



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH: THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FAO

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Managing aquatic animal health in aquaculture is particularly challenging because of the great diversity of the sector in terms of species cultured, the range of culture environments, the nature of containment, the intensity of farming practices and the variety of systems used. Human and institutional capacity is one of the cornerstones essential for an effective aquatic animal health programme. It is at the heart of any development effort and one of the core values of FAO.

FAO's capacity building efforts are delivered through normative and field programmes. Several mechanisms such as the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) projects and other bilateral and multilateral arrangements provide various opportunities for FAO members to avail of specialised training courses, participate in training workshops and expert consultations and desk studies, at various levels of representation from policy and decision-makers, field personnel as well as farmers.

The range of subjects include, for example, development of national strategies on aquatic animal health and biosecurity frameworks, design and implementation of surveillance programmes, emergency preparedness and contingency plan, disease outbreak investigation, application of risk analysis to aquaculture and improving compliance to international trading standards published by the OIE on aquatic animal health. Through these activities, FAO generates outputs in the form of documentation (e.g. technical guidelines in support of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, disease diagnostic guide, extension materials, workshop reports and proceedings, biosecurity factsheets, etc.) that provide further guidance.

This presentation will elaborate on recently past, ongoing and pipeline capacity building activities of FAO, in cooperation with member governments and collaborating partners such as OIE in countries and regions that are at different levels of aquaculture development. The presentation emphasises the need to keep pace with the unprecedented level of aquaculture development in terms of species, systems and technology and the challenges in developing human and institutional capacities.

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