
Development of Canoes in Shri Lanka

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This report gives an account of the successful attempts to develop and introduce a new type of outrigger canoe for the benefit of small-scale fisherfolk in Sri Lanka, who had been traditionally using dugouts called orus. It summarizes the activities of canoe construction and training of carpenters, demonstration, fishing and long-term fishing trials and discusses the impact and prospects for further development.

The work was undertaken from late 1988 till early 1993 as a subproject under BOBP's "Small-Scale Fisherfolk Communities" project GCP/RAS/I 18/MUL. The Boatbuilder Consultant assisting in construction of prototype canoes and training of carpenters was O Gulbrandsen, from Norway.

The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) is a multiagency regional fisheries programme which covers seven countries around the Bay of Bengal — Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Programme plays a catalytic and consultative role: it develops, demonstrates and promotes new technologies, methodologies and ideas to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk communities in member countries. The BOBP is sponsored by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom, and also by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and AGFUND' (Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Organizations). The main executing agency is the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

This report has not been cleared by the Governments concerned or the FAO.

July 1993

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Fig 1. Shri Lanka and its traditional fishing craft

