

AGORA – providing scientific literature to the developing world

AGORA - Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture is a programme of FAO in collaboration with major scientific publishers, Cornell University Mann Library and the World Health Organization (WHO). Further information on AGORA can be obtained at: agora@fao.org



Many fisheries and aquaculture libraries in developing countries have not received any current scientific journals in over ten years. Without access to current scientific information, scientists struggle to keep up with advances in science and technology, to publish their own findings in peer-reviewed journals, to update their teaching curricula, to find funding, and in many other arenas. The demand for access to scientific literature in developing countries has gone unfulfilled for many years, and has led to the isolation of a generation of scientists from their peers.

The long-term goal of the AGORA programme is to increase the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research and training in low-income countries, and in turn, to improve food security. To contribute to achieving this goal, AGORA will provide access over the world-wide-web to a research-level collection of key journals in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences to the poorest countries in the world. It will offer to researchers, policy-makers, educators, students, technical workers and extension specialists, a collection of literature comparable to that available to their counterparts in the developed world.

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE JOURNALS

Of the more than 400 journals currently available, over 50 are core fisheries and aquatic sciences titles and include: Aquacultural Engineering (Elsevier), Aquaculture (Elsevier), Aquaculture International (Kluwer Academic Publishers), Aquaculture Nutrition (Blackwell Publishing), Aquaculture Research (Blackwell Publishing), Fish and Shellfish Immunology

(Elsevier), Fish Physiology and Biochemistry (Kluwer Academic Publishers), and Journal of Fish Diseases (Blackwell Publishing). The list of Fisheries/Aquaculture journals can be viewed at: <http://www.aginternetwork.org/> and the index to all journals can be found at: <http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/journals.php>. There are other subject areas that include journals relevant to aquaculture, such as Food Policy (Elsevier) in the Food Science and Nutrition category and Environmental Pollution (Elsevier) in the Environment/Ecology/Natural Resources category.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN AGORA?

Potential users will be required to register with FAO, and access to AGORA will be password controlled. The AGORA Publisher Partners are opening access free to relevant institutions in eligible countries – a list of countries can be seen at: <http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/about.php>.

FISHERIES BRANCH LIBRARY OF FAO

In addition to the journals provided via AGORA, the Fisheries Library maintains a directory of fisheries-related online journals available full-text free of charge at www.fao.org/fi/library/jou_free.htm.

The FAO Library collection includes almost 1000 current fisheries journals, many of which are not available commercially and which contain unique local information and knowledge. FAO Fisheries Department ensures that these publications are indexed for inclusion in international databases such as ASFA (Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts)

www.fao.org/fi/asfa/asfa.asp) and thus reach a wider audience. The online availability of this "grey literature" i.e. fisheries and aquaculture information published by research institutions and organizations, will give much greater opportunities for its dissemination and for the exchange of information between countries.

For further information about the services of the FAO Fisheries Library, please contact Ms Jean Collins (fi-library@fao.org)