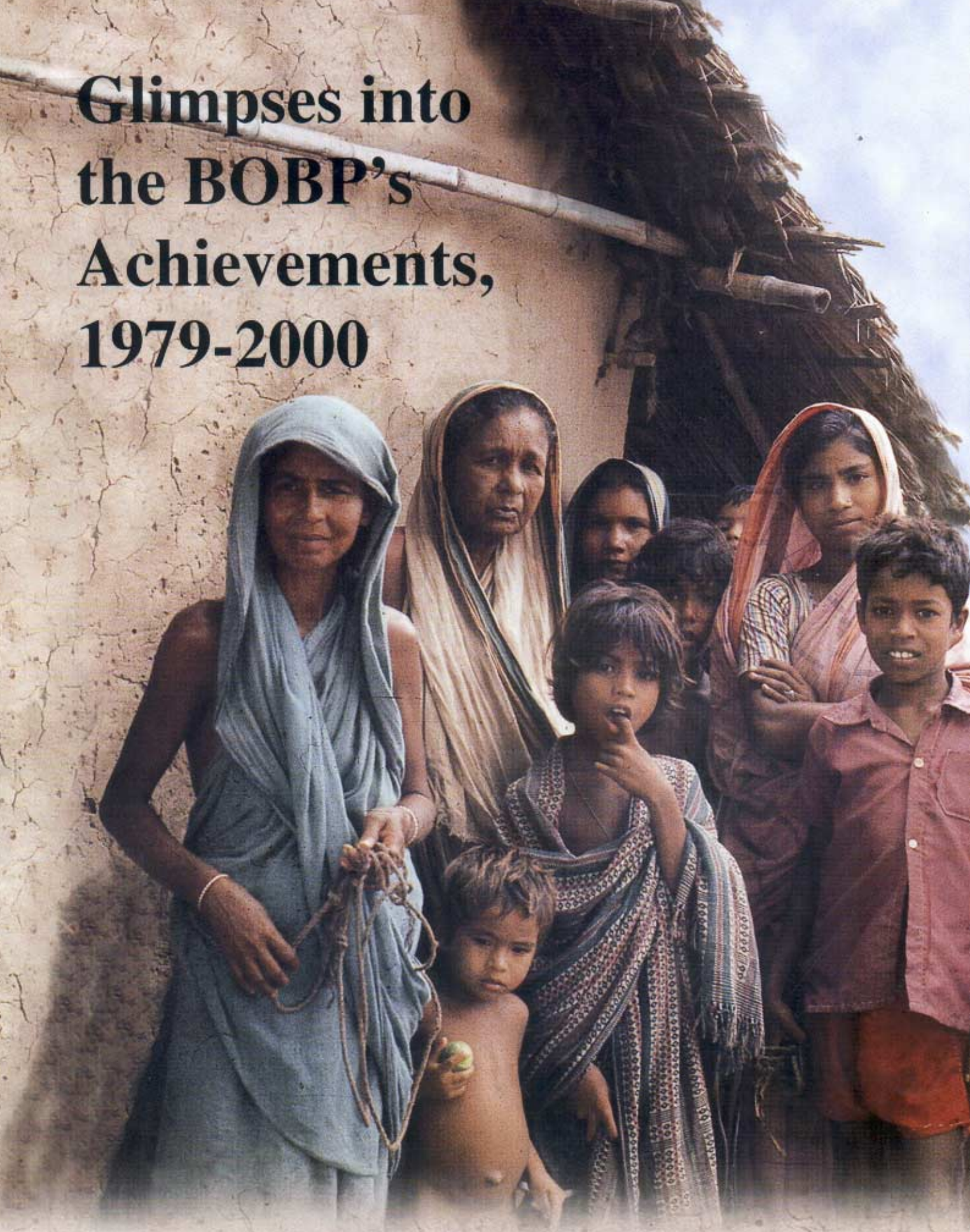
Glimpses into the BOBP's Achievements, 1979-2000



BOBP
For Fisheries Management
BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME

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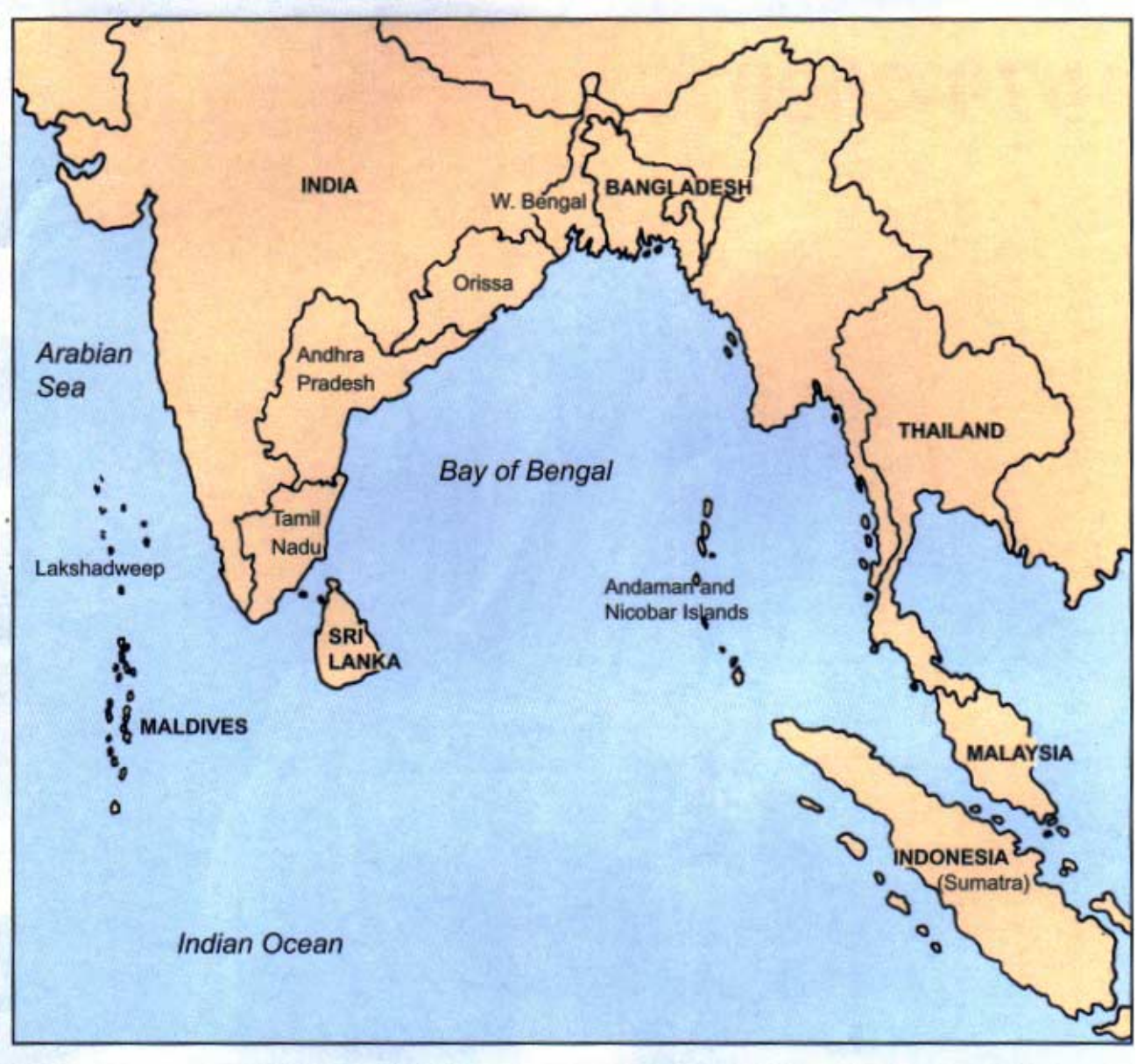
INDIA
W. Bengal
BANGLADESH
Orissa
Arabian Sea
Andhra Pradesh
THAILAND
Bay of Bengal
Tamil Nadu
Lakshadweep
Andaman and Nicobar Islands
SRI LANKA
MALDIVES
MALAYSIA
INDONESIA
(Sumatra)
Indian Ocean

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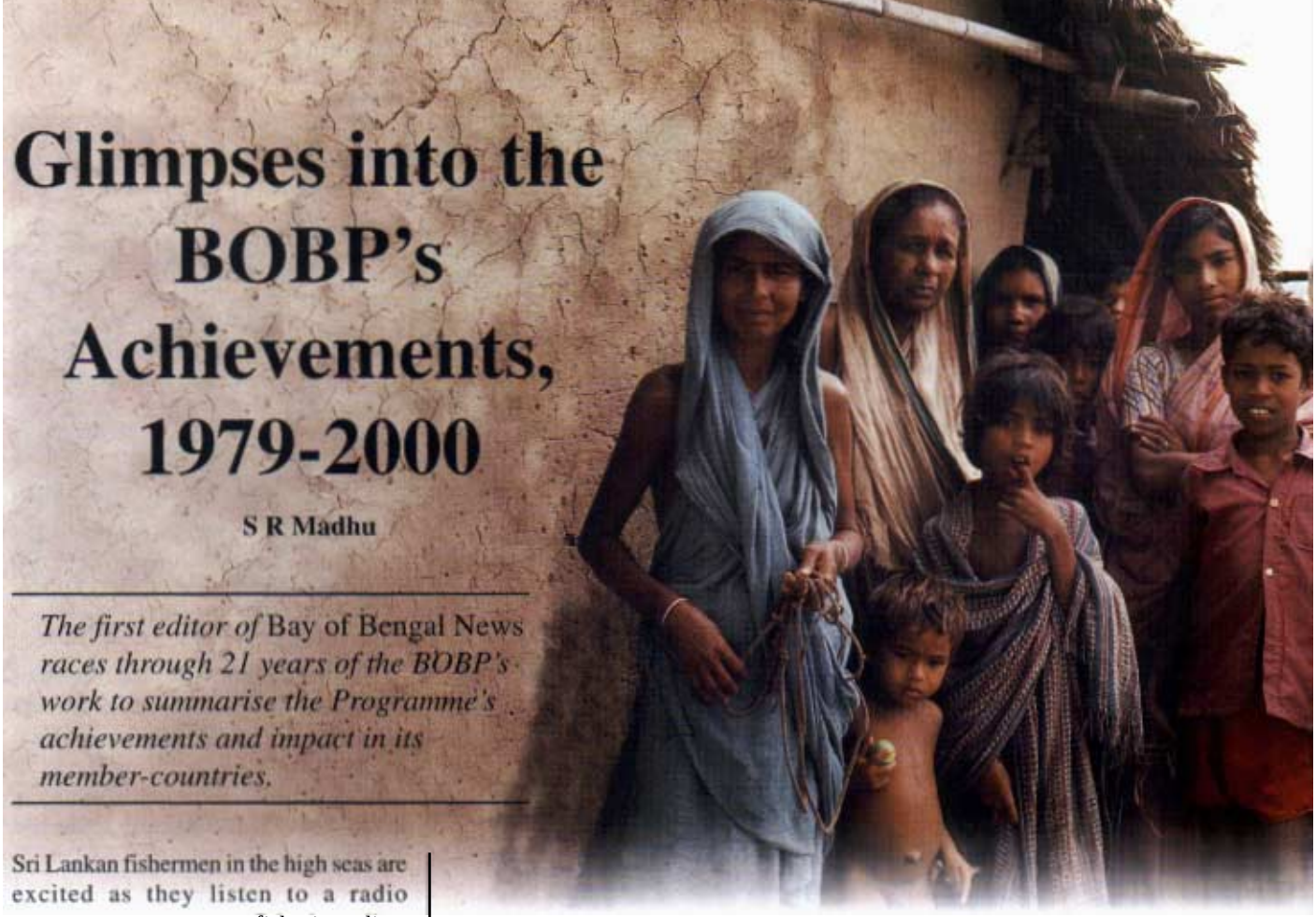
Glimpses into the BOBP's Achievements, 1979-2000

