

First Announcement:

Workshop on the harmonisation and standardisation of broodstock, gene banking, and gamete management technologies for the improvement of cultured stocks and strains and conservation of biodiversity in Asia

Background and issues

Appropriate management and use of enhanced germplasm originating from the wild are well-recognised pathways for increasing food productivity, reducing food production costs and broadening accessibility to the consumer. In aquaculture, the recognition of these pathways is gaining momentum and carp breeding programmes are underway in Bangladesh, China, India, Thailand and Vietnam while Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam have acquired improved strains of Nile tilapia.

It is now well established, however, that unintentional and inappropriate genetic broodstock and husbandry practices as well as habitat degradation, introductions and translocation of species and strains across their natural bio-geographic zones, has resulted in genetic degradation of pristine stocks and cultured strains especially the tilapias. If such degradation is allowed to continue it could potentially undermine the sustainability of the farming of tilapia and other species and livelihoods of aquafarmers. Therefore strategies for germplasm maintenance and stock management are required to secure achievements and aid further research and improvements for seed production for targeted beneficiaries. The common denominator in the management of wild and domestic fish stocks and seed production is the procurement and management of broodstock and their gametes

The long and short-term storage or genebanking of desirable tilapia germplasm is one feasible option for ameliorating these effects and contributing significantly towards research required for improving desired farming characteristics of tilapias and other species. In addition, improved understanding of gamete and broodstock management will notably improve seed output while ensuring benefits of breeding programmes are sustained. Although protocols of storing sperm cells have been developed the application and uptake of such technologies, however, is currently hampered by the use of non-harmonised and non-standardised techniques and equipment and this has been a major factor in the variability of research results achieved by many studies and has reduced the uptake of these technologies and quality seed output.

Objectives of workshop

The main objective of the workshop is to review tools and protocols used for genetic and broodstock management and identity standardised methodologies for conserving germplasm. The workshop aims to bring together selected researchers and practitioners currently engaged in broodstock enhancement, hatchery management and conservation with the specific aims to:

1. Obtain baseline information on status of national and other breeding programs via preformatted country presentations,
2. Discuss current research approaches employed and identify inconsistencies in methodology used for genebanking and broodstock management,
3. Conduct practical sessions in which genebanking techniques will be demonstrated and discussed, using a cost effective field gene banking laboratory, and
4. Develop harmonised protocols for genebanking, and broodstock and gamete management technologies

Venue

This workshop will be held at NAGRI, Thailand. It is provisionally scheduled for 22-25th October 2002. Cost of registration \$120.00 (includes lunch, teas and one field trip)

Registration of interest:

Name and title:

Position:

Address of institution/company:

Contact Address:

E-mail address:

Phone:

Fax:

Current activities in relation to workshop objectives (Pls. continue overleaf):