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Stakeholder Consultation on Progressive Management Pathway (PMP) to Improve Aquaculture Biosecurity

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PMP Framework
Session 3.1

Working Group 3

Do the ideas of “progressive management of aquatic biosecurity” and a “pathway” for improvement meet your expectation of a system that could help to promote improvement?

- First concrete plan written, based on terrestrial system that works.
- FAO first developed regional biosecurity plans in 1994-95. Tried to engage private sector but did not have progressive management plan. Previous work was more ad hoc.
- Progress was made before but frequency of new disease emergence is increasing.
- Previous efforts were not as organized. PMP has proven successful with livestock diseases.
- Potentially powerful tool to demonstrate to establish plan for control and ultimate elimination of important diseases. However too broad of a plan can get diluted and difficult to manage.

a) Do the 4 stages adequately represent the range in national management of aquatic biosecurity?

- The proposed plan is a progressive plan and an assessment process. It depends on how much progress is made. It provides a progressive pathway, depends on country commitment.
- Mechanisms of assessment from stages is easier for pathogen-specific plans. For a more general system, assessments need to be carefully designed and flexible. PCP in livestock is very disease focused. Can it be adapted to a more general system?
- FAO in past promoted development of national strategies for aquatic biosecurity. But there wasn't a a step by step plan. PMP provides this structure.

b) What positives do you see about the system described?

- Good tool that SADC supports.
- PMP is not limited by trade motivations. 80% of production is for domestic sales. It's about jobs and nutrition.
- Increased production and decreased losses should be the motivators. In some systems biosecurity may double production.
- HACCP assessments should show benefits of this exercise. How much does it cost to prevent compared to react to disease?
- Specific diseases can be used to provide motivation.

c) What concerns do you have that need to be clarified or addressed?

- May be more applicable for specific pathogens. Expertise is required. Government, private sector, farmers. Infrastructure is another important consideration. Diagnostic lab support.
- Implementation challenge in some regions like Africa.
- Motivation of stakeholders is important.
- Proposed pathway has promise. But we need to work on capacity and resources needed to implement.
- Disparity of systems and species in aquaculture.
- Dealing with primary pathogens may allow emergence of opportunistic pathogens.

What difficulties do you foresee to adopt the approach at national level? Is it likely some countries might adopt the approach on a voluntary basis without significant support?

- Not many good examples of cost and return of biosecurity. More information is needed.
- In Africa the PMP needs to be translated into national aquaculture plans. Needs to be under national aquaculture plans to affect policies and get donor support. Countries have national platforms, important to be implemented in that framework. Should be handled at regional and national levels.
- Regulation at national level is important. New disease problems have lag phase to reaction. Example, diseases are identified in country but not reported. Need good engagement from private sector.
- Implementation must be at national level. Regional organizations motivate and provide support. Who will initiate? Governments or producers? May vary from country to country.
- Each national plan is based on needs of each country; some OIE pathogens can be left off a country priority if not relevant. Each PMP is tailor-made for each country.
- Must be adopted at country or regional level. Some can be regional especially for specific diseases.