

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE SECTOR IN NEPAL

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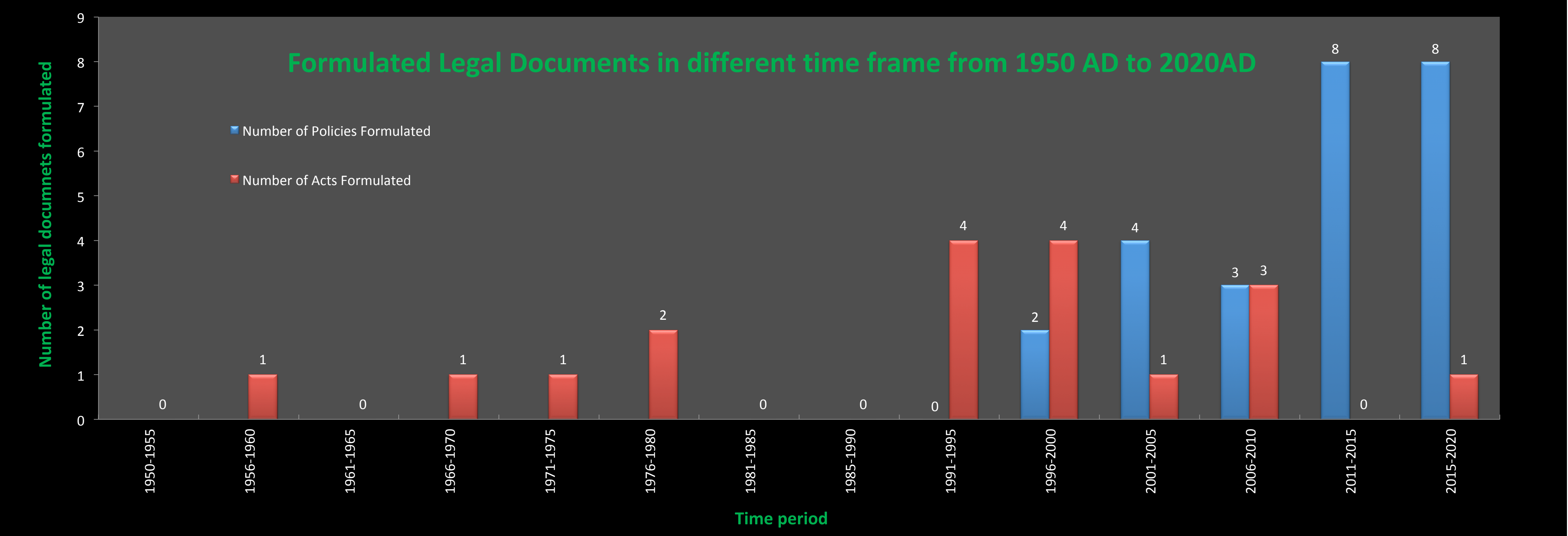
Introduction

- Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing sector within the agriculture system in Nepal.
- Realizing the potentiality of this sector, Government of Nepal has given thrust for enhancement of fish production and productivity with quality improvement.
- To achieve increased production and productivity government has placed different legal, policy and programmatic interventions.
- Aquatic Species Conservation Act, 1961AD, is the first milestone in the history of aquaculture development in Nepal.
- Policy decisions in the aquaculture sector need to be revised and updated based on the national, regional and global situation to address the pertinent issue of growing commercial aquaculture.