S R Madhu

The first editor of Bay of Bengal News *races through 21 years of the BOBP's work to summarise the Programme's achievements and impact in its member-countries.*



Sri Lankan fishermen in the high seas are excited as they listen to a radio announcement on a new fisheries policy. Bankers, fisheries extension officers and fisherfolk of Orissa, India, come together at a unique workshop to develop mechanisms for providing credit to small-scale fisherfolk. Bangladesh fishery officials investigate damage to resources by push nets. Officials and scientists are trained in tuna stock assessment in Maldives. Experts and officials work with fishermen in Phang Nga Bay, Thailand, to install artificial reefs and carry out mangrove reforestation. Experts probe the underwater bio-diversity of the Pulau Payar Marine Park, Malaysia. Fishermen in Sumatra, Indonesia, attend a training course on small-scale entrepreneurship.

The diverse activities described above have one feature in common. They are pilot small-scale fisheries activities initiated or organised by the FAO-executed Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) at various times during the past 21 years, in close co-operation with fisherfolk and national or local governments in seven countries – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

The BOBP started in 1979 to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk in seven member-countries. The Programme's approach was catalytic and consultative: pilot activities to introduce new innovations, technologies or methodologies. Replication on a wide scale to touch large masses of fisherfolk was envisaged as the responsibility of national or local governments and NGOs, with the BOBP sometimes providing support for such replication.

The BOBP is still around, after the birth of the second millennium, and may soon be seen in a new form – as an Inter-Government Organization (IGO). It may therefore be useful, in this issue of *Bay of Bengal News,* to race through what BOBP did in its last 21-year existence.

Can a single sentence capture the BOBP legacy? Yes, statistically. Three phases; many donors; transfer of several useful technologies that touched and helped thousands of fisherfolk; hundreds of officials and scientists enriched with new ideas and concepts; several hundred workshops, training courses, seminars and consultations; some 275 technical reports, 70 issues of the informative and pictorial quarterly *Bay of Bengal News,* 13 issues of *PHF News,* some two dozen audio-visuals and video films, a library housing a few thousand books, reports and journals plus 25000 color slides and 5 000 negative wallets; a pair of CD-ROMs encapsulating the entire print output.

Some facts about the many donors of BOBP over the years. The Programme's first phase (1979-1986) was funded by Sweden, the second (1987-1994) by Sweden and Denmark, the third (1994-1999) by Denmark and Japan. Besides, several individual projects under the BOBP umbrella attracted special funding. A project on post-harvest fisheries (1987-1998) was executed and funded by the UK. The UNDP funded a four-year project on marine fishery resource assessment (1983-1986) as well as a project on bio-economics of small-scale fisheries (1991-1993). In 1986-1987, the National Swedish Board of Fisheries funded a wide range of activities on "People's participation and small-scale fisherfolk development" which culminated in a regional seminar and a booklet. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), under its SIDA-supported Global Programme for Protection of the Marine Environment, funded a project (1988-1993) to combat pollution in fishery harbours. The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) supported training activities during 1990-1992. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) sponsored the preparatory phase of a project "Improvement of living conditions of fisherwomen and their families."

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The Swedish Centre for Coastal Development and Management of Aquatic Resources (SWEDMAR), with funds from SIDA, assessed environmental hazards to fisheries through a two-year project(1991-1992). A few FAO/TCP projects have been carried out in member-countries. Finally, member-governments of BOBP have been making financial contributions to the BOBP toward the Programme's Information Service.

The First Phase : Introduction of New Technologies

At the time of the first phase (1979-1986), small-scale fisheries development meant technologies to raise catches and incomes. During this period, the Programme, initiated several innovations with small-scale fishing craft, fishing gear and aquaculture. At the same time, many studies and workshops grappled with socio-economic issues among fishing communities, particularly women. The subjects included credit, non-formal education, income-generation activities and micro-enterprises for fisherfolk.

In India, the Programme engaged the best international expertise to research, design, develop, test and recommend beachcraft that were safer, sturdier and more powerful than traditional boats. Many designs and 14 prototypes were made and tested. One of the craft, the IND-20, proved very effective in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, improved access to new resources such as shark and large pelagics, and over the years induced enterprising fishermen of Andhra Pradesh to modify their traditional *nava.* Considerable work to improve the traditional *oru*, develop small-sized multi-day boats for offshore fisheries and introduce improvements to traditional gear (to either raise productivity or lower cost) was done in Sri Lanka. In Phang Nga Bay, Thailand, a combination of sound culture technology and active fisherfolkparticipation led to sensational success: the seabass cage culture introduced by the Programme spread like an epidemic, from 16 villages of one province to six provinces of southern Thailand.

