

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

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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.

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With regards to the second project for women fish processors, 10 simplified versions of the "Altona" ovens have already been constructed and training on fish preservation and processing completed. Operating funds have been handed over to all the beneficiaries of the two projects.

The Tafouka community has also constructed a nursery to raise *Acacia* spp. seedlings which they will sell to the Forestry Department for use in their measures against erosion and desert encroachment control measures.

News from NCUs

Sao Tome and Principe

A small project to set up a storage and distribution system for fish landed by the Angolares artisanal fishermen has successfully taken off. The training in



Presentation of certificates in Angolares

organizational planning and management has been completed and the closing ceremony was attended by the Minister of Economy Mme Maria das Neves. An unprecedented number of candidates (100) turned out for the adult literacy programme which started on the 25th January 2001, far beyond the 80 expected. Lessons are taught by a specialist in adult literacy from the Ministry of Education and 4 teachers from Angolares every Mondays and Tuesdays evening in the premises of the Angolares primary school. The Monitoring Committee set up for the project is already functioning.

Congo

NCU-Congo is in the process of reviewing the intervention strategy of two small projects proposals in line with the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach. "Univers des Femmes", a women's NGO had requested assistance in the improvement of fish-smoking activity in Makotimpoko, 365 km from Brazzaville, and "COOPEM" (Mpila Fishermen's Cooperative), for support in the management of their fishing activities. NCU-Congo also held a meeting on 24th February 2001 with fishermen and fish traders from communities around Brazzaville that were badly hit by the country's socio-political upheaval 1997/1998.

Niger

The two small projects approved for Niger took off successfully on 18th January 2001 and are progressing satisfactorily. NCU-Niger I/C Focal Point, H. Talatou reports that seedlings and other materials required for the rehabilitation of water basins have been procured for the fish production improvement project. Training on plant production, CES/DRS and adult literacy have already started. The construction of storage reservoirs for juvenile is ongoing.

The SFL Programme Coordinator, R. Coutts accompanied by the Deputy Director of Fisheries, Kano State, Nigeria, H.I. Yakassai, the Forestry Officer of the Niger Environmental Service, Yousoufu Asuman and the Field Agent, Kassim Aboubakar visited the Tafouka community on 15th March 2001 to confirm the rapid progress made by the community and to listen to their very positive comments on the development of their small project.

RSU Missions and Activities

□ Team Leader B. Horemans, and RSU I/C K. Kourkouliotis Officer were in Rome from 22th February to 2nd March 2001 for the 24th session of COFI. They worked with R. Coutts, Programme Coordinator, and the National Coordinators of Gabon, Cameroon, Senegal, Mauritania and Ghana, as well as representatives from Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Nigeria who were also present, on the implementation of the 2001 Workplan discussed during the 2nd meeting of the Programme

Steering Committee (Cotonou, 31st January). The SFLP team was also able to meet different organisations and donors interested in the activities of the Programme in West Africa, and to discuss technical matters with the Fisheries Department.

□ As a follow up to the mission undertaken in December last year, RSU Team Leader, B. Horemans was back in Senegal

from 15th to 19th January 2001 to monitor progress on the on-going national study on the impact of the different Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) on the livelihoods of fisheries communities. He was impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the multidisciplinary team which was working hard on the first phase - macro-level – and planning the second phase at meso-and micro-levels to be conducted in the Fatick region. A similar activity is progressing very well also in Ghana with the assistance of B. Blake, SFLP Consultant, and C. Breuil, RSU Planner.

- ❑ Aquatic Resources Officer J. C. Njock undertook a mission to Côte d'Ivoire from 7th to 17th February with a three-fold objective: (i) to assess the contribution of the PRA/SLA training held from 29th January to 10th February in boosting NCU capacity; (ii) to identify opportunities available to assist Aby lagoon fisheries communities to increase their participatory skills in the management of the water body; and (iii) to conduct a diagnostic exercise on potential participatory management in Lake Kossou.
- ❑ RSU monitoring officers, M. Kébé and G. Gnakadja were on mission to the Gambia from 16th to 23rd February to monitor the progress being made on the Tanji artisanal fisheries community development project. During the visit, they were able to help the community identify clearer indicators of the impact of the project on their livelihoods. These indicators are expected to serve as the basis for the elaboration of a small projects participatory monitoring guidelines in preparation.

- ❑ M. Kébé also visited Mauritania from 24th February to 1st March to help the NCU on the participatory identification and formulation of small projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of coastal and inland fisheries communities. He also seized this opportunity to review the case studies on the involvement of artisanal fisheries communities in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance with the national consultants.

- ❑ In the process of evaluating traditional fisheries management schemes in inland waters, the Benin NCU organized a meeting in Cotonou from the 7th to 8th March 2001 to cross-check the findings of the field survey conducted towards the end of last year. The meeting was attended by representatives of fishermen, traditional and religious chiefs and representatives of the fisheries administration at national and local levels. It was the occasion to conduct a typology and mapping exercise on the management measures in force in each water body, and to establish the criteria for the identification of sample villages for livelihoods analysis.

- ❑ On 18th March, A. Palfreman, SFLP consultant, came back from Mali to Cotonou after 4 weeks of work during which he assisted the Government in initiating the operationalization of the National Strategy Against Poverty in the fisheries sector. Between April and May, a national team will undertake 3 case studies in the Niger Central Delta to describe and assess the livelihoods of the communities depending totally or partly on fisheries. The next stage will be a National Seminar to be held in Mopti from 11 to 13 June.

Programme Coordinator field mission

From 11th to 22nd March the SFL Programme Coordinator, R. Coutts visited Nigeria and Niger to see first-hand both on-going and proposed, small project sites. The over 3,000 km journey by road was most capably arranged by H.I. Yakassai, Deputy Director Fisheries, Kano State who accompanied the PC on the entire trip. In Nigeria, they first visited the Rurum Fisherfolk Community at Tiga Dam, their local government and authorities of the Kano State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. A visit was made across the border into nearby Niger to the Tafouka community located near Birnin Konni. Also visited were the Ipata Jebba Rural



Villagers around a prototype of juvenile fish storage reservoir in Tafouka

Womens Multipurpose Cooperative Society on the banks of the Niger River and the offices of the Kwara State Commissioner and Permanent Secretary for Agriculture and Natural Resources. The mission was completed by a visit to Abuja to meet the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alh. Guda A. Abdullahi, the SFLP National Coordinator and Director of Fisheries, M.A. Obakin, and the NCO, Y.B. Kolawole to discuss further development of SFLP work in Nigeria. This was the first of what it is hoped will become regular field visits by the Programme Coordinator to countries involved in the SFLP.

Sub-regional Workshop

Work is at an advanced stage on the second phase of the Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIP) activity on *'The impact of PIP on the livelihoods of fisheries communities – Understanding the issues and developing participatory approaches to solutions'* initiated by the RSU and the NCUs in Ghana and Senegal. National Seminars will be held in Dakar from 29th to 30th March and in Accra from 10th to 11th April. After that, three sub-regional

multi-stakeholders Workshops will be held between April and June. The one for French and Portuguese speaking countries of the Northern sub-region will be held in Dakar from 18th to 20th April. The second for Anglophone countries will be held in Banjul from 23rd to 25th April, whilst the third for French, Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries of the Southern sub-region will be held later in Libreville.