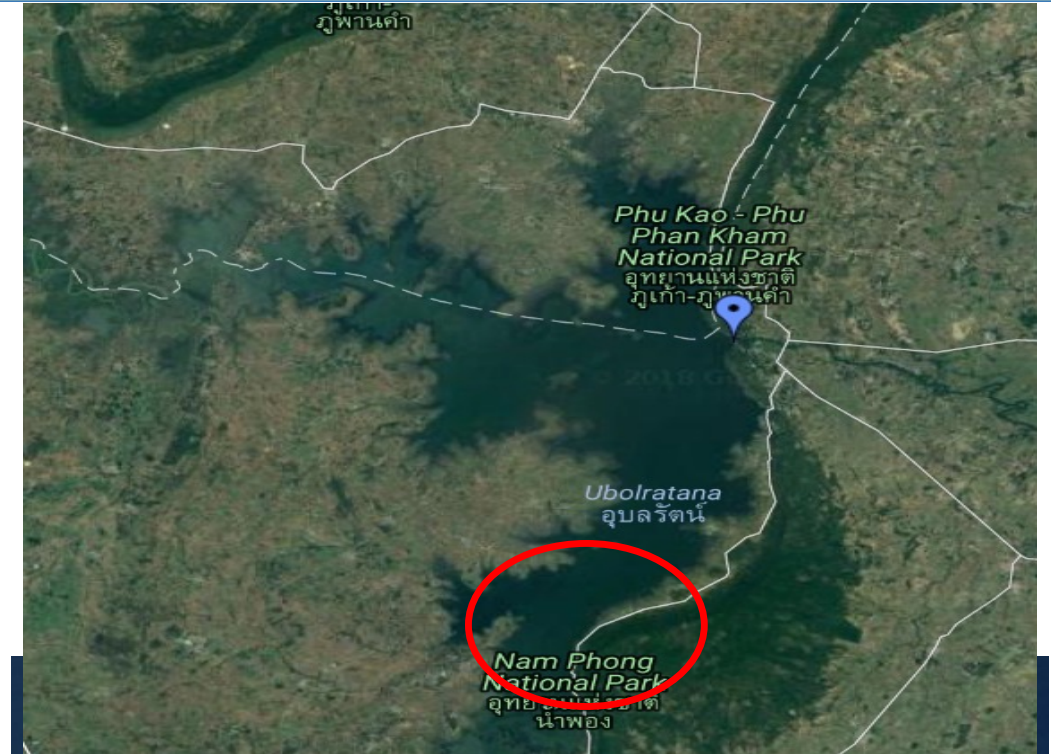
## Pattern of fish death



# Important of farms location and disease spreading



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# Stocking fish at different ages/size



