

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

Issue 5 ~ February 2001



Welcome to the SFLP Info-Flash

This means of communication is forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordinating Units, FAO Representations, DFID, FAO Fisheries Department and any person interesting by the work of SFLP

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.

Reproduction and dissemination of this document – in electronic or hard copy – is encouraged.

[To contact SFLP by Internet](#)



News from NCUs

Benin

Together with Togo and Ghana, NCU-Benin undertook a more intensive survey on the livelihoods of fishing communities involved in beach seining. This exercise, scheduled for thirty days, took off on 14th December 2000 and covered ten fish landing sites in the Atlantic and Mono Departments. Data are analysed and the results will be discussed with fisheries communities. A participatory monitoring and analysis system will be put in place to assess and demonstrate the biological and socio-economic impact of this activity in the 3 countries.

Also, the Benin NCU has made an innovative start to its small project proposal strategy. After a PRA identified the needs of fisheries communities in the port area of Cotonou a meeting of the NCU and the communities decided an NGO was needed to implement the project. This recognition by the NCU that it did not possess the range of skills required is a welcome step in setting up partnerships with NGOs that can contribute to fisheries development.

After approval by the SFLP, local and international NGOs were invited to tender bids to implement the project. The bids had to lay out the range of human and administrative resources the NGO possessed and a logical reason why it could successfully implement the



A meeting during a field survey

proposal. This competitive bidding was assessed by both the NCU and the communities in which the project is situated.

This recognition of the part that civil society can play in national development is a bold initiative and one for which the Benin NCU should be congratulated.

Central African Republic

NCU-Central African Republic organised 6 field missions between October and December 2000 in collaboration with NGOs and fisheries groups. These missions were able to provide information on the current situation of fisheries activities in the major fishing zones of the country. The urgent need for national resource persons trained in PRA-SLA techniques to help in the identification of relevant small projects in the country has also led the NCU to request assistance from the RSU in this field.

Chad

The last quarter of year 2000 proved very active for NCU-Chad as field missions were undertaken in a large area of fisheries communities around Lake Chad, Chari River and Lake Fitri with the full support of traditional leaders, fisherfolk

associations and local administration. This preliminary diagnostic facilitated the collection of information on fisheries communities strengths and livelihoods. The NCU assisted some fisheries communities in identifying small projects and re-established smooth relations between fisherfolk and administration.

STOP PRESS!

The SFLP proposes to provide the funds for the NCU I/C focal points to purchase cameras and film to encourage them to report on their fieldwork and to encourage them to provide illustrated articles on activities relating to small projects. We can expect to see many interesting photographs in subsequent issues of SFLP Info-Flash and Liaison Bulletin.

Côte d'Ivoire

A 2 week training exercise on PRA and SLA was undertaken in Aby lagoon from 29th January to 10th February by H. Zerbo from Burkina Faso for the NCU members. This will provide

the NCU with necessary skills to analyse the livelihoods of fisheries communities in the country, and in particular around Lake Kossou where communities expressed the wish to implement a fisheries co-management scheme.

Guinea Bissau

Guinea Bissau has submitted a request to FAO for institutional support in the organisation of a National Conference on Fisheries. This request has been accepted by the SFLP which will provide consultancy services in support of the conference and national fisheries policy development to the NCU and Government of Guinea Bissau.

Mali

At the request of the Malian authorities, presented to a RSU mission in 2000, an international planning consultant experienced in SLA, A. Palfreman, has been recruited to

collaborate with the NCU in providing institutional support to the Planning and Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Rural Development to operationalize the National Poverty Reduction Strategy in the fisheries sector. A. Palfreman arrived in Bamako on 19th February after a briefing at RSU in Cotonou.

Niger

NCU-Niger members trained in PRA/SLA in 2000 are planning to organize two supplementary courses for more stakeholders. The RSU will provide some financial support to carry out these exercises.

RSU Field visits

The RSU Planning Officer, C. Breuil, undertook a mission to Ghana from 12th to 14th February to organize the second phase of the study on Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP), which will involve the collection and analysis of information from



Data collection at fisheries community level

local and district authorities and fisheries communities. The SFLP consultant, B. Blake, who will work in close collaboration with the NCU and other relevant authorities for one month, arrived in Accra on 12th February. The results of the study will be presented at a 2 day National Seminar in Accra in March 2001. A similar exercise is on-going in Senegal where P. Failler, another SFLP consultant, will continue his work with the NCU from 12th February to 10th March.

In Benin, the RSU Technical Group is assisting the NCU in the design of an information base, and the analysis of the information collected on communities' perception of traditional management measures in inland fisheries. A 2 day

Workshop will be held in Cotonou in early March. It will bring together the NCU members, district fisheries administration, extension staff and community representatives from the lagoon complexes to review the results of the activity and plan the next phase.

J. C Njock, the Aquatic Resources Officer, was on a mission in Cote d'Ivoire from 6th to 17th February in the context of the preparation of a national strategy for inland fisheries management, based on the Aby Lagoon experience. This activity will build on, and reinforce, the co-management scheme already established in Aby Lagoon, and the dissemination of lessons learned to other inland water bodies.

M. Kébé and G. Gnacadja from the RSU Monitoring Group will be on mission in The Gambia from 19th to 23 February to review the progress of a small project in Tanji fisheries community. From there, M. Kébé will visit Mauritania from 24th February to 1st March to sensitize the NCU in the process of small project identification and formulation, and to finalize a report prepared by national consultants on fisherfolk participation in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance. G. Gnacadja will be in Guinea Bissau from 26th February to 2nd March to promote SLA and assist the NCU in finalizing a small project proposal.

Team Leader, B. Horemans, and K. Kourkoulotis (I/C officer) will be attending the COFI meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome between 26th February and 2nd March to present SFLP approach and the activities in the 25 countries covered by the Programme.

Non Governmental Organisations

Non-Governmental Organisations consultant, J. Monan, is undertaking a field mission in Cameroon, The Gambia, Benin and Mali between 14th January and 23th February together with M. Kuyateh, RSU Community-based Organisations Officer.

The objective of the mission is to sensitise NCUs of the 4 countries on the strengths of NGOs and their role in development process. The training needs of NCUs, vis-à-vis NGOs and vice versa will be determined, new programmes identified and existing programmes adapted to meet obvious needs. He is also expected to draw up the guidelines to be used by NCUs to identify and negotiate with suitable partners for the implementation of field activities in their respective countries.

The fact that SFLP embraces a multilingual programme area has thrown up some interesting comparisons, especially in attitudes to the civil society. This recent mission to look specifically at the role that NGOs can play in implementing sustainable livelihood projects with fisheries communities, and more generally to encourage the involvement of the civil society in development projects found the differences in Anglophone and Francophone cultures to be quite pronounced.

In Anglophone areas studied, NGOs and other community-based organisations are actively encouraged to become involved in the development of fisheries communities. So far this has proved not to be the general case in Francophone countries. With a few exceptions, Francophone countries see it as the role of the state to provide support and services to fisheries communities, and are unreceptive to NGO involvement.

As these societies experience decentralisation (most are currently undergoing this process), the understanding of the role that the civil society in general and NGOs in particular can play in national development should increase. For the moment,

however, this lack of confidence in the civil society makes the task of the SFLP in Francophone countries much more difficult.

Programme Steering Committee

The second meeting of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) took place at the conference room of the Benin Fisheries Department in Cotonou on 31st January 2001, under the chairmanship of Seyni Seidou (NC-Niger and Sub-regional Representative for Landlocked region). Participants at the meeting include N. MacPherson (DFID), B. Satia (FAO Rome), A. Jallow (FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra), the other 3 Sub-regional Representatives: B. Malloum (NC-Cameroon, South), I. Flowers (NC Liberia, Central), and F. A. Camara (NC Guinea, North). R. Coutts, Programme Coordinator, served as

Secretary of the meeting and B. Horemans, Team Leader, as resource person. The RSU technical staff and M. Johnson, NCU Benin attended the meeting as observers. The Committee examined and discussed the progress reports presented by the Programme Coordinator, the Team Leader of the Regional Support Unit and the Sub-regional Representatives. They also reviewed the work plan proposal for the first half of 2001 and discussed various issues to facilitate the implementation of the Programme. The full report of the meeting is in preparation and will be distributed shortly.

Issues raised at the PSC meeting

- the six-month work plan is extremely intensive and ambitious and as a result activities may continue into the following six months;
- there is a need to improve the structure and activity of NCUs;
- previous training in PRA-SLA should be reinforced to increase capacity in countries in participatory methods and the use of human resources from the region is recommended;
- countries are encouraged to submit more than one small project proposal;
- the number of small projects addressing poverty alleviation and gender issue should be increased;
- the focus on poverty alleviation and equity within communities must be explicitly maintained;
- activities based on the outcomes of the SFLP Ouagadougou seminar on responsible inland fisheries management will contribute to resolving the effects of the management of dams on livelihoods with particular attention to equity, ownership and fishing rights;
- findings of the SFLP Ougadougou seminar could constitute an umbrella to initiate formulation of a pilot project on inland fisheries livelihoods;
- the PSC recommended that the RSU should be assisted by consultants in pilot project formulation;
- the SFLP should be instrumental in evolving a CCRF that is more responsive to poverty alleviation which can find a place in national and regional policy;
- exchange visits between countries are strongly encouraged and will be supported by SFLP;
- there is a need for an efficient and participatory monitoring system to extract normative principles from small projects.

Collaboration with other FAO Fisheries Field Projects

FAO Fishery Industries Technology Service (FIIT) is collaborating with SFLP to analyse 4 case studies carried out in the region on near-shore participatory Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS). J. Johnson and N. Lenselink were in Cotonou from 5th to 8th February 2001 to work with C. Breuil (Planning officer) and M. Kébé (Monitoring officer). This joint

endeavour by SFLP and FIIT not only brings together a wider range of case studies from more countries but also brings in FIIT's expertise on the more technological side of MCS operations. N. Lenselink is being preparing a synthesis paper based on the case studies that will be published in the SFLP series.

New Small Projects

In February the RSU approved five new small projects :

Ghana: "Women oven construction and community woodlot initiative" and "Community-based MCS Project", both for Moree fisheries community.

Nigeria: "Tiga dam management, improved bio-diversity and resource utilisation towards co-management".

Guinea-Bissau: "Reinforcement of the organizational and production capacity of the Sanoco Fishermen Association".

Burkina-Faso: "Assistance in the development of fishery activities in the Sandogo reservoir".



Fish processor at work