

WOAH & STAR IDAZ: Shaping Aquatic Animal Health Research

3 September 2025

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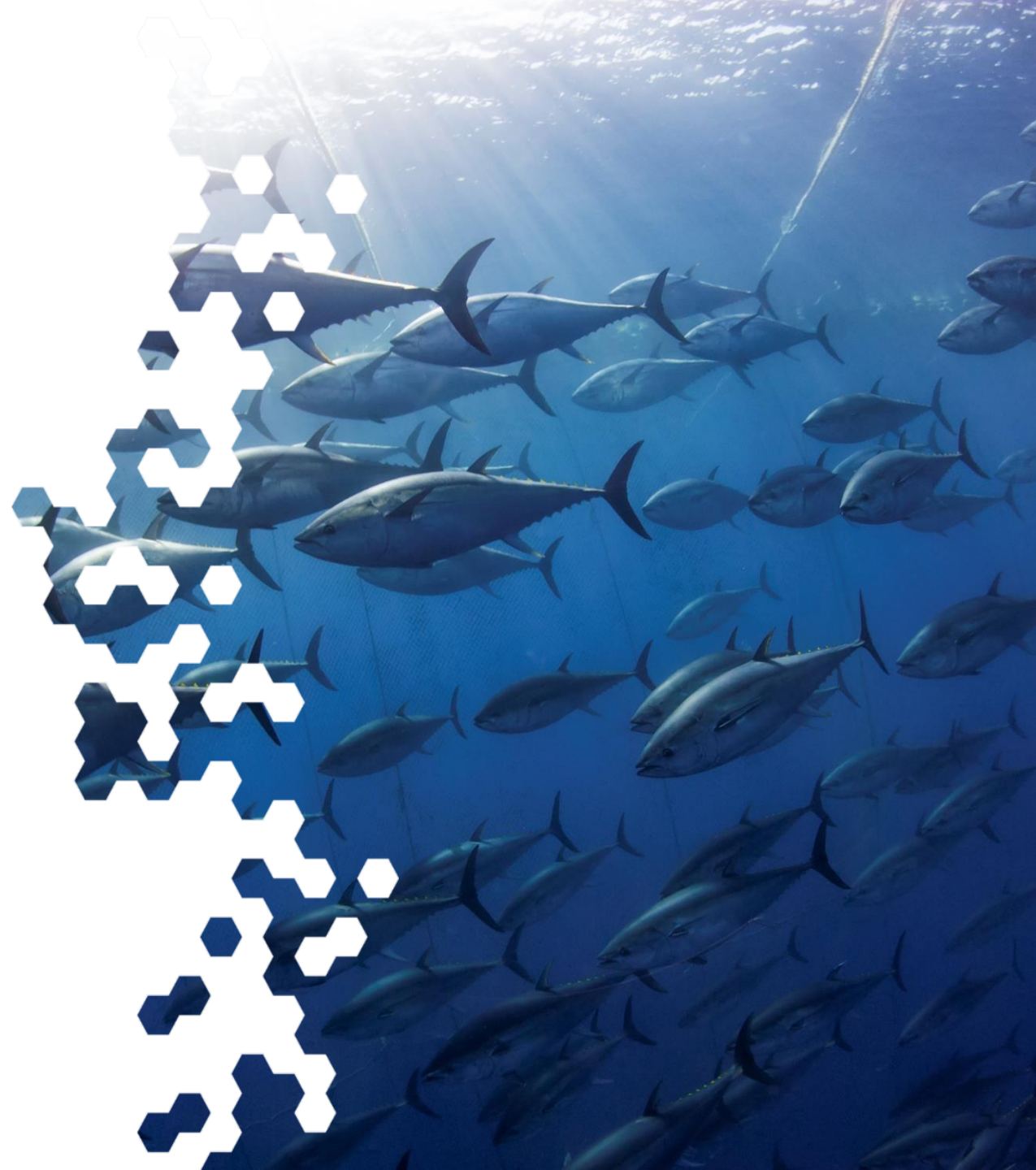


World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



**STAR
IDAZ**

International
Research
Consortium on
Animal Health



Global economic impact

6\$ billion

Annual Disease Burden

Estimated annual economic impact of diseases on the global aquaculture industry, emphasizing the critical need for coordinated actions

OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy 2021–2025

Improved aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide



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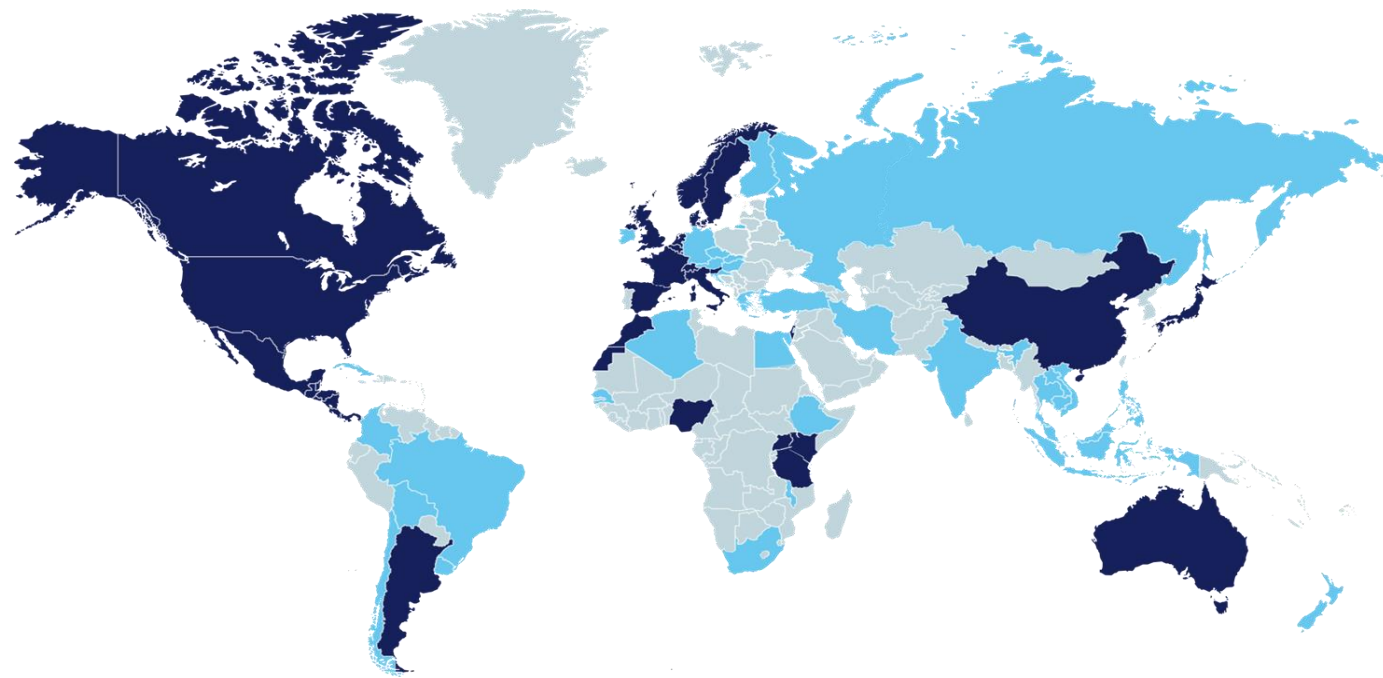
Research is key to develop effective tools and strategies

Activity 4.5 – Identify the highest-priority research areas

-  **Strategic prioritisation** of research areas of importance for WOAHC Community
-  Including development & implementation of **standards**
-  **Guide funders & researchers** to target impactful areas
-  Ensure **collaboration** with existing initiatives (e.g. **STAR-IDAZ IRC**)

STAR IDAZ IRC

Global **S**trategic **A**lliances for the Coordination of **R**esearch on the Major **I**nfectious **D**iseases of **A**nimals and **Z**oonoses



36
PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS

23
COUNTRIES

+\$2.5B
RESEARCH
INVESTMENT

4
REGIONAL
NETWORKS

55+
ASSOCIATED
COUNTRIES

Aim: to improve coordination of research activities to accelerate the delivery of improved control methods





September 2024
Partnership
established

*Concept note
defined*



**October
2024**
Scientific Committee
constituted

*Kick start of
activities*



**January
2025**
Global expert
consultation

*Insight gathered on
challenges in
Aquaculture*



February 2025
World Café
Workshop

*Highest-priority
research areas in
finfish health
defined.*

Participative multi-stakeholders process

Key events

to identify the highest
priority research areas
that will provide long
lasting benefits for
global management of
aquatic animal
diseases

Global aquaculture survey

A global consultation was conducted inviting international aquaculture experts to identify **research priorities for aquatic animal health**