Disease circulation in the farm/environment



# Farm with good biosecurity is less likely to have TiLV



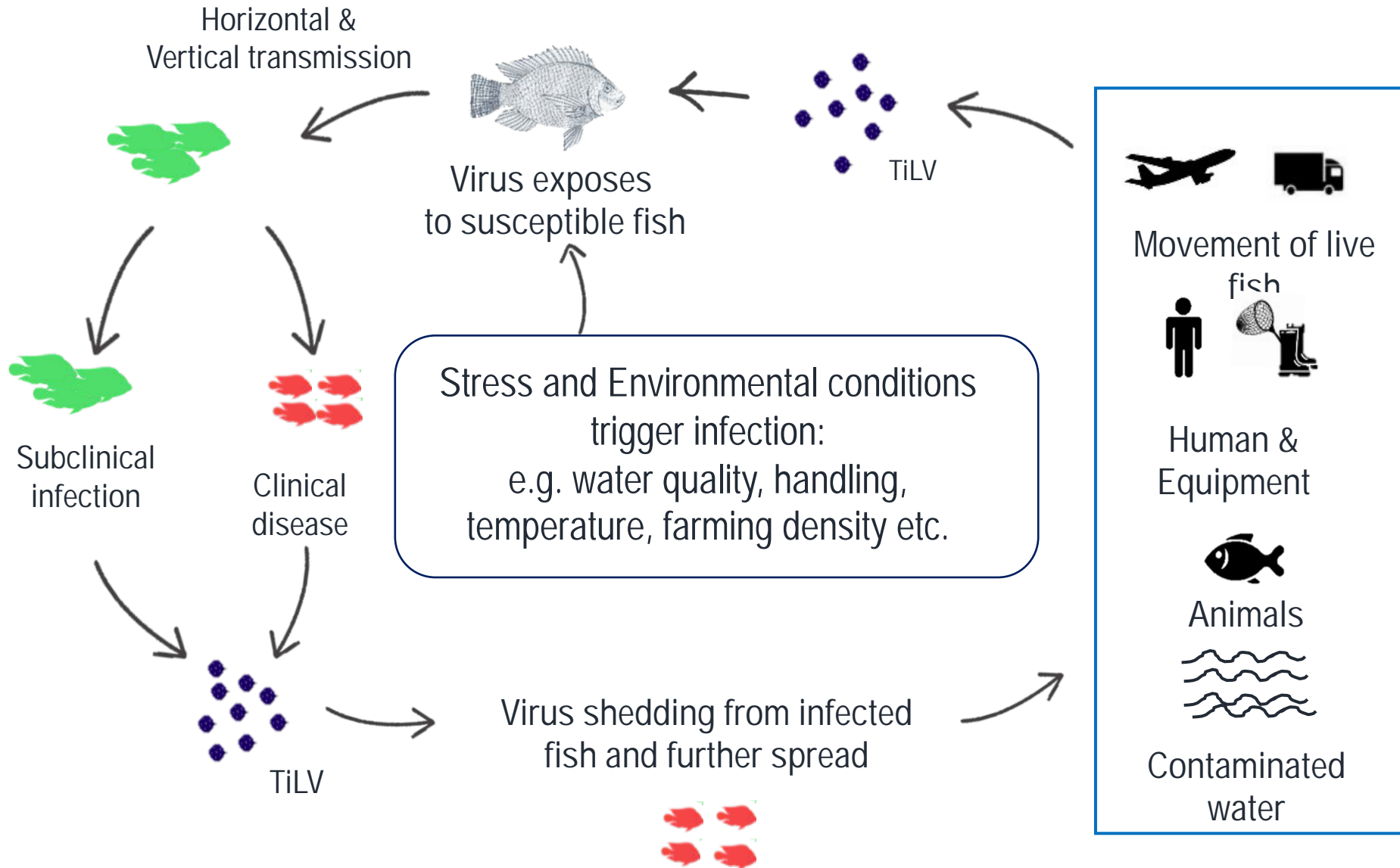
Farm with clear boundary

Surrounding wall

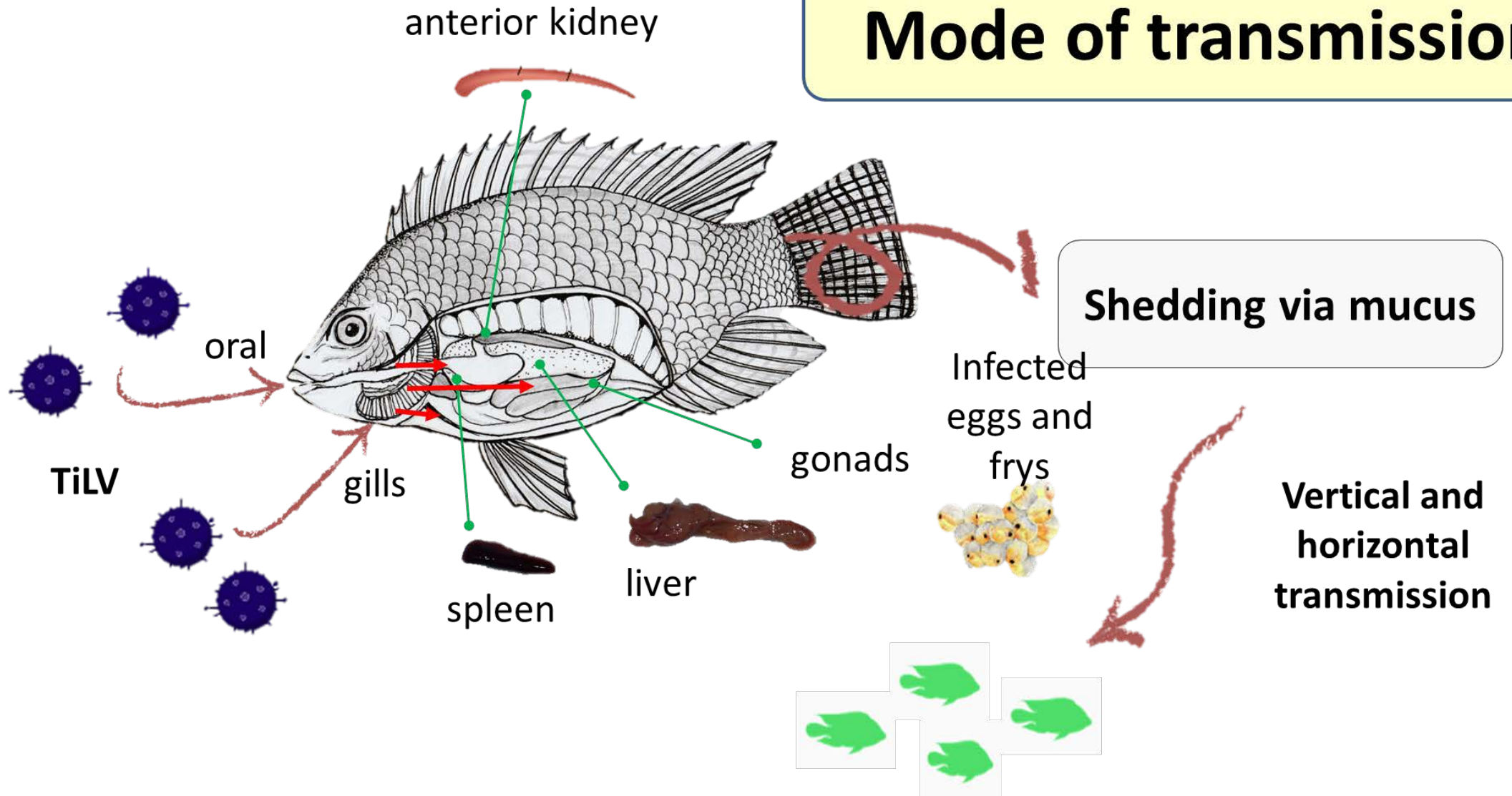




# TiLV distribution and risk of disease introduction in fish farms



# Mode of transmission

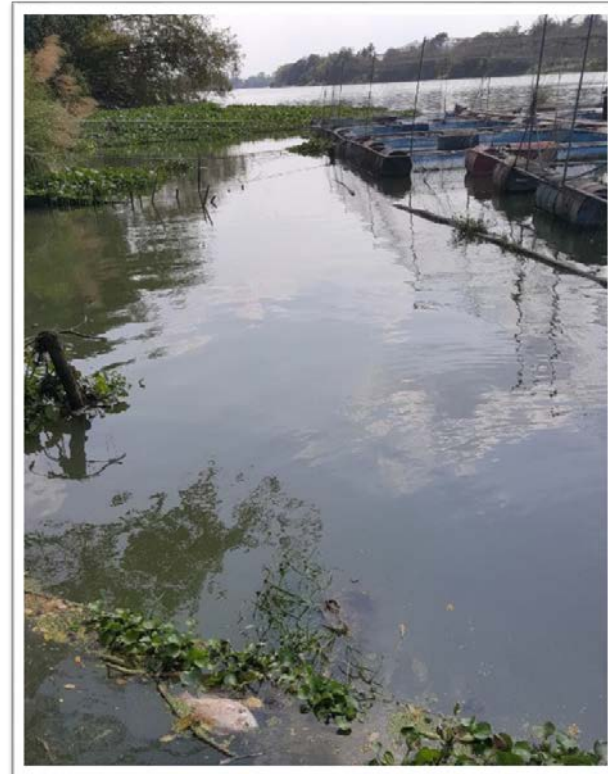






