NATURAL RESOURCES SYSTEMS PROGRAMME

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

DFID Project Number

R8100

Project title

Investigating improved policy on aquaculture service provision to poor people

Project Leaders

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Organisation

STREAM Initiative

NRSP Production System

High Potential

Date

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Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms ii
1. Executive Summary 1
2. Background 3
3. Project Purpose 3
4. Outputs 3
5. Research Activities 10
6. Environmental Assessment 12
7. Contribution of Outputs 12
8. Publications and Other Communication Materials 15
9. References Cited in the Report, Sections 1-7 18
10. Project Logframe 19
11. Keywords 25
12. Annexes 25
### Abbreviations and Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBP-1</td>
<td>Consensus-building Process (round one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBP-2</td>
<td>Consensus-building Process (round two)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>Compact Disc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFID (UK)</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOF</td>
<td>Department of Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIRFP</td>
<td>Eastern India Rainfed Farming Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDC</td>
<td>Fisheries Development Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFDA</td>
<td>Fish Farmers Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOI</td>
<td>Government of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICAR</td>
<td>Indian Council for Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jankar</td>
<td>A trained specialist farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACA</td>
<td>Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSP</td>
<td>Natural Resources Systems Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRW</td>
<td>Policy Review Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLW</td>
<td>State-level Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Stakeholders Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R6759</td>
<td>A DFID-funded NRSP research project to select, test and develop integrated aquaculture innovations relevant to poor groups and to their local needs and conditions in eastern India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R7830</td>
<td>Integrated management of land and water resources for enhancing productivity in Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R7839</td>
<td>Improved livelihoods – Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (UP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIW</td>
<td>Recipients and Implementers Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STDEV</td>
<td>Standard Deviation</td>
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<tr>
<td>STREAM</td>
<td>Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management</td>
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</table>
1. Executive Summary

Fish culture has a long tradition in India although the development and documentation of options suited to poor people’s objectives and resources has occurred mostly over the last decade. Building on the NRSP project R6759, which tested and promoted pro-poor low-input aquaculture options and identified institutional constraints to their uptake and wider impact, this project (R8100) identified, tested and promoted improved mechanisms for pro-poor service delivery. For both projects, the target group was people of so-called scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in eastern India.

Specific geographic locations were agreed for conducting six case studies and identifying recommendations for policy change from recipients of service provision in tribal areas of three states (Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal). Film documentaries, reports, PowerPoint presentations and a street-play were used to document and interpret the Case Studies which illustrate the current context of service provision from recipients and service providers’ perspectives. Many topics were raised about the current context of aquaculture service provision for poor people. Service recipients and policy implementers highlighted their limited participation in planning services and policies. They emphasised: (1) problems with processes (e.g., for pond leasing, extension, research, communications, marketing operations and planning from the grassroots level); (2) their need for knowledge, and financial products; and (3) efforts to increase the availability of natural capital for aquaculture and awareness of government schemes and policies. In addition (4), they articulated a context of dependency, cashlessness and difficulties with the process of building social capital.

A key feature of the project’s overall process was repeatedly throughout the project to provide professionally facilitated ‘space’ for farmers, fishers, service providers, policy implementers and policy makers to express their views in a series of local and national meetings and workshops. Carefully-facilitated multi-lingual meetings and workshops were conducted to promote national multi-level stakeholder discussions of modes and priorities for policy change. Understanding was built about the process of transacting policy and institutional change, highlighting lessons learnt from elsewhere, defining priorities for change and developing indicators which demonstrate progress towards change. The project engaged with policy-makers and implementers so as to stimulate debate and moves towards policy change. A semi anonymous Consensus-building Process (CBP) was used by policy actors to prioritise changes proposed by a broad range of stakeholders. In this way, a portfolio of 42 policy-change priorities were transacted to 13 top priority recommendations covering service planning (7 items), service support (3 items), information and training (2 items) and access to inputs (1 item). Importantly, the process brought through the voices of poor people to a senior policy level positioned within meso-policy level appraisal and consensual support.

The project’s process of itself is a major research product. The main features of the project’s inclusive process for transacting technical and institutional changes are broadly defined as eight steps. For each step, pre-requisites are outlined (including understandings, actors, competencies and capacity-building, and relationship-building), and implications summarized (covering notes, issues, and suggested actions, mechanisms and tools). A strategy for bringing through the voices of poor people in this process, referred to as facilitated advocacy, is developed and the various roles that the team has taken during the course of the process are mapped. The project’s process-related findings and the associated learning provide guiding principles for how pro-poor policy processes could be institutionalised.

The project raised awareness of a range of stakeholders that the delivery of services to poor people in dispersed, remote locations is both complex and expensive. The project confirmed that in situations, such as in India, where relationships between policy-makers and service providers, and between service providers and recipients, are hierarchical, ‘discourse gaps’ between these groups are expanded, with each isolated in different discourse communities. As a result, only rarely are voices of recipients of policies and services, particularly poor fishers and farmers, sought during the development of policy and the planning of services. In order to bridge these gaps, communication needs to be facilitated. In
this regard, Self-Help Groups represent visible, viable units which can expand out to close communication and service provision gaps, extant between, for example, the Block Office and local communities, or the rural banking sector and local communities, or national and international market chains. Their existence can empower rural communities to draw down the services they need. This project found that they also represent a platform for improving the policy-making process.

