





World Fish Centre: Regional activities of World Fish on Aquaculture and AMR

David Verner-Jeffreys











Our Vision

An inclusive world of healthy, wellnourished people and a sustainable blue planet, now and in the future.

Our mission

Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture for English-Speaking African Countries



WHERE we are

WorldFish has a global presence

in 20 countries

in 3 continents

with 422 staff representing

30 nationalities

Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture for English-Speaking African Countries













WorldFish and partners have supported several initiatives and projects regarding Aquatic Animal Health in Africa

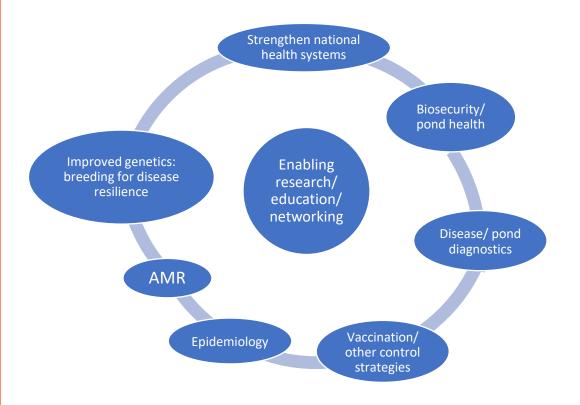


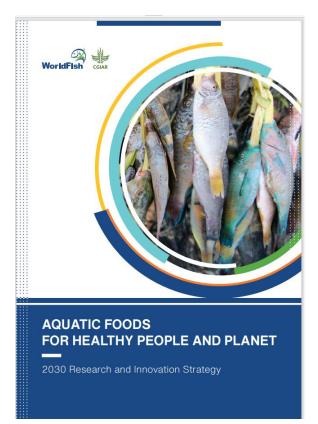






WorldFish Aquatic Animal Health program of work









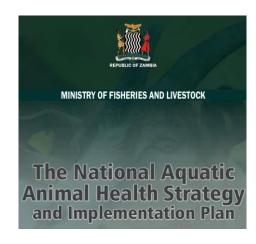




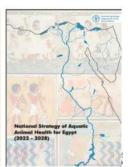


Strengthen national aquatic animal health systems

- Support to governments
 - Develop Regulations & Guidance
 - Promote and embed a One Health approach
 - Strengthen early disease detection, emergency preparedness and response
 - Improve capacity to meet international trade standards
 - Collaboration with WOAH/ FAO/ other providers operating in Asia and Africa
 - Provide training: health professionals and farmers (all elements)











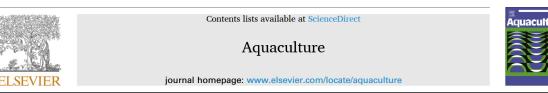




Biosecurity/pond health management

- Improve on-farm biosecurity: central to disease control
- Secure supplies of disease-free seed (e.g., WF breeding platforms)
- Improve pond health: water quality/ stocking densities/ nutrition: healthy animals





Understanding aquaculture biosecurity to improve catfish disease management in Ogun and Delta states, Nigeria













Received: 30 November 2021 Revised: 4 May 2022 Accepted: 21 July 2022

Disease/pond diagnostic

- Develop accurate, rapid disease diagnostics systems
- Pond and lab-based systems (centralized and decentralized)
- Integrate with real-time water quality measurements

REVIEW

DOI: 10.1111/raq.12734

From the basics to emerging diagnostic technologies: What is on the horizon for tilapia disease diagnostics?