Several interesting aquaculture activities were carried out in Malaysia. These included the culture of shrimp (at Ban Merbok), cockles and seaweed. (The pioneering work in seaweed culture, Malaysia, generated ideas that helped implement a seaweed culture project in Mandapam, Tamil Nadu, during the second phase). Pilot activities in shrimp culture were also implemented in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Fisherfolkcommunities in Sri Lanka (above), Bangladesh (previouspage) and other member-countries have interacted closely with BOBP

During the early years of the BOBP, little information was available about resources. A regional stock assessment consultation held in Bangladesh in 1980 led to three hugely popular papers (see page 19). The UNDP-funded marine resources project (January 1983-December 1986) strengthened knowledge of fish stocks — such as the hilsa *(Ilisha tenualosa)* of Bangladesh; the tuna resources of Sri Lanka and Maldives; the scad and mackerel resources of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in the Malacca Strait; and the tuna resources of Thailand and Indonesia in the Andaman Sea. The project undertook computerisation of data processing and stock assessment in the region. It trained national biologists to develop the ability to improve sampling techniques, identify and collect data, and analyse and interpret the results. It conducted 19 training courses and workshops and brought out 15 publications.

Socio-economic issues during the First Phase

The socio-economic issues studied by BOBP during the first phase, and the resulting documentation, attracted wide interest within and outside the Bay of Bengal region. One of the early classics of BOBP literature, "Three fishing villages in Tamil Nadu: a socio-economic study with special reference to the role and status of women" (BOBP/WP/14), was a detailed statistical and analytical

Severalfishing technology activities to improvefishing craft and gear were carried out in Sri Lanka during the BOBP'sfirst and secondphases

investigation. A 1981 consultation in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on "Development of activities for improvement of coastal fishing families" generated several useful ideas.

Many activities to improve the status and participation of fisherwomen in development followed. Training courses and women's self-help groups and loan schemes were initiated in India, and training for alternative income-generation activities was carried out in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These activities and their reports created a women-friendly image that has stood the BOBP well.

An extension training project undertaken by BOBP for a dozen young fisheries extension officers of Orissa led to many significant activities in that state. The most noteworthy was the well-documented credit project for fisherfolk in Orissa — an inevitable case-study topic even today at seminars in any part of the world on credit for the rural poor. Another project concerned non-formal education for fisherfolk children of Orissa, and the development and publication of pictorial booklets for them.

Non-formal education for adult fisherfolk was the subject of an outstanding project in Tamil Nadu. Following a couple of workshops and many pilot exercises in fishing villages, two special illustrated booklets — the "Trainer's Manual" and the "Animator's Guide" – were developed by BOBP. These two books inspired similar manuals for rural populations in general, prepared by the Government of India with UNICEF assistance. More than 40 booklets for fisherfolk and animators were also prepared in Tamil under the project.

The Second Phase (1987-1994)

The second phase of BOBP, which began in 1987, continued the activities of the first phase, with a stronger orientation than before on fisherfolk communities. New projects included radio programmes for fisherfolk in Sri Lanka; integrated extension services in Ranong province, Thailand (culture of oyster, mussel and shrimp, along with health care, non-formal education and women's amelioration); development of fisheries extension services in Bangladesh and Maldives; a one-year bio-economic and sociological study of *kattumaram* communities in Kothapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India; training for small enterprise development in Langkat district, Indonesia; introduction of new outrigger canoes in Indonesia and Sri Lanka; oyster culture in Malaysia; development of comic books on fishery resources in India; a regional workshop on fisheries extension in Indonesia; promotion of Rapid Rural Appraisals (RRAs) as an extension tool throughout the region; a fish market for fisherwomen in Tamil Nadu, India; development support for NGOs in India. Activities on fishing technology continued. During the first two phases, as many as 48 reports and working papers were published by the BOBP on fishing craft, gear, engines and propulsion devices in member-countries.

BOBP's Three Directors

1979-1994	**Mr** Lars Engvall (Sweden)
1994-2000	Dr Kee-Chai Chong (Malaysia)
2000-	Dr Y S Yadava (India)

In the area of fisheries resources, many studies on bio-socio-economics were initiated in 1991. The idea was to improve the catches and earnings of fisherfolk, and simultaneously ensure sound management through better resource knowledge and understanding, as well as the participation of fisherfolk in management. The project carried out bio-socio-economic assessments of fish aggregating devices in the tuna fishery in the Maldives; small pelagics along the southwest coast of Sri Lanka; the estuarine set bagnet in Bangladesh; artificial reef installations jn Ranong Province, Thailand; fishing for shrimp in Kuala Septang, Malaysia; and fishing for shrimp in Langkat district, Sumatra, Indonesia. Training in bio-socio-economic assessment was also done. Two offbeat publications related to resources were the lively and well-researched comic books "Our shrimp, their lives" and "Our fish, our wealth".

Several post-harvest fisheries activities were carried out in India, Bangladesh and Sn Lanka (1987-1998) through a project executed and funded by the UK under the BOBP umbrella through the ODA (Overseas Development Administration), later renamed DFID (Department for International Development). The project sought better handling, processing and marketing of fish: some specific objectives were to reduce post-harvest losses, enhance fish utilization, and add value to fish and fishery products.

