

## ***The making of this CD-ROM***

***By Y S Yadava***

Encapsulating into a single pair of CD-ROMs the entire print output of 21 years of the BOBP has been a remarkable challenge. Way back in 1979, when the Programme started, few would have visualized a digital archive of BOBP's publications. This slim CD-ROM – a virtual treasure-chest of data and knowledge – is a little marvel of information technology.

BOBP's documents are a mixed bag. Old and new. Colour and black and white. Some have stunning photographs, complex diagrams and charts or both, others are plain text. Some are printed on art paper, some on map litho, some on handmade paper. Together, they are a kaleidoscopic record of two decades of work in seven member-countries in many fisheries and development disciplines: technology, socio-economics, resources, extension, education, biology, management, documentation.

Development of this CD-ROM has been a painstaking exercise involving three main steps:

- Scanning all the documents
- Carrying out Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
- Adding navigational and search facilities within and across the documents.

In the process of capturing information from such varied material, running to more than 20 000 pages in all, there were inevitable glitches – OCR mistakes, misalignment, flawed font reproduction. Any error-proof method? Yes, if we reproduced the CD-ROMs as images rather than as fully searchable documents. But then, we would have to give you about half a dozen CD-ROMs to encapsulate all of BOBP's work, not just two. So we chose the more practical option, despite the possibility of an error here and there, for which we request your understanding. [Please do let us know](#) about any errors you notice.

## ***The people behind this CD-ROM***

A word of thanks to the many people who made this CD-ROM possible.

- My predecessor at BOBP, Dr Kee-Chai Chong, who gave this project its initial impetus.
- Mr Rathin Roy, Communication Adviser, who proposed the idea of a CD-ROM on BOBP
- Mr S R Madhu, Information Consultant, who provided editorial inputs and liaised with the CD-ROM creator, Capt Ravikumar, through most of the production.
- Artists E Amalore and S Jayaraj, who helped jazz up the production as only artists can.
- Ms Cheryl Verghese, who provided cheerful secretarial assistance through all those long hours.
- Capt R Ravikumar, whose company Lock-a-Doc did all the technical work. True experts make difficult things look simple, and that's certainly true of Capt Ravikumar.
- Decision-makers at the Natural Resources Institute, UK, and Mr Duncan King of the Department of International Development (DFID), who readily agreed to share the costs of the CD-ROM with BOBP, thus lightening our financial burden.
- Mr Venkatesh Salagrama (ex-DFID), who promptly sent us from Kakinada any DFID publications our library didn't have.
- The FAO headquarters in Rome, the FAO regional office in Bangkok (particularly Mr Janne Fogelgren), and the FAO office in New Delhi --who backed us with advice and support whenever we needed them.
- Our contacts in the seven member-countries and outside, who constantly encouraged us with their praise, enthusiasm, and support.

Happy browsing!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jayaraj', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is slanted and written in a cursive style.

Chennai, May 18, 2001