

GUIDELINES ON FISHERIES EXTENSION IN THE BAY OF BENGAL REGION



**GUIDELINES
ON
FISHERIES EXTENSION**
(IN THE BAY OF BENGAL REGION)

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

Fisheries extension is a concept that is not always very well understood. One reason is that extension, in general, involves a rather complex process that requires clear objectives, clear programmes and the resources to implement its programmes. Another reason is that the effects of extension are not always clearly visible in a short period of time; extension is often just the starting point of helping people to help themselves, and this may require time. And then again, fisheries extension has its own complicated features, compared, for example, to agricultural extension. Fisheries extension cannot always be given 'on the job', which is at sea. And in a fishing village it is often difficult to gather together a group of fishermen, for they are frequently away from their homes at irregular times. Furthermore, while an agricultural community might have relatively homogeneous farming systems, most fishing communities have diverse ranges of 'fishing systems', each with its own extension requirements.

This paper is, therefore, NOT a manual; it does not provide a step-by-step approach to fisheries extension. Rather, it explains that every single programme has its own specific features, depending on such factors as the target group and the resources, and that a learning approach has, therefore, to be used, the different situations having to be analyzed before the most appropriate extension service can be provided.

The paper provides, in this context, **guidelines** for the planning and implementation of fisheries extension programmes and activities in the countries of the Bay of Bengal region. The main focus is on

field-level fisheries extension activities. However, an effective extension service at the field level requires sound management at the various other levels, based on an understanding of what is happening in the field. The guidelines can, therefore, be utilized as a textbook for training of lower and middle level FEAs as well as to provide reference material for extension policy-makers and programmers at higher levels.

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The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) is a multi-agency regional fisheries programme which covers seven countries around the Bay of Bengal – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Shri 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. The BOBP is sponsored by the governments of Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom, by member-governments in the Bay of Bengal region, and also by AGFUND (Arab Gulf Fund for United Nations Development Organizations) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). The main executing agency is the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

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

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