

### Reorganization of Fisheries Education Programs

It is high time that the country thinks of evolving a regular national policy on fisheries education. As mentioned earlier, education in the agricultural sciences, including fisheries, is the responsibility of agricultural universities. Therefore, fishery education at all levels may be entrusted to the agricultural universities including higher level training of research scientists, teachers, managerial and senior technical personnel.

The present training arrangements for middle and lower level technicians are mostly of an *ad hoc* nature. It may be worthwhile to establish separate fishery polytechnics under the agricultural uni-

versities to answer such short-term and long-term requirements. The fishermen training centers, which are now being run by state governments, could then be merged with the polytechnics. Likewise, there will be no need for the central or state governments to maintain any staff training establishments dealing with development, extension, etc. What is now being carried out by such training centers, including orientation and refresher courses and training of specialist personnel may be wholly entrusted to the agricultural universities.

#### National Fisheries University

The establishment of a National Fisheries University has been accepted in

principle by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The details are yet to be worked out and the concept has been studied by different people with different perspectives. Such a National University should have a loose linkage with all fisheries institutes, both under the central and state governments. This would certainly serve to standardize fisheries education in the country. ●

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For more information on some of the fisheries programs and courses available in India at present, refer to the listing on p. 18-29.

**O**ctober 1987 sees the launch of a new postgraduate course in fisheries economics at Portsmouth Polytechnic. The course, described in more detail below, reflects the development of research and teaching in this specialist area which has taken place at Portsmouth over several years.

Research in fisheries economics is carried out by the Marine Resources Research Unit, an interdisciplinary research group within the School of Economics. Since the Unit was established in the 1960s the nature of its work has evolved considerably. At present it has research interests which encompass the economics of fish supply, management, marketing and trade. Both individual and team research projects are undertaken, and the Unit also carries out contract research for external bodies. Research output has typically taken the form of publications, consultancy reports, and internal discussion papers.

Teaching in fisheries economics, which is also undertaken by Unit staff, has been a natural corollary of research. In the 1970s an undergraduate option in fisheries economics was introduced into two degree courses, the B.A. Economics and the B.A. Economics and Geography. This, as well as other options in natural resources such as agricultural economics, will continue to be offered to students on these degree courses for the foreseeable future.

### Fisheries Economics at Portsmouth Polytechnic, UK

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The experience gained from teaching fisheries economics has proved a valuable stimulus to research and curriculum development. After extensive planning, a new postgraduate conversion course in fisheries economics has recently been approved by the Polytechnic. The duration will be 22 weeks full-time, starting in October 1987, and successful completion will lead to the award of a Polytechnic Certificate. The course is orientated towards fisheries in developing countries, and is made up of four major components:

- Fundamentals of Economics
- Fisheries Economics
- Information Analysis and Data Processing
- Fishing Enterprise Management

The normal entry requirement will be a first degree or graduate-equivalent professional qualification. In exceptional cases, admission to the course may be permitted to mature students who do not possess a degree but who have relevant employment experience.

As well as offering taught courses, the School of Economics can also organize

research programs for suitable graduates who wish to obtain higher degrees by submission of a thesis. The School arranges for a candidate's research proposal to be registered with the Council for National Academic Awards, which is the degree-awarding body. The period of registration varies according to whether the program is full-time or part-time, and for an M.Phil or Ph.D. With some 30 members of academic staff, the range of expertise available to supervise postgraduate students is considerable, and covers the major areas of economics. Students specifically interested in fisheries economics, however, have the benefit not only of contact with specialists working in the same field but also of having access to the facilities of the Marine Resources Research Unit. These include, among other things, a reading room with a unique collection of books, journals and reprints, and also computing facilities. Research projects on fisheries economics would be supervised by a senior member of the Unit, who would maintain regular contact with the student and monitor the progress of the work.

Further details on the training and research opportunities in fisheries economics offered by Portsmouth Polytechnic can be obtained from David Whitmarsh, School of Economics, Portsmouth Polytechnic, Locksway Road, Portsmouth, UK PO4 8JF. ●