> Aquaculture 531 (2021) 735780 Contents lists available at ScienceDir Aquaculture

Rapid visualization in the specific detection of Flavobacterium columnare, a causative agent of freshwater columnaris using a novel recombinase polymerase amplification (RPA) combined with lateral flow dipstick (LFD)



scientific reports

OPEN A multiplexed RT-PCR assay for nanopore whole genome sequencing of Tilapia lake virus

(TiLV)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Fish Diseases ** WILEY

Rapid genotyping of tilapia lake virus (TiLV) using Nanopore sequencing



Concentration and quantification of Tilapia tilapinevirus from water using a simple iron flocculation coupled with probe-based RT-qPCR











Vaccination/other control strategies

- Develop and advocate cost-effective vaccination-based disease control strategies
- Explore the development and deployment of alternative strategies (e.g., immunostimulants/ modulators, pre and probiotics, phage therapy)
- Develop disease-resistant stocks

Revised: 18 September 2021 | Accepted: 24 October 2021 DOI: 10.1111/raq.12633 REVIEW

Autogenous vaccination in aquaculture: A locally enabled solution towards reduction of the global antimicrobial

Revised: 25 February 2024 | Accepted: 1 March 2024

REVIEW

resistance problem

Review of quorum-quenching probiotics: A promising non-antibiotic-based strategy for sustainable aquaculture











Improved genetics: breeding for disease resilience

Disease-free Genetic Improvement Programs (GIPs)

Emphasis on disease screening and biosecurity

- Oreochromis niloticus Abassa, Egypt
- O. andersonii- Zambia
- O. Shiranus in Malawi





Genetic parameters for black spot disease (diplopstomiasis) caused by *Uvulifer* sp. infection in Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus* L.)



Aquaculture 522 (2020) 73512





Genetic parameters for resistance to Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) in Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)



Yu et al. BMC Genomics (2021) 22:426 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-021-07486-5

BMC Genomics

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Genome-wide association analysis of adaptation to oxygen stress in Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)













Insight in aquatic epidemiology using digital surveys

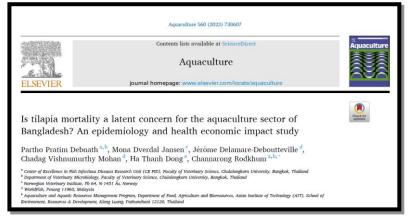
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2020.73543

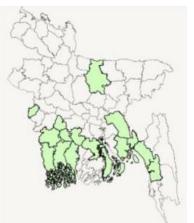




Egypt

113 tilapia farms (2018) https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2022.738607





Bangladesh

550 tilapia farms (2017-2019)





Nigeria

399 catfish farms (2021)



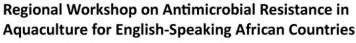
Kenya

164 farms (2023)



Ghana

(2023 ongoing)





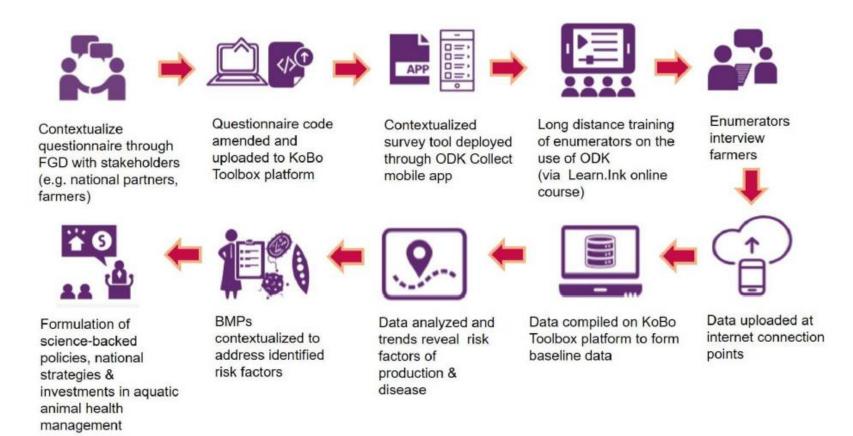








Contribution of baseline data to stakeholder engagement, development of best practices & NAAHs













Increased Sustainability in the Aquaculture Sector in SSA through Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management (AHA project)

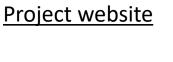
This program aimed to increase sustainability and resilience in the aquaculture sector in sub-Saharan Africa through improved aquatic animal health management and biosecurity governance.