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# How quickly the farmers manage moribund/dead fish





# Transmission by vectors or carriers?



No detection of TiLV in  
fish parasite and mollusk  
(manuscript in preparation)

**Spread the virus?**



# Agent (TiLV):

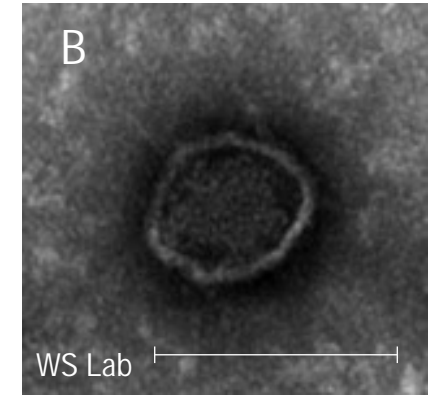
- Virulence
- Survivability



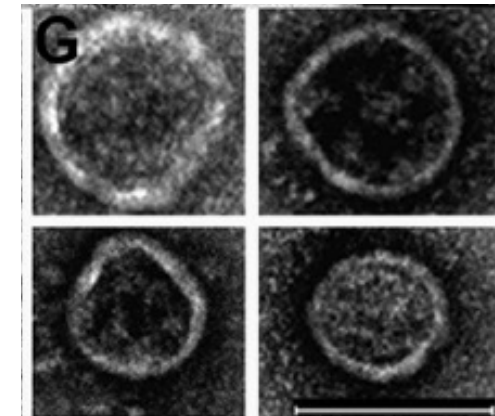
# Sequence comparison between Thai and Israel TiLV

