



REPORT ON

Validation and Dissemination Workshop on the Final Version of the Concise List of Aqua Inputs in use in Bangladesh along with the list of prohibited aqua inputs with participation of all Concerned Regulatory Agencies and Private Sector Stakeholders.


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Validation and Dissemination Workshop on the Final Version of the Concise List of Aqua Inputs in use in Bangladesh along with the list of prohibited aqua inputs with participation of all Concerned Regulatory Agencies and Private Sector Stakeholders.

Organized by

Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF)

Supported by

Feed the Future Bangladesh Aquaculture Activity

held on

31th March 2022

Report on the workshop for dissemination and validation of the relevant outcomes of the follow up project entitled “NAME” involving concerned government officials and private sector stakeholders.

Introduction:

In the year 2019/20 BSFF implemented the project with the support from USAID and WorldFish entitled “PREVIOUS PROJECT NAME” the outcomes of which were deeply appreciated by the government of Bangladesh, Department of Fisheries (DoF) and other competent authorities as well as the private sector stakeholders. In the light of the recommendations of the 2019/20 project, a follow up project is being implemented by BSFF with the support from USAID and WorldFish under the broad heading “Carrying forward work on ensuring optimal and sustainable utilization of aqua inputs in Bangladesh with a focus on compliance related issues”. The main objectives of this follow up project are a) Carry forward the work on definition of aqua inputs, b) Compile and update the list of prohibitive aqua inputs for the considerations of the government and their incorporation in relevant government policy and regulatory instruments, c) Help DoF to update and prepare a concise list of aqua inputs (DoF has requested for such help during the last meeting under the project entitled ‘Work on Policy Consolidation, Improvement in Licensing, and Management Process and Effective use of Aqua inputs’). Significant progress has been made in the works relating to the realization of these objectives. A dissemination and validation workshop to consider the progress of works in this regards on 31st March 2022 at Hotel Golden Tulip Banani Dhaka.

Participation:

The participants in the workshop were drawn from both the public and private sectors including senior officials of Department of Fisheries, representatives of other relevant government agencies, and representative of the private sector as well as members of the academia. The representatives of WorldFish/USAID and BSFF also participated in the meetings. The list of Participants is attached with the running report.

Welcome address and substantive discussions:

On behalf of BSFF team Mr. Rafiqul Islam warmly welcomed the participants in the workshop. He also expressed the hope that with their active participation the workshop will be fruitful and a very productive one. The welcome address and opening remarks were

followed by a detailed presentation by Dr. Zillur Rahman on the progress of work for dissemination and validation purposes on the following.

Outcomes and achievements of the project:

1. Consensus recommendation on definition of Aqua Inputs:

One of the important objectives of the follow up project was to build consensus around a definition of aqua input which is comprehensive enough and can be used by the regulatory authorities, avoiding delay in decision making due to confusion on which department should deal with which particular category of aqua inputs. Dr. Zillur noted that this was a complex task. However, through well planned consultations involving all the stakeholders consensus was built on the following recommendation on definition of Aqua input.

The aqua inputs for regulatory purposes in Bangladesh will include all inputs comprising drugs, non-drugs, biologics, and other chemicals used in aquaculture except feed, seed, fertilizers, equipment's and machineries. This may include: i) disinfectants and sanitizers as part of biosecurity protocols, ii) pesticides and herbicides used in aquatic insects and weeds management, iii) spawning aids, iv) vaccines and bacterins used in disease prevention, v) vitamins and minerals, vi) feed supplements and feed additives for enhancement of growth and immunity, or vii) marking agents used in aquatic resource management". The Bangladesh Competent Authorities will have the power to update the list prepared according to this definition and classification as needed.

2. Preparation of a concise list of aqua input:

Request for preparation of this list was made by the department of fisheries. The national consultant recruited by BSFF for the purposes Dr. Zillur Rahman informed the participants for dissemination and validations purpose that the work on the concise list has been carried out meticulously. The list went through several round of refinements and improvements through multi-layered consultations with all stakeholders from the government and the private sector. The list prepared has details on 605 number of aqua input now categorized in ten groups.

Dr. Zillur inform the participants about the structure of the list, the purposes for which the aqua inputs included in the list are used and the broad generic groups into which they have been clustered and the rationale for the same. He also explained how the prepared list can be of use and help for both the government and the private sector stakeholders.

3. Preparation of a prohibited List of Aqua Inputs:

Dr. Zillur informed for dissemination and validation purpose that this list has also been prepared following a rigorous methodology. The list, he hoped, will be useful in discouraging and prohibiting where necessary to stop their use to avoid the harmful consequences of their

use in terms of formidable list of food safety risks and environmental sustainability concern . The information on the content of the list if widely disseminated at the grassroots levels will help the farmers to be circumspect about the harmful consequences of their use. Prohibition on the use of this harmful inputs will also enable Bangladesh farmers to improve the prospect of exporting their products to external markets after due processing.

Following the presentation of Dr. Zillur Rahman a comprehensive discussions took place on the lists enclosed to the present report. The participants expressed their deep sense of appreciation for the valuable works that have gone into preparation of the lists and the consensus built around the definition of aqua inputs. They thanked BSFF for the initiatives taken for the dissemination and validation of the outcome of the follow up project entitled “Carrying forward work on ensuring optimal and sustainable utilization of aqua inputs in Bangladesh with a focus on compliance related issues”

While validating the project outcomes the participants made the following observations and recommendations.

- *Further work may be undertaken for aligning the submitted lists with WTO harmonized codes*
- *A guideline on the use of aqua inputs may be prepared for the DoF, other relevant government agencies, private sector traders and grassroots level users*
- *Regular training and awareness programs should be undertaken.*
- *Introduction of fish pharmacology courses should be introduced in the selected relevant government and private sector institutions.*

Conclusion:

The meeting concluded with an expression of thanks from the BSFF and WorldFish team to the participants for their most spontaneous and productive contributions to the proceedings of the workshop. Hope was expressed that follow up actions on the outcomes of the present phase of the project would be undertaken and supported for consolidating the gains made so far and for continuing helpful and useful future work on use of aqua inputs in Bangladesh.

Annexure are below

- 1) Annex 1 List of Participants*
- 2) Annex 2 Meeting Schedule*
- 3) Annex 3 Presentation of the workshop*
- 4) Annex 4 Photographs of Meeting*
- 5) Annex 5 Attendance of the participants*
- 6) Annex 6 Transport Allowance of the workshop*