Survey structure:
20 questions ca./section:

Introduction

4 main sections:

Finfish, Molluscs, Crustaceans, Amphibians

Transversal issues

The survey had **global reach** with responses received from experts across the Americas, Europe, Africa & the Middle East, and Asia & Australasia



Americas

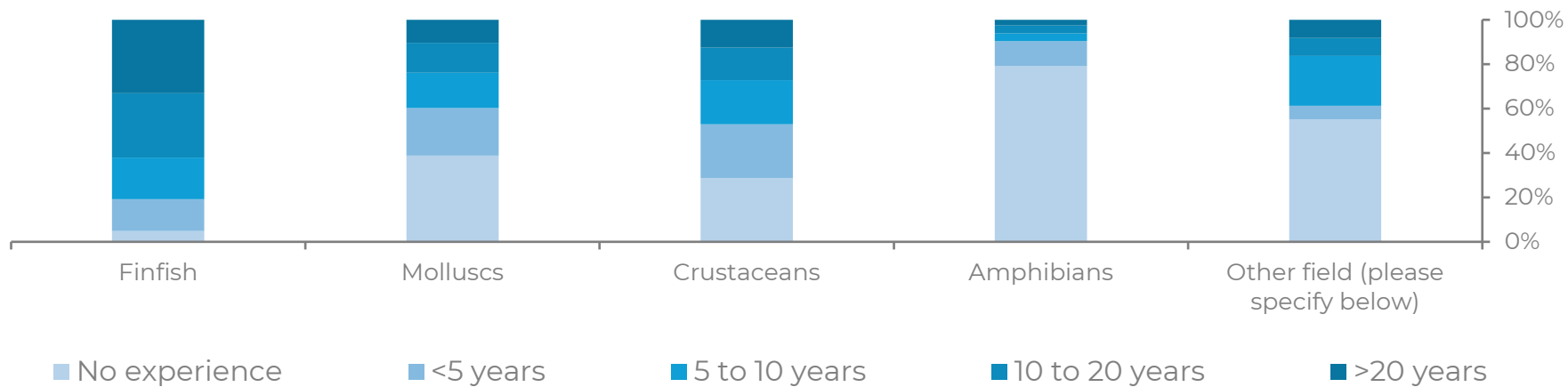
Europe