Isael	TTGCTCTGAGCAAGAGTACCAGCAGATTTGTAAGGTACAATTCAAGGATTATTT <b>GG</b> GAGAT	60
Thailand	TTGCTCTGAGCAAGAGTACCAGCAGATTTGTAAGGTACAATTCAAGGATTATTT <b>AG</b> GAGAT *****	
Isael	CGACGGGGTTGTTAAAGTTGGGCACAAGGCATCCTACGATGCTGAGCTAAGGGAACGGCT	120
Thailand	CGACGGGGTTGTTAAAGTTGGGCACAAGGCATCCTACGATGCTGAGCTAAGGGAACGGCT *****	
Isael	ATTGGAACTACCACATCCAAAGAGTGGCCCGAAGCCTCGTAT <b>TG</b> AGTGGGTGGCACCACC	180
Thailand	ATTGGAACTACCACATCCAAAGAGTGGCCCGAAGCCTCGTAT <b>CG</b> AGTGGGTGGCACCACC *****	
Isael	CAGACTTGCGGACATATCCAAGGA <b>AA</b> CAGCTGAGCTAAAGAGGCAATATGGATTCTTCGA	240
Thailand	CAGACTTGCGGACATATCCAAGGA <b>G</b> ACAGCTGAGCTAAAGAGGCAATATGGATTCTTCGA *****	
Isael	GTGCTCAAAGTTCCTCGCCTGCGGTGAGGAGTGTGGTCTTGACCAAGAGGCAAGAGA <b>AA</b> CT	300
Thailand	GTGCTCAAAGTTCCTCGCCTGCGGTGAGGAGTGTGGTCTTGACCAAGAGGCAAGAGAG <b>G</b> CT *****	
Isael	TATACT <b>GA</b> ACGAGTACGCACGTGATAGAGAATTTGAGTTCGCAAT <b>TG</b> GAGGGTGGATAACA	360
Thailand	TATACT <b>AA</b> ACGAGTACGCACGTGATAGAGAATTTGAGTTCGCAAT <b>CG</b> GAGGGTGGATAACA *****	
Isael	AAGGTATACAGTTGCTT <b>TC</b> CAAGCCTGCTACACAGAAGATATTACCTCTACCGGCTAG	420
Thailand	GAGGTATACAGTTGCTT <b>CC</b> CATAAGCCTGCTACACAGAAGATATTACCTCTACCGGCTAG *****	
Isael	TGCT <b>CC</b> CACTTGCTCGTGAGCTTTTGATGTTGATTGCTAGAAGCACAACTCAGGCAGGGAA	480
Thailand	TG <b>CC</b> CACTTGCTCGTGAGCTTTTGATGTTGATTGCTAGAAGCACAACTCAGGCAGGGAA *** *****	
Isael	AGTACTGCATA	
Thailand	AGTAC <b>GG</b> CATA *****	

**98% identity**



Thai isolate



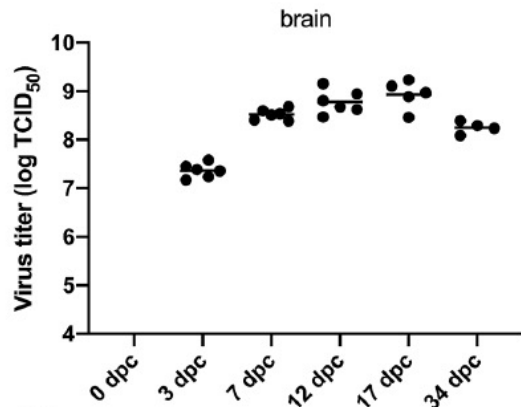
Israel isolate



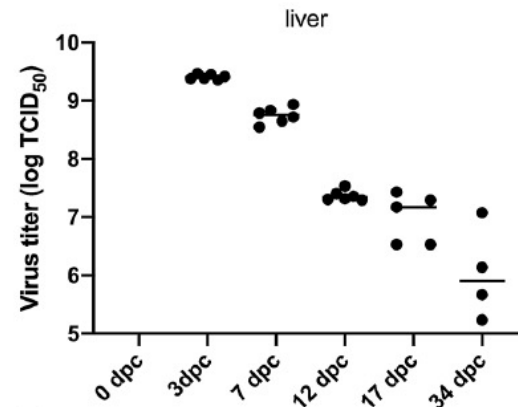
# Persistence of TiLV in fish and survival in environment