3 Major Components

Research

Education

Networking





















AHA Norad project





Assessment of health status and economic impact of aquaculture diseases

13 Master research studentships in Ghana & Kenya

Field and laboratory studies to elucidate and characterize endemic and emerging pathogens of economic significance

Aquatic animal health management and biosecurity governance gaps identified and policy analyses under the one health framework





Research capacity on aquatic animal health management in SSA countries improved.













AHA Norad project





Institutional capacity and learners' knowledge and practical skills on aquatic animal health to improve the aquaculture related educational services and extension capacity enhanced. Training and supervision of thirteen MSc students (UoG and UoN)

Developed and delivered range of online and in person training resources training modules on aquaculture and aquatic animal health management in SSA











In-person training





Projet AHA Norad



Face-to-face training programs for SSA at FAIH/Abbassa Egypt

6 training courses on on General Aquaculture & Aquatic Animal Health Management

Conducted

A total of **100** participants representing 8 countries have been trained physically at Abbassa/ Egypt

Renforcement des capacités institutionnelles et des connaissances et compétences pratiques des apprenants en matière de santé des animaux aquatiques afin d'améliorer les services éducatifs et les capacités de vulgarisation liés à l'aquaculture.

















Online self-learning





AHA Norad project



Aquatic Animal Health resources developed for research and education

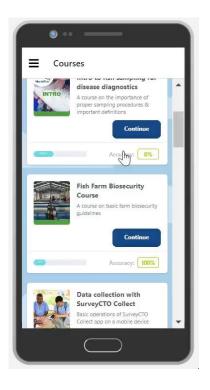
Learn.ink courses for knowledge sharing among Africa countries

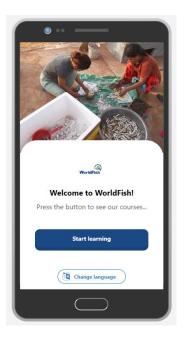
What is



?

- A third-party training & learning digital platform for disseminating training materials remotely using simulated chatbot learning on mobile devices.
- User guidelines on how to access
 Learn.ink courses and/or printable rapid protocols (with content from courses) can be developed as supplementary material.













AHA Norad project









Aquatic Animal
Health resources
developed for
research and
education

13 courses released by Aquatic Animal Health team



Fish Syndromic Surveillance Course

A short training course to help users understand the basics of...



Antimicrobial Usage (AMU) Survey for Aquatic Systems

General overview & guidelines on how to use the Antimicrobial...



Wet mount sampling

A course on wet mount sampling preparations and protocol



Bacteriology sampling

A course on bacteriology sampling preparations and protocol



Fish Farm Biosecurity Course

A course on basic farm biosecurity guidelines



Intro to fish sampling for disease diagnostics

A course on the importance of proper sampling procedures &....



Microbiome sampling

A course on microbiome sampling preparations and protocol



Molecular Diagnostics & Virology sampling

A course on molecular diagnostics & virology sampling preparation...



Aquaculture survey with ODK

This module prepares enumerators, survey team leader...



Foundations in fish disease sampling

A course on points to be considered before sampling &...



Blood sampling

A course on blood sampling preparations and protocol



Histology sampling

A course on histology sampling preparations and protocol



Data collection with SurveyCTO Collect

Basic operations of SurveyCTO Collect app on a mobile device

See full list of links to courses at:

https://worldfishcenter.org/publication/aquaticanimal-health-remote-training-courses-learninkplatform