Africa & Middle East

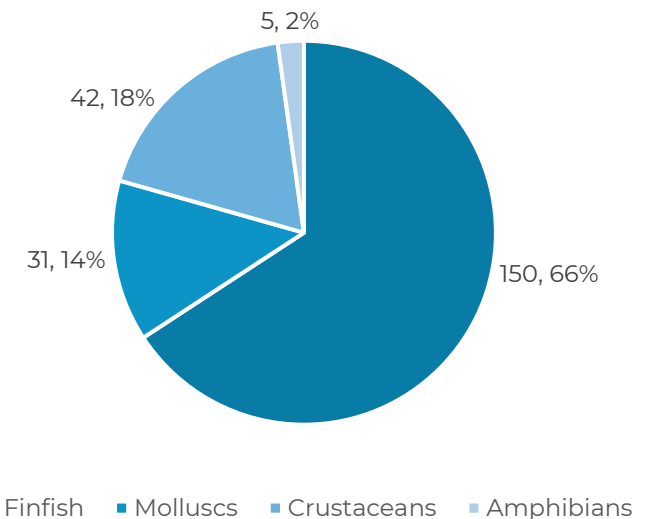
Asia & Australasia

Expertise level and responses

Expertise of respondents



Responses per section

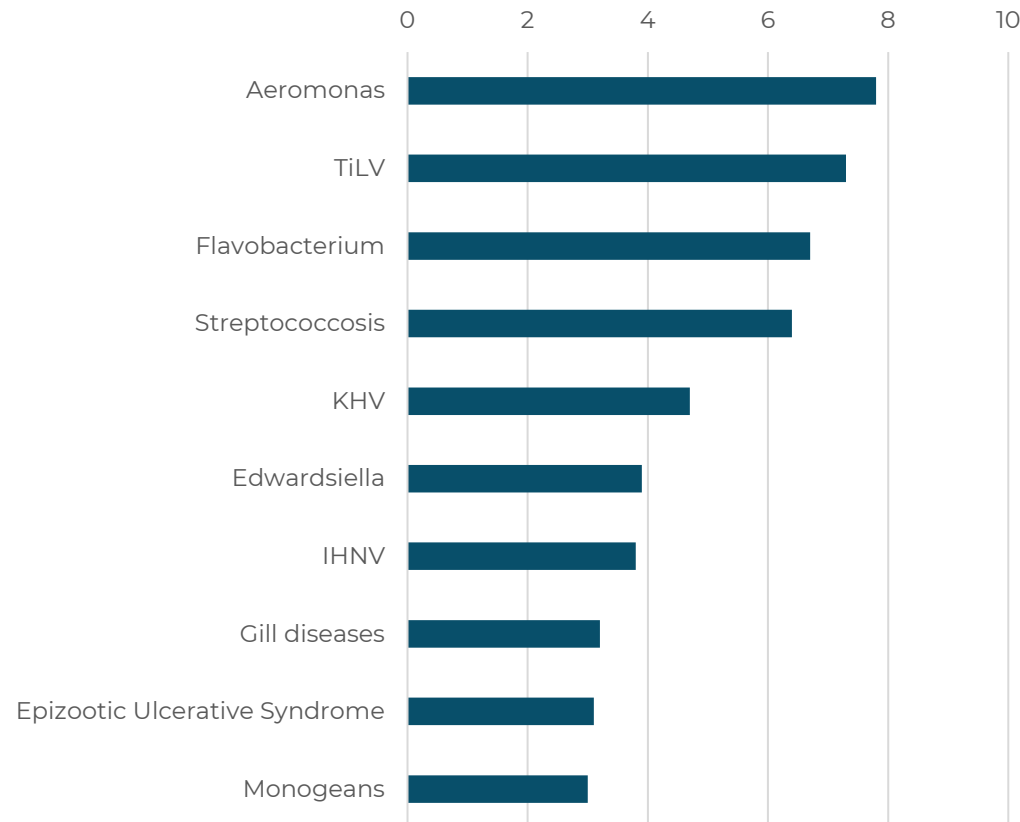


Most impactful diseases for which research actions would be needed

Survey responses

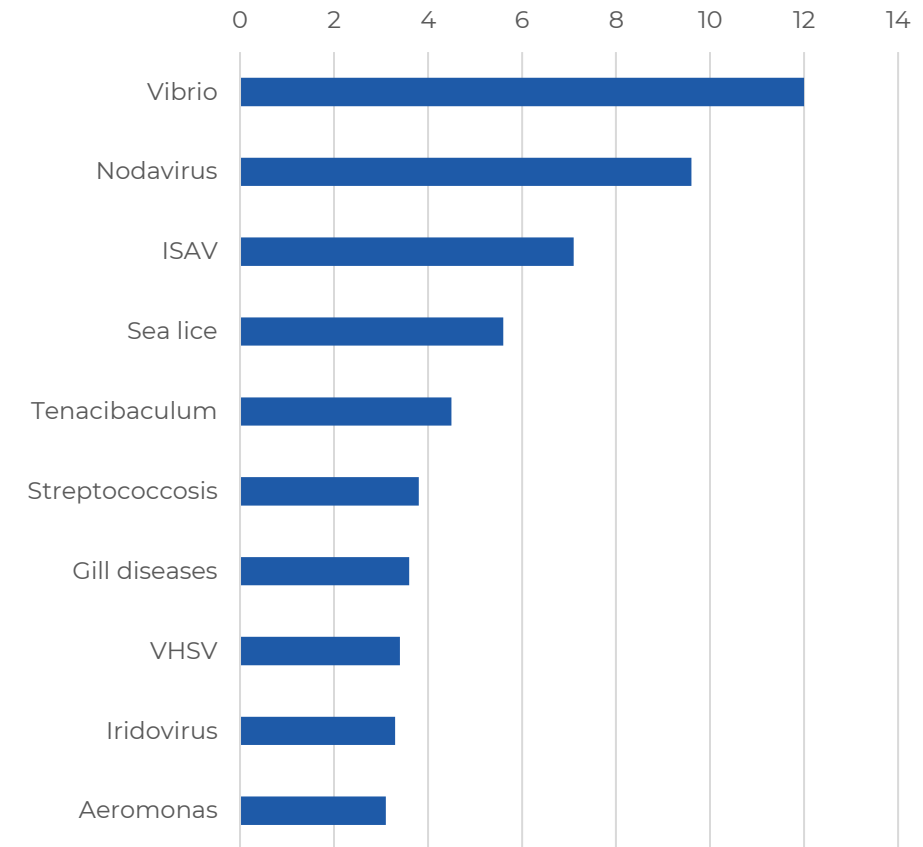
Fresh Water diseases:

% of Total Mention Weighted by Impact



Salt Water diseases:

% of Total Mentions Weighted by Impact



SCAN ME

Advancing Aquaculture Health Research

Tentative agenda

Advancing Aquaculture Health Research

**Workshop to Identify the Highest Priority Research
Areas for Finfish Health**

20-21 February 2025
WOAH HQ, Paris, France

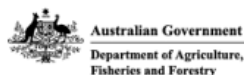
Organised by:



In collaboration with:



The workshop has been possible thanks to sponsorship from:



Canada



Gates Foundation



Global experts collaborated to tackle critical challenges in **finfish health**, defining research priorities to strengthen aquaculture sustainability worldwide.

Experts' presentation of key challenges in aquatic animal health

Overview of regional & global research efforts

World café workshop for priority setting

Panel discussion to foster PPP collaboration for sustainable solutions



**STAR
IDAZ**

International
Research
Consortium on
Animal Health



World Organisation
for Animal Health

World café workshops

Aim: Identify the highest priority research areas

Outcome: Comprehensive priority lists for major finfish production species including salmonids, carp, catfish, and tilapia, with both short-term and long-term research needs identified.

Workshop 1: Epidemiology & control strategies

Chair: Edgar Brun

4 focused discussion tables
targeting control mechanisms and
disease prevention strategies

Workshop 2: Diagnostics

Chair: Nick Moody

4 focused discussion tables
exploring diagnostic innovation
and standardization needs

Workshop 3: Vaccines and therapeutics

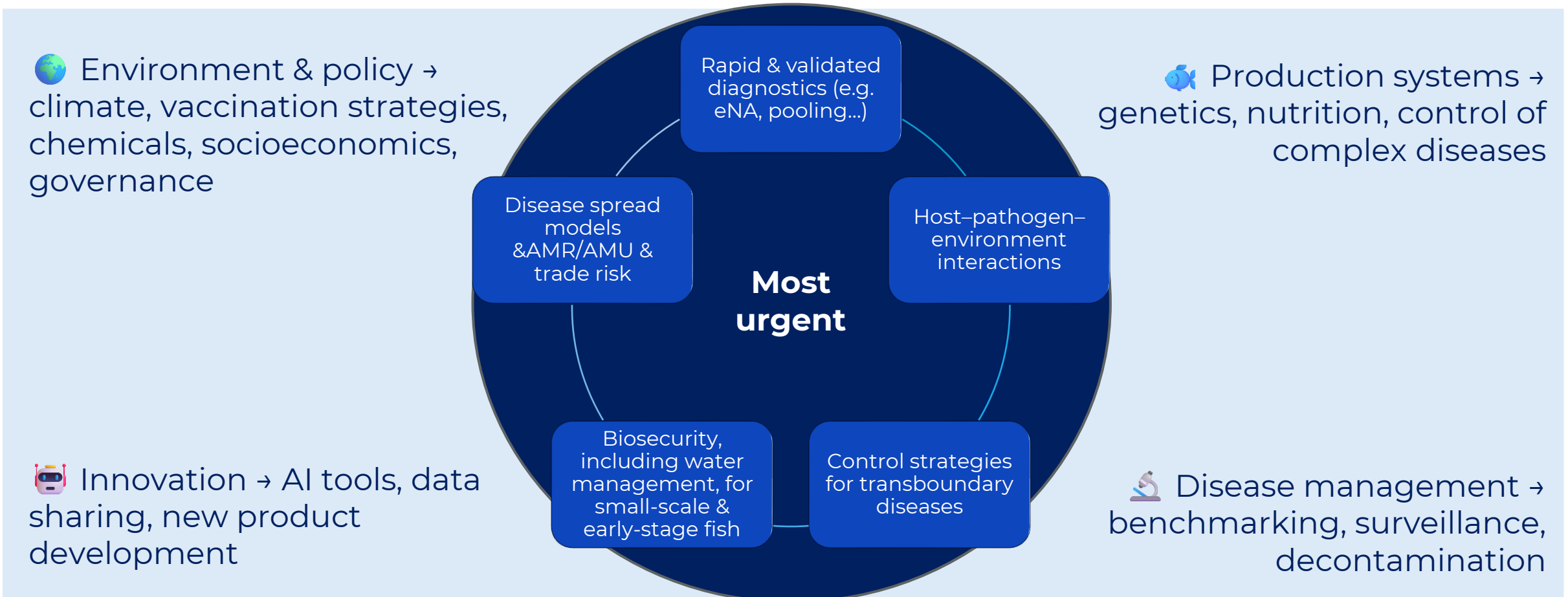
Chair: Ha Thanh Dong

5 focused discussion tables
addressing vaccine development
and therapeutic solutions




