

Agile Strategy

Output from AquaData Workshop

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Introduction

WorldFish and AgUnity conducted a workshop for the AquaData initiative from 15 November to 17 November 2022. This document outlines some of the key outputs from those three days and the minimum viable product that emerged as the leading candidate for initial development.

Workshop

Agile Framework

Agile is an approach to software development that is iterative, incremental, and evolutionary. Unlike the more traditional waterfall approaches, where designs are completed before development begins, design and development happen in tandem, with releases happening more frequently. This allows teams to experiment and learn with each deployment and to deliver value sooner. As teams are not forced to define a complete solution before coding begins, when they have the least information, this also leads to better solutions faster.

Given this framework, the goal of the workshop was not to envision a grand solution (e.g., a data lake), but rather to understand the problem to be resolved, identify key stakeholders and the value we can deliver to them, and define something of value that we could deliver early that would act as a platform for learning and future development—that is, a minimum viable product, or MVP.

Structure

The main goals on day one of the workshop were to articulate the problem we are trying to solve, identify stakeholders and customers, and brainstorm about all the value that we could potentially create for those groups.

The second day of the workshop was focused on identifying what we want to deliver. We brainstormed around possible epics for initial deliverables, performed impact analysis of possible solution components, and defined high impact candidates for development.

On day 3 of the workshop we focused on identifying what needs to be accomplished next. We identified first candidate for development, ideated on requirements and possible features, and defined an epic for the MVP.

Key outputs of the workshop are described below—and **a detailed overview of all the ideas captured over the 3 days** are in the file [AquaData Workshop Presentation.pdf](#).

Key Outputs

Problem statement

The central problem that AquaData aims to address is that various stakeholders make suboptimal decisions due to of a lack of quality accessible data and information. The challenge is in turning the masses of data into information and knowledge—and in making that knowledge and information discoverable for stakeholders who can use it to take decisions on matters such as policy development or allocating resources and investment.

Stakeholder analysis

Several stakeholder groups were identified and mapped based on their interest in aquatic food systems and their potential for positive social, economic and environmental change, ranging from governments and donors to fishers and fish farmers. We drilled down into a subset of these to examine their needs, and how AquaData could address them, using Value Proposition Canvases:

- Academic researchers
- CGIAR Centres
- NGOs
- CSOs
- Government and ministries
- Press and media
- Private sector actors

Based on that analysis, we further defined high level solutions for specific stakeholders who would be good targets for the MVP:

- IFPRI
- University of Tokyo research Group
- Care International
- Timor Leste Department of Fisheries
- Bangladesh Aquaculture Ministry
- Odisha Government

We assessed potential stakeholder scenarios and the effort needed to deliver them. This helped us to determine that Bangladesh and India would have the highest impact, though those solutions would require the greatest effort.

To define an MVP that could be delivered in reasonable time and that would have optimal impact, we performed an impact analysis for every solution component we had envisioned for the Bangladesh and India scenarios. This allowed us to identify the solution components that we felt would have the greatest impact relative to effort:

- Stories and cased studies linked to impacts
- A resource and evidence hub for aquatic food source information
- Guidelines on data, tools and methods

Based on the impact analysis, we settled on Bangladesh as the MVP candidate and proceeded to think through the user journey for the first deliverable.

