

## Regional Aquaculture Highlights from Asia

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### Promoting aquaculture food security and biosecurity in the Asia-Pacific region

FAO has made great efforts to promote aquaculture food security and biosecurity in the region through implementing a number of national and regional TCP projects and convening regional workshops. These include:

- **TCP/CPR/3203** - Improvement of aquaculture food safety in Hubei Province
- **TCP/THA/3202** - Certification for small-scale aquaculture in Thailand
- **TCP/CPR/3202** - Better management of fresh-water aquaculture in Pingjiang County, Hunan Province
- **TCP/BGD/3101** - Developing a national shrimp seed certification System in Bangladesh
- **TCP/RAS/3203** - Reducing the dependence on the utilization of trash fish/low value fish as feed for aquaculture of marine finfish in the Asian region
- **FAO/NACA** Expert meeting on the use and exchange of aquatic genetic resources relevant for food and agriculture, Chonburi, Thailand, 30 March-2 April 2009
- FAO Expert workshop on improving biosecurity through prudent and responsible use of veterinary medicines in aquatic food production, Bangkok, Thailand, 15-18 December 2009
- FAO Expert workshop on enhancing the contribution of small-scale aquaculture to food security, poverty alleviation and socio-economic development, 21-24 April 2010, Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Since the inception of **TCP/CPR/3203** in July 2009, the project made significant progress in successfully developing good aquaculture practices (GAPs), improving local capacity for disease diagnosis, monitoring of culture environment and preliminary detection of drug residues through various training activities for local technical staff and participating farmers. Better management practices (BMPs) are currently being employed by demonstration farmers during the culture period that is being supported by the project.

Implementation of **TCP/THA/3202** commenced in June 2009. Project implementation strategies and work plans were developed through national consultation. Four farmer groups were well-established in four different provinces covering shrimp and tilapia farming. Training on setting up of farmer groups and their operations, including internal control system and implementation of GAPs was conducted for local technical staff and farmer group managers and members.

**TCP/BGD/3101** was successfully implemented in 2008-2009. This project assisted the government of Bangladesh developing a Shrimp Seed Quality Assurance Program (SSQAP), Code of Practice (COP) and Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for shrimp hatchery operation in the country and strengthened local capacity through relevant training activities and laboratory facility improvement through the support provided by the project.

Implementation of **TCP/RAS/3203** is progressing well participated by four member countries, namely China, Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Successful farm trials in four countries have well demonstrated the technical and economic feasibility of using pellet to displace direct use of low-value fish in marine finfish culture. Relevant socioeconomic and environmental studies were also conducted.

The FAO/NACA Expert meeting on the use and exchange of aquatic genetic resources relevant for food and agriculture discussed extensively past practices on the use and patterns of exchange of genetic resources of some important aquaculture commodities. A synthesis review paper, which considered the schemes/mechanisms for access and benefit sharing (ABS) of aquatic genetic resources among FAO member countries, was prepared for the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Conference held in October 2009.

The FAO Expert workshop on enhancing the contribution of small-scale aquaculture (SSA) to food security, poverty alleviation and socio-economic development significantly enhanced the understanding of the contribution of and challenges faced by SSA producers, identified entry points for enhancing its contribution and action plans to protect SSA producers and households from threats, risks, shocks, crises and emergencies. The workshop also identified

principles and key elements that will be included the th FAO CCRF Technical Guideline for promoting the development of SSA.

It is expected that outputs of the above TCP projects and the regional workshops/meeting will significantly promote the sustainable development through improved aquaculture food security, food safety, environmental benefits and biosecurity in the region.

### **Promoting the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) in the Asia-Pacific region**

The 2nd Regional Consultative Forum Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) and the 30th Session of APFIC convened in Manado, Indonesia in 2008, recommended that APFIC promote an understanding of how to implement ecosystem approaches to aquaculture and fisheries management. The meeting noted too that such approaches would effectively contribute to the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The session emphasized the need for guidance on how to apply this management approach to the small-scale production sector, the development of offshore fisheries and in the data-poor situations that prevail in the APFIC region. In response to this recommendation, APFIC and FAO in cooperation with the government of Sri Lanka convened a regional consultative workshop from 18-22 May 2009, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop brought together 75 participants from APFIC and FAO member countries across Asia and the Pacific region together with representatives of regional fisheries, aquaculture and environmental intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs/NGOs), as well as those representing relevant projects and other arrangements. The workshop enabled participants to familiarize themselves with ecosystem approaches to management and explore how these planning and management frameworks can be applied to the complex issues facing fisheries and aquaculture systems that are typical of South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia. The workshop also developed recommendations for action directed at APFIC member countries and the regional partners of APFIC for individual or collective actions.

### **Best practices to support and improve the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture households**

The APFIC Regional workshop on best practices to support and improve the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture households was convened during 13-15 October 2009, in Manila, Philippines, and

participated by 58 representing 16 member countries, resource persons and representatives of international and regional NGOs/IGOs, institutions and FAO staff and resource persons drawn from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FI), the FAO Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (RFLP) and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME).

The workshop focused on three main themes: (i) building resilient small-scale coastal fisheries and aquaculture through livelihood diversification in the APFIC region; (ii) impact of policies on fishers' livelihoods; and (iii) approaches and best practices for facilitating access to microfinance services for small-scale fishers and aquaculturists. The findings and recommendations of the workshop highlighted those areas of best practice and policies that will support coastal community livelihoods and those aspects that are to be avoided or which can negatively impact coastal livelihoods.

### **Promoting aquaculture insurance in Asia and the Pacific region**

Exploring the possibility of establishing appropriate insurance scheme/s for Thai shrimp farmers has been taken up as a high priority by the Thai Department of Fisheries (DoF). FAO through the RAP office supported the Thai government in convening an FAO/DoF Workshop on the options for a potential insurance scheme for aquaculture in Thailand, held from 23 – 25 September 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand through a TCP Facility. The workshop provided stakeholders with a detailed overview of the benefits of, and requirements for, the successful establishment of a mutual insurance scheme that responds to the needs of the Thai shrimp farming industry and meets the overall objectives of the Royal Thai Government. The workshop was attended by representatives from government agencies, shrimp farmer cooperatives, fish marketing organizations, the academe, the private sector and the media. Resource persons from the global insurance industry - leaders in the fields of mutualisation, reinsurance, claims and loss adjustment, and aquaculture insurance and with over 30 years of experience in their respective fields in different parts of both the developed and developing world - provided their expertise. The workshop participants shared their experiences, perspectives and views during the working group sessions. The workshop recommended a number of immediate follow-up actions. ■