

Methods for aquaculture policy analysis, formulation and implementation in selected Southeast Asian countries

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The production of fish for food from aquaculture has been steadily growing; aquaculture now accounts for 50 percent of the total fish production. With production from capture fisheries reaching a plateau, this trend is expected to continue in the next decade to meet the increasing demand for aquatic products, fuelled by population growth and higher revenues. The sector will need proper planning through the formulation of appropriate and supportive policies that create an enabling environment for sustainable aquaculture development so that it fulfils its role as main supplier of quality food fish, and as vector of economic growth and poverty alleviation.

However, strategic planning and policy formulation remain a recognized “weak link” between what governments wish for aquaculture to achieve and what is happening at the ground level. Planning and policy development related to aquaculture are impeded by a number of factors relating to: i) limited human and institutional capacities; ii) confusion over terminology and requirements; iii) weak consultation and policy formulation processes; and iv) information gaps. This can lead to wrong economic choices and inappropriate policies. It can also result in the slow, uncoordinated and unsustainable development of aquaculture, as well as in conflicts within and outside the sector. To address these challenges, members of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture called for the continuous support of FAO in providing and disseminating information and advice on aquaculture policy formulation and implementation. To answer this call, a regional workshop on “Methods for aquaculture policy analysis, formulation and implementation in selected Southeast Asian countries”, will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 9-11 December 2009, co-organised by FAO and NACA.



The workshop focuses on selected Southeast Asian countries where aquaculture has developed, or is developing, fast, although often outside the frame of clear policies and well-defined strategies, at the risk of undermining the long-term sustainability and economic contribution of the sector.

The specific objective of the workshop is to build capacity related to aquaculture planning and policy development in the selected countries and to provide participants with some orientation and tools to strengthen policy formulation and implementation processes in their own countries.

Further information on the workshop can be obtained from Cécile Brugère, Fishery Planning Analyst, FIEP, at the email address indicated above.