

October 1995



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación



# CONFERENCE

## Twenty-eighth Session

Rome, 20 October - 2 November 1995

### PRESENTATION OF THE B.R. SEN AWARDS (1994 and 1995)

1. The B.R. Sen Award was established in pursuance of Resolution 33/67 of the Fourteenth Session of the Conference, as a permanent feature. The Award, which is conferred annually, is named after a former Director-General of FAO, Mr B.R. Sen, and is directed towards the goals he served. Any officer who has served in a field post in any of the activities of FAO in the year for which the Award is made is eligible for nomination. The recipient of the Award must have a minimum of two years' continuous service in the field and must have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country or countries to which he/she was assigned. This contribution must be clearly identifiable; it may take the form of technical innovations in agriculture, fisheries or forestry; institutional or development support improvements; discoveries of new resources as a result of surveys or other investigations; establishment of training and research institutions.
2. The elements of the Award are:
  - i) a medal bearing the name of the recipient;
  - ii) a scroll describing the achievements of the recipient;
  - iii) a cash award of US\$5 000;
  - iv) round-trip travel to Rome for the recipient and spouse.

### SELECTION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

3. The B.R. Sen Award Review Committee, comprising the Deputy Director-General, as Chairman, the Assistant Directors-General at Headquarters, and the Directors of the Field Operations Division and the Personnel Division, reviews nominations received from Regional Representatives, FAO Representatives and Department Heads, and establishes a short-list. The final selection of the award recipients is made by the Director-General, jointly with the Independent Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the Programme and the Finance Committees, from the short-list drawn up by the Review Committee supplemented by the views of the governments where the nominees are serving or have served.

## CONFERMENT OF AWARDS

4. The Awards are conferred by the Chairman of the Conference at a special ceremony during the first week of each regular session of the FAO Conference. At the Twenty-eighth Session of the Conference, the presentation ceremony will be held for the 1994 and 1995 Award winners.
5. For 1994, the recipient of the Award is Mr S. Etoh of Japan. For 1995, the recipient of the Award is Mr R. Samanez-Mercado of Brazil. Brief notes on the two recipients and on their achievements are given below.

### MR SEIICHI ETOH

Mr Seiichi Etoh, a Japanese national, was born in 1941. He graduated from the Simonoseki University of Fisheries in 1963 with a B.Sc. in Fish Processing and Marketing.

Mr Etoh's first professional appointment was as Technical Chief in a Japanese canning factory handling the processing and quality control of tuna, mackerel and sardines, as well as developing new products and conducting marketing trials, economic analyses and feasibility studies.

From 1966 to 1971 he served as a volunteer, posted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a Fish Processing and Marketing Expert, to assist the Government of Kenya on how best to improve the quality of locally-produced dried and smoked fish, including responsibility for the related staff-training and extension programmes for fish-marketing expansion.

With this practical background Mr Etoh was recruited by FAO in 1972 as a Fish Processing and Marketing Expert, serving first in Somalia where he helped organize fishermen's cooperatives in villages newly established along the coast for the resettlement of drought-stricken nomads, as well as the training of selected staff and leaders in appropriate fish-handling, processing and distribution techniques. Then in Sri Lanka from 1978 onwards he carried out specialized training for government quality control inspectors, plus technological research on fish-handling and quality control procedures with regard to new products and possible market outlets.

He was transferred to Bangladesh in 1984 where he was first called upon to organize the effective utilization of fish by-catch for human consumption, under government and private sector initiatives to develop the commercialization of new products, but then in 1986 he was given the responsibility as Team Leader of a follow-up project to help the same government set up two fish/shrimp quality control laboratories for export oriented products. Upon the completion of this project in 1987 he transferred to Ethiopia as Team Leader of the complex project for the rehabilitation of Red Sea Fisheries, based in Assab. Upon interruption of the latter in 1991 he undertook a series of shorter consultancy missions for FAO to the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Myanmar and to Sierra Leone, including a period as Project Operations Officer in FAO Headquarters, Rome.

With this particular experience and impressive performance he was then selected at the beginning of 1993 as FAO's Chief Technical Advisor/Senior Fisheries Development Advisor in Massawa, Eritrea, assigned to the government-executed, UNDP-financed project "ERI/92/001 - Fisheries Rehabilitation in Semhar Province", working also with the closely related UNCDF-assisted project "Marine Fish Marketing Development", as well as with an increasing number of other bilateral-supported activities in the sea fisheries sector.

This most recent, and indeed ongoing, task is based on the fact that during the last decade, fishing along the sea coast of Eritrea has been carried out only at the subsistence level, although the



fish stocks represent one of the country's few natural resources that has significant potential for development. Therefore the new government has given certain priority to rapid but sustainable development of this sector, and has initiated the above-mentioned projects, with support from various UN agencies, including technical assistance and advice from FAO, which has been focused through Mr Etoh.