The final report was reviewed by the GOI in August 2003. The Joint Secretary said that some recommendations could already be developed by small changes to existing ways of working. He emphasized:

- *Extending the length of the pond leases for self-help groups*, which he hoped could be passed into state policy;
- *A single-point under-one-roof provision of services*;
- *Working with Self-Help Groups* – an approach that he agreed with strongly – could be under the umbrella of the FFDA scheme; and
- He welcomed the STREAM Communications Hub.
2. **Background**

**The status of aquaculture in India**

Freshwater fish culture has been an age-old tradition in India. Though originally confined to the eastern region of undivided India, it gradually spread to Uttar Pradesh, eastern Madhya Pradesh and some parts of Tamil Nadu, where the seed of Indian major carps was transported from Calcutta and stocked in ponds, tanks and reservoirs in the 1930s and 1940s. Research and development of fish production increased in the 1960s with success in induced spawning of Indian carps, followed by Chinese silver carp and grass carp. Since then the polyculture of Indian major carps and Chinese carps in perennial ponds has been the mainstay of the Indian aquaculture industry and composite fish culture the principle extension message. A Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) was gradually established in each district with aquaculture potential and today 400 are functional. The FFDA provides a package of technical, financial and extension support to fish farmers. The package was unsuited to the resources and objectives of poor farmers and between 1996 and 2000, the NRSP project R6759 established the efficacy of low-input fish culture in seasonal water bodies as a component of more complex livelihoods. R6759 also found that the institutional norms of the formal institution mandated to promote aquaculture (the Department of Fisheries, DOF) constrained the provision of aquaculture services to poor people and constrained the sustained uptake and wider impact of what R6759 had achieved. Therefore, the purpose of this project was to identify, test and promote delivery mechanisms for improved rural services for aquaculture amongst marginalized poor groups with complex diverse livelihoods.

**The underlying rationale for R8100**

The project’s underlying rationale was to give poor people, who are recipients of services and the subject of policy decisions, a voice in services design and policy formulation processes. The project did not second guess what services would be pro-poor, rather it focused on a process (an acceptable one for the Indian social and institutional circumstances) to identify service needs and debate the policy implications of these needs.

In this way, the project has contributed to the goal of developing and promoting efficient systems for providing rural services to poor people with emphasis on services in support of aquaculture that take account of the objectives, strengths and constraints of marginalized groups and their complex diverse livelihoods.

3. **Project Purpose**

The project’s purpose was to identify, test and promote mechanisms for the delivery of improved rural services critical to the development of rural livelihoods. The emphasis was on services in support of the aquaculture objectives of marginalized groups in eastern India, taking account of their complex diverse livelihoods and how this affects the potential for effective pro-poor service delivery.

4. **Outputs**

4.1 **Understanding developed of current context of rural aquaculture service provision for specific groups of poor people**

By repeatedly providing professionally facilitated ‘space’ for farmers, fishers, service providers, policy implementers and policy-makers to express their views in a series of local and national meetings and workshops, a great many topics were raised about the current context of aquaculture
service provision for poor people in Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. Six case studies2 were selected by project staff to illustrate many of the issues raised by participants at the Recipients and Implementers Workshop (RIW) and State-level Workshops (SLW) and these were presented as film documentaries and/or PowerPoint presentations at the January 2003 Stakeholders Workshop (SW) and April 2003 Policy Review Workshop (PRW) (Haylor and Savage, 2002; Haylor, Savage and Tripathi, 2002, Annexes I, II, III, IV, V).

The Case Studies also informed the production of a street-play (Annex IX) written by Rakesh Rahman, a tribal playwright. The play was performed in villages to provide feedback to ‘project communities’ on the messages ‘being taken to Delhi’. This medium is popular in rural India and reaches an audience for whom reading is a common problem. The play was then formally presented to apex policy-makers at the PRW to illustrate in a concise live medium the current context of service provision.

The current context is one of marginalized communities. As Nati, a narrator in the street play says, “a village without any road and electricity, [where people] walk six miles to reach the road head … where everybody sleeps soon after sunset as there is no light.” Where, as the hero Machhua says, “… The world has changed so much but we [fishermen] are where we were” (Annex IX). Service recipients and service implementers from Jharkhand articulated a lack of participation in deciding about services and policies; they highlighted problems with processes for pond leasing, extension, research, marketing and operational problems related to women’s involvement, water retention, pond siting and species selection. They related all to limited knowledge and guidance (Annexes II and XII). In the neighbouring state of Orissa, participants relayed their views about the lack of opportunity for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to participate in policy processes and the lack of planning from the grassroots level. They highlighted the need for knowledge, financial products and efforts to increase the availability of natural capital for aquaculture. In West Bengal, one of the most productive states in India in terms of fish and fish seed, rural communities highlighted limitations in planning and communications, and in awareness of government schemes and policies, and market conditions. The over-riding context was one of dependency, cashlessness and difficulties with the process of building social capital.

4.2 Understanding developed of processes whereby technical and institutional changes can be transacted to engender policy change that can give rise to rural aquaculture services that are inclusive of specific groups of poor people

Because of the number and variety of stakeholders involved, the processes whereby technical and institutional changes can be transacted to engender policy change will be complex. The project team of R8100 has variously acted as driver, facilitator, strategic planner, orchestrator, negotiator and adjudicator. It appears that these several ‘hats’ were integral to the pro-poor policy process that evolved as the project progressed.

