

Developing capacity of state vets to support aquaculture: a government - university collaboration

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Why is aquaculture relevant to the OIE?

1. Aquaculture is the fastest growing animal production sector
2. 50% of all fish production is from aquaculture
3. Fish is traded globally
4. Fish disease is difficult to contain



Aquaculture within Africa:

- Prioritised within the NEPAD Fishery & Aquaculture Action Plan
- SADC Fishery Action Plan
- Individual countries

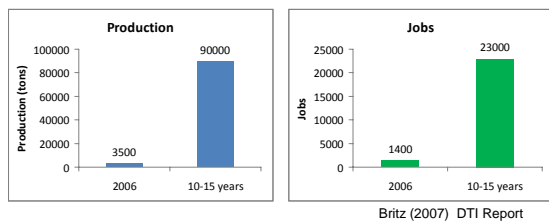


State interventions to promote aquaculture

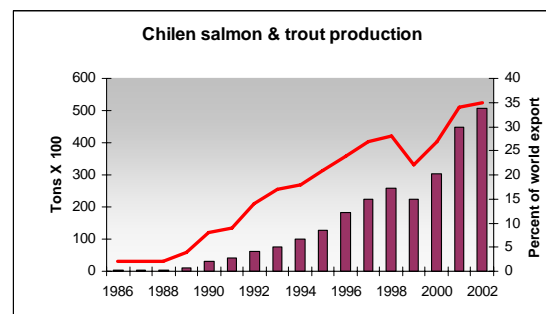
1. Access to land / water
2. Infrastructure
3. Environmental legislation
4. R&D
5. Skills development
- 6. Veterinary support**
7. Access to finance
8. Market information
9. Information management



Projected outcomes with greater government support



Growth of Chilean sector



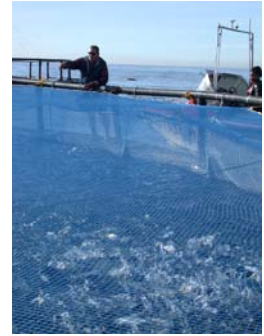
Why is state veterinary support important for aquaculture?

1. "School health" management & surveillance is critical – especially for intensive systems
2. Aquaculture is a "new" sector – which requires initial support
3. Without fish health surveillance programmes countries may not be able to export
4. **The widespread and large number of live fish transported makes this sector particularly vulnerable to diseases**



Case study 1

- Pilot (commercial) cage culture for kob and yellow tail
- Large corporate investing in venture
- Monthly fish health monitoring programme approx US\$ 1000



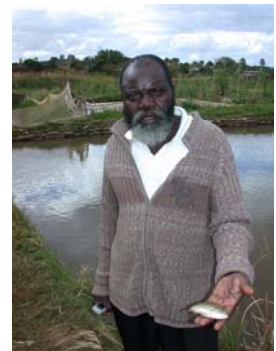
Case study 2

- Ornamental koi producer in Pretoria
- Farm infected with KHV...destroyed all stock...restart farm
- Significant financial burden...sell house and live at the farm!



Case study 3

- Small scale commercial farmer in Limpopo Province - RSA
- Makes about US\$ 50 per month from sale of fish
- What are his options ...?



Status quo

1. State vets have not been trained in fish health
2. Diagnostic centres not geared for fish diseases
3. Gaps in legislation regarding fish health in animal health acts



Developing capacity in South Africa: DAFF - Rhodes University initiative

- Rhodes University has a robust working relationship with DAFF
- Identified need to train state vets
- Training course developed & implemented



State vet course

1. 5 day course for 20 state vets – introduction to fish health and management
2. Theory & pracs
3. Approved by SAVC - 37 CPD points
4. Focus on regional issues



Training for state vets

- **Course 1:** Introduction to aquaculture, Physiology, introduction to diseases
- **Course 2:** Fish diseases, diagnostics, “school health”, pharmacology
- **Course 3:** Specialist course
- **Course 4:** Fish identification, aquatic conservation and biodiversity.

Contributing to the species debate



Other proposed courses

1. Training of para vets
2. Veterinary public health



Course for Agricultural Inspection Services

1. DAFF & Rhodes University developed course
2. Large number of imported fish
3. Lack of capacity at airports



Need for fish health certification standards



The way forward

1. OIE's advocacy role to inform governments on the need to include fish as a recipient of state veterinary support
2. OIE could collaborate with universities to build capacity in the region

