Welcome to the fifth issue of ‘Post-Fish News’, the newsletter of DFID’s Post-Harvest Fisheries Research Programme (PHFRP). The PHFRP is one of ten research programmes funded under DFID’s Renewable Natural Resources Research Strategy.

Millions of people worldwide are wholly or partially dependent on the post-harvest fisheries sector. These include fishermen, traditional processors, traders and wholesales, seasonal and factory workers and consumers. Poor people within the sector have to cope with a rapidly changing environment and are affected by changes in local, national and global markets, the availability of fisheries resources and changes in the aquatic environment.

Traditionally, the PHFRP has funded research looking at ways to identify, control and reduce fish loss, and to add value to the end products. In recent years, the PHFRP has focused attention on the enabling environment (policies, institutions and processes) surrounding people in the post-harvest fisheries sector. The progress of a number of projects addressing this area of research are reported in this newsletter.

John Sanchez
Programme Manager, PHFRP
Why Cambodia?
Fisheries plays a very important role in Cambodia in providing employment, income and food security to many of the country’s poor, and a safety net that helps many others. The vast majority of people in Cambodia depend on fish as a central part of their diet.

The team
The project is led by the Community Fisheries Development Office of the Department of Fisheries, Cambodia, and technical advisory inputs are provided by Integrated Marine Management Ltd (IMM) and the Natural Resources Institute (NRI).

Aims
The project aims to develop an understanding of how the post-harvest fisheries sector can be better managed for the benefit of the poor. It will seek to encourage the implementation of policies and management strategies that improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people in the sector. The work plan developed by the project team consists of a number of interlinked strands of activity, focusing on:

1) The development of a post-harvest fisheries overview for Cambodia and the commissioning of nodal studies to improve the understanding of key issues
2) The building of capacity to enable development of sustainable post-harvest fisheries livelihoods
3) The implementation of pilot impact projects to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

As a result of work to date, the Department of Fisheries will be recommending to the Ministry of Agriculture that the needs of around two million people involved in the post-harvest fisheries sector are reflected in the country’s Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Project activities

Post Harvest Overview and policy development (PHO)
The Cambodia Post Harvest Fisheries Overview is a way of systematically examining the sector in terms of its importance and the changes that are occurring within it. Based on this analysis the PHO is able to make recommendations on how to respond to change in order to maximise the contribution of the sector to policy objectives.

Sustainable livelihoods training
The post-harvest fisheries sector in Cambodia is often thought of in terms of processing and the export market, rather than the fishers, processors and traders involved in it. Training courses carried out by CFDO in partnership with IMM are enabling CFDO and NGOs to view the post-harvest sector in terms of the needs of the people within it. The training enables government and NGO staff to identify marginalised groups and then base-line livelihood assets.

Post-Harvest Livelihoods Assessment Tool (PHLAT)
The application of this tool enables the project team to identify the role that the post-harvest fisheries sector plays in the livelihoods of the individuals and communities. Information from these studies informs the development of the PHO.

Nodal studies
The PHO and PHALT analyses identify areas where further sub-sector studies are required. These are focused on areas of particular importance to marginalised groups, and areas where there are significant information gaps.

Credit and marketing study
The operation of markets and availability of credit have a major impact on all of those involved in the sector. A scoping study took place in October 2003 to identify the aspects of credit and marketing requiring further research. Follow up study took place in the spring of 2004, and the results are informing the development of the PHO and policy recommendations.

Post-harvest concepts training
Capacity building in the form of training in post-harvest livelihoods issues, basic fish processing and preservation principles, the role of technology, fish and food security and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, has been undertaken by CFDO staff and partners. This has enabled them to participate fully in project activities, and utilise the outputs of the project more effectively.

Impact pilot studies
The pilot impact projects are small-scale poverty reduction interventions that will be completed during the life span of the project. They are intended to demonstrate the positive impact that can be achieved at a community or institutional level. The demonstrated benefits will be applicable to a larger number of people where the intervention strategy is scaled-up. Identification of pilot impact projects will be from the Post Harvest Fisheries Overview for Cambodia, PHALT work and the nodal studies.
Policies, Institutions and Processes

In recent years the PHFRP has focused its research on the generation of new knowledge of the structure and operation of credit and market systems and the impact on the poor of changes in the utilisation of fish. The following projects are part of a cluster addressing these issues.

