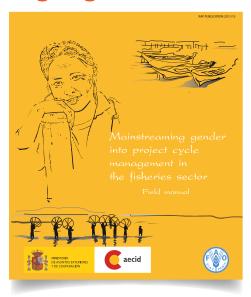






# Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP)

### Highlights



### Mainstreaming gender in the fisheries sector

The largely 'invisible' role of women in small-scale fisheries must be addressed if actions aimed at improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishers and their families are to be successful. As part of its efforts to help promote gender equity to improve fisheries livelihoods, RFLP has developed a field handbook that gives guidance on taking gender into account in all phases of small-scale fisheries development projects.

The handbook provides:

- An overview of the rationale, concepts and approaches concerning mainstreaming gender equality in development cooperation;
- An overview of the role of women in the fisheries sector, the problems they face and possible empowerment opportunities;
- Tools for gender analysis in fisheries development projects and guidance on how to integrate gender aspects at various stages in the project cycle.

To download or browse the publication in e-magazine-format see: www.rflp.org/mainstreaming\_gender

### **Success story**

### Measuring progress ...in millimeters

Progress can be measured in a variety of ways, yet for 49-year-old Filipino boatbuilder Manuel Antipaso, it is a matter of millimeters.

Following training provided by RFLP, the small-boat maker from Zamboanga del Norte province is now able to work confidently in the metric system and make conversions from feet and inches.

Most of the local boat builders never went to school and do most of their work 'uwido,' which in the local Visayan language means 'by ear'. Coupled with never having learned the metric system of measurement, errors could occur when working to plans provided by customers and government standards were not always met.

"When a buyer requires certain specifications in millimeters, say 2,000 mm in bow length, I can now easily measure it. Before, I had difficulty figuring out such a measurement



and ended up using inches. The result was that I would have a significant shortfall in the total measurement of the boat's dimension,' said Manuel.

For more see: http://www.rflp.org/Philippines\_boat\_success



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## Fisheries Associations established in Viet Nam's Quang Tri province

The recent establishment of Fisheries Associations (FA) in Viet Nam's Quang Tri province, supported by RFLP, marks an important milestone towards the more effective management of marine resources in the area. The local FAs are the first of their kind to be set up in the province. A Provincial Fisheries Association (PFA) was also established to coordinate and provide support to the activities of the local FAs.



"This is the start of a long process to empower communities and better manage coastal resources. We hope these Fisheries Associations can act as an example and can be replicated elsewhere in Viet Nam." Jose Parajua, RFLP Regional Programme Manager

For more see: www.rflp.org/co\_management

### Coastal Resource and Fisheries Management plans drafted in ZDN

RFLP engaged Zamboanga del Norte's 11 local government units (LGUs) and other fisheries stakeholders in Coastal Resource and Fisheries Management (CRFM) Planning 'Writeshops' in Dapitan and Dipolog cities and Liloy town recently. 93 participants, of whom 35 were women, actively pushed their pencils during three days of sessions to systematically commence formulating their respective five-year city/municipal CRFM plans.

By end of August 2011, LGU participants were expected to complete their respective CRFM plans and present them to a multi-stakeholder assembly. Importantly the CRFM plans include gender mainstreaming initiatives.



### **Understanding Timor-Leste's fisheries laws**

One of the main problems facing fisheries officials in Timor-Leste is actually being able to understand the laws they are supposed to enforce.

Timor-Leste's fisheries legislation was written originally in Portuguese, which although one of the country's official languages is not always widely spoken. It was then translated into the local Tetum language. However as there are no Tetum words to describe certain concepts a number of terms remained in Portuguese or were directly (and not very clearly) translated.

To help overcome this obstacle, RFLP is working with local NGO Empreza Di'ak to produce a Tetum glossary of concepts included in current Timor-Leste fisheries law. This will be available shortly.

