

How do we build capacity in fish health services in Africa?

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Defining fisheries



Fisheries:
Harvesting of wild fish

Aquaculture:
Growing of fish in an enclosure and promoting its growth



Why is fish health relevant to food security & development in Africa?



“Forget oil, the new global crisis is food”

Alia McMullen, Financial Post January 7 2008



A continental perspective of fisheries

Fisheries in Africa plays a very important role in:

- Food security
- Food production
- Economic development
- Job creation
- AU / NEPAD priority



The contribution of fisheries in Africa

- 45 million Africans are directly dependent on fishing
- FAO estimates that fish is 22% of protein intake in SSA
- This share exceeds 50% in poorest countries
- Fishery value in 2004 was US\$ 4.3 billion – 8% of world value.



Case study: Malawi's fishery

- Annual production of 50 000 tons per annum
- Primary sector employs 65 000 fishers
- Secondary sector employs 350 000
- In 1976 per capita consumption of fish was 12.9kg, in 2001 dropped to 3.6kg
- 90% of fishers are artisanal



The growth of aquaculture world wide

- Worldwide, the fastest growing animal feed sector (6.9%)
- 47% of all fish produced is from aquaculture



Why is aquaculture growing

1. Wild fish stocks have been over exploited
2. Demand for fish is growing
3. Aquaculture technology has developed
4. Africa is the new frontier for aquaculture



The critical issues in fish health

- **Limited awareness by Governments on the relevance fish health**
- Veterinarians not trained in fish health
- Lack of diagnostics and surveillance services
- Lack of Bio-security measures
- The use of unregistered drugs for fish health



What do we need to do?



Defining the role of government

- **Recognise the need and priority to develop fish health capacity**
- Training of existing vets
- Include fish health in curriculum of veterinary schools
- Develop biosecurity measures
- Support diagnostic centres
- Seek regional agreements on fish health issues



Developing fish health capacity in Africa needs a long term view

Building capacity and services to deal with fish health issues should be proportionately equal in process and resource requirements as to animal health



- Rinderpest eradicated in 2011
- Programme to eradicate began in 1924
- Responsible to loss of millions of cattle



Advocacy for fish health

- Active campaign to highlight the need to prioritise fish health in Africa
- The campaign needs to target snr officials
- Africa summit on fish health?



Possible champions for Advocacy

- OIE
- NEPAD
- AU
- REC's

Provide solutions

- Including fish health in the curriculum for BVSc
- Develop fish health centres for training and capacity building – using existing tertiary institutions / research centres
- Strengthen diagnostics and surveillance existing centres to deal with fish health
- Assist member countries to develop policy on fish health (OIE template)



Activities in South Africa

- OIE / Rhodes University Collaboration Centre to train vets
- DAFF / Rhodes University to develop Diagnostic Centre for fish health
- Rhodes University / University of Pretoria to include fish health in curriculum of vets
- OIE / DAFF / Rhodes University linkage with Norwegian Veterinary Institute
- DAFF / Rhodes University discussions with NEPAD



How do we do this?

- Funding conference to support building capacity and infrastructure - provide plan.
- A “champion” to promote fish health in Africa. This could be OIE / AU / NEPAD.
- Strengthen regional centres where fish health expertise exists



Conclusion

- Increase government awareness on fish health needs
- Fish health is increasingly becoming a critical factor wrt food security in Africa
- There is a need to train vets in fish health
- There is need to develop capacity within diagnostics and surveillance centres to deal with fish health issues
- Role for OIE / AU / NEPAD for advocacy