If this process can be replicated (e.g., the DDG-ICAR Fisheries small policy projects referred to in Annex XI), key features of the process and implications for those who wish to use this process, need to

2 A Proactive Village – In Support of Aquaculture for Poor and Scheduled Caste Groups (Jharkhand) (Film documentary)
A Progressive Farmer – A Successful Tribal Village Conducting Aquaculture (Jharkhand) (Film documentary)
Group-building, Production Success and the Struggle to Prevent Capture of the Resource (Jharkhand) (PowerPoint)
Contrasting Case Studies of Service Provision and Participation (Orissa) (PowerPoint)
Recipients’ Experiences of Services Provided by NGOs in Support of Aquaculture for Poor and Tribal Groups (West Bengal) (Film documentary and PowerPoint)
Service Provider’s Perspectives on the Implementation of Government Schemes in Support of Aquaculture for Poor and Tribal Groups (West Bengal) (Film documentary and PowerPoint)
be explained. The team has therefore attempted to distil the main features of the resultant process in a Conceptual Matrix (see Table 1 in Annex XII) which highlights eight overall steps. For each step, pre-requisites are outlined (including understandings, actors, competencies and capacity-building, and relationship-building), and implications summarized (covering notes, issues, and suggested actions, mechanisms and tools).

The conceptual matrix is not intended as a ‘blueprint’ for supporting pro-poor policy change. The project itself followed a process approach (see step two in the matrix) and it is within this context that the research learning is offered. The matrix might be considered as a useful start point to guide readers through the substantial documentation on this process that the R8100 team has compiled.

In India (and elsewhere) relationships between policy-makers and service providers, and those between service providers and recipients, are hierarchical, which tends to expand the ‘discourse gaps’ between these groups and isolate them into different discourse communities. There are few instances where the voices of recipients of policies and services, particularly poor fishers and farmers, are sought during the development of policy and the planning of services. In order to bridge these gaps, communication needs to be facilitated.

The strategy for bringing through the voices of poor people in this process, which the project developed, is referred to as facilitated advocacy (see Figure 1 of this report, and also Annex XI, p 12, and Annex XII, p 6), with the project playing the role of “making it easier for people to speak for themselves” (essentially an attempt to overcome one of the larger ‘discourse gaps’, that between poor farmers and fishers and policy-makers). This involved many stakeholder meetings at village, state, regional and national levels, engagement with state- and national-level policy actors through an iterative consensus-building mechanism, the use of live drama (commissioning and working with a tribal playwright), film documentaries (made by professionals working with communities), and short statements by representative fishers and farmers, policy implementers and state- and national-level policy actors. These outputs were used to support communication with apical policy-makers in Delhi in a two-day workshop format to build shared understandings and to sensitise senior policy-makers to the change priorities originating from farmers, fishers, policy implementers and the project. These priorities are summarised in Table 1 (also see Annex VIII, p 6, and Annex XII, p 4). At a Policy Review Workshop (Annex X) in Delhi participants were also facilitated to describe how they could commit and contribute to appropriate policy change. Figure 1 (reproduced from Annex XII) describes the process and compares it with the existing system.

Table 1 Four Categories of Recommendations from R8100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Information and Training</th>
<th>Inputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Develop infrastructure for timely production of fingerlings at local level</td>
<td>8. Encourage formation of self-selected Aquaculture Self-Help Groups (ASHGs) based on common interests among farmers and fishers</td>
<td>11. Government needs to change how information is made available to farmers, since information on its schemes to support fish culture is required to be known to farmers</td>
<td>13. Procedure should be simplified for getting government schemes and bank loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Leases should be given to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for ten years</td>
<td>9. Insurance schemes for aquaculture</td>
<td>12. Water quality testing equipment (should be provided)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Integrated aquaculture may be encouraged and loans and other facilities extended on a priority basis so that farmers may not suffer during aquaculture stress periods</td>
<td>10. Provide support to establish group savings and micro-credit schemes among Aquaculture Self-Help Groups (ASHGs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Site selection for pond construction should be given proper emphasis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Timeliness of delivery of services, support and materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Establishment, defining and identification of model aquaculture villages for benefits to be disseminated to nearby “untouched” villages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Single-point under-one-roof service provision</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2.3 The alignment between government policy and identified policy recommendations

Whilst pursuing a strategy for bringing through the voices of poor people, it is important to build on existing policy and policy development initiatives. Therefore following consultations with the Fisheries Commissioner and Deputy Director General (Fisheries) of ICAR, it was agreed to aim to relate the change priorities identified by the NRSP project process to those of the Vision Statement of the Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department. This gave a timeframe for change and guidance for follow-on activities (see Table 2).

Table 2 Timeframe for Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe within Vision Statement</th>
<th>Implications for Key Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schemes to be evaluated and revised for the 10th Plan within one year</td>
<td>Therefore the opportunity to revise the provision of support in the 10th Plan has a one-year window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the revised schemes for the 10th Plan should be finalized and implementation to be started within two years</td>
<td>There is then another year to begin their implementation with improvements in local level infrastructure for fingerling provision and the timely supply of inputs and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance schemes for aquaculture to be made operational in one year</td>
<td>The need for insurance is a shared vision of Consensus-building Process participants and the Departments of Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management information system for the sector to become operational within five years</td>
<td>There is a role for learning and communications support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension materials to be available through the internet in all regional languages within ten years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Adapted from Annex X, p 22-23)

As concluded in Annex XII, it is clear that the delivery of services to poor people in dispersed, remote locations is both complex and expensive. Self-Help Groups represent visible, viable units which can expand out to close the communication and service provision gap, extend between, for example, the Block Office and local communities, or the rural banking sector and local communities, or national and international market chains. Their existence can empower rural communities to draw down the

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3 The arrow which denotes the connection between government circulars, schemes and laws for aquaculture and NGO service providers is not yet well developed.
services they need (also see Table 1, point 8). As exemplified by this project, they also represent a platform for improving policy-making process.