Under the post-harvest fisheries project, insulated fish boxes aboard the *navas* of Andhra Pradesh were developed and demonstrated; they were meant to improve quality and fetch better prices for fish. A permanent on-shore ice box was demonstrated in Kanniyakumari; low-cost drying racks for anchovies were introduced in Kanniyakumari. A new prototype fish container for fisherwomen, more hygienic, cost-

The conduct of Rapid Rural Appraisals (RRA) was introduced throughout the region as a valuable participatory tool in rural development

Glimpses into activities of the first two phases

1. Fourteen prototypes of beachianding craft were designed, developed and constructed for India's surf-beaten coasts. The IND-20 (shown here under sail) was the most successful. It boosted fishermen catches and incomes in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. In AP, fishermen modified the Nava to include features of IND-20, India.

2. Women from fishing communities benefited from tile many activities in Orissa, India beachcraft development, credit for fisherfolk, non-formal education for fisherfolk children. Extension methodologies, fishing technology and aquaculture were the focus of activities in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

3. The fisheries extension service in Bangladesh was strengthened through RRAs, workshops and training courses. Motorization of traditional craft, fishing gear development, shrimpculture, and stock assessment and training were among other activities.

4. In Indonesia, small-scale enterprises by men and women from the fishing community were encouraged, plank-built outrigger canoes were introduced, and stock assessment training carried out.

5. In Malaysia, the focus of work was on aquaculture and resource assessment and training. Seaweed and cockle culture were tried out during the first phase and oyster culture during the second.

6. Special radio programmes were introduced for fisherfolk in Sri Lanka. They were strengthened with the help of a consultant from the UK. Activities relating to boat development for offshore fishing, improvement of traditional boats and gear; shrimp culture, women's amelioration and stock assessment were implemented.

7. An integrated extension project in Ranong province, Thailand included culture of oyster, mussel and shrimp, health care, non-formal education and women activities.

8. Beach-hauling devices were introduced in the Maldives. Fishing technology, resource assessment, and extension services were the focus of BOBP's work in this archipelago.

9. Studies were conducted on alternative income-generation activities for women in Bangladesh and other member-countries.

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All photographs in this issue are from the archives ***of BOBP***

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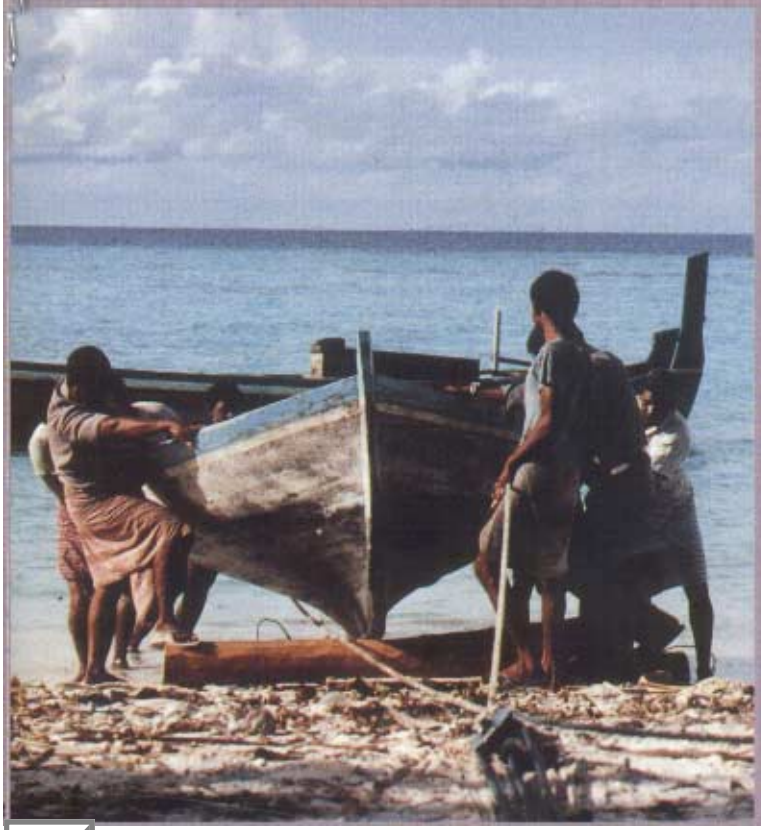