An RFLP workshop held 25-26 July saw staff of the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA) work with Empreza Di'ak to discuss the glossary while also making officials more aware of their role and responsibilities.

"This glossary is very clear technically and legally and will be helpful for our staff when they are explaining the law to fishers in the districts." Mr. Lourenco dos Reis Amaral, Interim National Director for Fisheries

For more see: www.rflp.org/timor\_leste





### Improved boat design introduced in Cambodia

RFLP has introduced a more stable fishing boat design and worked to improve boat building skills to help reduce the vulnerability of coastal fishers.

Hands-on training saw members of Community Fisheries and local boat builders construct a 12 meter timber boat to a new and safer design developed by an FAO Naval Architect.

Coached by veteran boat builder Mike Savins, the trainees put a variety of new skills into practice including how to select quality timber as well as lofting, the cutting of timber to reduce wastage and joining timber in a newly developed system that can utilize predominantly straight timber.

The new design is not only more stable but will last longer and in the long term will use less timber resources.

During the training a video was made detailing the steps taken in constructing the improved 12-meter boat design. A step-by-step manual is also being produced to detail the process. Both of these will be available on this website shortly.

For more information and to download the new boat design plans see: www.rflp.org/safety\_at\_sea

"I previously used only a single keel and never thought about using two keels. I realize that a simple technique like this can make a big difference for boat stability and safety." Mr. Ly Sovann, a boat builder from Prek Sangke, Preah Sihanouk province

## Viet Nam fishers receive boat master training

Some 520 fishers in Viet Nam's Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue provinces have received boat master training through RFLP. The training sought to provide them with the skills and official authorization necessary for operating fishing vessels as required by a new government regulation. At the end of the course, trainees sat an exam in order to be issued with an official

license as required by the government.

Nguyen Song Ha, RFLP National Project Coordinator in Viet Nam said, "This training has not only helped fishers satisfy government requirements but also refreshed their essential skills. Small-scale fishers are now better prepared to cope with natural disasters and

accidents at sea."



For more see: www.rflp.org/vietnam

### **Sri Lankan fishers receive safety equipment**

Over 150 small-scale fishers in Sri Lanka's Puttalam district will benefit from safety equipment distributed by the RFLP. The equipment included GPS systems, life rings, first aid kits, life jackets and VHF radios which was handed over to fishers at a ceremony held on 22 July at the Coastal Environmental Centre in Kandakuliya, Puttalam District.

In addition to providing safety equipment, RFLP has also delivered a comprehensive series of training sessions for over 800 small-scale fishers on topics including first aid, survival at sea, safe diving, fire fighting and out-board engine repair.

"RFLP has enhanced our knowledge about safety at sea, helping give us a timely change to our conservative attitudes." Camilus Perera, a small-scale fisher

For more see: www.rflp.org/sri\_lanka



### Agreements enhance fishers' livelihoods

RFLP has entered into partnerships with a number of groups that will benefit small and vulnerable fishing communities in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province.

At a ceremony held in Zamboanga City 3 August, agreements were signed between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (which is implementing RFLP) and the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Science and Technology, Katipunan Rural Bank, Sindangan FACOMA Multipurpose Cooperative, and the Microfinance Council of the Philippines. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, RFLP's main partner in the Philippines was also a signatory.

The agreements will see the various organizations carry out a wide range of activities aimed at improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishers in Zamboanga del Norte.

"A key element of these agreements is for activities to be integrated into the regular capacity building programmes of the partner organizations. This will ensure sustainability while helping spread the impact to other

parts of the Philippines, beyond Zamboanga del Norte province where RFLP operates." Jose Parajua, Regional Programme Manager of RFLP

For more see: www.rflp.org/philippines



## RFLP/ILO EAST vocational training recognized in NTT

The Governor of Indonesia's Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Province recognised the efforts of alumni from vocational training activities carried out by RFLP and the ILO EAST project when he visited the NTT Province Development Exhibition in August.

