

Aquatic biodiversity in rice-based ecosystems Activities in the framework of the FAO Interdepartmental Working Group on Biodiversity

2001

- Aquatic Biodiversity case studies in Cambodia and P.R. China – “making the invisible visible” - focussing on the availability and use of aquatic biodiversity for livelihoods

2002

- Aquatic Biodiversity case studies in Lao PDR and Viet Nam focussing on the availability and use of aquatic biodiversity for livelihoods
- First output: CD-ROM with results from Cambodia published. Available at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/CDrom/AwarnessAgrBiodiv/default.htm>
- Presentation of the results of the Cambodia and P.R. China case studies at the 20th Session of the International Rice Commission, Bangkok, July 2002
- The Commission not only acknowledges the importance of aquatic biodiversity but recommends to its member countries the enhancement of this resource base and to give stronger attention to the nutritional contribution of aquatic organisms in the diet of rural people
- <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/field/commrice/pages/sessions.html#01>
- FAO/NACA Regional Workshop on Traditional use and availability of aquatic biodiversity in rice-based ecosystems in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, P.R. China
- Recommendations include:
 - Analyze available aquatic species and their importance for a balanced diet (e.g. regarding Vitamin A, essential fatty acids)
 - Conduct follow-up research on the more important consumed species in terms of nutritional value
 - Investigate possibilities to increase the availability of these speciesRead the report: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/xishuangbanna/xishuangbanna.pdf>

2003

- Contribution to 29th Session of the Committee on World Food Security in the preparation of The role of aquaculture in improving food security and nutrition incorporating considerations on the role of integrated rice-fish systems
- Recommendation to the CFS is inter alia to encourage and promote the production of aquaculture products as a source of nutrition for human consumption with the help of targeted nutrition education programmes
- Presentation at the Convention of Biodiversity's (CBD) Eighth SBSTTA meeting, Montreal: FAO Fisheries Department Programme on Inland Aquatic Biodiversity
- Presentation of UTILIZATION OF AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN MOUNTAINOUS RICE-BASED ECOSYSTEMS OF CHINA AND VIET NAM; Main theme: Mountain biological diversity
- Read the abstract: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-08.pdf>
- View the poster: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/CDrom/AwarnessAgrBiodiv/poster.pdf>
- A study organized by FAORAP with collaboration of IUCN in LAO PDR further develops the analysis of The role and nutritional value of aquatic resources in the livelihoods of rural people.
- Read at www.fao.org/DOCREP/004/AD454E/ad454e00.htm
- National workshop on aquatic biodiversity in Lao PDR linked to the FAO/UNDP proposal workshop on a planned national Agro-Biodiversity Programme.

2004

- Participation in the preparation of the International Year of Rice (IYR) 2004 raising awareness on the role of aquatic biodiversity in rice production systems in the IYR Concept Paper and IYR fact sheet on Aquatic Biodiversity
- Browse the website: <http://www.fao.org/rice2004/en/factsheets.htm>
- View Aquatic Biodiversity fact sheet at <http://www.fao.org/rice2004/en/f-sheet/factsheet7.pdf>
- Participation in the preparation of World Food Day 2004 with theme “Biodiversity for Food Security”

Upcoming events:

- FAO Regional Technical Expert Meeting on Aquatic biodiversity, its nutritional composition, and human consumption in rice-based systems, FAO Bangkok, 8-10 December 2004
- FAO & Partner Organizations (MRC, IUCN, NACA, others) Regional Workshop on The utilization of aquatic resources and their nutritional role for rice-based livelihoods, Vientiane, Laos, TBD in 2005

For further information visit the FAO corporate Biological Diversity website: <http://www.fao.org/biodiversity/index.asp> or contact: matthias.halwart@fao.org

¹Supported by FAO-Netherlands Partnership Programme and Regular Programme funds.