Field resource: Poster identifying major clinical signs of fish disease

Content Photos & description of major clinical signs of

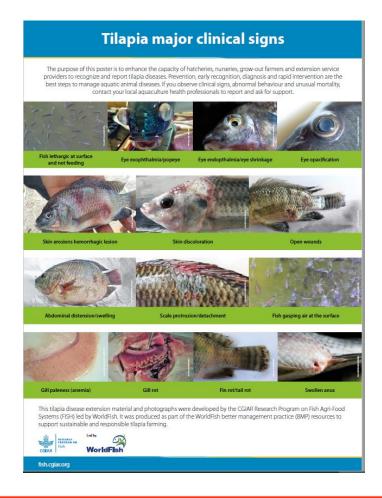
fish disease for identification & standardized

reporting

Users Farmers, service providers, vets,

extension workers & enumerators

https://www.worldfishcenter.org/publication/tilapia-majorclinical-signs











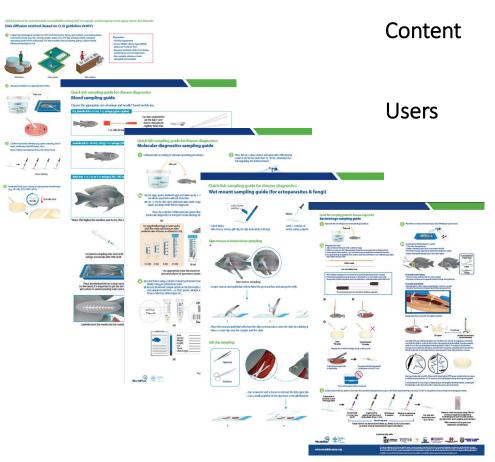
AHA Norad project





Aquatic Animal
Health resources
developed for
research and
education

Field resource: Quick fish sampling guides for disease diagnostics



Pictorial fish sampling steps for 6 diagnostic protocols: wet mount, microbiome, blood, bacteriology, molecular diagnostics/virology & histology

Vets, researchers, sample collectors & students

- Sampling materials for fish disease diagnostics https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4836
- Wet mount sampling guide (for ectoparasites & fungi) https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4837
- Microbiome sampling guide https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4838
- Blood sampling guide https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4839
- Bacteriology sampling guide https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4840
- Molecular diagnostics sampling guide https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4841
- Histology sampling guide
 https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4842











AHA Norad project





Activities and strategies/approaches for harnessing and sharing knowledge and lessons identified/developed







100 participants representing 8 countries and various institutions

Data sets created for AHA partners, collaborators, students and trainees











Multi-sectorial collaboration on AMR under the CGIAR One Health Initiative & New CGIAR Science program: Sustainable Animal Aquatic

Food

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Meet the CGIAR AMR team









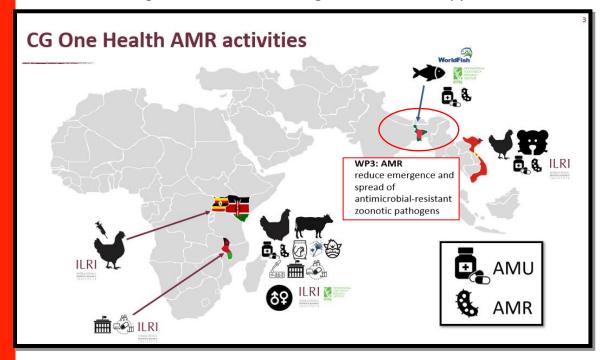




Focal country for AMU/AMR work by WorldFish

CGIAR Initiative

"Protecting Human Health through a One Health approach"



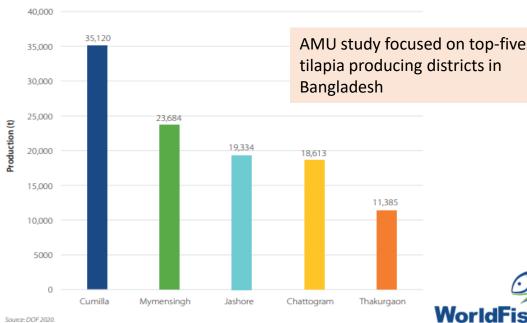
Food Safety Authority, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute

Aquaculture for English-Speaking African Countries

Why is Bangladesh vulnerable to AMR?

