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Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP)

Highlights

National fisheries statistical system – www.peskador.org – launched in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste's National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA) has established, with support from RFLP, an online national fisheries statistical system – www.peskador.org – providing public access to a wide range of statistical and environmental information relating to fisheries in the country for the first time.

The system is expected to become an important tool contributing to enhanced fisheries management and sustainability of marine resources in Timor-Leste.

Publicly available information gathered through a series of initiatives supported by RFLP includes:

- Boat census data;
- Daily information on the price of fish landed by species and location;
- Maps of fishing grounds and dangerous areas (crocodile attacks);
- Data on accidents at sea or in coastal areas.



The site is also home to useful information for fishers including daily data on weather, tides, cyclone warnings and sea surface temperatures. In addition, the site brings together in one place information on other fisheries-related projects and legislation.

Lourenco Borges, RFLP National Project Director and Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries said, ***"We now have data that was never available before. This provides a unique opportunity in Timor-Leste with regards to fisheries resource management."***

Peskador in action



Lourenco views boat data

The peskador website has already been put to practical use during recent search and rescue operations.

Lourenco dos Reis Amaral, Chief of Dept, Inspectorate General of Fisheries explains: "On 29th May an empty boat washed

up on Atauro Island. I contacted the UN mission and they asked for details about the vessel. The UN helicopter pilot was online searching weather information while on the phone. I told him how to go to the website so he could see the boat details and a photo. Because we had the registration number of the boat we knew it had come from Lospalos. We also found out that it had gone to sea on 25th May, before washing up four days later on Atauro, 87 nautical miles away. Despite the UN helicopter carrying out a search and rescue mission we unfortunately could not find the fisher."

Visit the National Fisheries Statistical System of Timor-Leste at www.peskador.org or see www.rflp.org/timor_lesste for more information about RFLP support to fisheries data gathering in Timor-Leste.

Con Cat receives protection boost

Local authorities and Fisheries Association members with RFLP support have taken steps to develop internal resource management regulations for Con Cat Fisheries Protected Area (FPA) in Viet Nam's Thua Thien Hue province.

Assistance from RFLP includes activities to finalize the zoning map, demarcate the boundaries with cement poles, and install artificial fisheries shelters. More importantly, the capacity of the local Fisheries Association which manages and operates the FPA has been improved through a series of training sessions and the provision of equipment for their patrol team.

One highlight to date is the finalization of a community-based regulation for FPA management which is in line with the District's Decision on Fishing Rights Allocation to the local Fisheries Association.

For more see: http://www.rflp.org/con_cat



Cement poles set up by RFLP marking the boundary of the Fisheries Protected Area

Safety at sea and reduced vulnerability

Drills raise disaster risk awareness in Philippines' community



A community drill simulating an early warning and early response (EWER) system was conducted on 26 May 2012 in Katipunan in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province to test villagers' readiness to respond to coastal flooding emergencies.

This formed part of RFLP's initiative to build capacity on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).

The simulation exercise built on work already completed by the local government of Katipunan and community leaders through RFLP support which involved community hazard mapping, risk and vulnerability identification, formulation of DRRM plan and the establishment of an early warning and early response system.

"Flooding occurs in this barangay on an average of three times a year. That has been the trend and this drill is the first ever conducted in the village." Barangay Captain Gervacio Jaictin

For more see: www.rflp.org/Philippines_disaster_risk

Viet Nam rescue teams better prepared for action

RFLP has helped support two rescue teams in Thua Thien Hue province's Phong Hai and Phu Thuan communes which were recently formed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). To date the Phong Hai team has successfully carried out seven rescue missions.

RFLP supported the development of the teams by funding the meetings for selecting team members, facilitating the process for the team to be recognized officially by the commune authorities, organizing a study tour to a successful model in Quang Ngai and providing basic equipment such as raincoats, torches, life vests and life rings. Rescue team members also took part in training on disaster preparedness and first aid.

"Even before the establishment of the rescue team, it had been a part of our life to respond to calls for help at sea. However, we are happy to join this team



as we wish to see rescue activities better organized."

Mr. Hoang Van Due, rescue team leader from Phong Hai commune

For more see: www.rflp.org/vietnam

Timor-Leste fisher families learn first aid skills



RFLP is training fishers and their families in Timor-Leste on basic first aid skills.

Twenty six fishers and members of their families from Liquica

district participated in the training. Joining them were staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).

Participants practiced basic first aid techniques such as resuscitation, dealing with hypothermia and how to stop bleeding. They also received First Aid kits to take home.

