



PROSPECTUS

FAO TCP/RER/3402

“Assistance to Western Balkan Countries for Improving Compliance to International Standards on Aquatic Animal Health”

Regional Workshop 6: Project Output Dissemination and Terminal Workshop

7-9 April 2015, Hotel Hollywood, Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

hosted by

Bosnia and Herzegovina's State Veterinary Office (SVO) of the
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER)

BACKGROUND

The project TCP/BIH/3101 “Strengthening Capacity on Aquaculture Health Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, implemented between 2006 and 2009 in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) contributed to enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of the State Veterinary Office (SVO) of BiH in aquatic animal health management. As part of the dissemination strategy of this TCP, the FAO Western Balkan Regional Seminar/Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health was undertaken from 19 to 21 May 2008 in Sarajevo, BiH which identified opportunities for seeking solutions to common problems related to pathogen issues affecting regional trade between Balkan States and key European Union trading partners and discussed the possibility of formulating a programme and proposal for regional cooperation in such areas as networking and information sharing, harmonization of diagnostics standards, regional disease reporting, sharing of technical expertise, etc. A TCP facility, TCP/RER/3206 “Assistance to Western Balkan Countries for Improving Compliance with International Standards on Aquatic Animal Health”, paved the way for the development of a regional proposal to FAO based on an assessment of the status of national planning, policy and capacity for aquatic animal health in the five participating countries (BiH, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and identification of constraints to achieving national goals.

This regional TCP/RER/3402 project was the result of that lengthy consultative and consensus-building process among countries of the West Balkan region. It addresses the concerns expressed by the five participating FAO member countries in the West Balkan region, and builds upon the technical areas identified during the 2008 regional workshop held in Sarajevo as having highest priority to assist all participating countries in developing capacity to implement international standards, i.e.: (i) risk analysis; (ii) disease surveillance, monitoring and reporting; (iii) disease diagnosis (including regional reference laboratories); and (iv) information and networking.

Project Objectives and Outputs

The project's overall objective is to strengthen regional and national aquatic biosecurity governance and capacities for dealing with transboundary aquatic animal diseases (TAADs), and in the process improve compliance with international health standards for aquatic animals so that countries are better able to maintain and improve national aquatic animal health status, harmonize standards regionally,

and better comply with the health standard requirements of regional and international trading partners. The completion of the project's key activities will:

- Establish as a first priority, a project-based regional communication and networking system thorough a regional West Balkans Aquatic Animal Health (WBAAH) website.
- Improve understanding of international requirements for establishing and maintaining national surveillance systems for key aquatic animal diseases so that such systems can be established and/or improved via training.
- Improve or establish national monitoring and reporting systems for aquatic animal diseases through training of national staff and the establishment of regionally harmonized systems for registration of aquaculture production facilities, and a regional disease information database; and structure and conduct a regional disease monitoring programme for three diseases important to improving regional aquatic animal health, defining disease-free zones within the region or providing data essential to proving disease absence.
- Improve national capacities to diagnose serious viral diseases of finfish and (where appropriate) parasitic diseases of molluscs to the standards outlined in the OIE *Manual for Aquatic Disease Diagnosis*; and establish mechanisms for laboratory networking among participating countries, including designation of a regional reference laboratory(ies).
- Improve national capacity and understanding of the application of risk analysis for the international and domestic movement of live aquatic animals through short-term training.
- Improve communication among policy-makers, diagnosticians, field staff and the private sector in each country by conducting a series of national workshops addressing areas of national priority; and by conducting a final project workshop involving senior national policy-makers and key representatives from the private sector and international and regional agencies.
- Build technical capacity to accomplish the above via a series of regional and national workshops, targeted short-term training and provision of a limited amount of essential equipment and materials.

The expected outcome of the project is: strengthening the competence of national authorities involved in aquatic animal health management in five West Balkan countries through effective governance frameworks and processes that reduce or minimize the risks and potential negative impacts of aquatic disease incursions.

The expected outputs include:

- Five national competent authorities with improved ability to implement effective biosecurity governance and aquatic animal health protection programmes
- At least 20 representatives from five participating countries trained on various aspects of biosecurity and aquatic animal health management (e.g. diagnostics, surveillance, risk assessment)
- Regional legislative review completed for five countries
- Regional disease surveillance network established and disease survey completed for three key pathogens/diseases
- Regional aquatic animal health Website established and effectively maintained.
- Knowledge and human capacity on various aspects of aquatic animal health enhanced and exchange of information and experience between fish health workers, policy-makers and other stakeholders enhanced

Project Activities

The above project objectives and outputs have been accomplished via a series of five national training workshops, one for each participating country (4 days each), with 125 participants in total (25 per workshop) and five regional training project workshops (4 days each), one in each participating country, each with an associated technical training session, with 125 participants in total (25 per workshop) and a final project closing and review (3 days) with 45 participants.