In Bangladesh Aquaculture: 46 chemicals including seven antibiotics are commonly used in aquaculture farms **3rd on the Asian list** of number of antibiotics (21 compounds) used in aquaculture

Over 100,000 licensed and 100,000 unlicensed retail drug shops selling drugs including antibiotics over-the-counter.









AMR

The Fleming Fund

- (1) Fleming Fund Fellowship phase Bangladesh, phase II Nigeria, and Sierra Leone
- (2) Point prevalence survey, Research, and capacity building in collaboration with FF CG BD
- (3) Fleming Fund OH Regional grant BD, Nepal, Pakistan
- (4) Fleming Fund OH Regional grant West Africa: Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Senegal, and East Africa: Tanzania Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in













One Health workshops

Two-day AMR workshop, in Dhaka on "AMR Surveillance in Veterinary and Aquaculture Settings in Bangladesh".

40 experts: Bangladesh Government policy, Government scientists, Fleming Fund Country Grant, FAO

Identified areas to improve AMR/AMU surveillance in aquatic and terrestrial animal systems



Approaches to strengthen surveillance structures and policy frameworks were discussed in participatory break-out sessions. Dhaka, Bangladesh in March









Trainings of enumerators on AMU/AMR data collection

Pretraining using Learn.ink courses, in-person trainings & demonstrations



Quick overview of survey tools, selecting the survey pond for capturing inputs & outputs. Aquaculture for English-Speaking African Countries







Hands-on training on the survey & biological sampling













Assessment of AMR at wet markets

https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2024.1329620



frontiers Frontiers in Microbiology

Nanopore sequencing for identification and characterization of antimicrobial-resistant Escherichia coli and Salmonella spp. from tilapia and shrimp sold at wet markets in Dhaka. Bangladesh

Shafiq Rheman¹*[†], Sabrina Hossain¹[†], Md Samun Sarker², Farhana Akter¹, Laura Khor³, Han Ming Gan⁴, Andy Powell^{5,6}, Roderick M. Card⁷, Yaovi Mahuton Gildas Hounmanou⁸, Anders Dalsgaard⁸, Chadag Vishnumurthy Mohan³, Zamila Bueaza Bupasha², Mohammed A. Samad², David W. Verner-Jeffreys^{5,6} and Jérôme Delamare-Deboutteville3*







Processing of fish & shrimp samples



	Tilapia	Shrimp
Skin	✓	Х
Gills	✓	Х
Muscle	✓	✓
Intestine	✓	✓











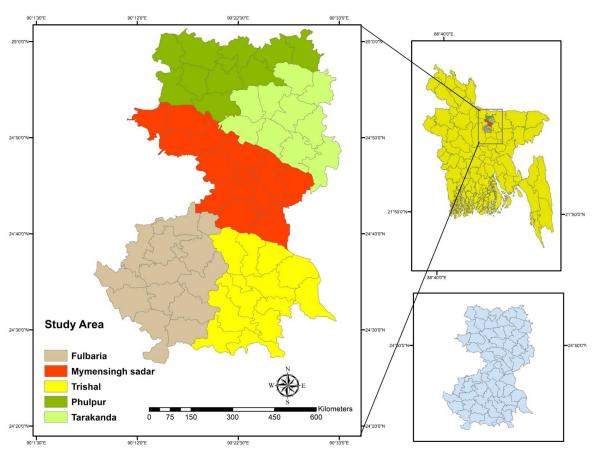








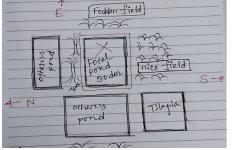
AMU/AMR Cross-sectional & Longitudinal Survey on Tilapia-dominant systems



- Questionnaire developed in collaboration with ILRI, IFPRI for harmonization with poultry production dataset
- Observation of 1 pond through 1 cycle (6 months) on farm biosecurity practices, inputs (including antimicrobials) & outputs









Five upazilas within Mymensingh districts in Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture for English Speaking African Countries dy was conducted