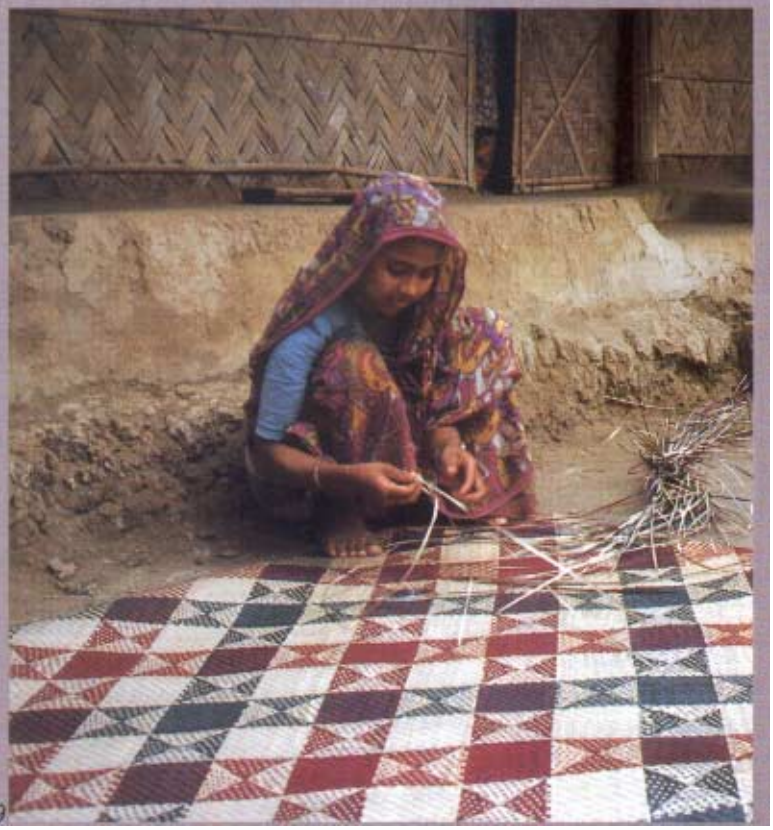

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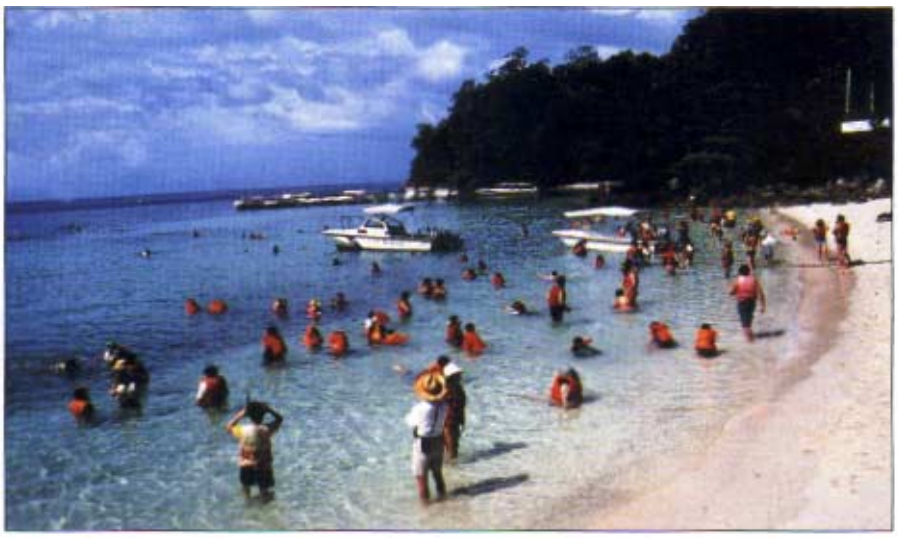

The Third Phase of BOBP was devoted to fisheries management. In Malaysia many useful lessons emerged on management of marine parks

effective and comfortable than traditional fish baskets, was designed, tested and introduced in Tamil Nadu. Studies were carried out on discard of shrimp by-catch, on indigenous development of shrimp feed, on better utilization of shark, on village-Jevel extraction of agar from seaweed. From 1995 (during the BOBP's Third Phase), the post-harvest project began publishing its own newsletter, *PHF News.* By the time it wound up in 1998, the post-harvest project had published 18 Information Bulletins, 13 issues of *PHF News,* several leaflets and a comprehensive manual of information and guidelines on post-harvest fisheries.

The interaction between fisheries and the environment was an important specialist subject during the Second Phase. It was carried out at BOBP by SWEDMAR, with funding support from SIDA. The outcome was "An environmental assessment of the Bay of Bengal region" (BOBP/REP/67), an exhaustively researched 260-page report.

Fisheries management and the Third Phase of BOBP

During the early 1990s, the small-scale fisheries scenario was changing. Countries began to notice disturbing trends — such as stagnating and even declining fish catches, reduction in average sizes of fish caught, and changes in the species composition of catches – all of them ominous signs of fisheries stocks under stress. Globally too there was increasing concern about overfishing and declining resources. The third phase of BOBP, which began late in 1994, reflected these concerns. The Programme's mandate was to enable and facilitate improved management of fisheries through awareness-building, strengthening the capacity of fisheries agencies to address management, and technical assistance.

The BOBP applied the "stakeholder approach" to fisheries management. The rationale is that legislation alone cannot ensure fisheries management; even persuasion cannot. The active co-operation of various stakeholders – fishermen, fisherwomen, the public, fish vendors, retailers, processors, wholesalers and exporters, government departments, scientists, international organizations, donors — is essential. Representatives of all the stakeholder types should then come together to discuss individual and collective problems, analyse one another's viewpoints, and come up with practical solution Options.

The stakeholder approach to management is participatory. It can be slow. But it is steady, sure and systematic. It not merely widens awareness, it narrows differences, reconciles conflicting viewpoints, facilitates solutions.

During its Third Phase, BOBP introduced the stakeholder approach to tackling an impressive diversity of fisheries management problems in the Bay of Bengal region.

In the Maldives, an Integrated Reef Resources Management programme was drawn up by the government, following a landmark first-of-its-kind national workshop in 1996, because of the need to protect reef resources, which are critical for the food and livelihood security of this archipelago. Follow-up action has been proceeding on many fronts.

- In Sri Lanka, numerous interests and groups were brought together to discuss ornamental fisheries in the island, which are vital for biodiversity and export earnings. To aid the consultation process, two parallel streams of activities was organised. One was to make available the best scientific information on ornamental fishery. Another was awareness-building on the need for management. Many activities were held under both streams. These included seminars among officials, a one-day meeting with ornamental fish divers, discussions with insurance companies about insurance plans for divers, a trade fair and seminar on ornamental fisheries, preparation of identification catalogues on ornamental fish and an elaborately researched review of the "Status and Trends of Exported Ornamental Fish Resources and their Habitats in Sri Lanka".

In Bangladesh, the problems posed by two resource-endangering but employment-intensive fisheries – the push net and the estuarine set bagnet – were examined by stakeholders at all levels. Coastal Members of Parliament were roped in for a full day's meeting for the first time to appraise them of a fisheries problem whose solution lay outside the fisheries sector. Public hearings organised by the government on the two fisheries practices led to useful suggestions to contain resource damage (pages 6-9). Alternative income-generating activities for the push-net collectors were discussed. BOBP's approach and methodology have been adopted by two international development agencies – the UNDP and the DFID – who have formulated projects on the basis of BOBP effort. In fact, UNDP formally invited BOBP to help the design process to make it participatory.

