Embedding One Health to support aquatic food production during Covid-19

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) is an executive agency of the UK’s Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (Defra) and holds the following designations:

- FAO Reference Centre for Bivalve Mollusc Sanitation
- OIE Collaborating Centre for Emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases
- UK FAO Reference Centre for AMR

Over the past 5 years Cefas and other UK academic partners have been working with Government, academics, and NGOs in Bangladesh to develop improved capacity in aquatic animal health and AMR.

A new project led by Cefas, ‘Embedding One Health to support aquatic food production during Covid-19’ and funded by the Official Development Assistance (ODA) aid programme, aims to support building capability and educational tools promoting a One Health approach to the aquatic food system in Bangladesh. Working with WorldFish, FAO, Bangladesh Agricultural University and British academics, this project has six work packages:

1. **Bangladesh-UK Engagement activities**
   Engagement with Responsible Authorities covering the broad policies associated with aquatic food production (environment, animal health, human health, trade etc.) is a central part of this project.

2. **Food from water in Bangladesh – a One Health analysis**
   A comprehensive analysis - considering the ongoing impacts of Covid-19 on aquaculture and supply chains - of the Bangladeshi aquatic food sector against defined success metrics spanning environment, people, and organism health (collectively, ‘One Health’).

3. **Animal and human health hazard assessment and risk profiling**
   Understanding risk both to stocks within the production cycle (e.g. animal health risk) and to consumers of the end-product (i.e. human health risks).

4. **Global Aquatic Microbial Hazard Portal**
   Providing access to information data, and analyses, via Cefas’ FAO Reference Centres and OIE Collaborating Centre on key hazards associated with current and future aquatic food production.

5. **Establishing SARS-CoV-2 virus testing methods in seafood and wastewater**
   To develop and transfer robust and supported testing methodology for SARS-CoV-2 virus in seafood and wastewater with the appropriate Responsible Authorities laboratory networks in Bangladesh, to support public safety and protect national and international trade.

6. **AMR: Facilitating future collaboration on Covid-19 responses through capacity building on AMR livelihoods**
   Strengthening AMR surveillance by providing technical assistance and diagnostic services and establishment of AMR surveillance in key pathogens from farmed fish.

For further information on this project, please contact Dr Wendy Higman (wendy.higman@cefas.co.uk)