The R8100 team has attempted to map the various roles they have taken during the course of the process (see Annex XII, Table 4). There are capacity-building implications for those who may use a similar process and there are ‘key implications’ that senior policy actors would need to understand. It is hoped that this text will be the base material of some of the planned Policy Briefs that a follow-on project aims to produce (interactively with relevant R8100 stakeholders) to help to carry the policy change process forwards at national and state levels.

4.3 Engagement achieved with key actors with respect to aquaculture policy-related information in such a way that it could stimulate policy debate and influence policy change

Engagement was achieved at three points, with policy-makers, policy implementers and service providers, and with recipients of services and subjects of pro-poor policy.

Engagement with policy-makers and implementers and service providers

The first point of engagement came during the Inception Visit through discussions with the DDG Fisheries ICAR and the Fisheries Commissioner of the Government of India. An important prerequisite for transacting policy change is recognition of the need for change. That policy change (including poverty alleviation involving aquaculture) is an appropriate way forward has been highlighted by recent research and development in aquaculture in India (DFID NRSP Research, 1996-2000, DFID EIRFP, 1996-2002), by the Government of India (Committee of High Level Experts, 2000-01), by the UK (Blair, 2002) and other governments, and more broadly by the international community (NACA/FAO Aquamillenium Conference, 2001).

Despite considerable economic growth and reduction in the numbers of people below the poverty line in India, the situation has not substantially improved for the poorest groups, including tribal populations, as the programmes intended to help poor people have not been effectively implemented. Huge sums have been invested in anti-poverty programmes involving subsidies. Far less effort has gone into empowering people to contribute to policy change processes, to give recipients of service provision a voice and to help them to realise their rights.

One mechanism for change at the national level is the five-year planning process of the GOI. The Inception Visit negotiated a slot in the 10th Five-Year Plan with Dr Nair, the Fisheries Commissioner. The Commissioner said that there are many programmes for tribal groups under different schemes. However, he stressed that in spite of efforts, the aquaculture development needs of tribal groups were not being adequately addressed. In the (new) Tenth Five-Year Plan (April 2002-07), some 24 schemes are to be reduced down to four or five umbrella schemes. There are special concessions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and in the northeastern region (due to topography and soil resulting in higher pond construction costs); for example, higher subsidies are available. We discussed the timeframe and mechanisms for linking in with the planning process. The process began about two years ago and takes the form of a broad outline, discussion by the Planning Commission, and discussion over the budget with the Finance Ministry. The Commissioner suggested that we might play a role in recommending reforms to the FFDA scheme or suggest a new ‘tribal’ rainfed fish farming component. He suggested there were pros and cons to each but showed some preference for the latter. Given the state of the current planning process, he thought we might be able to launch such a component in 2004. He then suggested elements of our potential input to that process, including interactive seminars and consultations that might lead to recommendations as to whether a new scheme or components of a new scheme would be most relevant. He asked if we knew from work to-date if we were able to describe policy concerns and constraints, and if so, could these be presented to him to enable a slot to be created within the Tenth Plan. Such a submission would also indicate further directions necessary and more in-depth data and information to be gathered. In return, the
Commissioner sent a Ministry of Agriculture memo (31035/4/2000 FY(3)) to state-level stakeholders and encouraged them to become involved in the policy review process, thus showing national support.

The engagement process throughout the project comprised carefully-facilitated multi-lingual meetings and workshops to promote national multi-level stakeholder discussions of modes and priorities for policy change. Understanding was built about the process of transacting policy and institutional change, highlighting lessons learnt from elsewhere, defining priorities for change and developing indicators which demonstrate progress towards change. The project engaged with policy-makers and implementers so as to stimulate debate and moves towards policy change. A semi-anonymous Consensus-building Process (CBP) was used by policy actors to prioritise changes proposed by a broad range of stakeholders. A Policy Review Workshop was the culmination of this effort within the current project period, with strong commitment to change articulated and a plan for ministerial-level policy debate and a process for change at national and state levels defined.

The engagement schedule involving different players at different levels took account of people’s working schedules and government schedules to optimise the potential for people to play a role in the process. By all means, stakeholders were encouraged to participate in as many project activities as possible. The locations of recipient workshops and policy-makers’ events were selected to maximise participation by all stakeholders.

The project final report and annexes were formally received and reviewed by the GOI in August 2003. Meetings were held over two days at the Joint Secretary’s Office at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi with Mr P K Pattanaik, Joint Secretary GOI; Dr M K R Nair, Fisheries Commissioner GOI; Dr D P S Chauhan, Deputy Fisheries Commissioner GOI; Mr R P Mathur, Fisheries Officer GOI; Dr S Ayyappan, DDG Fisheries, ICAR; Mr Amar Prasad, CEO, GVT; Mr J S Gangwar, Additional CEO, GVT; Dr Graham Haylor, STREAM Director; Dr S D Tripathi, Consultant; and Mr William Savage, STREAM Communications Specialist.

Mr Pattanaik briefly highlighted the mechanisms for policy change based on the project recommendations and the Joint Secretary (Fisheries) mentioned that some recommendations could already be developed in the form of small changes to existing ways of working.