Governor Mr Frans Lebu Raya visited the RFLP stand and had the chance to see some of the products produced by 24 of the alumni.

He expressed his support for the RFLP and ILO EAST's efforts to provide vocational training for unemployed youth. "Youth empowerment is an additional value that will contribute significantly to the welfare of fisher families" he said.

One of the alumni has already tasted success having received an order from the government's Trade and Industry Agency for 20 fibre glass rubbish bins. A large order for cold boxes is also pending.

For more see: www.rflp.org/indonesia





# Women and fishers draft Philippines business plans

RFLP has worked in collaboration with the Philippines' Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), women leaders and fishers to draft business plans for livelihoods activities to be supported by RFLP.

Forty two participants actively participated in a five-day writeshop held in Dipolog City, 22-26 August that saw business plans drafted for the first 15 livelihood projects identified for programme support.

These include seaweed production; fish poly-culture; seaweed drying services/seaweed cracker production; salt-making; hollow blocks/pavers making; sewing; shrimp paste; charcoal briquette; dried fish; bottled Spanish sardines; vending of fishing supplies for small-scale hook and line fishers; and sailboats and souvenir boats.

For more see: www.rflp.org/philippines

"At the end of the five days, we wanted to see sound business plans for potential business projects proposed by RFLP beneficiaries." RFLP National Consultant on Livelihoods Paz Christi Moneva.

# Processed products draw crowds at NTT Expo

More than 20 seaweed and processed fish products produced by coastal communities that had received RFLP training and support, drew the crowds at the Nusa Tenggara Timur Province (NTT) development exhibition in Kupang 12 – 27 August.

The Governor of NTT Province, Frans Lebu Raya accompanied by his wife and government officials was impressed after tasting some of the products.



The governor's wife, Lusia Adinda Lebu Raya, who is also the chairperson of the women's branch of the provincial employees' organization (Dharma Wanita), was especially impressed that the majority of the RFLP-supported processors were women and housewives groups.

"This is a great initiative that both empowers women's groups and generates income for coastal communities." Lusia Adinda Lebu Raya

For more see: www.rflp.org/ post\_harvest

### Timor-Leste communities learn processing skills

Timor-Leste has abundant marine resources yet many coastal communities lack the

basic skills necessary to make best use of the resources on their 'doorsteps'. Recognizing this potential, RFLP is supporting the National Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA) to conduct a series of fish and seaweed processing training sessions.

The training has improved participants' ability to handle and process fish in a hygienic manner while introducing basic fish and seaweed processing skills



to make a variety of quality food products for sale or home-consumption. Food products covered by the training included fried fish, fish balls, fish sticks, dried seaweed and agaragar.

For more see: www.rflp.org/timor\_leste

"I think this training is very good, because I have seaweed and fish but I never process them. I never attended any training like this before but now I know how to make fish balls, dried fish and other products." Ms. Mafalda Ribeiro Correia, a training participant from Lequisa

### Food processing skills passed on in Viet Nam

Income generating options for Vietnamese communities will be boosted following training of trainers (TOT) training provided by the RFLP covering food processing, marketing and small business management. 24 provincal, district and commune level staff from the Women's Union and Farmers' Associations as well as selected community members took part in training held 5-16 September at Cao Thang Vocational High school, Hue City. It is expected that after attending the training, participants will be able to provide similar training at the community level for local micro enterprises working in food processing.



For more see: www.rflp.org/viet-nam

"This kind of training is very useful for the fishing communities which are earning very little extra income through food processing. If they are aware of the importance of food safety and cost-benefit calculations they will be able to earn more."

Ms Quynh, Phong Dien district Farmers' Association (Thua Thien Hue)

# Financial literacy training filters down to small-scale fishers in Viet Nam

Small-scale fishers in Viet Nam's Thua Thien Hue, Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces are being helped to learn basic financial skills, skills which could improve their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerability.

