

editorial

The underlying premise for the existence of the WorldFish Center is that improving fisheries and aquaculture will reduce global poverty and hunger. I doubt anyone would question that premise after reading World Food Prize Laureate Dr M.V. Gupta's contribution to this issue of NAGA. As Dr Gupta's paper explains, however, the challenges to delivering those benefits are enormous. For readers looking for concrete examples of how to meet those challenges, look no further than the other papers in this issue.

For wild capture fisheries, there is now consensus - the key to future success in catching fish at sustainable levels lies in understanding people not in understanding fish. It is only when we can organize ourselves to manage fisheries properly that we will make the most of this precious resource. The paper by Salayo and others takes a fresh look at this problem by examining the sources of conflict in South and Southeast Asian fisheries. The authors show how thinking in a systematic way about how and why conflict arises between those who have an interest in the fishery can help improve policies. The approach also helps increase the likelihood of policy acceptance and effective implementation.

History tells us that development of agriculture is an important driver of overall development for a country. As Dr Gupta points out in his paper, if it is to meet its potential, and especially if it is to deliver benefits to the rural poor, we must better integrate aquaculture and agriculture. Several papers in this issue touch on this topic.

Integrating rice and fish culture, for example, is the subject of three contributions, which, taken together, show both the potential and the challenges of the rice-fish approach. Studies from both Bangladesh and India show that yields increased when farmers grew rice and fish together, a finding that clearly shows the promise of the approach. In Africa, however, the story is not so clear-cut. Understanding the reasons for these differences will be a key for unlocking the true potential of the approach and ensuring that it benefits the poor. Two other papers in this issue describe aquaculture-agriculture integration by including small ponds on rural farms. Studies of this approach in Malawi show clearly how this can deliver real impacts on poverty.

Although the challenges of reducing poverty and hunger are great, this issue of NAGA again shows that the solutions are out there. I hope that, like me, you find the work of our authors both inspiring and uplifting.

Stephen J. Hall
Director General
The WorldFish Center



The mission of The WorldFish Center is to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture.

We aim for:

- poverty eradication;
- a healthier, better nourished human family;
- reduced pressure on fragile natural resources; and
- people-centered policies for sustainable development.

A way to achieve this:

Through research, partnership, capacity building and policy support, we promote sustainable development and use of living aquatic resources based on environmentally sound management.

The research thrusts are:

- improving productivity;
- protecting the environment;
- saving biodiversity;
- improving policies; and
- strengthening national programs.

We believe this work will be most successful when undertaken in partnership with national governments and nongovernmental institutions, and with the participation of users of the research results.

Our corporate makeup:

The WorldFish Center is an autonomous, nongovernment, nonprofit organization, established as an international center in 1977. The Center is an operational entity with programs funded by grants from private foundations and governments.

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The WorldFish Center is one of the 15 international research centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) that has initiated the public awareness campaign, **FUTURE HARVEST** Future Harvest.