



Brian Lockwood (AFSSRN Coordinator) and Christopher MacCormac (IDRC) opening the AFSSRN Workshop on Aquacultural Economics Research Methods organized by Kasetsart University.

The Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network: An Update

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The Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network (AFSSRN) began in 1982 as a cooperative program between the Faculty of Resource Economics and Agribusiness at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the Agricultural Development Council Inc. (A/D/C) to develop a professional training course in fisheries and aquacultural economics for Malaysia and other Asian countries (see Newsletter, Oct. 1982, p. 19).

At ICLARM's instigation the UPM program became the basis for the development of an expanding network of Southeast Asian universities and fisheries research institutions. For the next two years (1983-1984) the Network included UPM, the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand and the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV). External funding support during this period came from IDRC and ICLARM and ICLARM assumed responsibility for Network development and coordination.

In 1985 five more institutions joined the Network program: the Fisheries Economics Section of the Department of Fisheries in Thailand (FES-DOF), the Economics Faculty of Diponegoro University (UNDIP) and the Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (AARD) in Indonesia, the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (AQD-SEAFDEC) and the Center for Policy and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños in

January 1986

the Philippines (CPDS-UPLB). External funding for a three-year period (1985-1987) came from IDRC, the Ford Foundation (FF) and ICLARM with ICLARM continuing as Network Coordinator.

The main objective of the AFSSRN is to build national research capacity to deal competently with important socioeconomic issues in the management of the complex tropical fisheries of Southeast Asia and in the development of the region's aquaculture industry. In the past, socioeconomic research on fisheries and aquaculture had been constrained by weak institutional support and by a shortage of economists with special training in fisheries and aquacultural economics. As a long-term program of



Thai, Indonesian, Philippine and Malaysian participants in the Bangkok Workshop on Aquacultural Economics Research Methods.

professional and institutional development the AFSSRN seeks to provide much needed quality and continuity to fisheries socioeconomic research.

Network Committee

In each member institution a small team of social scientists, consisting mainly of economists and agricultural economists, has coalesced around the AFSSRN's program of research and training. A senior member assumes responsibility for team leadership and coordination and serves as the team's primary contact with the Network Coordinator who is an ICLARM staff member. Since April 1985 the Team Leaders of the member institutions have formed a Network management and

development Committee, which meets once or twice a year to discuss the Network program and to review all research proposals submitted by member institutions for AFSSRN funding.

The Committee is responsible for giving final approval for research grants and, where necessary, returns proposals for revision before approval is given. The first Committee meeting reviewed seventeen proposals and subsequently approved 14 grants. The Committee will review a second round of proposals at its meeting at UNDIP, Indonesia, in March 1986.

Research Reports Available

The following AFSSRN Research Reports (RR) are now available from Kasetsart University:

- RR.1 *Marketing System of Shellfish Products*, by Ruangrai Tokrisna, Somkit Tugsinavisuitti, Sanit Kao-ian and Piti Kantangkul;
- RR.2 *Marketing System of Fresh Cephalopod in Thailand*, by Ruangrai Tokrisna, Somkit Tugsinavisuitti, Marut Muangkoe and Sanit Kao-ian; and
- RR.3 *Economics of Giant African Snail, Short Necked Clam, Green Mussel, and Cockle Processing in Thailand*, by Sarun Wattanutchariya, Banlu Puthigorn and Wunwiboon Garnjanagoonchorn.

Briefing for workshop participants during a visit to a freshwater prawn hatchery in Chonburi, Thailand.





Workshop participants see traditional oyster culture in Ang-Sila, Chonburi, Thailand.

Other Research Reports will soon be available:

from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia:—

RR.4 *Fish Marketing in Peninsular Malaysia*, by Mohd. Ariff Hussein, Fatimah Mohd. Arshad, Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah, Tai Shzee Yew, K. Kuperan, Abu Hassan Md. Isa, and E.T. Gibbons

and from University of the Philippines in the Visayas:—

RR.5 *Fish Consumption in Iloilo: a Consumer Profile and Behavior Study*, by Benedict C. Posadas

AFSSRN Workshops and Training Courses

In May 1985 the Kasetsart University Team hosted a workshop on methods of aquacultural economics research in South-

east Asia. This activity was in preparation for a number of aquaculture economics research projects now underway in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. In March 1986 the UNDIP team will host a Workshop on Southeast Asian Training Programs in Fisheries and Aquacultural Economics which, in part, will develop curricula for new teaching programs planned at UNDIP and UPV.

For five weeks in November-December 1985 the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department at Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines, held a special training course on aquaculture production for economists and other social scientists from AFSSRN Teams

and the graduate students in the UPM M.Sc. (Resource Economics) program in fisheries and aquacultural economics. A second AFSSRN training activity recently completed was a four-week course on Microcomputer Applications to Fisheries Social Science Research at the Center for Policy

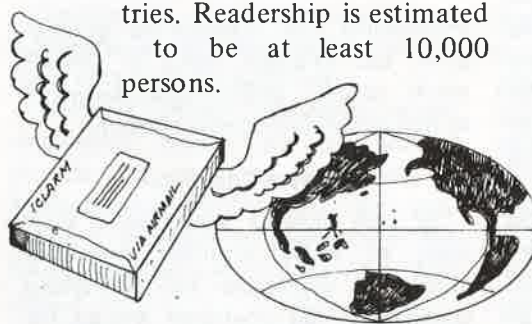
and Development Studies at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños. Research staff from each AFSSRN Team participated in this course. Both training courses will be repeated in 1986-1987. The UPM M.Sc. program and non-degree "module" course in fisheries and aquaculture economics is the main professional training activity of the Network and the UPM Team fills an important special role in AFSSRN's development. Since 1983 Network member institutions have sent seven staff members to the M.Sc. program and seven others to the "module" course.



AFSSRN Team Leaders and friends at the first Team Leaders Committee Meeting, April 1985, ICLARM, Manila. L to R: Ian Smith (Director General, ICLARM), Wilfrido Cruz (CPDS-UPLB), Brian Lockwood (AFSSRN Coordinator), Ma. Luisa Mabunay (UPV), Christopher MacCormac (IDRC), Ruangrai Tokrisna (KU), Wiratno (UNDIP), Pongpat Boonchuwong (FES-DOF Thailand), Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah (UPM), Elwood Pye (IDRC), and Danilo Israel (AQD-SEAFDEC).

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Naga, the ICLARM Quarterly publishes information/data on all phases of fisheries and other living aquatic resources, including research or project summaries, news, notices of new publications and upcoming workshops, conferences, symposia, and courses, summary reports of meetings, and news of personnel. The editor invites articles and reviews but reserves the right to accept or reject papers and to shorten them to meet space requirements. Authors may order reprints of articles published at cost. Opinions expressed in a signed article are those of the author/s and not necessarily those of the management of ICLARM.

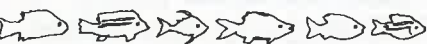
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