The training is the result of RFLP's regional and national approach to increasing access to micro-finance for small scale fishers.

A survey carried out for RFLP in 2010 by the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) identified basic financial literacy training as a practical measure RFLP could conduct to assist fishers in all of its countries.



As a result, RFLP teamed up with the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) in June 2011 to provide financial literacy training to micro-finance consultants and bank staff from most of the countries where RFLP works.

Staff from the Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Vietnam Bank for Social Policies who attended the financial literacy training then adapted what they had learned to the local Vietnamese context and passed on these skills at a 'training of trainers' session in August. Participants will then go on to organized financial literacy training in each province for District and Commune level staff of their organizations.

"This is a good example of how a regional programme such as RFLP can enhance the impact of its activities. We have identified issues common to participating countries and maximized the reach of subsequent training by involving participants who can adapt the lessons and materials for local use." RFLP's Regional Programme Manger Jose Parajua

## Micro-finance providers keen to support Philippines' fisheries

Micro-finance institutions in Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province are enthusiastic to support the credit needs of small-scale fishers working with the RFLP which they consider a good market for micro-finance services.

Officers and managers from banks, microfinance institutions, government agencies and cooperatives met in a two-day workshop organized by RFLP 15-16 August in Dipolog City. They actively exchanged strategies on how to assist the financing needs of the sector and improve the livelihoods of fishers.

"RFLP has opened an opportunity for rural banks and MFIs to develop or enhance new products suitable to the needs of every fishers' project." Julie Daan, Remedial Head of Banco Dipolog

For more see: www.rflp.org/access\_to\_micro\_finance

### Gender

### Quang Tri fishers gain gender awareness

Fishers and their families in Viet Nam's Quang Tri province are more aware of the important roles played by both women and men in fishing communities following training provided by RFLP in collaboration with the Provincial Women's Union.

Training took place in all five communes in which RFLP operates in the province with some 450 community members participating in all. Training covered basic concepts of gender and sex, gender prejudice and stereotypes, gender roles as well as the practical and strategic needs of men and women in the context of fishing communities.

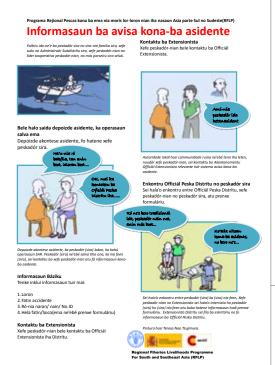
For more see: www.rflp.org/vietnam

"Activities organized by the Women's Union are typically regarded as 'women's business' however, thanks to good collaboration between the Women's Union and Farmers Association, the men also came and were interested enough to keep coming to the sessions." RFLP's Gender Focal Point in Viet Nam Phoung Thao



## Reporting accidents at sea – Tetum

RFLP has produced a Tetum-langauge leaflet explaining to fishing communities how to report accidents at sea. It can be downloaded at www.rflp.org/safety at sea



### RFLP news in Bahasa

RFLP in Indonesia has produced the first edition of a Bahasa language newsletter providing information about RFLP's activities. Produced every two months the newsletter is being distributed as a hard copy to stakeholders in NTT province as well as further afield. To join the distribution list please contact virgi.fatmawati@fao.org or download at www.rflp.org/indonesia



### RFLP in the news

An interview with RFLP Regional Programme Manger Jose Parajua was carried by Spain's Economist magazine in July.



#### **About RFLP**

The Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP) sets out to strengthen capacity among participating small-scale fishing communities and their supporting institutions in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. By doing so the RFLP seeks to improve the livelihoods of fisher folk and their families while fostering more sustainable fisheries resources management practices. The four-year (2009 – 2013) programme is funded by the Kingdom of Spain and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) working in close collaboration with national authorities in participating countries.

#### Contact us

Should you have any feedback, comments or suggestions on any of RFLP's activities please contact the information officer steve.needham@fao.org