R8111 'Poverty and Post-Harvest Fish Utilisation in Ghana'
Integrated Marine Management Ltd, Directorate of Fisheries, Ghana

Fish is a cheap, preferred source of protein and an important export commodity for Ghana. Two million people are thought to rely on fisheries for their livelihoods. Various studies and stakeholders conclude that key constraints to the development of the fisheries sector include a lack of understanding of poverty within fisheries communities. Furthermore, the poor in the post-harvest fisheries sector are the most likely to suffer the negative consequences of change, primarily because the policies that influence how change affects the poor are not always informed by an adequate knowledge of the strengths, capacities and needs of the poor.

By producing an understanding of poverty and change, the project will contribute to the targeting and delivery of pro-poor services by the Government of Ghana. In addition, the tools and methodologies that have been developed will inform the work of the DFID/FAO West Africa Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme whose aim is to reduce poverty amongst fisheries communities.

R8112 'Impacts of globalisation on fish utilisation and marketing systems in Uganda'
Food Control International, Department of Fisheries Resources, Fisheries Resources Research Institute and Fisheries Training Institute

During the last 15-20 years the Ugandan fishery has been radically changed by the development of the fish export industry on Lake Victoria, which in turn has affected the small-scale fishery. This project has sought to identify and quantify these impacts and trace their likely spread to other lakes. In liaison with members of relevant ministries and other interest groups, the project has facilitated the development of policies to minimise the adverse effects on the poor. The interests of poor fish catchers, processors and consumers were central to this activity. Some of the main project activities were:

- The development of a detailed cash flow model of the sector.
- The use of this quantified model to trace the indirect impact of changes in the export sector and consequential changes in the small-scale sector.
- The identification of past and contemporary adverse impacts and determination of ameliorating policies
- The forecasting of short and medium term impacts by sub-sector and location, with and without policy changes.

R7969 'Fish distribution from coastal communities - market and credit access Issues'
Natural Resources Institute, Community Development Centre, University of Chittagong

This project has provided an improved understanding of the trading and credit system, and its impact on poverty in coastal fishing communities. This was achieved through the development of a methodology that integrates market and credit analysis techniques with the sustainable livelihoods approach. The projects examined a range of constraints identified by stakeholders, and developed appropriate policy recommendations.

R7970 'Globalization and Seafood Legislation: the Effect on Poverty in India'
Natural Resources Institute, Cirrus Management Services, Bangalore; South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Services, Trivandrum; Integrated Coastal Management, Kakinada.

The market for Indian sea products worldwide has grown over the last two decades and India's annual exports now exceed $1,100 million. As the enforcement of import regulations by traditional markets (particularly the EU) become more rigorous it is expected that the impact on poor stakeholders in the export industry supply chain is likely to intensify.

The research results provide an improved understanding of the link between international trade legislation, post-harvest fisheries and the livelihoods of poor communities in India. Working in collaboration with project R7969 (above) the project developed a methodology and guide

---

For more information on our portfolio of projects go to http://www.phfp.uk.com
that combines the sustainable livelihoods approach with a sub-sector analysis. The application of this methodology is designed to inform the development of policy that is appropriate to the needs of the poor.

R7799 ‘Changing fish utilisation and its impact on poverty in India’
IMM Ltd, Integrated Coastal Management, Andhra Pradesh, Department of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh

The aim of this project was to develop a range of options for consideration in the policy process in relation to the post-harvest utilisation of fish in India. The policy options focused on areas likely to increase the positive impact on the lives of poor processors, traders and consumers. The work involved carrying out post-harvest overview studies and identifying key changes that were occurring in six coastal states; Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The initial expert consultations were followed by detailed field research to identify the effect and impact of change on particular groups of poor stakeholders.

Loss Reduction Methodologies

R7971 ‘Field evaluation of a systems based approach to the reduction of blowfly infestation of traditionally processed fish in tropical developing countries’
Food Control International Ltd, Integrated Coastal Management, Andhra Pradesh Department of Fisheries

The Systems Based Approach was designed to provide small-scale processors with an effective and appropriate means of controlling blowfly infestation of traditionally processed fish products. The approach was evaluated during field trials conducted in the coastal Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Field trials performed during the monsoon season, when blowfly activity is at its highest, provided convincing evidence that the Systems Based Approach offers a safe, cost-effective and user friendly remedy to the problem. The dissemination of Systems Based Approach has included trainer training schools and the production of guides for trainers in both English and a range of local languages.