The Regional Training Workshops

The major accomplishments of the five regional training workshops are presented below:

Regional Workshop 1: Improving National and Regional Disease Surveillance, Monitoring and Reporting Systems, Belgrade, Serbia, 15-19 July 2013

- reviewed the current status and challenges of national aquatic disease surveillance in the five participating countries;
- introduced participants to the basic concepts and principles of a disease surveillance system;
- provided training on the basic concepts and practical application of aquatic disease surveillance;
- developed a harmonized surveillance design/methodology (using international standards, i.e. OIE) for the conduct of national and regional surveillance for several regionally important diseases of finfish (e.g. viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS), infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN), koi herpes virus (KHV), viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER)),
- discussed other issues relevant to surveillance, e.g. diagnostics, surveillance data analysis, preparation of aquatic animal health information system, including the Western Balkan Aquatic Animal Health Website), and
- finalized work plans for the follow-up training/workshop related to surveillance as well as other components of the TCP.

Regional Workshop 2: Improving Capacity for Diagnosis of Disease of Fish and Molluscs, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 20-24 October 2013

- reviewed the current status of national disease diagnostics in participating countries;
- standardized diagnostics techniques in support of the Regional Disease Surveillance; and
- provided targeted diagnostics training to participants.

Regional Training/Workshop 3: Improving Risk Analysis for Movements of Live Aquatic Animals, Zagreb, Croatia, 27-31 January 2014

- reviewed the current status of risk analysis for aquatic animals in participating countries; and
- provided introductory training in risk analysis to participants.

Regional Training/Workshop 4: Improving National and Regional Contingency Planning and Emergency Preparedness, Ohrid, Macedonia, 21-25 April 2014

- provided participants with a theoretical knowledge and understanding of the different elements of an aquatic animal emergency preparedness and response (EDPR) system (e.g. administrative structure, national authority responsibilities; operational components such early warning system, early detection system, early response system, operational support system);
- accomplished a combined table top and field simulation exercise on aquatic animal emergency disease preparedness;
- finalized a checklist for national authorities responsible for setting up and oversight of an EDPR system; and
- discussed and agreed upon harmonized regional approaches and further regional cooperation.

Regional Training/Workshop 5: Improving Methods for Regional Aquaculture Development and Promotion, Podgorica, Montenegro, 20-24 October 2014

- reviewed the current regional directions in aquaculture development and promotion in participating countries, and
- formulated regional mechanisms and action plans to promote West Balkan aquaculture products more effectively in international markets.
- The workshop also presented and discussed the results of FAO's Regional Legislation Review "Comparative analysis of national legal frameworks relevant for aquatic animal health of the countries of Western Balkans".

The National Training Workshops

In addition to the above, five National Training Workshops were held: (1) Bosnia and Herzegovina: 11-12 March 2015; (2) Croatia: 19 February 2015; (3) Macedonia: 2-3 February 2015; (4) Montenegro: 6 March 2015; (5) Serbia: 9-10 December 2014. The outcomes will be presented during this workshop.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP 6: PROJECT OUTPUT DISSEMINATION AND TERMINAL WORKSHOP

The current workshop, Regional Workshop 6: Project Output Dissemination and Terminal Workshop, is being held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 6-10 April 2015 (including travel time) represents the last major activity of this regional FAO TCP/RER/3402.

Objectives

The objectives of Regional Workshop 6 are: to (i) present the project's accomplishments to national Ministers of Agriculture, Chief Veterinary Officers, other senior policy-makers of the five participating countries, and to the representatives of relevant international agencies, the aquaculture industry and other key stakeholders; and (ii) to identify mechanisms to continue regional coordination and cooperation on initiatives begun by the project and other future needs identified by the participants, and to seek mechanisms for achieving them.

Process

This workshop will consist of two days of formal presentations and plenary discussions (see Annex 1 - Programme) to accomplish the above objectives, which will be followed by a one day field trip to visit local aquaculture and processing facilities. The Workshop will consist of four sessions, namely:

- Session 1: Workshop Opening and Introductory Presentations
- Session 2: Accomplishments of the Regional Workshops
- Session 3: Accomplishment of the National Workshops
- Session 4: The Way Forward

Following Workshop 6: Project Review and Closing, there will be a separate Project Terminal Workshop (1 day) for FAO staff, NPCs and international and national consultants.

Participation

The workshop will be attended by national Ministers of Agriculture, Chief Veterinary Officers, and other senior policy-makers of the five participating countries; the representatives of relevant international agencies, key members of the aquaculture industry and other key stakeholders; the National Project Coordinators (NPCs) for the five participating countries, and the key FAO staff and the international and national project consultants. The workshop will be facilitated by FAO and the State Veterinary Office (SVO), BiH.

