

## THAILAND STATUS REPORT 25 AUGUST 2005

### Coordination:

A regional fisheries consortium has been established in collaboration with relevant regional organizations for the coordination of a fisheries and livelihood recovery programme. FAO Regional Office in Bangkok organized three regional workshops to enhance collaboration and coordination, as well as identify a strategic framework for the medium- and long-term tsunami rehabilitation in the region.

### Fisheries:

In the fisheries sector, FAO assisted the Government's efforts to re-establish sustainable fishery activities, rehabilitate affected/damaged areas and restore fisheries-based livelihoods. More specifically, fishers would be able to resume fish production for nutrition and income-earning in the most affected provinces of southern Thailand, thereby reducing dependency on food assistance and reducing their vulnerability to financial crisis. FAO has assisted over 1 800 beneficiaries through the distribution of 800 fish cages, 180 000 fish fingerlings, and 18 000 fish traps (crab, squid and fish traps).

### Agriculture:

Many of the poor farming communities in the affected regions lost their crops, livestock and production assets. Subsequently, their means to support their way of living and immediate food needs of their families were unlikely to be met without assistance.

The intrusion of sea water due to the tsunami and resulting soil salinity affected a range of crops such as grasses (important for livestock), vegetables, young oil palm, rubber seedlings, rambutan, and mangosteen. The crops died within three to four weeks after sea water intrusion. FAO procured 247 tonnes of gypsum (natural calcium sulphate), for distribution to farmers. By applying gypsum, the soil structure would improve and thereby drainage to facilitate the leaching of salts from the rooting zone. 15 000 fruit seedlings (coconut, oil palm and cashew) were also distributed to farmers and to improve soil quality, 599 tonnes of organic fertilizer was procured to improve the soil organic content and offset the effects of salinity. Distribution of 50 tonnes of animal feed and 15 000 pieces of mineral blocks for cattle, buffalo and sheep was also carried out. FAO is targeting over 1 300 farmers to help them resume agriculture activities.

### Forestry:

An in-depth assessment of mangroves and other coastal forests affected by the tsunami in Southern Thailand (project worth US\$220 000) began in early July and project details are currently being further developed.