

FORWARD

The grouping of fisherfolk in the artisanal fisheries sector is a natural and desirable phenomenon and they exist under a variety of names or titles. Indeed, some people are of the opinion that the grouping of fisherfolk is an important organizational framework for encouraging the participation of artisanal fisherfolk in the development and management of their fisheries.

A good many fisherfolk organisations exist in the countries IDAF assists. Some have operated well and others not so well. Evidence is accumulating that fisherfolk organisations is one of the best tools of achieving a project's objective but they are not a cheap means of development. Considerable amount of energy, imagination, self commitment and effort are needed to put into a place a workable and successful fisherfolk organisation.

In the endeavour to encourage the exchange of experience on the subject by its partners and clientele, IDAF commissioned seven case studies in three distinct socio-economic environments by authors who are themselves actors in Fisherfolk Organisations. A Workshop was later organized at Banjul, The Gambia, from 3 - 5 February 1993 as a follow-up to IDAF Sixth Liaison Officers Meeting.

The thirty seven participants at the Workshop were very eager to learn about the various case studies and vividly exchanged experiences on a number of issues; and also made a number of recommendations.

This volume contains the Report of that workshop and the case studies.

The conclusion of the group of authors who are represented in this volume was that they gained a great deal from the experience of writing these case studies. Participants at the Workshop expressed satisfaction concerning the interchange of ideas with colleagues from similar but at times different settings and stated that the workshop was professionally enriching.

We sincerely hope that this report will also help interest others in the complex and important subject of fisherfolk organisations.

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