



INFO-FLASH

the SFLP... on the move...

Issue 32 – November/December 2003

Senegal - Access to natural resources in small scale fisheries

A workshop was held in Saly, Senegal, at the start of October to discuss the regulation of access to natural resources and development of sustainable fisheries in Africa. It was organised by FAO in close collaboration with the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC).

The National Coordinators from the countries involved in the forthcoming Coastal Fisheries Pilot Project (Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania) were invited by the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) to participate in the workshop because of the importance of the theme of the meeting to the work they will be undertaking. This provided an opportunity to exchange ideas on the planned activities. The Coordinators of the National Coordination Units (NCU) contributed to discussions and presented a review of the activities that will be undertaken in the pilot project, which is scheduled to take off at the beginning of 2004.

Among the topics discussed was the reference to “free access” with respect to small scale fisheries resources, which often hides the presence of informal local regulatory institutions. In many cases decision makers ignore their existence. One of the recommendations of the meeting is that these informal regulatory institutions and their potential contribution to the sustainable management of fisheries resources and poverty reduction should be assessed. Such an exercise is expected to be carried out during the implementation of the SFLP Pilot Projects on co-management in coastal and inland fisheries.

Ghana - Analyses, Training and Studies in Adina and Katech

A briefing session on progress of the activities of an SFLP Institutional Support project (in Katech and Adina), was held in November 2003. This project, which was approved in 2003, aims at improving the integration of Community-Based Organisations in local development and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

The briefing session was designed to ensure interaction and collaboration between all stakeholders. A set of monitoring indicators were developed and an action plan, to be updated on a quarterly basis, was adopted. The next step will involve livelihoods diversification activities, training in conflict management, and studies on; (i) the contribution of fisheries to the national economy, (ii) the legal context of the Community-Based Fisheries Management Committees (CBFMC), and (iii) mechanisms to influence the planning process at District Assembly level and improve development planning for fishing communities through District Assembly funding.

SFLP Info-Flash

The overriding objective of the **Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme** is to provide the 25 member countries with the most up to date information on the activities of the Programme. Info-Flash is produced by the Regional Support Unit based in Cotonou (Benin).

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Gabon - Gender issues in organisational development

The women's socio-professional association in the Milémbié fishing community is benefiting from an SFLP community project that is providing training in fish processing and preservation techniques, and organisational management. However, the National Coordinating Unit (NCU) realised that these women were not fully involved in the community decision-making process.

In order to understand these issues a gender sensitive community appraisal was conducted. This was done using diagnostic tools, which had been developed by the Programme, to facilitate the collection and analysis of relevant information. The exercise ended with the identification of priority actions to improve gender relations within the community. These actions include: (i) organisation of an adult literacy programme for women; (ii) strengthening of women's leadership and entrepreneurship skills, and (iii) more involvement of women in decision-taking and community activities.

Niger - Extending a positive experience

Encouraged by the success of the SFLP community project on fisheries enhancement in Tafouka, the Niger NCU has prepared a project proposal to extend this experience to fisher-folk in Tahoua in Eastern Niger. As in the case of the Tafouka, the new project will seek to increase aquaculture production, promote fisheries co-management, improve food security and alleviate poverty in fishing communities. Lessons learnt from the Tafouka experience have been incorporated into the formulation of the new project document.

The NCU has been discussing their national activities with potential partners in order to explore possibilities for financing the new Tahoua project. So far the FAO Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Belgian and Canadian Development agencies, and the Niger Basin Alliance have agreed to explore possibilities of funding poverty reduction activities within the fisheries sector.

Mali - Integrated irrigation and aquaculture for West Africa

SFLP representatives participated in a meeting (4th to 7th November 2003) on Integrated Irrigation and Aquaculture for West Africa in Bamako, Mali. The forum was organized by FAOs Inland Water Resources and Aquaculture Service (FIRI) and the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) and analysed the status of irrigation and inland aquaculture in various countries. It also reviewed the information available on the development and potential for integrated irrigation and aquaculture in the region.

This exercise opened up opportunities for the SFLP to further explore relevant livelihoods diversification options for fishing communities. It also helped to establish linkages and partnerships with other programmes aiming at poverty reduction within the sub-region.

Benin - 3rd International Conference of the Pan African Fish and Fisheries Association

The Third International Conference of the Pan African Fish and Fisheries Association (10th to 14th November 2003), entitled "African Fish and Fisheries: diversity and utilisation", was organised in Cotonou, Benin. The conference, which gathered together about 300 fisheries experts from all over the world was jointly sponsored by the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin), a number of international research institutes, museums and development partners, including the SFLP.


The SFLP sponsored the participation of three West African resource persons who presented papers on co-management during the plenary session. The round table on the issue, which was facilitated by SFLP staff, made it possible to share information and exchange experiences with other participants. The event also provided an opportunity to explore the potential for partnerships between fisheries development partners attending the conference. In particular a World Fish project based in Cameroon has agreed to collaborate with SFLP on enhanced fisheries activities in rural communities.

FAO Rome - Exploring more collaboration options

The SFLP contributed to the production of a training module on the development of a SLA and people-centred approach being prepared by the Capacity-Building Sub-group of the Livelihoods Support Programme (LSP) in Rome. This module will form part of a standard FAO Project Management Training course for the use of staff and partner organisations.

FAO AGORA Programme free subscription offer

FAO has set up a programme called AGORA which offers free access to agricultural information online to resolve the problems faced by developing countries in accessing up-to-date scientific literature in the area of agriculture. The main objective is to improve the quality and efficiency of scientific agricultural and environmental research in low income countries with a view to contributing to food security. This will ensure that agriculture stakeholders and decision-makers benefit from the proven and tested scientific knowledge and experiences of their counterparts all over the world in their research programmes and onward dissemination. Interested parties are requested to subscribe online at <http://www.aginternetwork.org>.



*The SFLP Team wishes you
all a Merry Christmas and
a Prosperous New year !*