

Project Title: Strengthening capacity on aquaculture health management

Project Symbol: TCP/BIH/3101

Donor: FAO (100.0%)

Budget: US\$ 388,000

Duration: August 2006 – July 2009

The project in aquaculture health management is being implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina considering an urgent need to improve and strengthen the institutional capacity of the veterinary administration and to promote future cooperation in aquaculture and aquatic health management in the country.

Basic reasons behind the project initiation are rooted in the long history of aquaculture production in Bosnia and Herzegovina which was interrupted during the 1992-95 war. The importance of development of aquaculture sector through expansion is strongly recognized by the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Considering certain lack of capacities recognised by State Veterinary Office (SVO) related to aquatic animal health management and food safety, the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina requested Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) assistance through a technical Cooperation Program. The project was officially approved on 14 June 2006. Through this Technical Cooperation Program major expectations are to increase the capacity of SVO and other actors to support sustainable and healthy aquaculture production, both for domestic consumption and trade.

The important objective of this project is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the SVO of Bosnia and Herzegovina in aquatic animal health management. The project aims to improve the value and efficiency of aquaculture production through the implementation of international animal health and food safety standards. The government of Bosnia and Herzegovina needs an appropriate national biosecurity framework especially in a view to broaden its reach to rest of the EU countries. The project is keen on looking at the implementation logics of national policies in the area of aquatic health management and development of National Aquatic Animal Health (NAAH) Strategy for the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will invariably improve and strengthen the institutional capacity of the veterinary administration. The project will assist in disseminating the outcome of the project to neighbouring trading partners to promote and contribute towards future cooperation in aquaculture and aquatic health management in the region.

During the project implementation so far, participants representing the state Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other institutes related to aquaculture development have participate in workshops and presentations which has enabled them to develop strategy and policy towards sustainable and healthy aquaculture production.