

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

Issue 1 – September 2000



Welcome to the SFLP Info-Flash

This new means of communication will be forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordination Units, FAO Representations, DFID and to the Fisheries Department of FAO.

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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WORKSHOPS

A seminar on Livelihoods and Fisheries Management in the Sahel region was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (3 - 5 July 2000), back-to-back with the 7th Session of the CIFA Sub-Committee for the protection and development of fisheries in the Sahelian zone. Representatives of 11 countries concerned by inland fisheries have participated at this meeting (Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Central African Republic, Nigeria and Cameroon). The seminar will provide invaluable information, useful in the planning of any inland pilot project.

An Information-Communication Planning Workshop was held in Cotonou (10 - 13 July 2000). This workshop was attended by 22 Information-Communication (I/C) focal points and has led to the adoption of an I/C action plan.

Three countries were unable to participate due to problems with flight connections. During the

workshop seventeen (17) countries requested that the RSU I/C team advise them to ensure a progressive start to their I/C activities, including computer assistance.



I/C Focal Points

To meet this request, staff members of the I/C Unit went to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Gabon and Mali.

Before the end of the year technical support will be provided to Togo, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Angola and Chad. During these missions and with the assistance of the concerned NCUs, contacts will be made with partners involved in Information Systems to create synergies whenever possible.

FIELD VISITS

As part of the implementation of a monitoring system for the SFLP, M. Kébé, Monitoring Officer, participated in field mission to Mali (12 February-03 March) with a team of consultants : B. Blake, N. Marsland, J. Monan, A Palfreman, C. Palin and A. Jallow from the FAO Regional Office in Accra.

Joint field missions with the Technical & Monitoring Units of the RSU were also organised in Ghana (04-08 June) ; Togo (08-10 June) ; Cameroon (14-24 June) ; Benin (17-19 June). The purpose was to prioritise with the respective NCUs, actions in relation to the SLA and to identify a member of the NCU in charge of the follow-up of the mission's outcomes. In this context the Monitoring Unit has backed the Technical Unit in the organisation of training workshops for the identification of small-scale projects through the SLA and PRA. Trainings intended for the NCUs were organised in Benin, Liberia, Gambia and Sao Tome and Principe.

Field visits were undertaken in Ghana, Benin (J-C. Njock, M. Kébé and E. Corcoran) and Togo (J-C. Njock and M. Kébé) to organize a participatory study of the ecological and socio-economic impact of beach seining on the assets of fisher-folk livelihoods. It is expected that the study would assist the communities and Governments to identify potential measures and strategies to regulate this activity.



Beach seine

The resource persons have been identified and will meet at Tema, Ghana in October to harmonize the methodology and plan the field surveys.

M. Kuyateh, the Community Organisation Officer (COO), has developed a course on the use of PRA tools and SL analysis to reinforce NCUs capacities in this area. It has already been successfully tested in Benin, Liberia, Gambia (M. Kuyateh and G. Gnakadja) and Sao Tome (M. Kébé and B. Houndékon). In each of these countries fisheries community action plans were developed resulting in the identification and formulation of a small project proposals for possible SFLP funding. Another training session is planned for September in Niger.



PRA session

Guidelines for small project formulation have been developed during these sessions and will be sent to all NCUs by end of September.

As part of the follow-up of the SFLP's activities, the Program Coordinator R. Coutts made a routine visit to the Regional Support Unit (RSU) from the 22nd to the 25th of August. The progress of activities were discussed later on at FAO with N. McPherson and B. Satia respectively DFID and FAO Leads of the Programme. The RSU Team Leader, B. Horemans, will travel to FAO, Rome and DFID, London with R. Coutts, from the 8th to the 20th of September to make presentation on progress to the Task Force and donor.

Since the NCU of Cape Verde was unable to participate to both the National Coordinators and the I/C Planning Workshops, C. Breuil, the SFLP Planning Officer, travelled in Cape Verde (07-09 August) to brief the NCU on the major outcomes of these two Workshops including the SFLP work plan and to give indications for the design of small scale projects.

He then continued his mission to Senegal (10-12 August) within the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance context. Further field missions related to participation of artisanal fishermen in MCS in Guinea, Ghana, Senegal and Mauritania are planned for September. M. Kébé, the SFLP Monitoring officer, will travel to Guinea (08-16 Sept), Mauritania and Senegal (12-21 Oct) and C. Breuil will be travelling in Ghana from the 19th to the 22nd to assist the NCU in the preparation of case studies on the participation of fishing communities in MCS systems.

The Planning Officer will then continue to Mali where he will initiate an exercise for participative fisheries planning and management on the Sélingué Lake. During this mission the fisheries institutional and legal framework for the implementation of co-management systems will be assessed.

K. Kourkouliotis will travel to Ghana (18-22 September) to provide assistance to the NCU for I/C matters. He will take advantage of his mission in Ghana to attend a workshop organized by a DFID funded regional project on Post-Harvest Losses Assessment and Control. He will then travel to Mali (25 Sept. to 02 Oct.) to assist the NCU in (i) the formulation of a small project requested by artisanal fisheries communities for the dissemination and enforcement of relevant principles of the CCRF and (ii) the identification of a communication strategy to strengthen the co-management mechanisms between the fisheries communities and the Administration.

In Benin, the communities, through the NCU have indicated that water hyacinth causes seasonal constraints to the livelihoods of fisheries dependant communities. It has been considered that this problem might provide a suitable entry point to conduct a livelihoods analysis using PRA techniques in 2 affected communities. M. Kuyateh, E. Corcoran and the NCU will carry out two field missions technically supported by an expert of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (11-15 Sept. and 18-20 Oct.).



Water Hyacinth

The objective is to increase communities' capacities in developing community based strategies for identifying impacts of these weeds on their livelihoods and methods to reduce their vulnerability context and improve livelihood assets and outcomes.

Preliminary technical work will start in September for the organisation of sub-regional workshops on the incorporation of elements of the CCRF into national fisheries policy and plans. The workshops are planned for early 2001.

IDENTIFIED SMALL SCALE PROJECTS

To date 5 small project proposals have been submitted by NCUs to RSU :

- (1) Reinforcement of technical and organisational capacities of the Cotonou fishing harbour community (Benin).
- (2) Rehabilitation of artisanal fisheries activities (fishing and processing) through improved organizational capacities and a small revolving fund in Point Four (Liberia)
- (3) Implementation of a saving and credit system to improve/increase fisheries activities and reinforce organisation capacities of the involved communities of Tanji (Gambia).
- (4) Support to participation of artisanal fishermen in MCS in Koukoude and Matakang (Guinea Conakry).
- (5) Implementation of a fish preservation and distribution system for women in Angolares (Sao Tome and Principe).