

Four of the most important resources to aquaculture, outside human and technological resources, are land, water, seed and feed. Efficient use of these resources is necessary to guarantee optimum production from aquaculture. A project, Study and Analysis of Seed Production in Small-scale Rural Aquaculture, was implemented through a desk study and expert workshop (held in Wuxi, China from 23 to 26 March 2006) to assess the status of freshwater fish seed resources and supply and its contribution to sustainable aquatic production the results of which are contained in this two-part publication. Part 1 contains the proceedings and major recommendations of the expert workshop which tackled three major themes: (a) seed quality, genetics, technology and certification; (b) seed networking, distribution, entrepreneurship and certification; and (c) how rural fish farmers can benefit from the freshwater aquaseed sector. Part 2 contains the detailed outcomes of the desk study consisting of three regional syntheses (Africa, Asia and Latin America) based on 21 country case studies, five thematic reviews (quality, genetics and breeding, seed networks and entrepreneurship, seed supply in rural aquaculture, farmer innovations and women involvement) and three papers (self-recruiting species, decentralized seed networking in Bangladesh and the establishment of national broodstock centres in Viet Nam).

