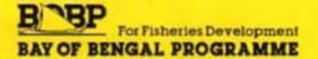
STATUS AND NEEDS OF FISHERFOLK: Vaavu, Meemu and Faafu Atolls, MALDIVES



A study undertaken by
PROJECTS AND EXTENSION SECTION
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES



BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME Small-Scale Fisherfolk Communities

BOBP/WP/76 GCP/RAS/ 118/MUL

A VIEW FROM THE BEACH

 Understanding the status and needs of fisherfolk in the Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls of the Republic of Maldives

Ву

The Extension and Projects Section of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, the Republic of Maldives

BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME Madras, India 1991 This paper summarizes and analyzes the information collected from fisherfolk communities in the Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls of the Maldives, by the staff of the Extension and Projects Section of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MOFA), Republic of Maldives. The information was gathered as part of an internal exercise of the Extension and Projects Section to help it get acquainted with these atolls, which were the selected target area of a BOBP-sponsored subproject to assist MOFA to develop a fisheries extension service, to build rapport with the fisherfolk and to get a working understanding of their socio-economic status, the dynamics of their communities and their needs and concerns. The document is intended for the day-to-day use of the extension staff in generating objectives, prioritizing actions and in guiding and facilitating their work, It is not a benchmark study representative of the situation prevailing in the country as a whole.

The information was collected in a series of participatory rapid appraisals and community focus group discussions undertaken by Aminath Zaheera, Aminath Latheefa, Abdulla Jaufar, Adam Maniku and Shereen Nahida of the Extension and Projects Section and Ahmed Naseer of the Woridview International Foundation, an NGO, under the direction of N T Hasen Didi, Director, Extension and Projects Section, during the latter half of 1989, and analyzed by them with support from the **BOBP.**

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The BOBP is a multi-agency 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 techniques, technologies or ideas to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk communities in member-countries.

This document is a working paper and has not been cleared by the governments concerned or the FAO.

June 1991

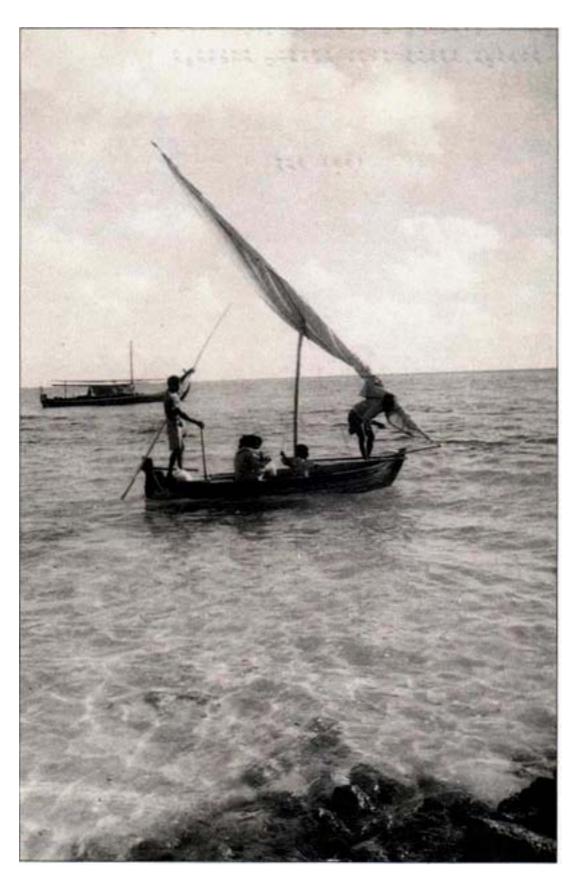
CO	NTENTS	S P	Page
Pre	face		v
1.	Backgr	round	
2.	Objecti	ves	
3.	Method	dology	I
4.	Limitat	tions of the Study	2
5.	The A	rea of the Study	2
6.	Social	and Economic Characteristics of Fisher folk	2
	6.1	Demographic trends	2
	6.2	Occupational patterns	3
	6.3	Economic status of fisherfolk	4
	6.4	Occupational shifts	5
7.	Proble	ms, Needs and Concerns of Fisherfolk Communities	5
	7.1	Community Perceptions vs Island Chief's Perceptions	6
	7.2	The Crisis in the Fishery	6
	7.3	The Energy Crisis	8
	7.4	Inter-Sector Labour Shift and Emigration	8
	7.5	The Quality of the Environment	10
	7.6	Community Health	12
8.	Conclu	sions	IS
Figu	ures		
	I	Problems, Causal Linkages and Impacts - The Crisis in the Fishery	7
	II	Problems, Causal Linkages and Impacts - The Energy Crisis	9
	III	Problems, Causal Linkages and Impacts – Inter-Sector	
		Labour Shifts and Emigration	11
	IV	Problems, Causal Linkages and Impacts — The Quality of the Environment	t 13
	V	Problems, Causal Linkages and Impacts - Community Health	14
Tab	oles		
	I	Population Trends in the Islands of Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	16
	II	Occupation Pattern in Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	17
	III	Employment Status in Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	19
	IV	Ownership of Assets in Sampled Households in Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	19
	V	Perception of Relative Economic Status in Sampled Households in Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	20
	VI	Occupational Shifts in Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	21

		Page
VII	Reasons for Occupational Shifts in Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	22
VIII	Perception of Utilization of Additional Income in Meemu, Vaavu and Faafu Atolls	23
IX	Problems, Needs and Concerns in Order of Community Priority – Meemu Atoll	24
X	Problems, Needs and Concerns in Order of Community Priority – Vaavu Atoll	25
XI	Problems, Needs and Concerns in Order of Community Priority – Faafu Atoll	26
XII	Problems, Needs and Concerns in Order of Community Priority – A Comparison	27
XIII	Problems, Needs and Concerns Perceived by Island Chiefs (Not Prioritized) – Meemu Atoll	28
XIV	Problems, Needs and Concerns Perceived by Island Chiefs (Not Prioritized) – Vaavu Atoll	29
XV	Problems, Needs and Concerns Perceived by Island Chiefs (Not Prioritized) – Faafu Atoll	30
Appen	dices	
I	Sampling for Household Questionnaires and Dates of Survey	35
II	Island Fact Sheets	37
III	Glossary	60
IV	Questionnaires	61
Maps		
1	Map of Maldives showing project area	34
2	Map of Faafu Atoll	38
3	Map of Meemu Atoll	44
4	Map of Vaavu Atoll	54
Publica	ations of the Bay of Bengal Programme	73

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A family travels in a *dhoni* from one island to another