Mr Pattanaik emphasized that extending the length of the pond lease period for cooperatives and self-help groups was extremely necessary and timely and should be a key discussion point with state government officials. He hoped it could be passed into state policy. A good water leasing policy involving cooperatives and self-help groups and others was fundamental to provide confidence to invest and develop. He also said that a good mechanism for organizing and working with Self-Help Groups – an approach that he agreed with strongly – could be under the umbrella of the FFDA scheme.

The Joint Secretary said that at the moment communications are rather weak and he welcomed the proposal to develop a communications strategy and the STREAM Communications Hub. He said that none of us know where communications and communication tools will lead next and, by way of example, that Kerala fishers were now using mobile phones as a ‘safety device’. He also welcomed the concept to link financial products and other service provision for aquaculture into a single-point under-one-roof provision of services based on the realization that the necessary role of bringing together each of the elements of aquaculture service provision currently falls to farmers. He used the term ‘Aquashops’ that Dr Ayyappan had coined at the previous day’s meeting. He relayed that the new Managing Director of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Dinash Rai, was an advocate for fisheries development and that NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) would be comforted by having ‘grassroots institutions’ like Self-Help Groups to work with.
Engagement with recipients of services

For service recipients to engage with both the project and policy processes generally is especially challenging. As eloquently highlighted by Dreze and Sen (2002), lack of voice of disadvantaged groups is a particular issue in Indian society and politics. For example, the interests of so-called scheduled tribes (8% of the population) have received extraordinarily little attention in Indian politics. Large sections of the population have limited opportunity to speak for themselves. The daily struggle for survival leaves them with little leisure to engage in political activity, and the effort so to do sometimes invites physical repression. Lack of formal education and access to information restricts their ability to intervene in public discussion and electoral debate or to make effective use of the media, the courts and other democratic institutions. These are the reasons underlying the current efforts towards engagement and debate.

Through R8100, film, drama and written case study materials helped to give recipients of service provision a voice in the policy review process and wide-ranging multi-lingual workshops brought together stakeholders. A semi-anonymous process for consensus-building used on the ground allowed the facilitators to explain, distribute information and collect responses.

However, as we consider the research learning that has gone on, legitimate questions arise about the costs for participants of transacting policy change and of having a voice in policy change processes. Time has been given up to making videos and attending meetings and workshops in various locations. This is time away from business, from jobs and from a range of activities associated with livelihoods and families. These are real costs not borne lightly by stakeholders.

The project underlined at the outset that travel and subsistence costs would always be covered but that substantial development assistance was not part of the proposed interaction. More, that it was an experiment in advocacy and the gains may be intangible or could be positive or even negative. To help to get this message across, the project presented case study partners with a STREAM T-shirt, saying this is the only tangible output that we can guarantee from association with the project. The response, apart from laughter, was often heartfelt. Key community motivators, like Bhim Nayak and Ras Behari Baraik (see project annexes for the roles played by different actors), said that they work for change constantly and do not expect benefits to come easily. Bhim Nayak said he was willing to throw in his efforts with ours, and that “we would all see where things ended”.

As mentioned, the ‘discourse gaps’ between policy-makers, service providers and recipients are large, so that opportunities for engagement are limited. With respect to engagement in aquaculture policy and change processes, as well as in other fields, there could be said to be three key ways out of voicelessness for the recipients of service provision and the subjects of policy. One is especially tough and the other two grow only from trust and mutual respect, but are anyway undependable, and all have potentially large transaction costs.

The first is assertion (self-assertion) such as that practiced by Bhim Nayak – the tough one as characterised by Dreze and Sen (2002) above.

The second is solidarity (by outsiders, with people who are underprivileged) – some form of uncomfortable dependency upon people whose interests and commitments are in some way broadly linked, often temporally, but who are better placed by virtue of their own privileges (e.g., formal education, access to media, economic resources, political connections). Examples in this project are Ashish Kumar, the FFDA CEO for Ranchi District (see Annex VII), or even STREAM itself. Solidarity is undependable because the motivations of outsiders will always be different from concerned communities. The argument might go that we join forces against those who deprive Fulwar Toli fishers of voice (see Case Study 1 on the project CD, which is reported also in Annex VII), we contrive a vested interest by throwing in our professional credibility, about which we care, and play our hand with the fishers in support of them and our own (contrived) vested interest.
The third would be assertion and solidarity. Solidarity works best when the assertion element is quite strong, not representing others but supporting them to represent themselves – the facilitated advocacy of Haylor and Savage (2002). Although this is potentially the most effective, according to Dreze and Sen (2002) solidarity often coexists with significantly different perspectives amongst concerned parties. As described in Annex XI, a significant lesson is the value of trust and mutual respect.

Clearly there may also be some immediate favorable changes to the livelihoods of some stakeholders associated with the transaction, representing local developmental impact. A number of these are highlighted in Annex XI. They include reduced transactional costs of interacting with service providers. For example, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of Fisheries as well as Fisheries Extension Workers have regularly visited case study communities during the project. Following on from this, this season one small pond has been leased to the fishers at Bundu Block, in the name of case study partner Bhim Nayak. It is planned that, with the income from aquaculture, two further ponds will be leased from the government. Case study partners and workshop participants Bhim Nayak and Ras Behari Baraik have been sponsored by the Fisheries Department of Jharkhand to receive training from the ICAR Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture, bringing the potential for individual and community benefits.