He has responded promptly and energetically to requests from the Ministry of Marine Resources, on a wide range of advice on practical matters of fisheries planning, development and management, as well as on the fishermen's cooperatives, for instance regarding appropriate institutional mechanisms for their involvement in the development and management of the fisheries. He has trained government staff and senior cooperative members on the formation, operation and management of effective fishery cooperative societies, the privatization of fish marketing, and on the promotion of fish consumption. He has also introduced technical innovations in most aspects of the fisheries sector, and has, for instance, with his team of international staff, initiated exploratory fishing aimed at identifying the best resources for rehabilitation of the sector, and provided essential help in the reconstruction of infrastructural facilities.

Through his own intense personal effort, professionalism and leadership Mr Etoh has effectively delivered a major contribution by FAO to building up the government's institutional and technical capacity to fulfil its overall programme for the sustainable rehabilitation of the fishery sector. Achievements in the first three years already include: a doubling of the number of full-time fishermen to 400; the establishment and regular operations of 20 fishermen's cooperatives; and the establishment of operational fish-marketing systems in Assab, Massawa and Asmara, which is enabling substantial increases in the supply of fish as part of the national food security programme.

#### **DR ROBERTO SAMANEZ-MERCADO**

Dr Samanez was born in Arequipa, Peru on 15 February 1950 as a national of Peru. His present citizenship is Brazilian. He holds a B.Sc. Degree in Forestry and in Economics of Engineering and Industrial Management, both from the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Natural Resource Economics from the Michigan State University, USA.

Dr Samanez has over 20 years' experience in natural resource macro- and micro-economics, forestry planning, marketing of natural resources, natural resource development strategies, and development of energy projects taking into consideration the environmental component as a top priority. He has published over 50 papers, technical reports, books, reports on consultancies, many of them on forestry, natural resource economics and policy, environment and energy.

From 1974 to 1990, Dr Samanez was Professor of Natural Resource Economics, Problems of Forestry-related Industry, and Natural Resource Planning, at the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro, where he also served as Assistant to the Chief of the Silviculture Department, Assistant to the Director of the Forestry Institute, and Dean of Finance of the University. He was at the same time a visiting professor and advisor to the Federal University of Paraná and the University of Sao Paulo, as well as the National Amazon Research Institute (INPA, Manaus). Moreover, he served for nine years as a Level I researcher of the National Research Council of Brazil (CNPq).

For five years in the 70s, he was Advisor to the Departments of Forestry Economics and Industrialization and Marketing of Forest Products in the Brazilian Institute of Forest Development (now IBAMA) where he was responsible for the work of planning and implementation of overall and sectorial policies at the national level, especially for sawmills, pulp and paper industries, biomass energy, rural development, conservation, etc. Most of this work emphasized problems of development in the tropics, mainly in the Amazon region.

Besides the academic positions held in several universities, he was Head of the Environmental Department of a private company Engevix Engenharia S.A. from 1986 to 1990. He directly supervised over 80 employees, 50 of whom were university graduates. The company had 3 000 employees working exclusively in consultancies for infrastructure and development projects, particularly those involving hydroelectric power and biomass energy, with participation in projects such as TUCURUI, CARAJAS and POLONOROESTE in the Brazilian Amazon.

Dr Samanez was a consultant for, among others, the International Trade Centre, specializing in the development of international markets for primary products from the People's Republic of Angola. He also worked as a consultant for the World Bank Economic Development Institute, to develop programmes regarding participation in international seminars on regional development, energy policy and environment and elaboration of the Amazon biodiversity policy.

In 1989, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty requested FAO's technical assistance, whereby the Director-General approved a project of support to the Treaty and Dr Roberto Samanez-Mercado was designated Chief Technical Advisor for this project. FAO's assistance to strengthen the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat, led by Dr Samanez, has progressed through the Technical Cooperation Programme and the FAO/Netherlands Government Cooperation Programme, and is planned to continue for another three years through the latter programme.

Dr Samanez' input in preparing the strategy for the ACT's Special Commission on the Environment (CEMAA), the formulation of its programmes and priority projects, as well as in its approval and adaptation to all the six special commissions of the Treaty, has been instrumental. Under his supervision, technical support has been provided to the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat in the execution and coordination of the workplans, especially in the areas of conservation, rational use and sustainable development of renewable natural resources and preservation of the Amazonian environment.

Finally, thanks to the action of Dr Samanez, regional programmes and projects of a multidisciplinary nature have been completed in priority areas established by the member countries, as well as proposals prepared for complementary programmes and projects of regional scope in FAO's fields of competence to contribute to the sustainable development of the Amazon region.