

BOBP/REP/65

Learning by Doing in Bangladesh

— Extension systems development for coastal and estuarine fisherfolk communities



BOBP

For Fisheries Development

BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME

LEARNING BY DOING IN BANGLADESH
— Extension Systems Development
for Coastal and Estuarine Fisherfolk Communities

by

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This report describes the process, achievements and learnings of a subproject which set out to learn by doing pilot extension activities, and give direction to the development of a fisheries extension service aimed at the coastal and estuarine small-scale fisherfolk of Bangladesh. The subproject was cleared by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) in April 1989 and was initiated in the two target districts of Borguna and Patuakhali in July 1989. Along the way, the UNFPA proposed a component aimed specifically at enabling the development of women in fishing communities. However, the main phase of the activity could not be funded by UNFPA, and a scaled-down version was incorporated into the subproject in July 1991 by the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP). The main component of the subproject, consisting of 19 pilot activities, came to an end in December 1992 and the women's activities came to an end in September 1993.

The Bangladesh Department of Fisheries (DOF) was responsible for the execution of the subproject. BOBP provided technical assistance, expertise, training inputs, support for training, grants to establish revolving funds for enterprise development, equipment and monitoring. The training was designed and coordinated by Mr. Md. Shahid Hossain Talukder and provided by a group of Bangladeshi trainers drawn from various nongovernmental organizations.

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) is a multiagency regional fisheries programme which covers seven countries around the Bay of Bengal — Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Programme plays a catalytic and consultative role: it develops, demonstrates and promotes new technologies, methodologies and ideas to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk communities in member countries. The BOBP is sponsored by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom, and also by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). The main executing agency is the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

This document is a technical report and has not been cleared by the FAO or the Government of Bangladesh.

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Fig. 1. Project area, Bangladesh