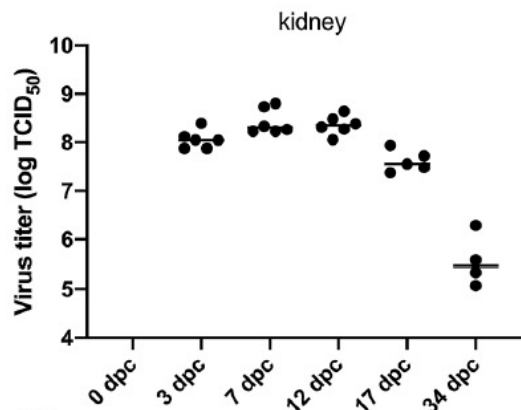
TiLV persists in multiple organs of challenged fish until 34 days



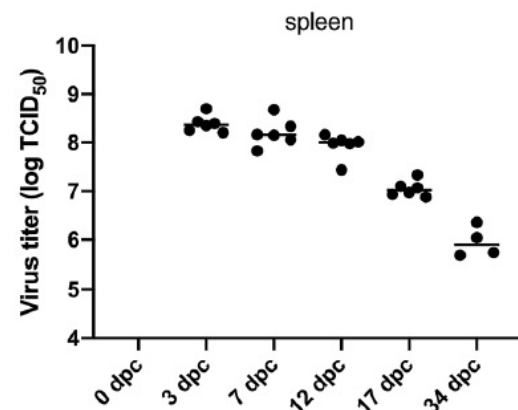
(a)



(b)

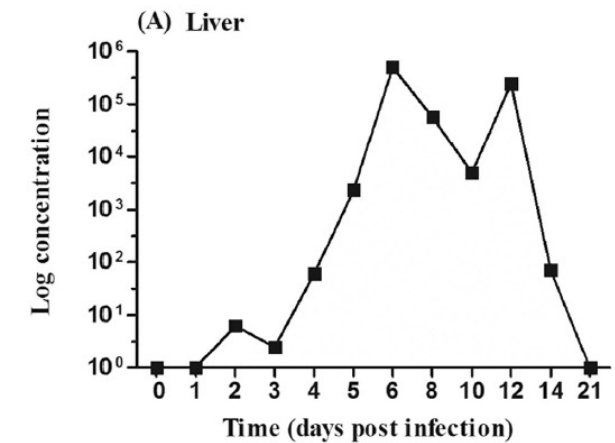
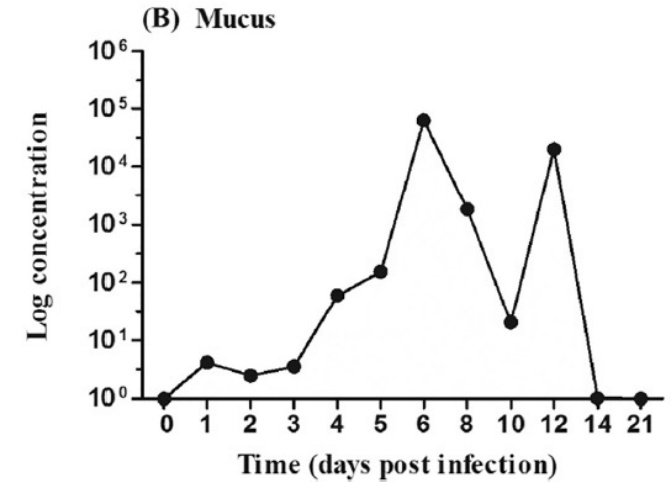


(c)



(d)

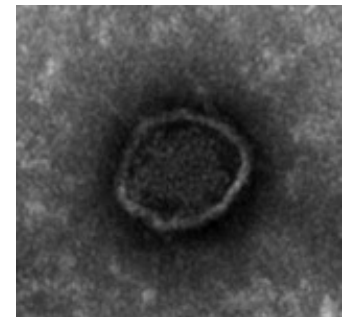
TiLV could be detected in mucus of cohabitation fish until 12 days





# Conclusion

- **TiLV risk profile**
- **Host:** Susceptible species, life stage
- **Environment:** Stress, temperature and factors that affect the disease progression
- **Agent:** Virulence and Persistence in fish and environment





Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

# Thank you for your attention!

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This was also made possible with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation under the project GCP/GLO/979/NOR Improving Biosecurity Governance and Legal Framework for Efficient and Sustainable Aquaculture Production.



TCP/INT/3707:  
Strengthening biosecurity  
(policy and farm level) governance  
to deal with Tilapia lake virus