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TECHNICAL SUBJECTS FOR FISHERIES EXTENSION AND WHOM TO CONTACT

Finding the appropriate information

There are many technical subjects for fisheries extension and in some of these subjects the developments are taking place at a rapid rate. Hence, the FEA cannot possibly know all about all fisheries-related technical subjects. It is important to acknowledge this, and to search for the appropriate information elsewhere, if the need arises. *FOR EXAMPLE, clients may like to obtain specific information on shrimp feed*

The first place to search for information would be in the fishing community itself. Fishermen and fisherwomen are experts in the practical aspects of many technical subjects. Furthermore, information can be found at the regional office (if available) or through discussions with colleagues. It would be ideal if the Fisheries Agency could keep the FEAs regularly informed about new fisheries developments. *FOR EXAMPLE, by issuing a monthly newsletter or by providing regular in-service training.*

If it is not possible to find the appropriate information nearby,

other resources can be contacted. It would be ideal if the Fisheries Agency maintained a list of relevant organizations that could be contacted for information. The FEA, too, could maintain a list of the organizations or persons to be contacted in the fishing communities with which he or she is working.

The organizations mentioned can be contacted by phone, or by writing to them or by visiting them. It is recommended that the organization be first contacted to find out whether the information required is available, and, if so, who should be contacted and how. If the information is not available, somebody in the organization might know which other organization might have the information. It is important to be persistent!

Needs for non-fisheries services

The FEA working with fishermen and fisherwomen in a particular area will also be often confronted with requests for non-fisheries services. They usually expect the FEA, being a government employee, to have sufficient contacts to arrange for other services as well. However, the more professionally the agent approaches the field of fisheries and fisheries-related activities, the more his or her clients will understand that this is precisely the field in which he or she can provide the best assistance.

This does not mean that the FEA should close his or her eyes to the needs of his or her clients in the non-fisheries sectors. If the FEA is sure that there is a real need for which outside assistance is indeed required, and he or she could help by directing the request to the appropriate organization for assistance, it should be done. There are many organizations that can provide services at the village level. Some of these services are, or at least should be, regularly available, such as health services. But other services have to be obtained on special request.