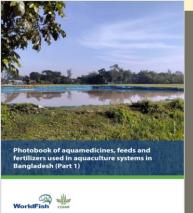




Development of aquamedicines photobook for AMU referencing

- Photobook of aquamedicines developed from farm product photos and input shop data.
 - Jute bags provided to observe packages of aquamedicines which includes antimicrobials (antiparasitics, antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals)
 - Survey of 52 input shops under 7 Upazilas in Mymensingh District for listing agro-chemicals and antimicrobials commonly provided to aquaculture farmers.
- Aquamedicines categorized into antimicrobials, insecticides, oxygen suppliers, harmful gas removers, probiotics, feed supplements and growth promoters.
- List of product photos, brand name, manufacturer and active ingredients.





















Agrovet shop survey

- Sales and use of antibiotics in aquaculture
- Practitioner's knowledge, attitude and practices.
- More than 300 aquamedicine brands were documented.
- Sixty-seven antibiotic brands belonging to 9 CIAs and 8 HIAs were reported.

















Work with local research institutions for AMR surveillance

Bacteriological sampling and processing for AST profiling training in Khulna University





Aquaculture for English-Speaking African Countries

Bacteriological sampling and AST profiling training at **BLRI**





AST profiling by disk diffusion method on fish bacteria samples in WF-KU lab







Science

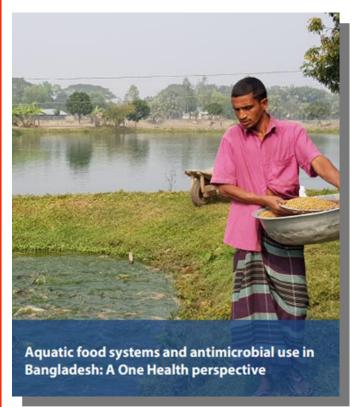








Other published materials, presentations & activities on AMU and AMR work



Scoping review on aquatic food systems and antimicrobial use in Bangladesh aquaculture



WorldFish's collaborative participatory research with Cefas, FAO-ECTAD, and the Department of Fisheries.



Development of a biosecurity training module for improving biosecurity practices in finfish aquaculture systems in Bangladesh.

Assessment of Antimicrobials and Aquamedicines Usage in Aquaculture Systems: Insights from a Major Fish Production Hub in Bangladesh

Author(s): HOSSAIN, Sabrina; RHEMAN, Shafiq; KHOR, Laura; DELAMARE-DEBOUTTEVILLE, Jérôme; MOODLEY, Arshnee: VERNER-JEFFREYS, David; VISHNUMURTHY MOHAN, Chadag

Presenting Author: HOSSAIN, Sabrina

Submission Type / Conference Track: 8th World One Health Congress Scientific and Science Policy Interface Program

Improving biosecurity practices to reduce antimicrobial resistance in finfish aquaculture in Bangladesh **Author(s):** PAPADOPOULOU, Athina; WORSWICK, John; RHEMAN, Shafiq; HOSSAIN, Sabrina; NAHER, Kamrun; RAHMAN, Habibur; ALI, Nowsher; DELAMARE-DEBOUTTEVILLE, Jérôme; VERNER-JEFFREYS, David

Presenting Author: PAPADOPOULOU, Athina

Submission Type / Conference Track: 8th World One Health Congress Scientific and Science Policy Interface Program