Products

The expected outcomes of the Regional Workshop 6 are:

- Good understanding of the project's accomplishments by all participants
- Identification of future activities to build on the project's accomplishments and to address other recent regional aquatic animal health and biosecurity issues
- Identification of possible mechanisms to accomplish future activities
- A West Balkans Declaration approved in principle by the participants
- A workshop report

Tentative Workshop Programme

Date	Activities
6 April 2015, Monday	Arrival of participants
7 April 2015, Tuesday	Day 1
Session 1: Workshop Opening and Introductory Presentations	
09:00-09:30 09:30-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Workshop Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome statement (MoFTER) ▪ Welcome statement (CVO State Veterinary Office of B&H) ▪ Opening statement (Dr Melba Reantaso, Lead Technical Officer, FAO) • Self- introduction of participants • Group photo
10:00-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-11:15	Presentation 1: Background, objectives and expected outcomes of TCP/RER/3402 and Workshop 6: Project Review and Closing (Dr Melba B. Reantaso, FAO)
11:15-11:45	Presentation 2: Overview of Outputs of TCP/RER/3402 (Dr Sanin Tankovic, FAO)
11:45-12:15	Presentation 3: World Organisation for Animal Health standards on aquatic animal health (OIE representatives) (tentative)
12:15-12:45	Presentation 4: European Union requirements on aquatic animal health (EU representatives) (tentative)
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
Session 2: Accomplishments of the Regional Workshops	
14:00-15:00	<i>Regional Workshop 1: Improving National and Regional Disease Surveillance, Monitoring and Reporting Systems</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 5 - Development of a regional surveillance design and manual (Drs Nihad Fejzic and Sabina Seric Haracic, FAO) • Presentation 6 - Development of a regional aquatic animal health Website (Dr Nihad Fejzic, FAO)
15:00-15:30	<i>Regional Workshop 2: Improving Capacity for Diagnosis of Disease of Fish and Molluscs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 7 - Development of a regional aquatic animal disease diagnostic manual (Drs Snjezana Zrncic and Vladimir Radosavljevic, FAO)
15:30-16:00	<i>Regional Training/Workshop 3: Improving Risk Analysis for Movements of Live Aquatic Animals</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 8 - Application of risk analysis for movements of live aquatic animals in the West Balkans (Dr J. Richard Arthur, FAO International Consultant)
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:00	<i>Regional Training/Workshop 4: Improving National and Regional Contingency Planning and Emergency Preparedness</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 9: Contingency planning and emergency preparedness for aquaculture (Dr Ivica Sucec, FAO)

17:00-18:00	<i>Regional Training/Workshop 5: Improving Methods for Regional Aquaculture Development and Promotion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 10: Needs and recommendations for regional aquaculture development and promotion (Dr Richard Arthur, FAO) • Presentation 11: Results of the review of regional legislation (Mr Peter Deupman or Mr Mateja Djurovic, FAO)
18:00-18:30	Plenary Discussion (facilitated by Dr Melba B. Reantaso, FAO)
19:30	Dinner (sponsored by CVO of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
8 April 2015, Wednesday	Day 2
09:00-09:15	Announcements and Tasks for Day 2 (Dr Sanin Tankovic, FAO)
Session 3: Accomplishments of the National Workshops	
09:15-09:30	Presentation 12: Outputs of the National Workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dr Vildana Tahirovic, NPC)
09:30-09:45	Presentation 13: Outputs of the National Workshop in Croatia (Dr Vesna Petek, NPC)
09:45-10:00	Presentation 14: Outputs of National Workshop in Macedonia (Dr Biljana Strojmanovska, NPC)
10:00-10:15	Presentation 15: Outputs of National Workshop in Montenegro (Dr Tatjana Babovic, NPC)
10:15-10:30	Presentation 16: Outputs of the National Workshop in Serbia (Dr Tatjana Labus, NPC)
Session 4: The Way Forward	
10:30-11:00	Presentation 17: a draft Western Balkan Declaration (Dr Sanin Tankovic, FAO)
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:00	Presentation 18: The Way Forward: Building on FAO TCP/RER/3402 (Dr Melba Reantaso, FAO)
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-14:30	Plenary Discussion on the Way Forward: Recommendations, Actions and Funding (facilitated by Dr Melba Reantaso, FAO)
14:30-15:30	Plenary Discussion and approval of the West Balkan Declaration (facilitated by Dr Sanin Tankovic, FAO)
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-16:30	Closing of the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Remarks (MoFTER) • Closing Remarks (Dr Melba Reantaso, FAO)
17:00-19:00	Project Terminal Workshop (all NPCs, FAO project staff and national and international consultants to attend)
9 April 2015, Thursday	Day 3
8:00-22:00	Field trip to Mostar by bus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to fish farms and processing plant • Lunch (lunch boxes) • Dinner in Jablanica (restaurant to be determined) • Return to Sarajevo
10 April 2015, Friday	Day 4
	Departure of participants after breakfast