In Thailand, work done by the BOBP-supported community-based fisheries management (CBFM) project was featured in a UNDP book of "success stories" on sustainable development. CBFM has come into force in 110 fishing villages of Phang-Nga Bay where overfishing and resource stress were serious problems. Examples of the impressive package of CBFM management measures: ban on trawls and push nets within 3 km of the shoreline; construction and installation of community spawning cages; culture of finfish, oysters and mussels; voluntary surrender of resource-damaging push nets by fisherfolk in return for gillnets; installation of artificial reefs to keep

out trawlers and aggregate fish around the reefs; mangrove reforestation; sea ranching; construction of a floating pontoon on the sea; setting up of a multi-purpose community learning centre; empowerment of fisherfolk to serve as voluntary rangers to monitor fisheries and ensure compliance with management effort.

In India, training provided on the stakeholder approach has helped improve the data base on fisheries and the knowledge base on participatory training and management. Officials say that BOBP-supported training has eased implementation of other fisheries projects as well, by strengthening interaction and rapport between government extensionists and the fisherfolk. It has increased the confidence of government staff in confronting the myriad problems they face in their day-to-day work.

In Kanniyakumari district, Tamil Nadu, fisherfolk identified and prioritised their infrastructure needs as part of a pilot activity. Another project used the tool of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to produce maps of fishing intensity in Kanniyakumari district. These helped define overlaps in fishing effort by different types of fishing craft. Both activities brought different groups of fishermen together in an effort at conflict resolution.

In Andhra Pradesh, useful extension literature on shrimp culture has been published in the local language. Stakeholder consultations have led to positive ideas to overcome problems with shrimp culture — such as setting up clusters of farmers to modify the water drainage system; culture of alternative species, such as crab, and different shrimp species, such as *Penaeus indicus;* and waste treatment to reduce environmental hazards and improve management. Through another activity, a comic book produced by the Aquaculture Foundation of India with BOBP support and technical assistance provides guidelines to small-scale farmers on sustainable shrimp culture.

In West Bengal, government staff acknowledge the usefulness of PRA (participatory rural appraisal) methods introduced by BOBP, as a tool for data collection and situation analysis.

In Malaysia, a BOBP-supported project on the Pulau Payar Marine

Reef resources management was a major activity in the Maldives

Stakeholder consultation and analysis was the thrust of Third Phase work in all member-countries. Here is a meeting among stakeholders in Bangladesh

A community-based fisheries management project in Phang-Nga bay, Thailand, was very successful. Cage culture was one of the components of the project

Information generation and dissemination has been a major activity in all three phases of the BOBP The well-equipped library in Chennai has stimulated both research and pilot activities

Park, Kedah state, has led to valuable lessons for the region on the management of marine parks and marine protected areas. Thanks to the project, fishers around the park can now fish all the year round, instead of just for three months. Fish stocks seem to be increasing. The project implemented a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) for the park, and tested strategies to strengthen eco-tourism and ensure resource sustainability. The project's workshops and activities have led to useful knowledge about the "carrying capacity" of the park, about integrating land and water management, about underwater biodiversity in the Pulau Payar Park, which is a treasure house of marine wealth.

In Indonesia, problems to be addressed by BOBP were inadequate management and enforcement, resource conflicts between groups of fishermen, collection of wild seed to feed the growing mariculture industry, and pollution. BOBP adopted a two-pronged strategy: it promoted CBFM concepts at the national level, and organised several stakeholder consultations and technical inputs at the local level. A well-researched study was carried out of traditional community-based fisheries management systems in six provinces. This will soon be published. Another useful outcome of BOBP effort: a major project supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) grew out of the commu.nity-based participatory approach promoted by the BOBP. Says Indonesia's Director-General of Fisheries "BOBP can be a short-cut to us for learning from countries like Thailand and Sri Lanka." The Programme's work will help propel Indonesia's future thrust in fisheries management.

Information and the BOBP

The BOBP has kept up a rich tradition of documentation in the print and audio-visual media. The print output as of today includes 70 issues of the popular pictorial quarterly newsletter, *Bay of Bengal News;* some *275* technical reports, manuals and booklets; annual fisheries calendars illustrated with sketches, which are in perennial demand both for their elegance and their utility; and about a dozen telling posters on management issues. An elegant colour brochure on the BOBP brought Qut during the late 1980s won a national award for design and printing.

The Programe's audio-visual output includes a dozen video films, several audio-visuals and photo exhibitions. A packet of two CD-ROMs that contain the entire print output of BOBP is at an advanced stage of production. It will be replicated for wide dissemination early in 2001. This pair of CD-ROMs is eagerly awaited everywhere.

The BOBP library is an invaluable aid to research and reference. It includes fisheries literature in book, magazine and report form, including much-sought-after FAO and UN reports. The library also houses some 25 000 color slides and 5 000 negative wallets originated by the BOBP – which should constitute the biggestpictorial collection on small-scale fisheries in the region.

A major BOBP achievement relates to training and the sharing and exchange of ideas and experiences. Even some years ago, it was estimated that BOBP's training courses, workshops, seminars, and consultations at various levels had added up to several thousand man-years of training. Over the years, most senior fisheries officials of the seven member-countries have at some time or the other enriched their knowledge, skills and contacts through the BOBP.

