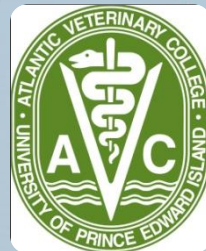




# Epidemiology and Risk Assessment for Aquatic Animal Diseases (Americas)

WOAH Collaborating Centre

## ERAAAD – SERVICES & CHALLENGES



Atlantic Veterinary College  
University of Prince Edward Island  
PEI, Canada

# Epidemiology and Risk Assessment for Aquatic Animal Diseases



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*Joint Collaborating Centre  
(announced 2010, separated 2019)*

Atlantic Veterinary College (University of PEI)

*and*

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# First challenge

- Collaborating Centres are often replicated in each region to address needs of different areas
  - ERAAAD (Americas)
  - ERAAAD (Europe)
- This is not the way either NVI or AVC operate, nor is it the way we *prefer* to operate
- Each CC works internationally wherever the demand is highest
  - Depends on funding and opportunity (more on that challenge later)



# Mandate

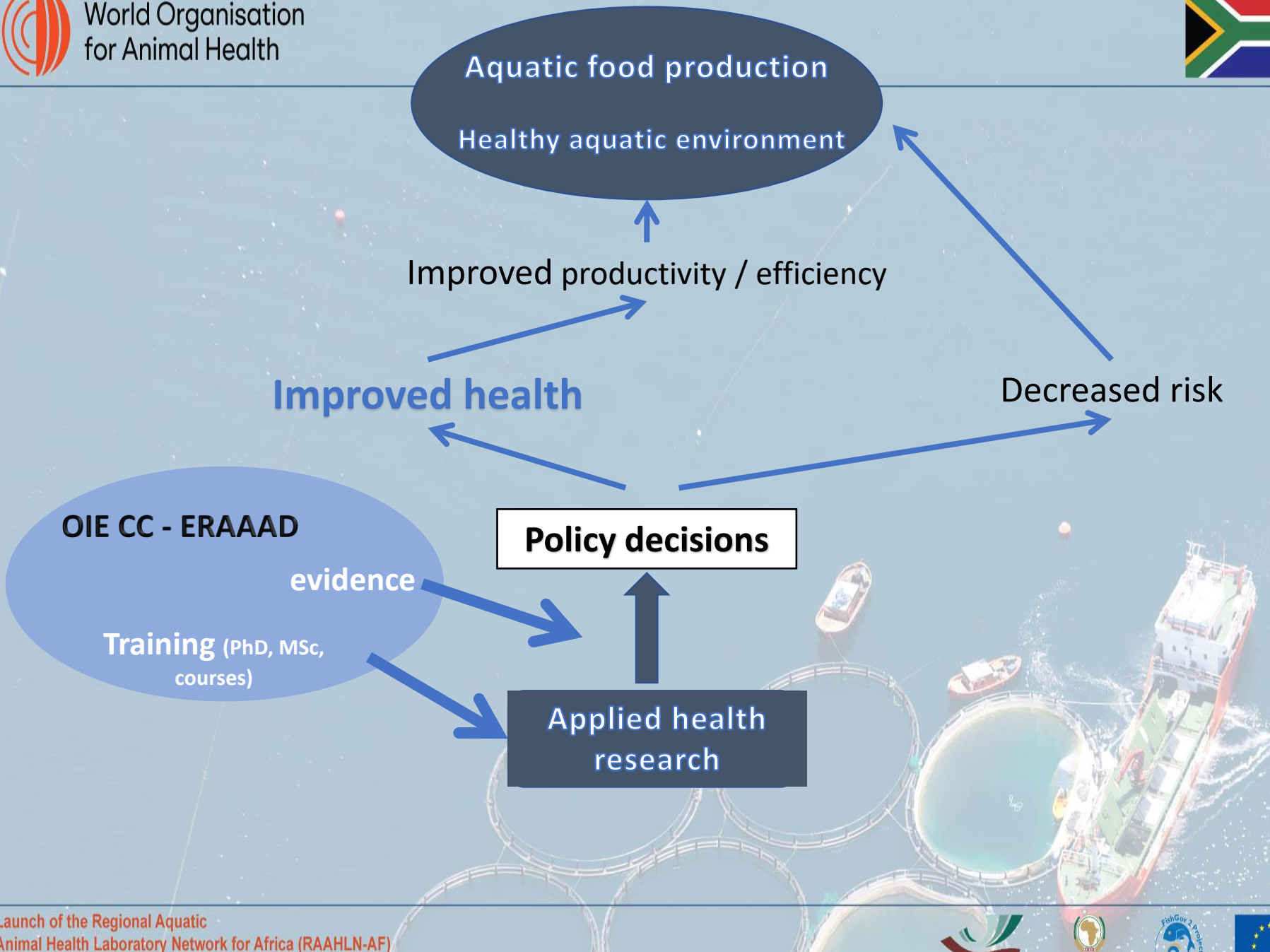


**provide scientific and technical training to personnel from Member Countries**

**organise scientific meetings on behalf of OIE**

**coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories or organisations**

**publish and disseminate any information in sphere of competence which may be useful to Member Countries**



## **Aquatic Epidemiology Expertise at AVC and NVI**

**Disease Outbreak Investigations and Risk Factor Studies**

**Disease Surveillance and Diagnostic Test Evaluations**

**OIE CC - ERAAAD**

**Disease Control and Health Management Methods**

**Quantitative Analytical Support and Decision Support Tools**

**Training** (PhD, MSc,  
courses)