5. Research Activities

Research activities are summarised in Figure 2. The bracketed numbers in the boxes in this figure refer to the logframe activities detailed in section 10. These activities are described in specific publications assembled in twelve annexes. The research activities were proposed in the original logframe and modified in response to discussions during the Inception Visit (see Annex I). The research activity schedule was amended following the Recipients and Implementers Workshop when State-level Workshops were included in the process (see Annex II). The logframe and research activity schedule were again amended following feedback from the Stakeholders Workshop (see Annex IV). All of the planned activities were achieved and included strong engagement with recipients, policy-makers and implementers.

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4 Annexes I-XII are the equivalent of FTR Annex A
Figure 2 Research Activities
6. Environmental Assessment

6.1 What significant environmental impacts resulted from the research activities (both positive and negative)?

The project was essentially a learning and opinion-collection activity to inform the development of pro-poor policy and rural services for sustainable aquaculture development. As a policy tool, this offers the potential for minimising significant negative environmental impacts and may provide a mechanism for continued dialogue with poorer stakeholders on local environmental issues.

6.2 What will be the potentially significant environmental impacts (both positive and negative) of widespread dissemination and application of research findings?

Widespread dissemination of the findings and the process could facilitate greater dialogue and inclusion of poor stakeholders in sustainable practices.

6.3 Has there been evidence during the project’s life of what is described in section 6.2 and how were these impacts detected and monitored?

One case study highlights the issue of site selection in the development of appropriate sustainable aquaculture and this was picked up as a key recommendation for policy and institutional change with significant environmental implications.

6.4 What follow up action, if any, is recommended?

See section 7.

7. Contribution of Outputs

The outputs achieved are contributing to the development and promotion of efficient systems for the provision of rural services to poor people. The understanding developed amongst project participants of the current context of rural aquaculture service provision for specific groups of poor people has highlighted constraints to the delivery of services essential to the livelihoods of poor people. The inclusive process and building of relationships between farmers and fishers, state- and national-level government and NGO actors has given poor people a voice in policy processes that affect their lives. The facilitation of a diversity of voices and the mediating of policy review and debate amongst stakeholder groups – through carefully selected and developed media (film and live drama) and processes such as semi-anonymous, iterative consensus-building – represent tools for understanding contexts, mediating transaction processes and engagement in policy change. The training needs of key individuals featured in project case studies are being supported by DOF officials. Mr Ras Behari Baraik and Mr Bhim Nayak will receive fully-funded training places at the ICAR Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture, which they have already indicated they will accept. The Fisheries Department have leased ponds to groups featured in the project. The Joint Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has agreed to review the project outputs and present these to the GOI Secretary and Minister for consideration of the current policy change approach. The Deputy Director General of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research has agreed to fund further case study work in collaboration with STREAM, and to promote the process of transacting policy change and lessons learnt amongst state and national Planning Commissions, and to facilitate further guiding input from STREAM into these processes.
The understanding developed is captured on a CD (distributed in draft version to 50 participants of the PRW), with a user-friendly interface using a range of media, from films, to a live street-play, to PDF files of reports and other documents (STREAM, 2003), and will form the basis of an academic paper to be submitted to the *World Development* journal.
The overall success and impact of this project depends on its ability to build and sustain relationships through which to fulfil outputs 1 and 2 within a group of policy actors in order to influence policy change through the processes and products developed. The PRW was the culmination of this effort within the current project period and resulted in the articulation of a strong commitment to change and definition of a plan for ministerial-level policy debate and a process for change at national and state levels.

A key issue will be to continue to keep the processes and products developed in support of policy change before the planners at state and national levels. It is probable that, with continued promotion of these tools, understanding and engagement (including at the state level), behavioural change among end-users in target institutions will give rise to cost-efficient delivery systems for the provision of services. Continued support by NRSP, in partnership with STREAM and other stakeholders, would be likely to see this achievement after a further two years.

Specifically, in order to increase the impact of the policy change recommendations, it will be beneficial to continue nurturing the policy-relevant sensitisation that R8100 has achieved such that policy-level stakeholders are supported to continue the process of pro-poor policy formulation. Some specific follow-up actions and suggested next steps, related to proposed Government of India policy change events, that emerged from the Policy Review Workshop are highlighted in Annex X (p 28-29). These will be likely to require preparation and promotion of some additional products, including policy briefs for use at both national and state levels. The briefs could serve as guides to the more detailed policy-related studies the project has already documented in various media forms.

There would also be a need for a continued process of engagement through promotional follow-up visits to the key policy stakeholders. Associated with this, it is proposed to make better use of mass media, through the development of improved communications, including engagement with the STREAM Initiative and the establishment of a STREAM Communications Hub. Communications relating to the policy change activities would form part of the role of the Communications Hub which is a mechanism for sharing knowledge nationally as well as regionally.
8. Publications and Other Communication Materials

8.1 Books and book chapters

8.2 Journal articles

8.2.1 Peer reviewed and published


8.2.2 Pending publication (in press)

8.2.3 Drafted

8.3 Institutional report series

8.4 Symposium, conference, workshop papers and posters


8.5 Newsletter articles

Haylor, G, Savage, W and Tripathi, S D 2002 When Policy Makers Begin Hearing Voices: An Article about the DFID NRSP Project in India Managed by STREAM. Aquaculture Asia 7(2).