Epidemiology and control strategy:


Highest research priority areas (grouped)

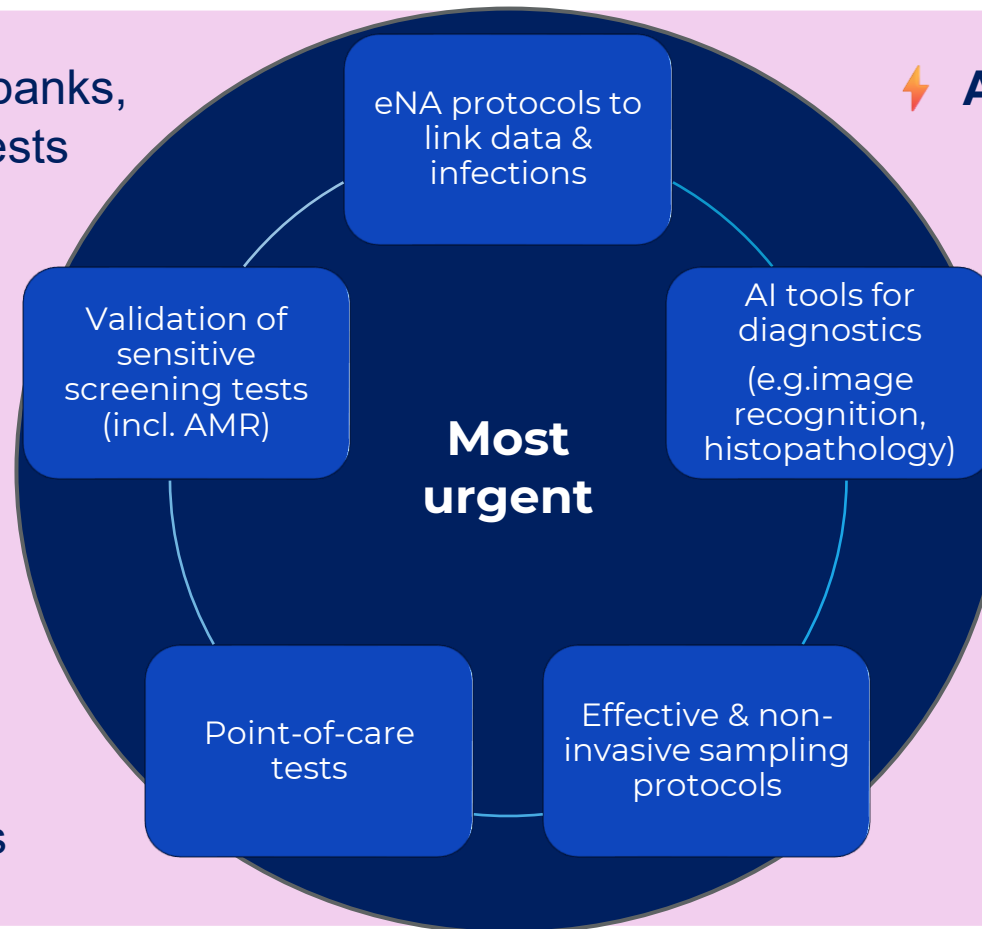



Diagnostic:


Highest research priority areas (grouped)

 **Reference tools** → biobanks, certified reagents, serological tests

 **Data & genomics** → FAIR databases, NGS/metagenomics



 **Advanced diagnostics** → in vitro models, AI tools, sensors, syndromic/multiplex platforms

 **Others** → environmental contaminants, stress biomarkers, unexplained mortalities

Vaccine:

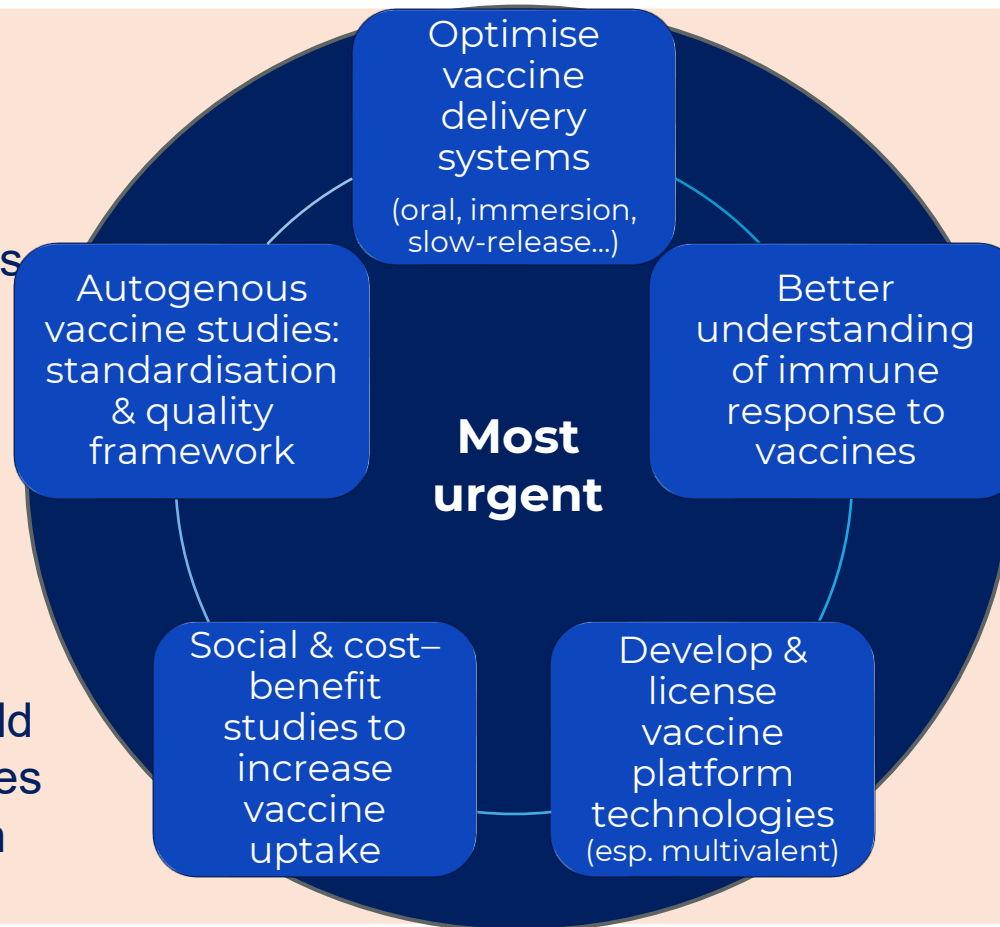
Highest research priority areas (grouped)



Assessment & models →
alternative methods
(mathematical, SIR, serological
panels), efficacy & effectiveness



Standardisation →
challenge models, harmonised
protocols, dose/strain/route, field
trials, shedding safety, guidelines
for registration & harmonisation
of vaccine regulations




