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et  
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Organización  
de las  
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Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
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## COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

### Thirteenth Session

Entebbe, Uganda: 27 – 30 October 2004

### SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COFI SUB- COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

The Second Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was held in Trondheim, Norway, from 7 to 11 August 2003 at the invitation of the Government of Norway. It was attended by 127 participants, including 97 delegates from 64 Members of FAO, by two observers from one non-Member Nation of FAO, by a representative from one specialized agency of the United Nations and by 12 observers from six intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. Among the delegates, 24 African delegates from 20 African countries (see Annex) attended the session as compared to 14 delegates from 12 countries attended to the first session.

Based on the working documents and information papers presented by the Secretariat, the Sub-Committee's deliberation and decision were focused on the following 7 issues:

- implementing the recommendations and priority areas identified by the First Session of the Sub-Committee;
- recent efforts by FAO Regional Fishery Bodies and international organizations in promoting responsible aquaculture and culture-based fisheries;
- implementing the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) relevant to aquaculture and culture-based fisheries;
- improving the status and trends reporting on aquaculture;
- strategies to improve the safety and quality of aquaculture products;
- responsible practices in culture-based fisheries;
- emerging issues and related areas of work.

It noted the high level of consensus on the role of aquaculture in improving food security and nutrition and the contribution to the livelihoods of disadvantaged groups. The Sub-Committee appreciated the effort of FAO Fisheries Department in responding to the recommendations of the First Session of the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee's decisions and recommendations were summarized below:

recommended that increased funding should come from either reallocation of Fisheries Department Regular Programme funds, or through increased allocation to the Fisheries Department. The Sub-Committee again unanimously called for increased Regular Programme budget funding support to aquaculture activities (para. 11);

recommended that priority be given to the following activities: (para. 14)

- assistance to the sustainable development of smallholder aquaculture;
- promotion of commercial aquaculture initially through the organization of a conference on the promotion of commercial aquaculture in Africa; and
- development of regional networking.

suggested that FAO should collaborate with other institutions that have prepared, or are preparing, similar codes of practice. (para. 24)

recommended FAO to develop a web-based reference of aquaculture codes of practice and legislation as a means to facilitate information exchange. (para. 25)

suggested that FAO Regional Bodies establish a database on the ecological background of main species so as to help members conduct science-based risk analyses on these species. (para. 29)

suggested the following inter- sessional activities be considered within budget limitations: (para. 29)

- assistance with environmental risk assessments;
- assistance with integrated planning aquaculture development in coastal areas and watersheds;
- development of sustainability issues in aquaculture feed and best-management feed strategies.

endorsed the development by FAO of a comprehensive, internationally agreed-upon glossary on aquaculture. (para. 33)

recommended its activities and those of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade should be well coordinated and effective collaboration encouraged, taking into consideration their respective areas of competence. (para. 49)

suggested that the following inter-sessional activities should be undertaken, possibly through the formation of inter-sessional technical working groups in conformity with FAO Basic Texts: (para. 56)

- formulation of technical guidelines and best practices for responsible stocking programmes;
- feasibility assessment of shrimp ranching;
- specific risk evaluations of transfers of selected species;
- support to regional cooperation on and coordination of stocking programmes covering and potentially affecting transboundary water;
- compilation of case studies illustrating successful stocking practices in the marine, coastal and inland environments.

recommended that FAO assists the members in the development of prevention and awareness (for disease problem) by creating programmes at farm level, in the formulation of appropriate rules and regulations, in risks analysis and in promoting capacity building activities in implementing relevant international instruments. (para. 62)

recommended to address the issue of introductions, bearing in mind the need to develop aquaculture. Information could be made available with respect to positive experiences and practices as well as genetic origin of species introduced. (para. 65)

agreed that the Secretariat should provide a prospective analysis of future challenges in global aquaculture as a basis for a discussion of the longer term direction of the Sub-Committee's work. (para. 73)

recommended that additional resources should be sought within the Regular Programme or through Extra-Budgetary resources to undertake aquaculture activities. (para. 76)

agreed that its Third Session should be held in 2006. It welcomed the offer by India to host the session. (para. 78)

The sub-Committee also identified the main issues and related activities as outlined below: (para. 72)

1. Increase FAO Regular Programme funding support for aquaculture
2. Promote regional network and cooperation (e.g., through NACA-like organizations)
3. Strengthen regional fishery bodies' role and responsibility for aquaculture development
4. Assist with guidelines and best practices for culture-based fisheries
5. Environmental risk assessment, including in relation to species introductions
6. Develop further diagnostic tools for pathogens and disease identification
7. Prospective analysis of aquaculture development, identifying issues and action required
8. Governance and decision-making and stakeholders' participation
9. Issues related to fattening of tuna and other comparable species in relation to research, feeding, and impact on environment
10. Undertake a thematic evaluation of aquaculture social and economic impact
11. Integrated planning of aquaculture development in coastal areas and watersheds
12. Address the sustainability issues of aqua feed and develop best feed management strategies
13. Role of producers' associations in promoting sustainable aquaculture development
14. Develop/transfer methodology to measure cost-benefits and impacts of restocking
15. Assistance to the sustainable development of smallholder aquaculture
16. Evaluate standards/guidelines for specific aquaculture systems, including organic aquaculture
17. Development of a web-based reference of aquaculture codes of practice and legislation
18. Establishment of a database on the ecological background of major culture species
19. Facilitating relevant information flow between exporters and importers
20. Assist with harmonisation of data collection at a national level
21. Assistance to member countries in implementing and monitoring CCRF
22. General and system-specific methodologies for the collection of aquaculture data
23. Assist nations in collecting and compiling aquaculture statistics from small-scale producers
24. Organization of a conference on the promotion of commercial aquaculture
25. Cooperation and coordination between COFI AQ and COFI FT
26. Harmonisation of standards of aquaculture products as they go through the CODEX process
27. Feeding issues for carnivorous fish and crustaceans (in relation to fish meal and oils)
28. Issues in bilateral/multilateral collaboration in preventing and combatting fish disease
29. Harmonise certification criteria and procedures for shrimp culture (including small-scale)
30. Develop harmonized principles for sustainable shrimp culture
31. Analyse animal welfare implications of aquaculture
32. Impediments to aquaculture development in Africa