

TCP/RAS/3101 (A): Sustainable Aquaculture Development in Pacific Micronesia

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands - SAPA



S.FUNGE-SMITH, FAORAP

80 ha milkfish farm (ex-shrimp farm) in Kiribati, Pacific Island

FAO has approved a technical cooperation project (TCP) titled "Sustainable Aquaculture Development in Pacific Micronesia" for Palau and four other Micronesian countries in the Pacific (i.e. Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati). The project aims to improve the technical, environmental and economical viabilities of the existing small-scale milkfish farming in Palau, to assist the National Governments with the development of a sustainable National Aquaculture Strategy and Action Plan (e.g. guidelines, zoning plan, regulatory framework and national Code of Practice), and to build human capacity through training workshops. The challenge is to improve and develop aquaculture activities in a responsible manner while conserving and managing the pristine aquatic environment of Palau.

Project field activities will be conducted in the project host country, Palau. The project is being executed by the Bureau of Marine Resources, Ministry of Resources and Development, in close cooperation with the Ngatpang State Government, for a period of 18 months with a total budget of \$323 000. The project has a number of activities, such as:

- ⇒ a study on the existing aquaculture facility and operations (e.g. fry resource management and potential environmental impacts);
- ⇒ business plan including cost analysis, market assessment, potential employment and income generation; and
- ⇒ a desk study on risk analysis for the introduction, movement and translocation of aquatic species which will develop an expert decision-making framework for conducting aquaculture risk assessment.

The result of the above studies will be further discussed and shared with relevant stakeholders during national workshops that will be organized under the Project. The outcomes and the experience of the Project will be also discussed in a regional forum. In preparation for the implementation of the Project activities, the FAO's Fishery Officer based at the Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Samoa visited Palau early March 2006, and discussed details of the project work arrangements and schedule with the Bureau of Marine Resources.

Further details about the project can be obtained from Masanami Izumi of FAO SAPA at e-mail: masanami.izumi@fao.org