

Press release

December 4th, 2018

IDH launches Call for Proposal to achieve higher efficiency of tropical aquaculture

IDH is looking for partners to apply successful disease management methodologies in salmon, to shrimp, tilapia and pangasius farming. Resulting farm data will be analyzed by top experts (co-financed by IDH) and producers will thereafter be trained on how to improve their practices based on real-time data. IDH has 500,000 euro co-financing capacity available for these projects.

IDH seeks to replicate an approach that analyzes pathogen in relation with host and environment and uses those data to formulate mitigating actions. Flavio Corsin, Director Aquaculture at IDH: 'It is basically epidemiology. When you know what causes diseases and how diseases spread in a fish population, you can also take preventive measurements. It is been often applied in human medicine land-based systems, and has now also proven its value in salmon farming. From the analyzed data they developed a regulatory framework to improve biosecurity, inform on risk factors, and model disease spread to evaluate and improve disease control measures. IDH want to integrate this approach also in tropical aquaculture.' IDH will set up projects with producers and aquatic epidemiological institutes including the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, the University of Prince Edwards Island, Stirling University, and the University of Zaragoza. IDH is open to have the analysis conducted by others, but those institutes will be scrutinized by IDH before a project starts.

High costs

The costs of diseases, mortality and antibiotics are high in tropical aquaculture. The Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) outbreaks in shrimp in Asia and Latin America have led to crop failures for several hundred thousand producers, resulting in global price and supply volatility of farmed shrimp. In Tilapia a single disease (streptococcus) is responsible for about one billion US dollar of annual global losses, and Tilapia Lake Virus is affecting production in an increasing number of countries. In pangasius the survival rates vary enormously, for which explanations like weather and seed quality are generally given, often without concrete evidence. Antibiotic use is still prevalent in large segments of the industry which does not only impact the environment and food safety, but also hampers market access and are very costly.

Call to action

IDH believes these costs can be lowered by collaborating with tropical aquaculture producers and data companies on epidemiological projects. Collaborate with us to invest in healthy aquaculture.

Who can apply

This call for proposal is only open for **tilapia, shrimp** and **pangasius** producers and data companies in China, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Ecuador and African countries.

Please contact Aquaculture@idhtrade.org if you want to apply or if you require more information. This Call for Proposal is open until December 31, 2018.

Disclaimer on data

Individual farm data will only be accessed by the aquatic epidemiological institutes. IDH is only interested in aggregated data and on learning how to make the sector more efficient and on how to tackle diseases in aquaculture.

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About IDH

IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative drives the joint design of economically viable approaches to realize green & inclusive growth at scale. In 12 agro-commodity sectors and 12 sourcing areas, IDH convenes companies, Civil society organizations, governments and others in public-private partnerships. Providing co-funding and first loss funds, that leverage the interests of businesses and financial institutions, we drive sustainable production and markets from niche to norm. Together we create impact@scale on the Sustainable Development Goals.