User journey for MVP

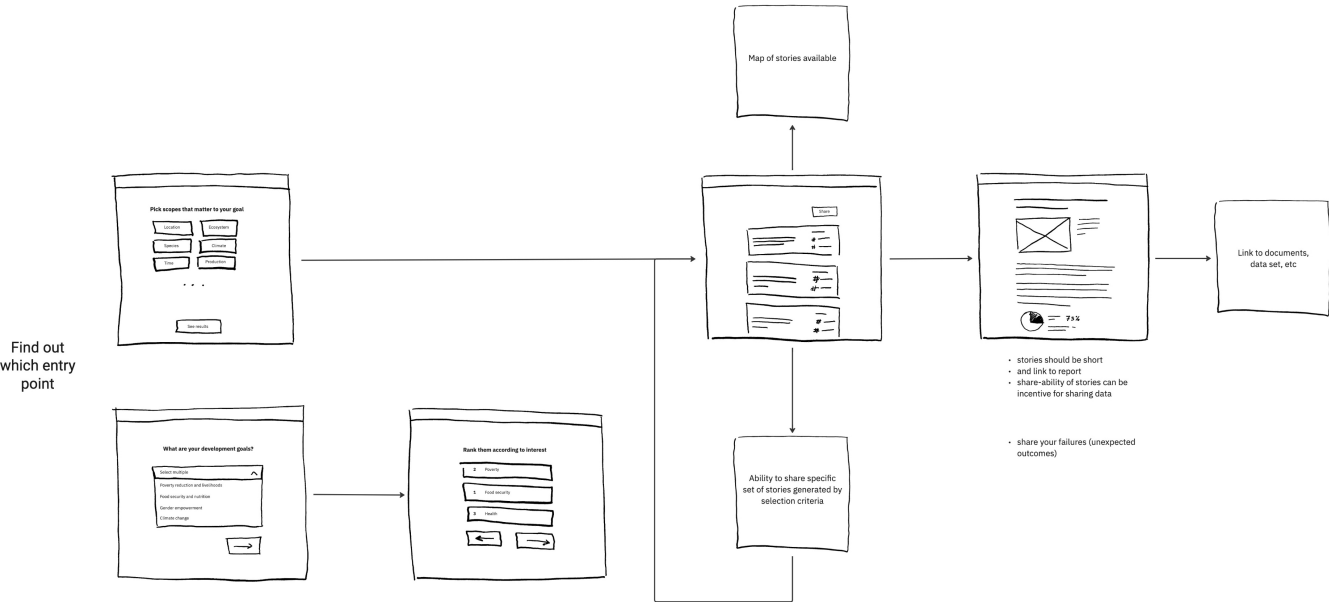
A user journey is the flow users goes through while they use your product. Usually we design user journeys for the most important user goals, and map how people will achieve these goals. The user journey helps us to think in processes instead of standalone screens while we design the product. We can also use the user journey map to discuss different feelings and thoughts the users will have, so later we can reflect them in the design. The user journey itself is a diagram, that doesn't have any screens, just boxes and the information gathered. We create user journeys before we start designing screens to ideate on different routes and find the one that fits the user needs.

For the purposes of the MVP, we imagined a user journey for a Bangladesh state-level advisor to a decision maker who is looking for research to help define policy. The key steps that we identified in the journey were to:

- Pick a development outcome
- Pick a scope
- Browse relevant stories
- Share those stories and the scope with a project manager or data analyst who could then drill down to find more information.

Wireframe

Based on the user journey, we created a wireframe for the MVP.



This will act as a starting point for a design that will continue to evolve throughout the development phase based on stakeholder feedback, new priorities that emerge through the process, and user research.

Lean Business Case for Bangladesh Test

Epic* owner	Alex Tilley
Key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government aquaculture ministry in Bangladesh • CGIAR & partners in Bangladesh
Epic description	<p>The AquaData resource allows our customers to find the information they need to make better decisions.</p> <p>Follow-on Epics will be based on our learnings from this Epic.</p>
Business outcome hypothesis	We believe that our "customers" will use available information to guide good decisions if the information is provided in a way that helps them follow a scenario-based approach to find to find evidence that supports actions according to their desired impact
Leading indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in access of data exposed by the scenario flows • Users contact WorldFish with questions about scenario flows & stories • Other metrics to be determined by WorldFish during MVP development
In scope	Scenario flows for Government aquaculture ministry in Bangladesh and CGIAR & partners in Bangladesh are in scope
Out of scope	Scenario flows for India and other countries are not in scope for this Epic
Nonfunctional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports national data store ownership • Rewards good practices • Provides simple search and upload tools • Provides clarity around data collection methods • Does not overpromise on data value • Upload data format not too open, making it harder to upload useless data • There are likely to be existing scenario-based authoring tools that we could leverage and adapt existing UI for the purpose of the MVP.
MVP features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mock-up one prescribed flow • Demo the story card structure with real data • AquaData MVP populated with data needed to support test • Test with real-world user

*An **epic** is a group of tasks and deliverables that support a strategic objective. In this case, the epic refers to all the work that must be completed to deliver a minimum viable product to support the Bangladesh Test for AquaData.