Materials and Methods

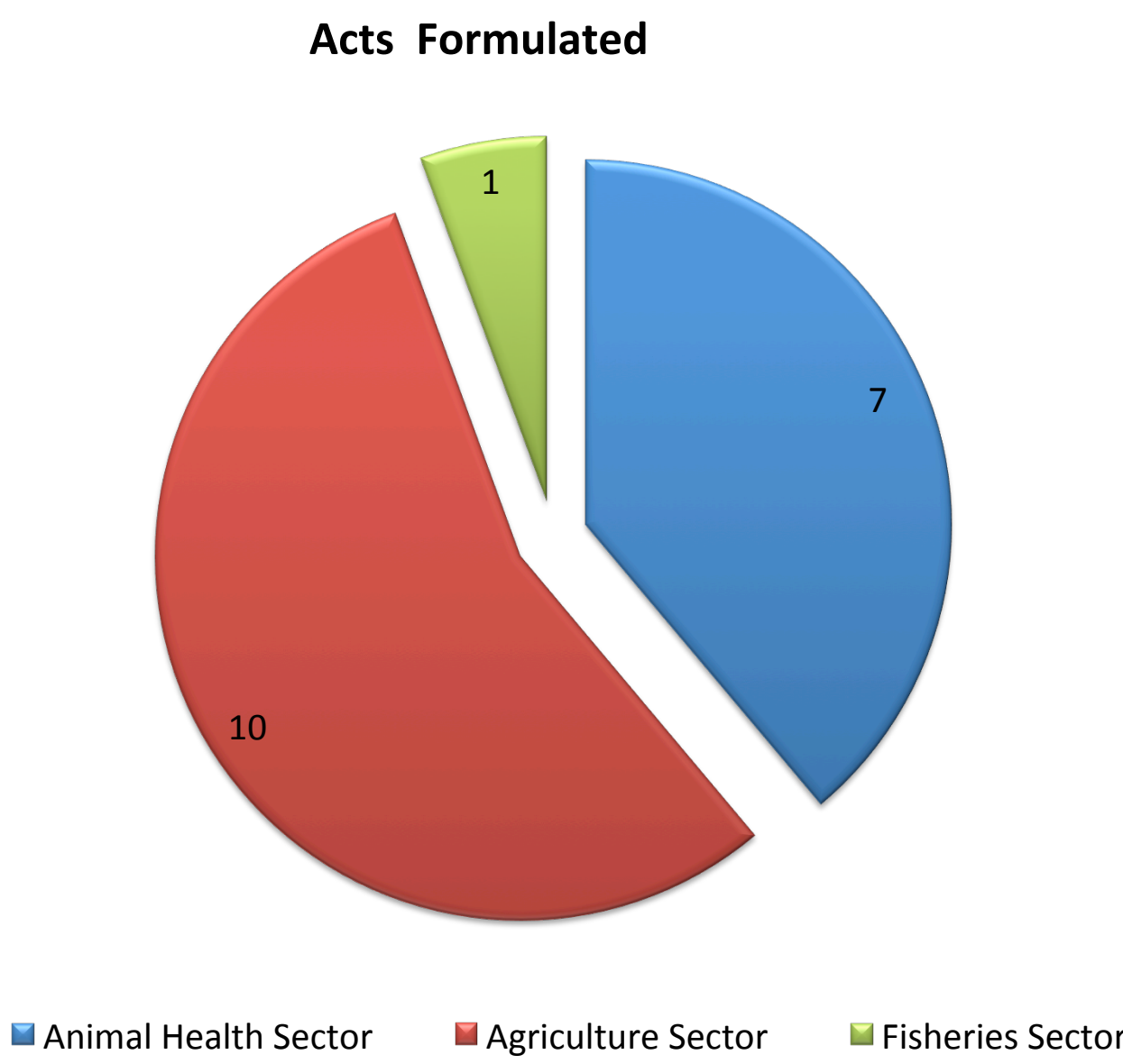
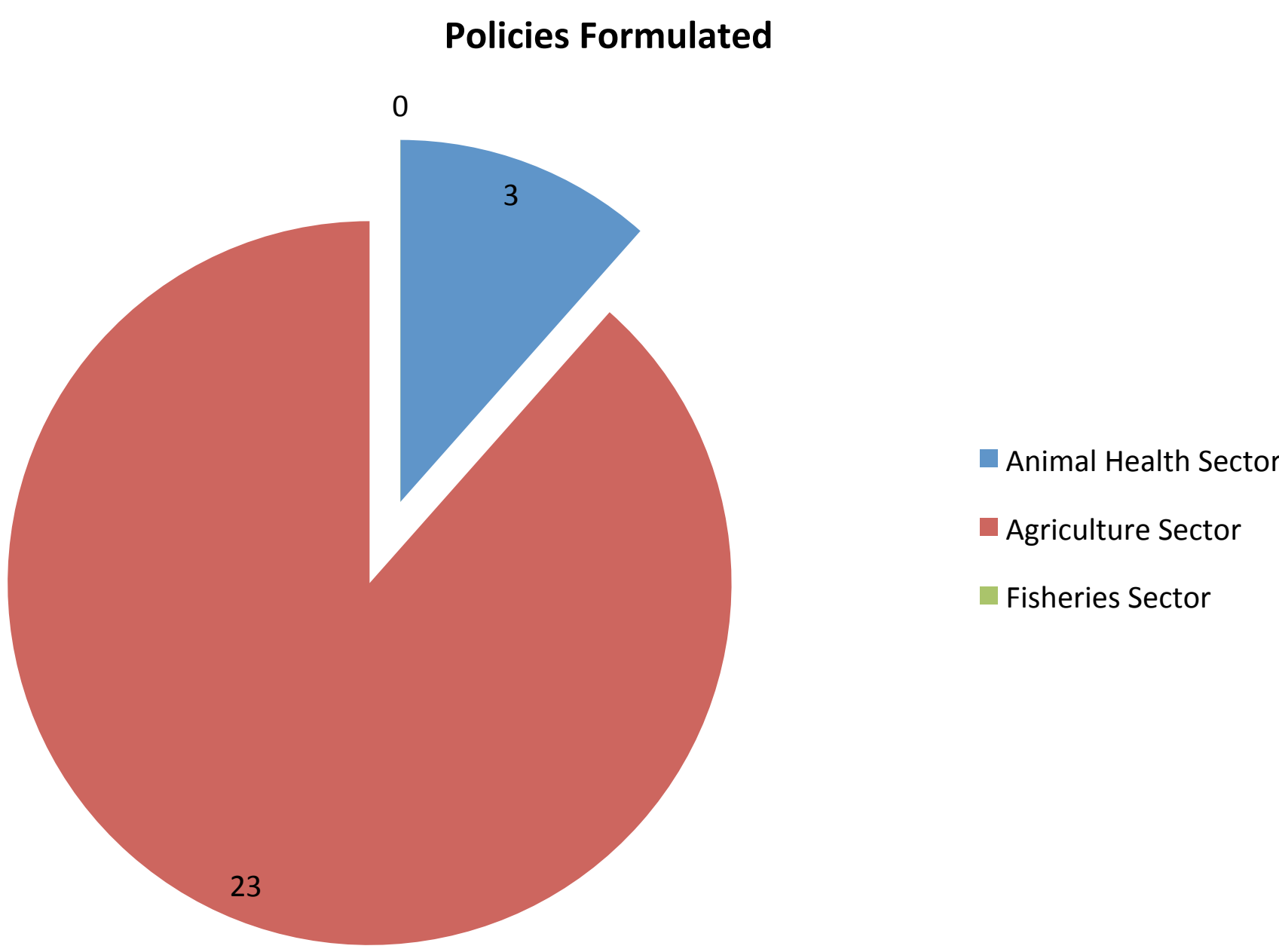
- The major objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive study of legal instruments, their status and implementation in the aquaculture sector.
- National laws and planning documents were reviewed along with key informants interview.
- Primary data was collected through interview with the key informants from National Planning Commission and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Policy Coordination Section,.

