

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Aquatic Animal Health Management in Africa

by Nelly Isyagi

Status of Biosecurity Control against Aquatic Animal Diseases in Africa



Good prospects and rapid expansion of commercial aquaculture

- Wider array and intensive production systems
- Increased expansion and of diversity aquaculture value-chain(s)
- New input and service needs for producers
- Demographics, environmental degradation and climate change
- Local, regional and international market trends
- Agricultural activity for which there has been limited local experience and knowledge

Increased risk of disease:

- exposure,
- occurrence
- spread
- in both wild and farmed populations



definite need to strengthen capacity for biosecurity control

THE ISSUE: How can biosecurity be resolved in an environment characterized by extensive diversity constrained by resources for investment?

THE SETTING

- 1. Geography of the continent
- 2. Diversity on the continent
 - Climatic zones
 - Hydrological features
 - Transboundary nature of aquatic resources
 - Socio-cultural, political and economic
 - Governance
 - Development status and technology
 - Biodiversity => large and commercial aquaculture mostly indigenous
- 3. Status and characteristics of the fisheries sector and its value-chain
 - Dominated by small-scale informal actors not involved who are not effectively mobilized for disease control strategies
- Limited available expertise and resources exists in 'fragmented segments'
- 5. Low level public awareness on aquatic animal health issues



THE ISSUE: How can biosecurity be resolved in an environment characterized by extensive diversity constrained by resources for investment?

THE CHALLENGE

• Wide scope

- diseases
- disease risks
- opportunities and challenges for disease control
- > TAADS
- environment impacts including biodiversity loss
- Geographical impacts on loss of livelihoods, food and nutritional security and national economic gains (over 10 million people depend on the sector)
- Unutilized potential
- Inadequate soft and hard infrastructure
- Engagement of the public



Area affected by EUS in 2006



Area affected WSSV (OIE, 2012)



Loss of biodiversity

On-going actions

1. Governance

Multi-stakeholder consultations from producers, industry, policy-makers and politicians to develop coherent harmonized approaches for aquatic biosecurity control



2. Drawing of plans/actions

Engagement and Increasing awareness among managers of fisheries, animal and environmental health



Continental survey on status (AU-IBAR, 2018)



On-Going Actions

3. Practical Actions

- More developing/some have specific policy on aquatic animal health
- More fisheries and veterinary institution including aquatic animal health in curricular and research
- Aquatic animal health issues have begun trickling into extension material

Challenges moving forward

- Increasing public awareness and buy-in
- Investing into the implementation proposed actions
- Considering the diversity on the continent, more applied research into developing simple and cost-effective approaches suited to various local contexts to enable stakeholders and Member States achieve biosecurity and meet national and international obligations

Thank You