STREAM Update Issue 3, November 2002 (English)

STREAM Update Issue 2, August 2002 (English, Khmer and Vietnamese)

STREAM Update Issue 1, May 2002 (English and Vietnamese)

8.6 Academic theses


8.7 Extension leaflets, brochures, policy briefs and posters


8.8 Manuals and guidelines

8.9 Media presentations (videos, web sited papers, TV, radio, interviews etc)

Kumar, A 2003 *Case Study: A Proactive Village – In Support of Aquaculture for Poor and Scheduled Caste Groups (Jharkhand)* (10-minute film documentary).

Kumar, A 2003 *Case Study: A Successful Tribal Farmer Conducting Aquaculture (Jharkhand)* (10-minute film documentary).

Tripathi, S D 2003 *Case Study: Recipients’ Experiences of Services Provided by NGOs in Support of Aquaculture for Poor and Tribal Groups (West Bengal)* (15-minute film documentary).


STREAM 2003 CD-ROM containing all project files, films and PowerPoints.

8.10 Project reports and data records

8.10.1 Citation for the project Final Technical Report (FTR)

STREAM 2003 Investigating Improved Policy on Aquaculture Service Provision to Poor People, DFID NRSP Research Project R8100 March 2002-May 2003. ISBN 974-7313-63-4 (Box set of 12 reports and one CD)

8.10.2 Project technical reports including project internal workshop papers and proceedings


Kumar, A 2002a *Case Study: A Successful Tribal Farmer Conducting Aquaculture (Jharkhand)*. R8100 Project Report.

Kumar, A 2002b *Case Study: A Proactive Village – In Support of Aquaculture for Poor and Scheduled Caste Groups (Jharkhand)*. R8100 Project Report.


Tripathi, S D, Dutta, G and Ray, J 2002b *Recipients’ Experiences of Services Provided by NGOs in Support of Aquaculture for Poor and Tribal Groups (West Bengal)*. R8100 Project Report.

8.10.3 Literature reviews


8.10.4 Scoping studies

8.10.5 Datasets, software applications

Consensus-building Process responses dataset from national and state government officials in Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal (Excel spreadsheet).

8.10.6 Project web site and/or other project related web addresses

http://www.streaminitiative.org/Library/India/india.html
http://www.streaminitiative.org/countries/India.html
9. References Cited in the Report, Sections 1-7


Blair, A 2002 British Prime Minister’s speech to the Confederation of Indian Industry in Bangalore on 5 January 2002.


STREAM 2003 A CD containing all files, videos, PowerPoints.

## 10. Project Logframe

**Logframe (Revised 10-02-03)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrative Summary</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)</th>
<th>Means of Verification (MOV)</th>
<th>Important Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficient systems for the provision of rural services to poor people, developed and promoted</td>
<td>By 2003, knowledge constraints to the delivery of rural services essential to the livelihoods of poor people, identified and disseminated. By 2005, cost-efficient delivery systems for the provision of agricultural services (including marketing, market infrastructure, input supply, mechanisation, storage, financing) adopted by target institutions in two targeted countries.</td>
<td>Dissemination outputs</td>
<td>Enabling environment exists. Budgets and programmes of target institutions are sufficient and well managed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanisms for the delivery of improved rural services critical to the development of rural livelihoods identified, tested and promoted, with emphasis on services in support of aquaculture objectives, strengths and constraints of marginalized groups and their complex diverse livelihoods.</td>
<td>By 2003, through case studies in which the participation of service recipients and implementers of support are carefully facilitated, opportunities to improve the delivery of aquaculture support services for scheduled castes and tribes by government (including opportunities to improve research for these groups by ICAR and decentralized development through national-local government Fish Farmers Development Agencies) and non-government (including GVT) actors, taking account of the role for aquaculture in their livelihoods, identified and articulated to key policy actors. By 2003, priorities for institutional change to ensure cost-efficient delivery systems for the provision of aquaculture support services targeting scheduled castes and tribes (including financing, input supply, information-sharing) agreed by target institutions in India (ICAR, DOF/FFDAAs, others including GVT) through presentation and discussion of Case Studies of service provision, using a Consensus-building Process. By 2003, policy change promoted by key actors within the government system based on multi-level consensus on modes and priorities for policy change.</td>
<td>Minutes of ICAR meeting Minutes of GVT Board meeting Policy Review Workshop Report</td>
<td>“Emerging Indicators of Progress Towards Transacting Policy Change” NRSP impact assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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5 Text in bold italic print indicate project “products” as currently envisioned.
Logframe (Revised 10-02-03) (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrative Summary</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Understanding developed of current context of rural aquaculture service provision for specific groups of poor people</td>
<td>By August 2002, a process and specific geographic locations agreed for Case Studies and recommendations for change from recipients of service provision in tribal areas of at least two states</td>
<td>Planning Visit Report detailing proposed case studies</td>
<td>Planning Visit can take place and agreement is reached about Case Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By March 2003, understanding built of the strengths, resource use priorities and constraints of farmers and fishers described through media (such as videos, PowerPoints and photos) and paper drafted to document case studies of recipients’ perspectives for national multi-level stakeholders discussion of modes and priorities for policy change</td>
<td>State-level Workshops Report detailing recommendations for change</td>
<td>Case Studies completed successfully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stakeholder Workshop Report with “Emerging Indicators of Progress Towards Transacting Policy Change”</td>
<td>Stakeholders Workshop proceeds successfully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Understanding developed of processes whereby technical and institutional changes can be transacted to engender policy change that can give rise to rural aquaculture services that are inclusive of specific groups of poor people</td>
<td>By January 2003, “lessons learnt from elsewhere” compiled for stakeholder consideration in the context of rural aquaculture development</td>
<td>Lessons Learnt Report</td>
<td>Lessons are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By January 2003, indicators of progress towards transacting policy change agreed with key stakeholders</td>
<td>State-level Workshops Report and Stakeholders Workshop Report detailing indicators and the process of generating these Consensus-building Process Report showing recipient, implementer and project suggestions for change incorporated</td>
<td>Workshops proceed successfully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By April 2003, priorities for policy change agreed by key actors through national multi-level stakeholders discussion of modes and priorities for policy change using a Consensus-building Process</td>
<td>Policy Change – Lessons Learnt about Process and Progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By May 2003, paper drafted to document the transaction process and lessons learnt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Logframe (Revised 10-02-03) (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outputs (continued)</td>
<td>By April 2003, recommendations formulated for scaling-up (policy, infrastructural, institutional, and funding) which highlight how policies in support of tribal and other disadvantaged groups can be enhanced to better support the livelihoods of those target groups with contributions and support, and indicative endorsement provided by key policy actors</td>
<td>Policy Review Workshop Report documenting process, policy change recommendations and commitment to these from policy-makers</td>
<td>Policy Review Workshop proceeds successfully Key policy-makers attend and respond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By May 2003, portfolio of multi-media products including project reports, Case Studies (as papers, videos, PowerPoints, photos), a Street-play written, rehearsed and available for live and recorded performance, highlighting policy change issues and a paper drafted to document the progress toward policy change and lessons learnt</td>
<td>Project Reports, Case Studies, Street-play, Policy Change – Lessons Learnt about Process and Progress</td>
<td>Tasks successfully completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Draft paper for publication in appropriate journal documenting the process</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Logframe (Revised 10-02-03) (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrative Summary</th>
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<th>Important Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Inception Visit to Mumbai, Delhi and Ranchi (Jharkhand)</td>
<td>By May 2002, Inception Report recommending any changes to the proposed logframe</td>
<td></td>
<td>Inception Report with revised logframe and report of progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Recipients and Implementers Workshop to define plan, mechanisms and indicators for the assessment of rural aquaculture services</td>
<td>By May 2002, recipients play a role in defining the services and support they need</td>
<td>Recipients and Implementers Workshop Report detailing agreed plan, mechanisms and indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Case studies in tribal areas highlighting service provision from recipients’ viewpoints, and eliciting recommendations for change (in Jharkhand, in collaboration with GVT and FFDAs, facilitated so that service recipients “can be given space to explain how it is for them”, using a variety of media and local languages)</td>
<td>By March 2003, feedback from recipients and implementers effectively communicated through Case Studies and change recommendations</td>
<td>Case Studies, “Emerging Indicators of Progress Towards Transacting Policy Change”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 “Lessons learnt from elsewhere” compiled of the ways whereby technical and institutional changes can be transacted to engender policy change that can give rise to rural aquaculture services that are inclusive of specific groups of poor people.

