

# "Info-Flash" the SFLP ... on the move ...

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Welcome to the

## SFLP Info-Flash

This new means of communication will be forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordination Units, FAO Representations, DFID and to the Fisheries Department of FAO.

The overriding objective of this **SFLP Info-Flash** is to provide the 25 member countries with the most up to date information on the Programme.

Please feel free to contact SFLP at any time you have any information on events in your country.

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Stakeholders from the various countries shared their experiences in enhancement of inland capture fisheries. Exchanges were rich and lively, and discussions covered a wide variety of issues, many relevant in guiding policies and institutions. Participants were able to draw many lessons and identify future opportunities as well as methods to inform policies. Representatives of fisheries communities benefited from useful information on affordable technologies to improve and diversify their livelihoods. Technical experts discussed more effective strategies to ensure the sustainable development of fisheries. Furthermore, numerous ways to promote a sense of ownership fisheries enhancement initiatives rural communities were suggested by participants. Proposals were made for a strategy for fisheries enhancement to strengthen the ongoing Special Programme for Food Security in Burkina Faso. The workshop report is in preparation and will be available soon.

The SFLP-RSU representative held further discussions with his GTZ counterpart on prospects for further collaborative work in fisheries and have been encouraged to maintain contact with GTZ delegation during field visits in the region.

## Burkina Faso - Partnership strengthened

The Burkina Faso National Coordination Unit (UCN) held a meeting with representatives of Oxfam-Québec late last year to look into the possibilities of a working partnership. The National Coordinator, K. Kaboré presented the SFLP's objectives and activities in the country, while I. De Miguel from Intermon, an NGO in Burkina Faso presented the activities of Oxfam International, a family of NGOs from 12 countries, also presented their organisation's activities with the support of C. Poulin from Oxfam-Québec. This led to discussions on issues of common interest. Of particular relevance to the NCU activities is a study currently being conducted on the economic potential of women in the Nahouri, Mouhoun and

Kadiogo regions of Burkina Faso. A successful working partnership will be finalised at subsequent meetings.



Burkinabé women fish-processors learning a new technique.

## SFLP/GTZ workshop on enhanced fisheries

In order to fully document the lessons learnt from the various fisheries enhancement projects in Burkina Faso, the NCU recently conducted a study on the topic. Within this context, the SFLP and the German group, GTZ, jointly organised an international workshop to exchange experience and ideas on the achievements of the 15-year project "Fisheries management in the South-West of Burkina Faso" (GPSO) executed

by the GTZ. The workshop was held in Bobo-Dioulasso (360 km from Ouagadougou) from 12 to 14 December 2002. Participants were drawn from fisheries departments, research institutions, NGOs, and community organisations from 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Nigeria). GTZ and SFLP representatives also attended.

## Ghana - Preparations for the Pilot project take-off

The RSU Team Leader and staff visited Ghana and Togo in January. The objective was to review with the NCU, issues related to community projects, and to ensure a coordinated approach for the Pilot Project. Arrangements for administrative and financial matters were also discussed.

A courtesy visit was made to the Minister of State for Fisheries, I. Ashitey, together with the FAO Representative in Ghana, A. Ndong-Ba, and the National Coordinator, E. Anang. After a briefing on SFLP activities in Ghana the Minister explained the importance given by the government and its commitment to the improvement of fisheries policies and institutions. He expressed his appreciation of the on-going community and institutional support projects and confirmed the need to strengthen the capacities of the fisheries communities, in particular for good financial management. Finally, he confirmed the Ghanaian government's support to the Pilot Project for "Improvement

of the Policies and Institutions for Co-Management in Inland Waters in Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte D'Ivoire and Ghana". In Ghana the Pilot Project will be based at Akossombo on the shore of Lake Volta.

### **Cape Verde – Think-tank on fisheries**

Towards the end of 2002, the Fisheries Department of Cape Verde organised a special day for reflection on the fisheries sector in Praia. Participants included representatives of fisheries institutions from the public and private sector. The results of the different socio-economic studies conducted on small-scale and industrial fisheries in the country were used as the basis for an in-depth analysis of the legal proceedings governing fisheries, credit, finance, as well as obstacles to the development of the sector.



**A fish processor prepares fish for smoking in Cape Verde.**

The think-tank's recommendations include: (i) the institution of a fishermen's and a fisheries day; (ii) a clear definition and division of tasks among the institutions; (iii) greater presence of these institutions in the field, (iv) more information exchange among all stakeholders, and (v) a general reorganisation of fisheries institutions to ensure more efficient management of the sector.

### **Senegal - Study on Micro-credit Cooperative in Mbour**

The SFLP recently financed a study on the effectiveness of micro-credit institutions in poverty alleviation, in preparation for a national seminar organised by ADPES (Association for Economic and Social Progress, a Senegalese NGO) in collaboration with its Netherlands partner (NOVIB). The study reviewed existing credit policies of the *Mutuelle d'Epargne et de Crédit pour la Promotion de la Pêche à Mbour* (MECPROPEM), a community-based credit cooperative, to determine how far their internal regulations took into consideration the interests of the most vulnerable groups in the community. Subsequently, the study contributed to recommendations for extending credit facilities to the poorest members of the fisheries communities. It is expected that the results will also benefit the three other SFLP countries involved in the "Improved livelihoods in the small-scale fisheries post-harvest sector" Pilot Project.

SFLP-RSU staff was again present at the ADPES seminar that followed in Mbour from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2002 and contributed to the finalisation of the report and Terms of Reference for the assessment of the role of revolving funds in SFLP community projects.

### **Togo – SLA workshop**

As a follow up to the lifting of the ban on fisheries activities on Nangbeto lake (see InfoFlash of October 2002), the NCU of Togo organised a 2-week training workshop for resource persons from the public and private sector. Assisted by the SFLP, the workshop was held in Nangbeto from 20 January to 1 February 2003. The main objective of the workshop was to build up national capacity in Sustainable Livelihoods (SL) analysis using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Participants were drawn from various government ministries (Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Environment, Internal Affairs, Planning) and national and international NGOs.

Consultant, B. Houndekon, with the support of RSU Community Organization Officer, M Kuyateh, facilitated the workshop. Training focused on how to set up community projects using the SL approach. Practical fieldwork undertaken in Olesse, Ode and Akodesseva during the second phase led to the formulation of Community Action Plans for each of the fisheries communities. The main components of an appropriate co-management system were also identified for Lake Nangbeto, and by the end of the exercise a community project had been identified.

### **Chad, The Gambia, Senegal – Poverty profiling for Pilot Project**

In preparation for the design mission for the Pilot Project on post-harvest livelihoods, the NC of Chad B. Barka led a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to the proposed site (stretching from N'djamena to the outlet of River Chari) from 12 to 19 December 2002. The team was comprised of M. Youadjoum (socio-economist), D. Dalsana (secondary data), B. Poloumbodje (gender issue), M. Dara (fisheries) and O. Njifonjou (regional consultant on poverty profiling). They were accompanied by K. Holvoet, RSU Projects Officer.



**A member of the poverty-profiling team with a fisheries community in Chad**

This first phase of the exercise focused on the participatory evaluation of poverty and vulnerability trends by communities, development organisations working in the area, and the team of consultants. The objective was to obtain a reliable overview of the causes of poverty, the most marginalized groups, and the opportunities for development which are present. It was also an occasion to share experiences and discuss related issues with other professionals.

Similar poverty profiling exercises took place in Senegal and The Gambia under the supervision of F. Pittaluga, FAO Livelihood Security, Vulnerability and Monitoring Officer, and M. Kébé, RSU Monitoring Officer. The poverty profiling will start early 2003 in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania which are the other countries involved in the second and third pilot projects.

### **Congo – National workshop on PIP study**

The NCU of Congo Brazzaville organised a national workshop on Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) from 15 to 17 January 2003. The objective of the workshop was to present and review the results from the preliminary PIP study, which was undertaken by the NCU towards the end of 2002 with assistance of two consultants from Senegal. Participants included national and international fisheries institutions and other stakeholders from the development sector. The SFLP was represented by two RSU staff.

Discussions focused on the identification of entry points to improve policies and institutions for ensuring sustainable fisheries livelihoods. Special attention was given to institutional mechanisms for participatory management through the creation of local fisheries councils, the improvement of the economic environment, and better basic social services for fisherfolk.

The workshop provided the NCU with the opportunity to identify other possible development partnerships and to promote the integration of fisheries in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). SFLP assistance in PIP development in the country was discussed. This focused on the participation of Congo in the forthcoming Pilot Project for the participatory management of the coastal area..

### **Cameroon – Twelfth Session of CIFA**

The RSU was represented at the FAO Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA), in Yaounde, Cameroon, from the 2 – 5 December 2002 and a report on SFLP progress was presented. During the seminar on “African experiences on commercial aquaculture and community involvement in fisheries management”, members of NCUs from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire and Mali made brief presentations about their experiences in participatory management of inland fisheries resources.

The mission, accompanied by D. D. Ba, FAO Representative in Cameroon, and M. Bondja from the NCU, was received by H. Adjoudji, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA). This was an opportunity to review the various SFLP activities taking place in the country. The Minister expressed his appreciation of the Mape reservoir fisheries co-management project. He stressed the value of the participatory approach to achieve responsible fisheries management and resource sustainability. The Minister formally proposed that the regional coordination office of the Pilot Project for “*Improved livelihoods in the small-scale fisheries post-harvest sector*” should be located in Yaounde



**A busy smoked-fish market in Cameroon**

At the request of the NCU it was agreed that the RSU would recruit two national consultants to review some community project proposals, formulated according to the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach with the assistance from the NCU, and to put them in the appropriate format for funding under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

The Côte d'Ivoire NCU took part in a cabinet meeting of the Ministry of Animal Production and Water Resources late last year. Present were the Minister, Heads of Departments and the staff responsible of SFLP projects in the country. NCU National Coordinator, K. Angaman presented the objectives, approach and activities of the SFLP in the country, as well as the expected outcomes. Reactions to the presentation were very positive, and this was confirmed by the lively question and answer session at the end of the presentation. The NCU distributed the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the community project formulation guide and the Liaison Bulletin to participants after the presentation.

### **Imminent Events**

- 25<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 24-28 February 2003. An agenda item deals with “Strategies for increasing the sustainable contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty alleviation” providing SFLP partners an opportunity to make clear policy statements on this issue.