**Evidence-based Health Policy**

**Risk Assessments**

**Post-Graduate Training and Workshop/Conference Training**

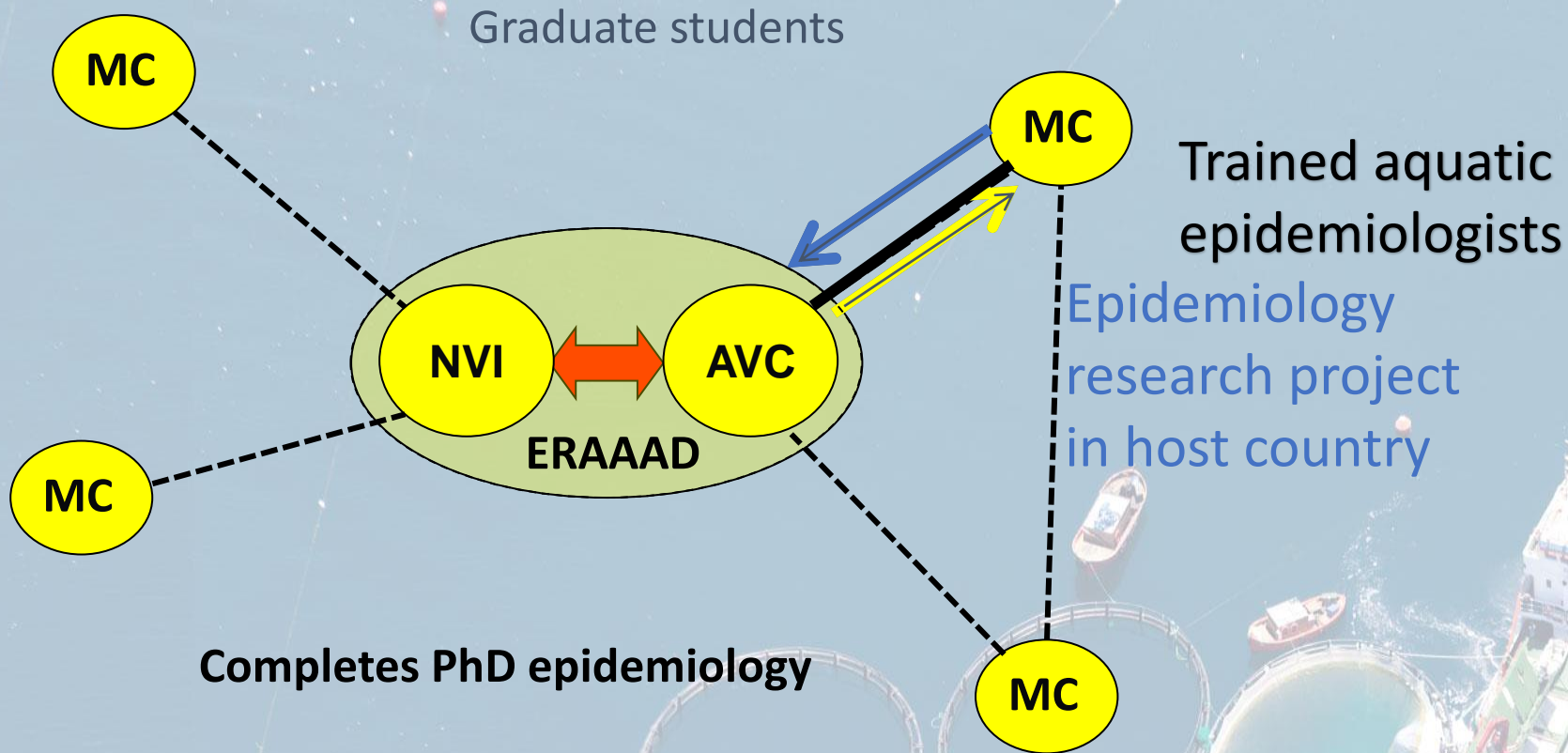


# Second challenge

- Collaborating Centres can be government-based or university-based
- AVC/UPEI is university-based – benefit of bringing academic and post-graduate student and postdoc focus
- The costs of running the CC is not supported in any way by WOAH or Canadian government
  - All projects must be fully self-funded
  - Any extra time spent on CC activities must come from other funded projects
  - AVC seeks research funding (e.g. in Indonesia) and then counts it in deliverables for doing international activity recognized by WOAH
  - There are no actual advantages in 99% of our project funding partners for being recognized as a WOAH CC



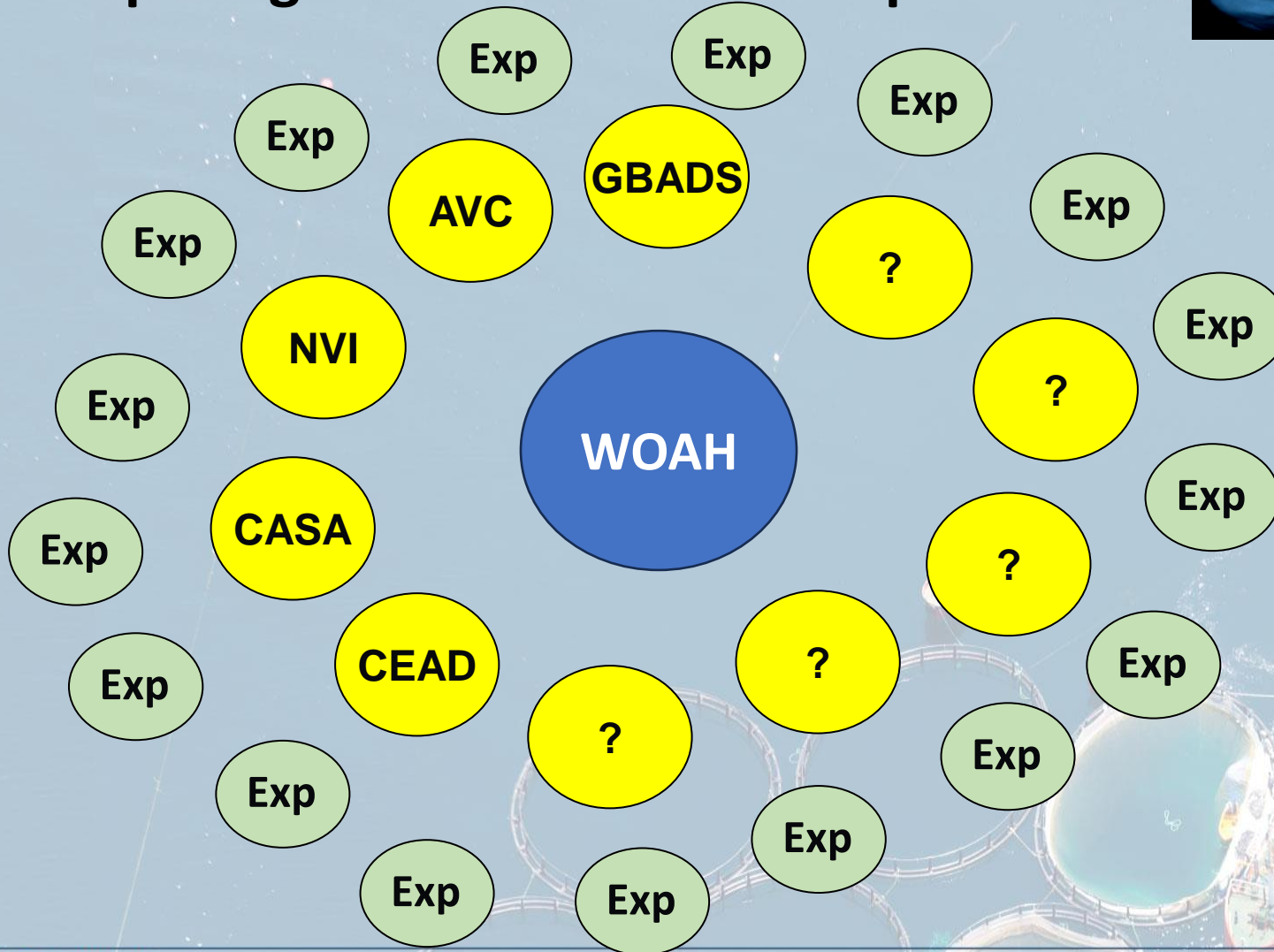
# Concept of global network of competence