Accessibility → reduce costs, incentives for LMICs

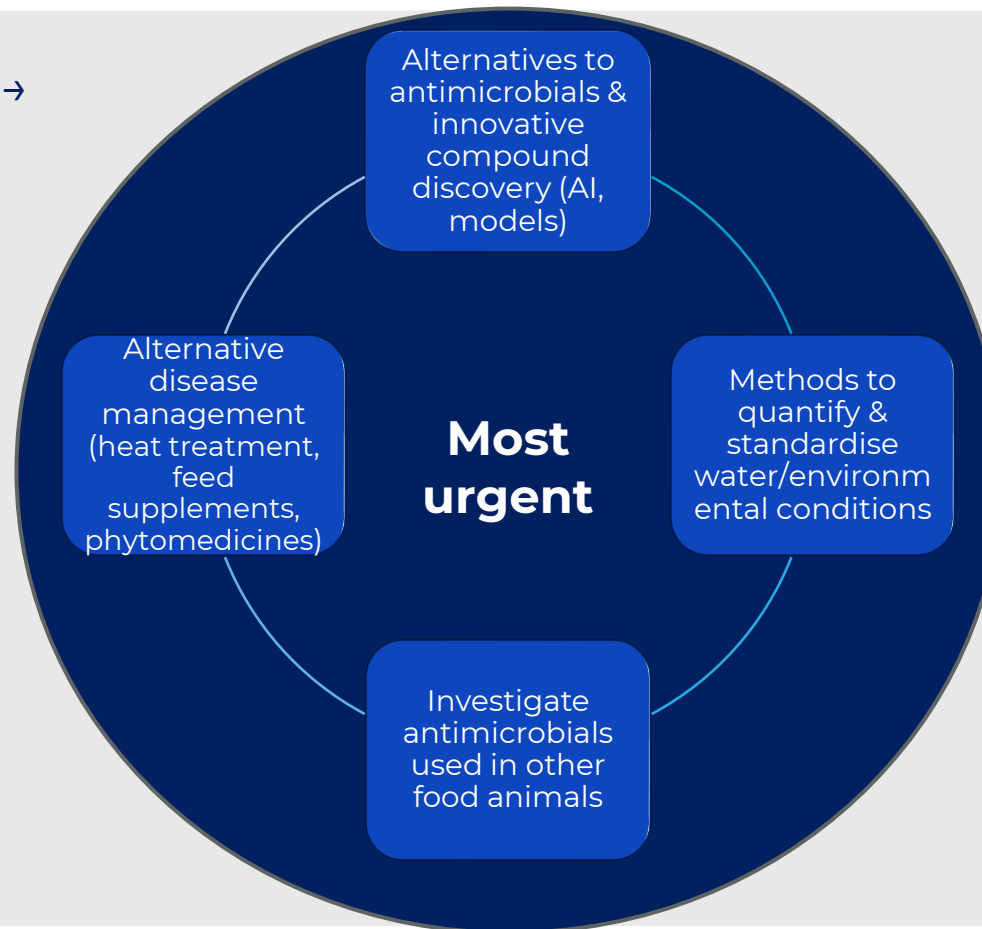


Implementation → regional needs, PPPs, controlled demonstrations

Therapeutics:

Highest research priority areas (grouped)

 **Preventive approaches** →
probiotics,
immunostimulants



 **Farmer adoption** → KAP
studies, policies, capacity
building

 **Innovative therapies** →
phage therapy

 **Biosecurity** → tailored
plans for different industries

Translating workshop outcomes into actions



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Call for projects

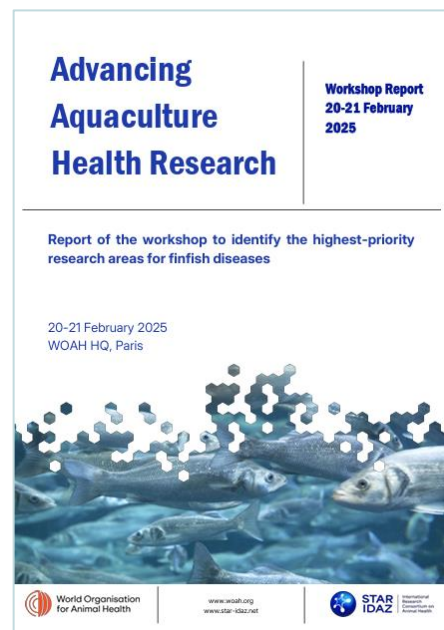


Discussion at upcoming STAR IDAZ Executive Committee meetings



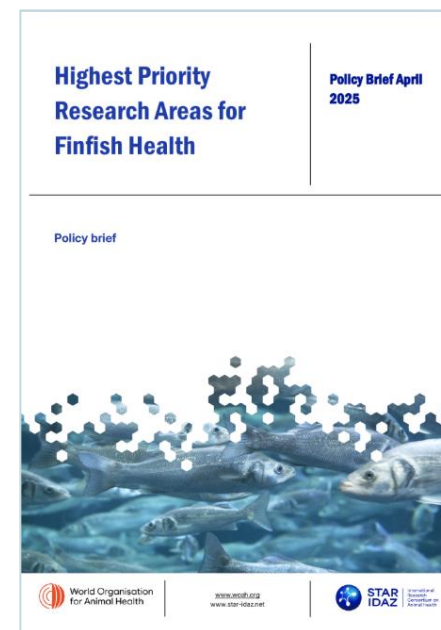
On-line survey

January 2025



Gap analysis workshop

February 2025



Executive summary

April 2025

Uptake from STAR IDAZ Executive Committee

September 2025 & beyond

Thank you

*“If you want to walk fast, walk alone
If you want to walk far, walk together”
(West African proverb)*

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Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

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Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

