

## **Current Status of Fish Diseases in Cambodia**

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Aquaculture in Cambodia is gradually developing. Most farmers prefer to culture native fish species such as *Pangasius* spp., *Clarias* spp., *Channa* spp., and key freshwater cyprinids that are popular food fishes, have high market value, and adapt well to the local environment. However, national and provincial fisheries research and fish seed production stations/centers plus several NGOs are promoting extensive/semi-intensive culture systems consisting of low input ponds and rice-cum-fish or other integrated fish/animal/vegetable polyculture techniques to raise Chinese carp (silver, bighead, and grass carp), common carp, Indian carps (catla, rohu, and mrigal), and tilapia. Escape of these exotic fish species may impact natural aquatic resources and biodiversity in Cambodia. They could affect indigenous species through breeding, competition for feed and habitat, and disease, resulting in negative impacts on household income and the national economy. Based on the national list of priority diseases highlighted in the National Strategy for Aquatic Animal Health Management in Cambodia, the endemic and exotic pathogens that may infect cultured fishes include nine viral diseases, five bacterial diseases, and seven parasitic diseases. Updated information on fish diseases in Cambodia was published in the FAO/NACA Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease Report (Asia and Pacific Region).