# Concept of global network of competence



# Current funding model (AVC)

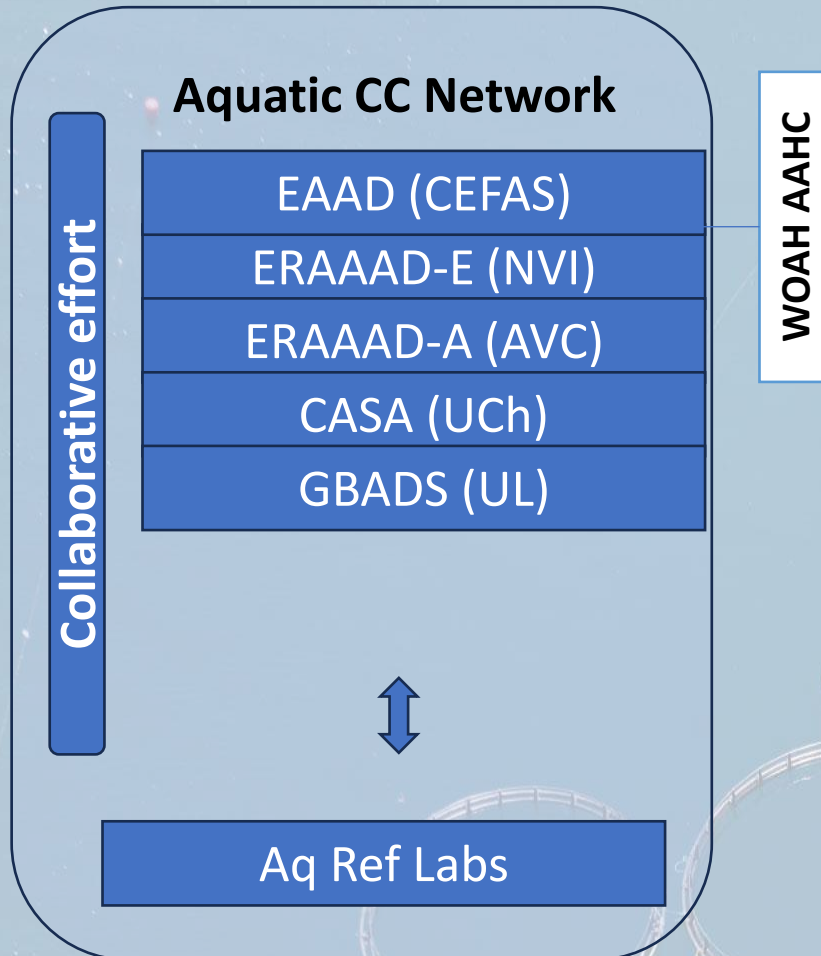
- **No targeted funding**
  - Ad hoc use of funds past and present (various research chairs, CRC, CERC, overheads)
- **Projects funded by international agencies**
  - Vietnam
  - Thailand
  - Indonesia
- **Species:**
  - Shrimp
  - Tilapia
  - Marine fish (Vietnam)
  - Pangasius
- **Oriented toward projects involving training**
  - graduate students and postdoctoral fellows

