

## Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture

To improve the management and enhance the socio-economic impacts of aquaculture, the Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service (FIMA) initiated in 2006 an effort towards the development and application of the ecosystem approach to aquaculture production. This activity is funded under a Japanese Trust Fund Project (Towards Sustainable Aquaculture: Selected Issues and Guidelines), and is conducted in collaboration with the Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and Planning Service (FIEP). An Experts Workshop held in May 2007 agreed on the following definition: “An Ecosystem Approach for Aquaculture (EAA) is a strategy for the integration of the activity within the wider ecosystem in such a way that it promotes sustainable development, equity, and resilience of interlinked social and ecological systems”. This definition essentially recaps the ecosystem-based management proposed by the Convention on Biological Diversity and also follows recommendations of the CCRF. Three scales/levels of EAA application have been identified: (i) the farm; (ii) the water body and its watershed/aquaculture zone and (iii) the global, market-trade level. Aiming to enhance aquaculture contribution to sustainable development, the EAA should be guided by three key principles: (i) Aquaculture should be developed in the context of ecosystem functions and services (including biodiversity) with no degradation of these beyond their resilience capacity, (ii) Aquaculture should improve human-well being and equity for all relevant stakeholders and (iii) Aquaculture should be developed in the context of (and integrated to) other relevant sectors. FIMA is currently involved in the production of a comprehensive publication (proceedings) on EAA and on the development of guidelines. More information can be obtained from Doris Soto at [Doris.Soto@fao.org](mailto:Doris.Soto@fao.org)

**GCP/INT/936/JPN: Towards sustainable aquaculture: Selected issues and guidelines - Component 5: Developing an Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture.** This project component is addressing key issues for the application of an Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) Production in different environments and different socio-economic contexts. An EAA should improve the acceptance of aquaculture by avoiding impairing ecosystem resilience. This project component has commissioned a series of reviews and desk studies and held workshops to define the EAA operational framework discussing implementation strategies and with the final goal of producing general guidelines. [Responsible Officer: D Soto (FIMA)].

**UTF/BRA/066/BRA. Coastal Communities Development in Northeast Brazil.** Commenced in 2006 and will be completed in 2010. The main goal of the project is to reduce poverty in coastal communities and to ensure a more sustainable utilization of marine resources through (a) the introduction and expansion of economically viable and simple mariculture techniques and (b) the involvement of the communities in co-management of the resources. The immediate objectives of the project are: (a) consolidation of Gracilaria seaweed culture and expansion of this type of farming to other communities; (b) diversification of mariculture production; (c) development of pilot projects on co-management of marine resources and (d) establishment and organization of inter-institutional committees, both at federal level and in each one of the participating states. The Special Secretariat for Aquaculture and Fisheries (SEAP) is the main government institution responsible for project execution. [J Aguilar-Manjarrez (FIMA) and D Kalikoski (FAO)].