

# The ICLARM Network of Tropical Aquaculture Scientists

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ICLARM

ICLARM has long foreseen the need for a Network of Tropical Aquaculture Scientists (NTAS) to function in the same mode as the ICLARM Network of Tropical Fisheries Scientists (NTFS) (see article on page 8). The NTFS has focused on fish stock assessment, fisheries management and related topics such as fish growth and fecundity and has excluded aquacultural researchers. It has been very successful and now links over 700 individual researchers in 80 countries. Its main functions are information exchange, provision of important publications free to members and publication of a newsletter (Fishbyte) that, in addition to news of members' activities, publishes important articles by members on their research methods and results.

The NTAS will be run on similar lines. It will consider for membership all aqua-

culture scientists engaged in research in the following fields:

1. Genetics of finfish cultured in the tropics
2. Tropical integrated agriculture-aquaculture farming systems
3. Coastal aquaculture of tropical molluscs

Because aquaculture is such a large, diverse field of study, membership will be confined to research scientists whose major work is in these fields. These are of course the main research themes of ICLARM's Aquaculture Program. However, the *tropics* will not be defined too closely. Researchers working on warm-water aquaculture outside the true tropics

will be considered for membership. Moreover, economists and social scientists as well as biologists, working in these fields will be most welcome to apply for membership. It would also be good to see some agricultural researchers with interests in fish farming systems, joining the NTAS to give a broader perspective on integrated farming.

The main purpose of the NTAS will be to link together aquaculture scientists working in the tropics, especially those who are working in isolation and having difficulty in accessing relevant information. The principal vehicle for communication will be a newsletter (Aquabyte) for exchanges of informal notes, news and views on research. Members will be encouraged to write articles on research methods, experimental design, data analysis and interpretation. Information on microcomputer methods and development of software for the chosen research fields will be emphasized. The first issue of Aquabyte will be prepared in the first quarter of 1988 and it will be published at regular intervals thereafter.

For members of the NTAS, ICLARM will provide selected literature relevant to their field(s) of work: excluding textbooks but including unpublished reports, data sets and reprints of out-of-print papers. Where possible, ICLARM will act as distributor of manuals and software prepared by other organizations and individuals.

In selected cases, ICLARM may, if requested, invite members to visit ICLARM headquarters, Manila, or organize visits to members by ICLARM staff to assist with data analysis and interpretation and to discuss research methods.

**IF THE IDEA sounds interesting and you wish to apply for membership, write to the Director, Aquaculture Program, ICLARM, MC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines, outlining briefly your scientific background, any scientific publications and your current research program. We will then send you a formal application form. Membership is free. The only expectation is that members should be willing to discuss their work and respond to inquiries from fellow scientists. This means writing and giving information, not just receiving it.**

Membership of NTAS is for tropical aquaculture researchers working on fish genetics, integrated farming or molluscs.



Harvesting green mussels—coastal aquaculture in Thailand.



Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) Volta strain—one of the many important tilapia genetic resources in Africa—held by Joseph Ofori, Institute of Aquatic Biology, Achimota, Ghana.



Integrated farming in Asia takes many forms. Here taro is grown together with fish in Nueva Ecija, Philippines.