



INFO-FLASH

the SFLP... on the move...

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The SFLP takes stock to make progress

The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) in West Africa recently organized a technical meeting and a workshop for National Coordinators in Dakar (Senegal) from the 21st to 25th of November 2005. The objective of the two meetings was to evaluate the activities undertaken by the Programme in the different countries since November 1999. It was also the occasion to share the results and lessons learned that will help to move forward the changes that will benefit small scale fishing communities. This exercise was based on the results of a preliminary work done by resource persons involved in the different activities undertaken by National Coordination Units.

All the interventions of the Programme to date were reviewed in terms of their impact on policies, institutions and processes, as well as on livelihoods in fishing communities. It was clearly demonstrated that the objective to reduce poverty and vulnerability of fishing communities corresponds perfectly to that of responsible fisheries. It also became evident that participatory management of fisheries resources is not likely to be successful as long as the basic human needs of fishing communities have not been met.

The examples of impact and lessons learned in the different projects of the Programme provided new opportunities for National Coordinators and their partners to promote their projects with a view to ensuring continuity and/or replication.

By the end of the meeting, the National Coordinators decided to initiate actions to strengthen and orient some of the ongoing interventions in order to strengthen their impact on fisheries management and poverty reduction.

The report of these meetings and the preparatory reports will be available by the beginning of 2006 on the website of the SFLP: <http://www.sflp.org>

International HIV/AIDS Day A project in Congo presented at the FAO headquarters

As part of the activities marking the 17th International HIV/AIDS Day, FAO focused specially on populations involved in fisheries and livestock farming. On the 1st of December 2005, the SFLP was given the opportunity to present the project aimed at reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS on fishing communities in Congo.

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 (Bénin).

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

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Implemented in Pointe Noire by the National Council for HIV/AIDS control (*Conseil national de lutte contre le VIH/SIDA - CNLS*), the project aims to reduce the impact of chronic diseases and HIV/AIDS on families whose household heads are affected, by promoting income generating activities.

A briefing note on the impact of HIV/AIDS on fishing communities was produced by the SFLP, and is available in National Coordination Units, FAO Representative offices and on the SFLP website: www.sflp.org

Improved dissemination of Programme results

The Programme Coordination Unit in Rome is continuing its activities to document and disseminate the results of the Programme to the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) and other development partners, the objective being to strengthen development efforts in favor of small scale fishing communities. A series of policy briefs are prepared to this effect.

The first edition of this series of policy briefs is entitled "The reduction of vulnerability of small scale fishing communities leads to responsible fishing". The second one focuses on the impact of HIV/AIDS on fishing communities. The other editions that are now being prepared will highlight the various development themes addressed by the Programme, for example the contribution of fisheries to national economies, the role of micro finance in poverty reduction and responsible fisheries, the impact of climate change on the sector, adult literacy, livelihoods diversification in fishing communities, fish-mongering and food security.

Guinea Towards the institutionalization of participatory surveillance

A study on participatory surveillance in Guinea was validated in December during a workshop which brought together officers from the ministry in charge of fisheries, the national surveillance center, as well as representatives of fishing communities and other stakeholders in the sector.

Executed as part of the pilot project on "Participatory fisheries management of coastal zones" involving Congo, Gabon, Guinea and Mauritania, the study made it possible to review the draft of the texts to strengthen the legal environment of participatory surveillance in the country. This includes edicts to enact the application of the 1995 decree on fisheries management in Guinea.

These texts will be submitted to the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the beginning of next year for their appreciation. They will thereafter be disseminated widely through sensitization and training campaigns targeting the different stakeholders. The pilot project will provide support and facilitate their application.

Cameroon / Chad Validation of the profile of post harvest stakeholders at the end of December

The process for elaborating the profile of post harvest stakeholders which started in July is progressing as scheduled. After the Gambia and Senegal in September, Cameroon and Chad organized their review workshop from the 28th of November to the 3rd of December 2005. This was done with the support of the pilot project on "Livelihoods improvement in the small-scale fisheries post harvest sector".

The meeting was combined with a training session for participants on the methodology to use in the quantitative evaluation of post-harvest losses. The participants were requested to come up with proposals of work plans on how to apply the tools in the field.

The profile validation workshops in the two countries will be held at the end of December 2005, and the report will be available in January 2006.

Moustapha Kébé becomes acting Team Leader

Since the 17th of December 2005 Moustapha Kébé is at the helms of affairs of the Regional Support Unit of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme as acting Team Leader, side by side with his normal duties as Policy Advisor.

Mr. Kébé is a fisheries economist with long experience in the fisheries sector (research, planning and management). Before joining the SFLP, he was a consultant with the FAO and was also involved in sociological research and rural economy as the Director of the macro-economic analysis Bureau of the Senegalese agricultural research institute (*Institut sénégalais de recherches agricoles - ISRA*).

Three questions for Joël Gallard

You are leaving the SFLP on the 16th of December 2005. Can you tell us why you are leaving?

I am sorry to be leaving the SFLP. I am not leaving for professional reasons. I am leaving the Programme for family reasons which require that I return to France earlier than scheduled.

What lessons have you learned after a year and a half as Team Leader of the Programme?

Brief as it may be, I have really enjoyed my stay at the Regional Support Unit of SFLP in Cotonou for different reasons. What I have most appreciated is the striking team spirit, a spirit of cooperation that reigns at the RSU. Once again, I would like to commend and thank all the members of the RSU for this.

As far as the Programme itself is concerned, I believe that results are gradually unfolding, both through its efforts to enhance the fisheries sector and the small-scale fisheries sub-sector in particular, as through its contribution to integrating fisheries communities which have been ignored for a long time, in national development policies, especially as it relates to poverty reduction. My earnest hope is that the activities undertaken by the countries with the support of the Programme will be continued and sustained when the Programme folds up.

In November you participated in the technical meeting and the National Coordinators' meeting held in Dakar. What are your major conclusions about them?

In the first instance, these meetings made it possible for all the participants to come to the same level of knowledge and understanding of progress made, and results so far achieved by the Programme. I think this was important. The meetings also enabled participants to obtain a common and clearer vision of the next actions to undertake in order to consolidate the results obtained, and to mobilize development partners when the Programme ends in 2006.