

4. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Because public expenses have been reduced, the governments of the region are often compelled to rely on outside assistance to carry out their development scheme. The changes of economic policy in some countries coincide with the privatization of certain projects once their outside funding is over or with the end of the prices fixed by the administration and the withdrawal of the State from production and marketing activities. The inter-national economic crisis and the needs of the Eastern Europe countries in Capital, cause an appreciable fall in the means allocated to the artisanal fishery sector in West Africa. That is why, the “sustainability” requirement of the results obtained with outside assistance is higher and higher both from beneficiaries and donors.

4.1. Major Orientations

With the economic crisis still hitting most Western countries, the volume of the bilateral assistance in general has decreased. Similarly, multilateral assistance has decreased too and part of its resources is being reorientated toward eastern Europe Countries. Also, a certain number of countries of the sub region are no longer able presently to absorb any outside help, except the urgent medical and food help. We are here thinking of Liberia, Zaire, Angola or even Togo, in 1992.

Most donors agree with the new economic orientations advocated by the international financial organizations (IMF, WB), that is the liberalization of the economy, privatization of public enterprises, reduction of the Civil Service manpower. In this respect, let us mention that in Angola, the old “fishermen associations” have been dissolved and their possessions privati-zed, in Guinea Bissau, the artisanal fishery development project of Cacheu has been privatized and it will soon be the turn of Bubaque project. It has been the same with Promo-pêche project in Gabon.

4.2. National Projects

The majority of the countries of the region enjoy an outside assistance for the development of their marine artisanal fishery. Among these six projects are presently carried out by FAO and financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

Artisanal Fishery Integrated Development at Yeji, Ghana.

Pilot Project for Artisanal Fishery Integrated Development at Kaback, Guinea.

Assistance to the development of a fishery base at Kamsar, Guinea.

Integrated Development of fisheries in rural area, Nigeria (finishes in 1992).

Assistance to fisheries State secretariat, for the development of Artisanal Fisheries, Guinea Bissau.

Fisheries Integrated Development in the rural fishery villages of Shenge Region, Sierra Leone.

Two other projects executed by FAO are temporarily suspended in Zaire (Assistance to the carrying out of the fisheries guideline) and in Congo (Fishery development in the Congo basin).

Support activities to the sector from other cooperation agencies, bilateral or multilateral, and non governmental organizations (NGO) continue. In Mauritania, Italy has financed a project for artisanal fishermen training which ended in December 1992. An ambitious development project of the "Baie du Repos" aiming at the construction of an artisanal fishery harbour at Nouadhibou is being executed with the financing of the Arab Funds for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). The African Development Bank (ADB) finances a project for the training and equipment of 500 new fishermen. Japan has provided thirty plastic boats as well as material for their equipment. In Senegal, Canada finances the "Pro-pêche" project which has a component called: Improvement of the Artisanal Fishery techniques in Senegal (IAFTS); This project will end in 1993. The Missirah fishery Community Center is financed by Japan. A project for the Development of Ziguinchor Artisanal Fishery (PAMEZ) is cofinanced by the European Development Fund (EDF) and the French Development Bank (FDB). The ADB has financed the creation of three fishery Centers and has put at the disposal of the artisanal fishermen, shipowners and fishmongers a credit line for the building of ice factories, the acquisition of isotherm vehicles and other inputs. In Cape Verde, the main money lenders are the Netherlands (S; Antao), Germany (Fogo, Brava), Italy (Maio, S. Nicolau), the ADB, the International Funds for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the UNDP (Santiago). These projects aim at supplying fishery material and out-board motors, experimenting new techniques and supporting fish preservation and marketing. In Gambia, E.E.C, Japan and Italy have given their support to the development of fishery Community Centers, In Guinea Bissau, The Swedish agency for international Development (SAID), present since 1977, is reorientating its activities which were concentrated on Bubaque project toward an institutional support to the Artisanal Fishery Department. Italy has financed Bolama project which aims at training and equipping fishermen. Two NGOs one Belgian "Peace Isles", the other German "Misereor", work in the same direction. The NGO, International Union for the preservation of Nature has started a project in Rio Grande region of Buba which aims at a sustainable utilisation of coastal resources. Japan has granted vehicles and out board motors. A project carried out by the Center of studies and International

Cooperation (CSIC) and financed by the International Center for Ocean Exploitation (ICEO, Canada) aims at reinforcing the Ministry's capacities in integrated management of marine resources. The ADB's project signed since December 1990 has not yet started. It aims essentially at training new fishermen. It includes a credit line for inputs purchase, equipment and vehicles purchase, the construction of infrastructures and has a technical assistance component. In Guinea, the Benty Artisanal Fishery Center is financed by eec. UNDP/UNEF has stopped financing a unit of fishing nets and ropes factory. The ADB has financed an ambitious project comprising the creation of three fishing ports in Conakry, buildings and civil engineering, rural works sites and wood section equipments, cold storage units, boat construction, fishing equipment as well as technical assistance and training.

