

FORWARD

The Sixth Meeting of IDAF Liaison Officers which took place at the International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) Banjul, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Gambia from 1 - 2 February 1993, and the Workshop on Fisherfolk Organisations which followed that meeting at the same venue from 3 - 5 February 1993. are in keeping with the Programme's endeavour to continuously seek appropriate strategies to improve its guidance and assistance to fisherfolk communities; through appropriate dialogue and consultations among actors in the artisanal fisheries sector.

In addition to the impressive participation (18 of 20 Liaison Officers), Banjul offered the technicians who were present an opportunity to make a critical, objective and exhaustive analysis of the actions undertaken or planned in the different countries covered by IDAF.

The importance of the Banjul meeting is evidenced by the fact that the participants are aware of the fragility of results obtained, which results they promised to preserve and reinforce.

But Banjul will be remembered in that it is an example of the Team Spirit which must prevail between different actors or participants in the Programme for the welfare of fisherfolks. Liaison Officers are conscious of the need for them to fully play their role of close collaborators of the Programme, animators of group action and actors in the permanent exchange of view points between the different interest groups in the Programme. In keeping with the participatory approach which the Programme promotes, participants designated three representatives (Liaison Officers) to the Working Group charged with elaborating the project document for a possible IDAF phase III.

The recommendations emanating from Banjul are relevant and come from an impressive, operational sum of practical experiences. The report of the meeting and the main working documents submitted at the session are presented in this volume. It is hoped the information contained therein will contribute to the exchange of ideas and experiences among those involved in the development of the artisanal fisheries sector.

B.P. Satia
Programme Coordinator