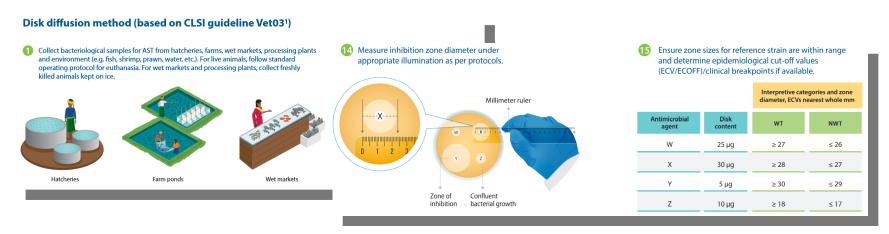




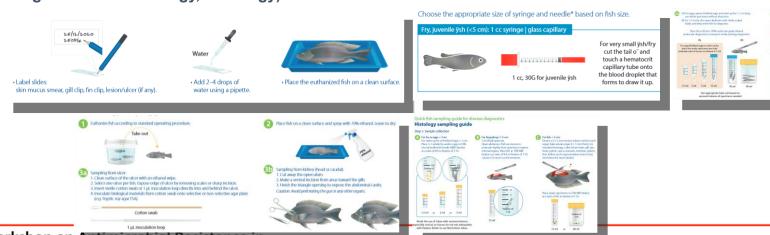


Learning resource materials & field guides for AMR sampling work

Protocol for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) in aquatic animal species: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4862



Quick fish sampling guides (sampling protocols for wet mount, microbiome, blood, bacteriology, molecular diagnostics and virology, histology)







. Pre-label tubes using a solvent resistant marker pen, or stick a

date of sampling

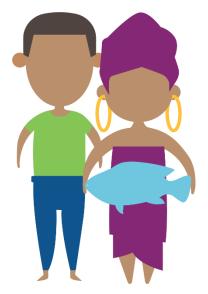
preprinted barcode/OR code label with information on the follow





Partnerships and collaborations (WorldFish work with partners)

- Application of a systems-thinking approach to aquaculture systems for identifying hotspots for antibiotic resistance emergence, elucidating pathways to human exposure and to identify and assess feasibility of potential interventions (RVCL)
- Assessment of Aquatic food systems from a One Health lens Bangladesh work (Cefas UK)
- Microbiomes and AMR in aquatic food systems in Malawi and Bangladesh (UoE UK)
- AMR Learning platforms and participatory modelling approaches (SRC, University of Waterloo Canada)
- Behavior and practice change (SBCC) of aquatic food value chain actors including producers in Bangladesh (UoE UK)
- Fleming Fund country grants (Nigeria and Bangladesh) and FF Fellowship programs- embedding aquatic food systems in their AMR surveillance and One health work.
- CGIAR AMR and CGIAR Covid hub (ILRI, IFPRI, IWMI and WorldFish) and CGIAR SAAF AoW3. U Copenhagen
- Rapid genomic detection of aquaculture pathogens (UQ, WilderLab, Centex Mahidol, GeneSEQ, Cefas, UoE)
- Future work with:
- Fleming Fund Regional grant on AMROH activities in South Asia (from 2024)









Future...

- Further support aquatic animal health system strengthening in Africa
- Continue to work with partners in target countries to develop and implement research, education, training, and networks/ communities of practice among health professionals.
- Establish a more robust regional presence.
- Employ dedicated health staff embedded in the countries where WorldFish and the NVI operate. These staff can deliver training and support efforts to strengthen the capacity to undertake disease investigations, etc.







Outcomes

- Enhancing research capabilities on aquatic animal health management in SSA
- Improving knowledge and practical skills for aquaculture-related education services and extension capacity
- Disseminating new insights on aquatic animal health within the One Health and One Food Systems framework across SSA through sustainable networking.









Outcomes

- Robust and resilient aquatic animal health systems based on a one-health approach
- Reduced losses, more stable 'shockproof' production, improved food security
- Increased trade, maximizing export revenues
- Reduced use of antibiotics
- Increased profitability, income & investment
- Reduced biodiversity losses and climate change impacts

Relevant WorldFish priority actions in its countries in Asia and Africa

- 1.1 Enable sustainable production of diverse aquatic foods
- 1.2 Cut down on loss and waste
- 1.3 Enhance climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- 2.2 Support sustainable livelihoods, decent work and well-being
- 3.2 Ensure aquatic foods are safe and healthy for human consumption













Thank You





Swiss Agency for Development

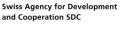


























Norwegian Embassy Cairo

















13 - 15 August 2025 Harare, Zimbabwe





UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING









