

# "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 interested in 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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## CEMARE/SFLP Workshops

National Coordination Unit (NCU) members, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representatives and technical experts from different fields and institutions, including Ministries in charge of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, from 25 countries gathered in two consecutive meetings at the Marina Hotel in Cotonou from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2001 to participate in the Workshops on "Small-Scale Fisheries, Poverty and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries". The Workshops were organized by the Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources UK and the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (CEMARE/SFLP). Two major sets of issues were addressed: the first, those relating to the nature and causes of poverty, and its characteristics in rural areas and small-scale fisheries communities and; the second explored the relationship between fisheries management and poverty alleviation using the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach.

By the end of the workshop, participants were able to better appreciate the linkages between poverty and financial resources,

knowledge, skills of fisherfolk, natural assets available within the community, government policies on the sector, relationships and exchanges within and between communities, and their infrastructural facilities (health, water, electricity, etc.).

The discussions also led to the identification of some of the priority issues common to the region. These include: (i) education, capacity building and information flow; (ii) the lack of credit and (iii) the limited organisation and political representation of the communities. Working groups were also able to identify existing partnerships between government institutions at national, provincial and local levels, Universities, NGO's, and Professional Organisations.



Partnership is identified as a key issue in sustainable fisheries and poverty alleviation

## SFLP-RSU Missions and Activities

The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) has begun the series of country studies on the contribution of research in the improvement of the livelihoods of artisanal fisherfolk in West Africa. SFLP Regional Support Unit (SFLP-RSU) Aquatic Resources Officer, J-C Njock went to Lagos, Nigeria from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2001 to assist national experts in the preparation of the study to be conducted in that country.

The team in charge of the marine fisheries aspect of the study in Nigeria is headed by Director of the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research, T.O. Ajayi. The inland fisheries research team is headed by B. Ladu, Director of the Nigerian Institute of Fresh Water and Fisheries Research. J-C Njock discussed the qualifications needed for recruiting national multidisciplinary experts to conduct the study, and the methodology to be used in its implementation. Representative fisheries communities and markets spread across the country were also identified, and a draft questionnaire was drawn up.

□ With similar purpose, SFLP-RSU Monitoring Officer, M. Kébé went to Mali from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2001 to assist the study team in decisions on the composition, work plan and budget of the study. The National Coordinators and the national researchers responsible of the study in the six selected countries (Nigeria, Mali, Cameroon, Guinea, Mauritania, and Senegal) held meetings with SFLP-RSU staff in Cotonou during the CEMARE/SFLP regional workshops.

□ SFLP-RSU Planning Officer, C. Breuil, travelled to FAO Rome from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2001 to explore how the SFLP-RSU, with FAO HQ inputs, can promote more efficient support to the CCRF implementation process. During his stay, the Planning Officer participated in a series of meetings with staff from various FAO Services involved in CCRF implementation and SLA promotion. The principal outcome of the mission is the adoption of an outline strategy for CCRF implementation by countries of the SFLP.

□ E. Corcoran, SFLP-RSU Associate Professional Officer was in Guinea from 29<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2001 as part of a participatory poverty and vulnerability profiling team. The mission, including National Consultant, M. Barry, visited 4 coastal landing sites: Kamsar, Bongolon, Koba Tabouriah and Boulbinet. The mission constructed a profile to define, identify and locate poor and vulnerable livelihood groups and individuals in the selected fisheries communities and describe the main causes of their poverty and vulnerability.



**A facilitator chats with a vulnerable group in Doyema, Guinea to collect data for profiling**

Key findings show the high dependence of the selected communities on fishing activities and the low diversity of livelihoods strategies of the people leading to high seasonal vulnerability. The exercise also highlighted the importance of some stakeholders and their influence on the vulnerability of fisheries dependent communities. These

findings will be used by the forthcoming SFLP mission scheduled for early 2002 to identify fisheries communities activities in support.

□ K. Holvoet, Belgian and F. Turay, Sierra-Leonean began their duties as Project Officers at the SFLP-RSU this month. Prior to this, K. Holvoet, who holds a degree in Agriculture and has a wide working experience in participatory approaches, had been working for a NGO to develop participatory product marketing in Tanzania before joining the SFLP. F. Turay holds a doctorate degree in Economics from the University of Portsmouth, UK, specialising in fisheries. He also has a wide experience in agricultural research and poverty alleviation strategies and was a consultant for many years to the Sierra-Leonean Ministry of Finance before joining the SFLP.

The main job of the two Project Officers will be to develop guides for better community project identification, monitoring and formulation processes, and actively encourage the use of the materials through NCUs and NGOs. They will advise on the quality and relevance of content and where necessary liaise with NCUs to improve such aspects for speedier approval. In collaboration with the Monitoring Unit, they will also ensure that the monitoring process is followed throughout and that lessons learnt are routinely disseminated.

with better adapted and more dynamic and time-based Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI) for the consideration of the Project Steering Committee meeting in December 2001, and (iv) design a more appropriate monitoring approach in view of the proposed revised Logframe. He will also help incorporate any identified actions resulting from PIP follow-up and pilot project development.

### SFLP Consultants

□ PIP consultant, Barry Blake arrived in Cotonou on 27<sup>th</sup> November to work with the SFLP-RSU on the strategic issues raised in the SFLP Output to Purpose Joint Review (2001). He will help the Team to: (i) identify possible activities that will increase emphasis on policies, institutions and processes (PIP) in the 2002 Annual Work-plan; (ii) review the existing SFLP logical on the basis of activities already initiated; (iii) come up

with better adapted and more dynamic and time-based Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI) for the consideration of the Project Steering Committee meeting in December 2001, and (iv) design a more appropriate monitoring approach in view of the proposed revised Logframe. He will also help incorporate any identified actions resulting from PIP follow-up and pilot project development.

### Programme Coordination/FAO Activities

□ SFLP-PCU Administrative/Finance Officer, M. Verbanck was in Cotonou from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2001 to meet in person with the NCU participants at the two CEMARE/SFLP workshops and to discuss the NCU financial reporting procedures to the SFLP-RSU. Working together with A. M. Ouffoué, SFLP-RSU Administrative Assistant, they were able to clarify many administrative details.

□ Programme Coordinator (PC), R. Coutts arrived in Cotonou to participate in the second CEMARE/SFLP workshop on Small-scale Fisheries, Poverty and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. On Fridays 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November he chaired the meetings with the members of the National Coordinating Units and the SFLP-RSU staff, during which he presented the framework for SFLP Pilot Projects formulation and implementation scheduled to start early next year, 2002. An important point raised by the National Co-ordinators during the meeting was the need to train local experts and to involve them as much as possible in Pilot projects' identification, implementation and monitoring process. The results of the joint DFID-FAO-participating countries Output-to-Purpose Review Mission, SFLP-RSU progress to date and SFLP activities during 2001 were also discussed and questions answered by a PC/SFLP-RSU panel.

□ DFID and FAO have agreed to formulate a Strategic Programme for Information in Support of Sustainable Livelihoods (SPISSL), the objective of which is to provide decision-makers and partners with relevant information for the promotion of sustainable livelihoods in the rural sector. SFLP I/C Officer, K. Kourkouliotis joined the DFID-FAO design team in Accra, Ghana from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2001 to present the SFLP structure, and the information network among the 25 participating countries. He also provided the SPISSL design team with a review of lessons learnt and field experience to date by SFLP.

Key issues raised during discussions revolved round: (i) the need for communities to have access to relevant information; (ii) the empowerment of communities through participatory development; (iii) the strengthening of partnerships to cover multi-sectoral communities' preoccupations, and (iv) the importance of community projects as catalysts of valuable upstream information flow in promoting awareness for, and/or changes in, PIPs at different levels. Information exchange and collaboration between SFLP and SPISSL were considered essential in the efficient implementation of an appropriate information system in the future.

### Imminent Events

The SFLP Programme Steering Committee meeting will be held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2001. Issues to be discussed include the SFLP 2002 Workplan, preparation

of the first Pilot Project, progress reports from NCU sub-regional representatives and the lessons learnt so far.