# Third Challenge

## Sustainability

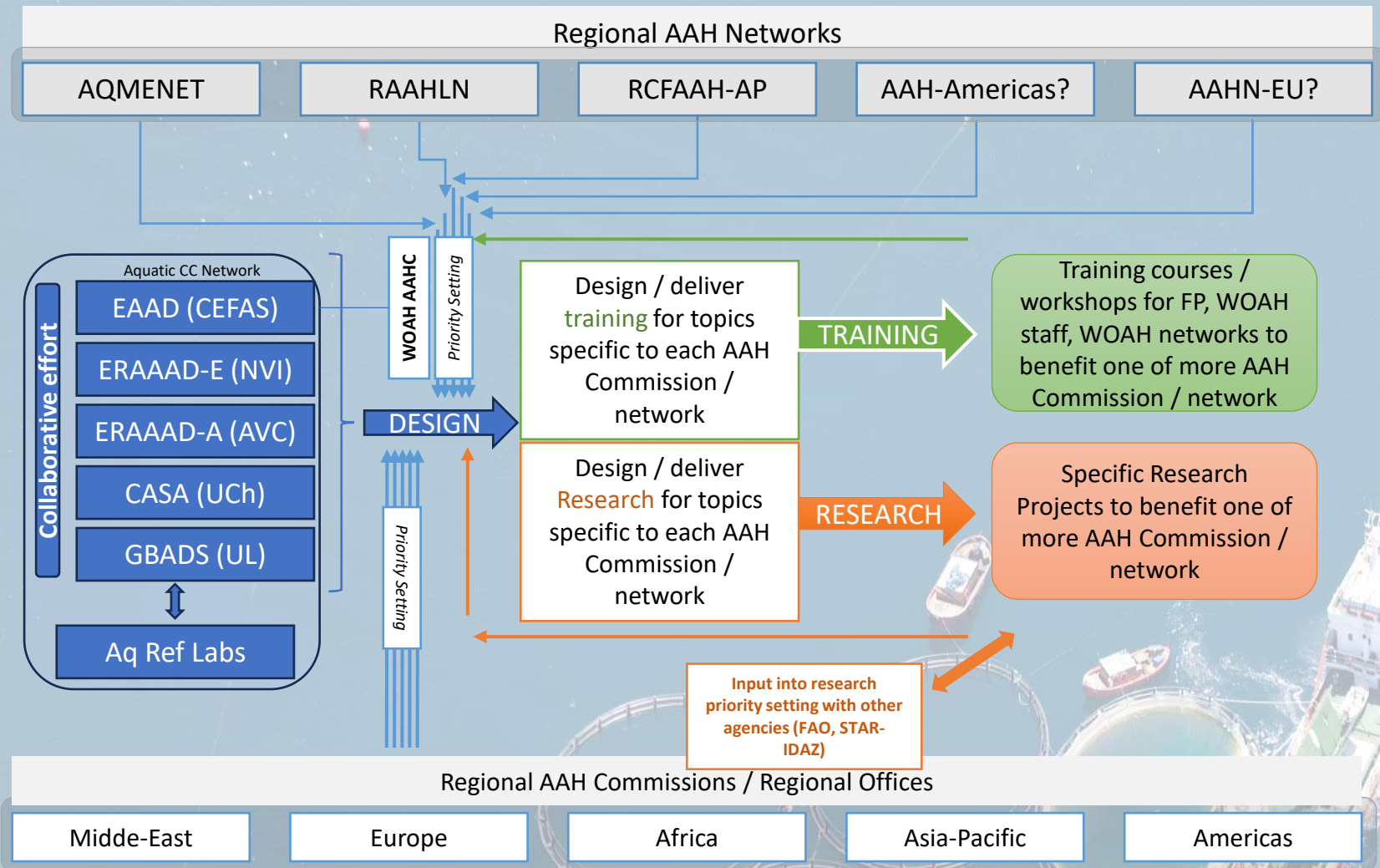
- Faculty go where money is
  - Needs more lead time to start with students
- Cannot sustain long term grad students / postdocs if there are gaps in funding or student starts but project is delayed
- Need to build in the student course work and cost of living (at UPEI rates)





# WOAH AAH Network - objectives

- 1. Enhanced communication of operational best practices**
- 2. Enhance opportunities for Reference Centres based outside government to communicate with their own WOAHA Delegates, and Focal Points**
- 3. Opportunities for collaboration on projects (research and technology transfer) and funding initiatives**
  - including collaborations with other international organisations (e.g. FAO)
- 4. Opportunities for aquatic animal health collaborative training within the WOAHA community**
  - including governments (Delegates, Focal Points, AAH Services) and other international organisations (e.g. FAO)
- 5. Inclusion of aquatic animal health experts with insufficient capacity to justify standalone WOAHA Reference Centre but contribute valuable expertise to further WOAHA's mission**
- 6. Conduit for information and mission exchanges between WOAHA AAHSC and the Reference Centres**





# Conclusion

- **Collaborating Centres have funding challenges**
- **But can provide valuable expertise**
  - **And training for new disease specialists**
- **University-based and government-based bring different benefits and challenges**
- **Working to create ideas that CC can have maximum benefit to WOAHA members**