In Sierra Leone, the Tombo pilot project financed by the German Cooperation Agency (GTZ) since 1980 will end in 1993. The West North - West artisanal fisheries and Community Development project (AFCOD) financed by EEC is going on. Their objectives are to improve fishing boats and their mode of propulsion, supply fishing material, develop community organizations, rehabilitate certain infrastructures and initiate income yielding activities.

In Côte d'Ivoire, IFAD finances the project for the development of artisanal fishery in a by Lagoon, whereas the Aid and Cooperation Fund (ACF) supports a project of polyester boats construction for artisanal fishery. In Ghana, the World Bank finances a research project which aims at estimating the stocks of sardinella, prawns, lobsters, cephalopoda and other bottom-dwelling fish.

Benin has enjoyed the support of the United Nations Equipment Funds which helped motorize 140 fishery units. Japan has also offered a certain quantity of material and equipment. the German cooperation (GTZ) continues its project for the development of Lagoon fisheries.

In Nigeria, IFAD finances a project for the development of artisanal fisheries in the regions of Rivers, Cross Rivers, and Akwa Ibom estuary. Another project, "Accelerated artisanal Production of fish" financed by ECOWAS fund, aims at supplying the artisanal fishermen with credits enabling them to equip themselves. This project is executed in Edo, Delta Ondo and Sokoto States. The World Bank finances a project of assistance for the monitoring, control and supervision of marine waters.

Japan has given Cameroon an assistance in equipment. The project also tries to introduce the construction of canoes with marine plywood. Equatorial Guinea enjoys Italian assistance in Bata region. This project whose first phase included the setting up of cold storage infrastructures and the supply of glass fibre boats equipped with inside motor was revised and reorientated for a second phase. Japan has offered an important quantity of fishing material and equipment. Gabon has made, at its own expenses, an important socio-economic investigation about artisanal fishery.

Japan is an important partner for Sao Tome and Principe to whom it has offered a third part of fishing material and equipment within the framework of the non refundable assistance. Another project is the one financed by IFAD whose objective is to establish a fund for the development of artisanal Fishery financed with currency in order to permit the importation, by the private sector, of fishing motors and equipment, the setting up of repairing and maintenance workshops, training and populariza-tion and the construction of community centers. Congo has got a support project to the marine artisanal fishery financed by the French Development Bank (FDB). Japan has granted Zaire an important set of fishing equipment and out-board motors which were unfortunately looted during the public disturbances that took place in Kinshasa since 1980 the ASDI continues supporting the artisanal fishery in Angola. This is done through the supply of boats, fishing materials and equipment the building of support infrastructures, training and technical assistance.

A certain number of project proposals have been submitted to the donors. It is namely the case of Angola (Production and training center for marine canoe fishing, Pilot project for the development of canoe fishing with purse seine) cape Verde (Fisheries development) Gabon (statistic). Equatorial Guinea (Improvement of traditional boats and training of carpenters and fishermen).

As it can be noticed the main assistance in capital comes from ADB and to a lesser extent from IFAD, the Central African Development Bank (CADB), whose headquarters is in Brazzaville, Congo has not financed or achieved till now any project in the Sector. The conditions to get a loan from the bank are actually, particularly restrictive: guarantee from a member State government, a minimum envelope of 400 million CFA, etc. A project must soon be submitted to the Board of Directors to remove some of those constraints.

4.3. Regional Projects

Apart from the Programme for the Integrated Development of Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa financed by Danish Cooperation Agency (DANIDA) since 1983, we can name three projects of regional scope devoted to artisanal fishery:

The regional office for information and advice in processing and marketing of fishery products in Africa (INFO PECHE), carried out by FAO and financed by Norway is on the way to become an intergovernmental organisation. This office whose headquarters is in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, provides regular information about the market, gives technical opinions on products and processing, ensures training in specialized fields following catches in the region. This office is part of the network of the regional information offices about fish marketing and technical advice (INFOFISH for Asia and the Pacific, INFOPECSA for Latin America, and INFOSAMAK for Arab Countries).

The West African Regional Programme “valorization of the Artisanal Fishery Catches” financed by EEC. The Programme, whose head-office is in Abidjan aims at reducing the physical losses of fish, improving the quality of fresh and processed products, as a means of obtaining an increase in private operators’ incomes, and expanding intra-regional trade of the artisanal fishery products.

The regional Fisheries Committee of Guinea Gulf (RFCGG) financed by EEC. Its members are: Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and Zaire. The components of the project are: training (Cape Esterias, Gabon), research (Pointe Noire, Congo) and the shipyard (Sao Tome and Principe).