2.2 Conduct a process characterized by anonymity of responses and iterative and controlled feedback, with representatives of key stakeholder groups, to arrive at a consensus on “modes and priorities for policy change”.

2.3 Stakeholders Workshop to agree indicators for assessing progress in the process of transacting institutional and technical change.

2.4 Draft document on the transaction process and lessons learnt.

### Narrative Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities (continued)</th>
<th>Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)</th>
<th>Means of Verification (MOV)</th>
<th>Important Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 “Lessons learnt from elsewhere” compiled of the ways whereby technical and......</td>
<td>From May 2002-February 2003, conduct a study of lessons learnt, as an input for activity 3.2</td>
<td>Lessons Learnt Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Conduct a process characterized by anonymity of responses and iterative and......</td>
<td>From February-April 2003, conduct a Consensus-building Process</td>
<td>Consensus-building Process Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Stakeholders Workshop to agree indicators for assessing progress in the process of transacting institutional and technical change</td>
<td>By February 2003, Stakeholders Workshop Report detailing indicators</td>
<td>Stakeholders Workshop Report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Draft document on the transaction process and lessons learnt</td>
<td>By May 2003, draft document completed</td>
<td>Policy Change – Lessons Learnt about Process and Progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Prepare briefing materials and plan Policy Review Workshop and based on deliverables from activities 2.1, 1.3 and 2.2</td>
<td>By April 2003, distribute briefing materials to Policy Review Workshop participants</td>
<td>Briefing Package</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Hold Policy Review Workshop</td>
<td>By April 2003, Policy Review Workshop shows Case Studies, Street-play, and debates options for policy change with policy-makers</td>
<td>Policy Review Workshop Report documenting process, policy change recommendations and commitment to these from policy-makers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Document process and progress towards policy change and lessons learnt</td>
<td>By May 2003, portfolio of multi-media products including reports, Case Studies (as papers, videos, PowerPoints and photos), a Street-play written, rehearsed and available for live and recorded performance highlighting policy change issues, and a paper drafted to document the progress toward policy change and lessons learnt</td>
<td>Project Reports, Case Studies, Street-play, Policy Change – Lessons Learnt about Process and Progress Draft paper for publication in appropriate journal documenting the process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Keywords

Policy change, Influencing policy, Engagement, Transacting change, Current context, Marginalized groups, Aquaculture, Rural livelihoods

12. Annexes

Annexes I-XII have been produced as a box file containing twelve reports, a contents table and a CD containing PDF files of each of the project reports, PowerPoint presentations, film documentaries and a film version of the street-play Mahajal – The Big Fishing Net.