The BOBP represents a co-operative, multi-disciplinary andtruly international endeavour. Staff and consultants of BOBP have been drawn from many countries besides the seven member-countries. These include Denmark, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, UK, USA, Canada and Singapore. They have been remarkably successful in studying and understanding the conditions and the culture and the problems of countries far different from their own, and in solving these problems.

The success of the BOBP is mainly that of its member-governments and of national institutions in each country. It is their knowledge, contacts and experiences that have enabled the BOBP's impressive record of achievement.

But the success of the BOBP is mainly that of its member-governments, the national institutions and the national staff in each country. It is they who implemented the Programme's activities. It is their knowledge of the national and local scene, their grassroots contacts and their past development experiences that enabled the Programme to carry out so many activities in member-countries with such an impressive record of success.

As pointed out in the June 2000 *Bay of Bengal News,* efforts are on to ensure that BOBP evolves into an IGO from 2001. An IGO will ensure the logical progress of the BOBP – an institution which means much to fisherfolk, officials and scientists of the region; to governments and NGOs; to regional exchange and co-operation; and to the success of sustainable fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region.

A Sampling of Major BOBP Activities, 1979-2000

Extension and Socio-Economics

- Fisherwomen's Activities in Bangladesh
- Activating Fisherwomen for Development in Tamil Nadu, India
- Credit Project for Fisherfolk, Orissa, India
- Training Programme for Marine Fisheries Extension Officers in Orissa, India
- Increasing Fisherfolk Incomes through Enterprise Development in Indonesia
- A Radio Programme for Fisherfolk in Sri Lanka
- Extension Systems Development for Fisherfolk Communities in the Maldives and Bangladesh
- Improving Marketing Conditions for Women Fish Vendors in Besant Nagar, Madras
- Status and Needs of Fisherfolk: Vaavu, Meemu and Faafu Atolls, Maldives
- Integrated Fisheries Extension Services in Ranong, Thailand
- The Fisheries and Fisherfolk of Nias Island, Indonesia
- Rapid Appraisal Methods for Coastal Communities
- Helping Fisherfolk to Help Themselves: A Study in People's Participation
- Guidelines for Fisheries Extension in the Bay of Bengal Region
- Fishermen's Cooperatives in Kerala: A Critique

Coastal Aquaculture

- Aquaculture Demonstration for Small-scale Fisheries in Phang-Nga Bay, Thailand
- Small-scale Aquaculture Development in South Thailand
- Aquaculture Demonstration Project for Shrimp and Finfish at Ban Merbok, Kedah, Malaysia
- Brackishwater Shrimp Culture Demonstration in Bangladesh
- Promotion of Small-scale Prawn Hatcheries in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
- Market Study of Tiger Shrimp Fry in West Bengal, India
- Small-scale Oyster Culture on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia
- Pen Culture of Shrimp by Fisherfolk in Killai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Growth and Mortality of the Malaysian Cockle under Commercial Culture
- Experimental Culture of Seaweeds in Penang, Malaysia
- Consultation on the Social Feasibility of Coastal Aquaculture
- Seminar on Mud Crab Culture and Trade, Surat Thani, Thailand

Fishery Resources

- Consultation on Stock Assessment for Small-scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal
- Current Knowledge of Fisheries Resources in the Shelf Area of the Bay of Bengal
- Investigations on Mackerel and Scad Resources of the Malacca Straits
- Tuna Resources in the Andaman Sea and EEZs of Maldives and Sri Lanka
- Marine Fishery Resources in the Bay of Bengal
- Hilsa Investigations in Bangladesh
- The Demersal Fisheries of Sri Lanka
- Atlas of Deep-Water Demersal Fishery Resources in the Bay of Bengal
- Fishery Statistics in the Bay of Bengal
- Biosocioeconomic Studies – in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand & Bangladesh
- Fishes of the Maldives

Fishing Technology

- Investigations to Improve the Kattumaram of India's East Coast
- Motorization of Country Craft, Bangladesh
- Exploratory Fishing for Large Pelagic Species in Maldives and Sri Lanka
- Technical Trials of Beachcraft Prototypes in India
- Developing and Introducing a Beachlanding Craft on the East Coast of India
- Small Offshore Fishing Boats in Sri Lanka
- Inventory of Kattumarams and their Fishing Gear in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
- Improvement of Large-Mesh Driftnets in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
- Improved Deck Machinery and Layout for Small Coastal Trawlers
- Pivoting Engine Installation for Beachlanding Boats
- Reducing the Fuel Costs of Small Fishing Boats

Post-Harvest Fisheries

- Design and Trial of Ice Boxes for use on Fishing Boats in Kakinada
- Agar and Alginate Production from Seaweed in India
- Post-Harvest Fisheries Overview of the East Coast of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh
- Post-Harvest Fisheries: A Manual of Information and Guidelines
- Introduction of an Improved Fish Smoking Method in Andhra Pradesh, India

Fisheries Management

- Towards Sustainability: Needs and Concerns of Aquatic Resources in the Bay of Bengal Region and Project Ideas for Sustainable Management
- National Workshop on Fisheries Resources Development and Management in Bangladesh
- Regional Workshop on Precautionary Approach to Fisheries Management
- Workshop on Integrated Reef Resources Management in the Maldives
- Workshop on Smart Partnerships for Sustainability in the Fishing Industry
- Regional Expert Consultation on Cleaner Fishery Harbours
- An Acoustic Approach to Resource Mapping on Pulau Payar's Coral Reef
- Qualitative Analysis of Fishing Intensity and Fishing Behaviour in Kanniyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India

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Website : http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/fishery/bobp/website/homepage.htm

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