Results and Discussion



Results of this study reflected that;

- ❖ In agriculture sector, 26 Policies and 18 Acts are formulated.
- ❖ 7 Acts address the animal health sector, 10 Acts address the agriculture sector while 1 Act solely address the aquatic life and aquatic biodiversity.
- ❖ There are 23 policies for agriculture sector, 3 policies for veterinary sector and no policies are formulated for the fisheries and aquatic biodiversity conservation sector.
- ❖ Policies started to be formulated and implemented beginning from 1991AD and most of the policies are formulated during the time frame: 2011 to 2015AD and 2015 to 2020AD.
- ❖ Formulation of Acts in agriculture was initiated with Aquatic biodiversity conservation act, 1960AD and 8 Acts were formulated during the decades of 1991 to 2000AD.
- ❖ From overall policies that also address the issues of fisheries sector are 6 in number and the acts that also represent fisheries sector are 8 in number.



Conclusions and implications

- Nepal government in pursuit of its objectives, broad course of action is adopted in building up policies in overall agriculture.
- Legal instruments such as Feed Act, 1977AD, Animal Health and Livestock Services Act, 1999AD, National Agriculture Policy 2004AD etc. have provisions to support and regulate good aquaculture production in Nepal and have supported for commercialization and modernization of the industry.
- Despite the crucial importance of the sector, Nepal's policies are not able to pay adequate attention and could not put forward sector demanded legal documents.
- Since, the aquaculture subsector of agriculture is an extremely important component of agriculture is substantially different character from other subsectors, there is imperative need for separate Fisheries Policy that caters specific need of aquaculture at national, regional and local level.
- The legal instruments need to be amended and /or formulated for harmonization with international standards including OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code.
- There is tremendous need for legal provisions for the sustainable development of aquaculture sector for the availability of the quality fish seed, healthy production, and market, ensuring availability of quality protein source to the consumers.

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