"I am really happy with the training because it gives us knowledge and skills to give first aid in case of an accident happening to my husband or family." Fisher's wife, Olivia de Jesus Pereira

For more see www.rflp.org/timor_lete

Indonesia fishers gain safety certification

Over 50 fishers from Kupang municipality and district, Alor and Rote took part in training to gain official ANKAPIN III certification recognizing their competency at sea skills recently. The training, organized jointly by RFLP and the Marine and Fisheries Agency (DKP) of NTT saw participants learn and practice skills including voyage planning, ship navigation and positioning, engine maintenance, manning and employment, basic safety at sea, maritime laws and fisheries regulations, and the code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

For more see: www.rflp.org/indonesia



Pioneering fish auction edges nearer in Viet Nam

The launch of Viet Nam's first ever fish auction system is getting closer following discussions between authorities, fishers and traders in Hue City held 6 June.

The auction system will be based at Thuan An port, the only fishing port in Thua Thien Hue province and its most important fish landing site. At present, the port is open for all fish trading activities. However price-setting by powerful wholesalers hits the income of local small-scale fishers.

Thua Thien Hue DARD and Thuan An Port Management Board have long realized the severity of the issues. Based on the recommendations of a study by InfoFISH (commissioned by RFLP), RFLP has responded to their requests for assistance to renovate the port and to help pilot an auction system.

Participants in the consultations engaged in a lively discussion on how the country's first ever fisheries auction system should



be piloted. Suggestions were made to ensure that the process is transparent from the perspectives of local authorities, fishers and traders alike.

For more see: www.rflp.org/vietnam

Kupang groups learn advanced fish processing skills



RFLP in collaboration with Research and Development Product Processing and Biotechnology Centre held a capacity strengthening programme for fish processors in Kupang, Indonesia from 18-20 June 2012. The three-day 'Advanced Fish Processing Training' was attended by 20 participants (1 man) each of whom represented a producer group. Skills learned included the improvement of fish products through value-added practices, better hygiene, product label and packaging design, monitoring production costs etc. Twelve different fish products were introduced to participants including tuna sausage, fish nugget, fish stick, fish balls and fish tofu.

For more see: www.rflp.org/post_harvest

Philippines food producer turns to spicy anchovies

Tita Rosa Food Products, a family-owned Small and Medium Sized enterprise (SME) based in Roxas town in the Philippines' Zamboanga del Norte province has launched a new spicy anchovy product following training from RFLP.

By introducing fisheries post-harvest processing technologies to small- and medium-scale processors and by facilitating value addition RFLP is helping to address production issues during lean seasons especially of bottled sardines which is a major income earner of both companies and their employees in the province. Most of Tita Rosa's food handlers are wives of fishers from the local area.

"As firms venture into other processed fish food products and diversify product lines year round, labor demand remains absorbed thereby creating almost permanent decent jobs," said RFLP's Jonelo Sobreguel.

For more see: www.rflp.org/dilis



Fishing supply store a dream come true for Salug women

The wives of fishers in a Philippines' coastal community have a new source of income following the establishment of a fishing supply store supported by RFLP. On 10 May 2012, RFLP turned-over fishing supplies worth Php 150,000 (USD 3,571) to the officers of Morning Star Women's Organization of Poblacion East, Municipality of Salug, Zamboanga del Norte.

The project was conceived in response to pressing demand for fishing supplies by fishers in the municipality including Poblacion East, a coastal village populated mostly by small-scale fishers.

RFLP required that the women's group contribute 10 percent of their net profits to support Salug's Caracol marine sanctuary, some 1.5 km from Poblacion East. The women have also vowed not to supply products to illegal fishers.



Vietnamese and Cambodian fisher families turn to chicken



With a broad smile, Ms Le Thi Lung tells how she earned profits of about four million VND (equivalent to US\$200) from selling chickens after taking part in an RFLP livelihoods initiative.

The six month production cycle saw the villager from Hai Khe commune in Quang Tri province sell her chickens in time for Tet – Viet Nam's lunar New Year celebrations. As a result she was able to make good profits compared to previous production cycles.

The free-range chickens that were introduced are known as *ga ta cai tien* in Vietnamese (*Amplio pullum*). While this species is not new in farming villages in the district, few people in fishing villages knew about it before.

Meanwhile, Cambodian fisher families are also trying their hand at rearing chickens to generate additional income.

Chicken rearing is very common in Cambodia with chicken one of the most popular dishes to eat. However, the traditional rearing technique is rather poor. Fishers also had little knowledge of how to prevent disease spreading.

Following RFLP training, RFLP has provided support to participants to form chick raising groups with 148 families registering. Each family will be provided with five hens and one cock in order to commence their activity.

For more see: www.rflp.org/livelihoods

Pioneering Fish Finance Network Association created in Sri Lanka



RFLP's Dr Champa Amarasiri lights a traditional lamp to mark the launch

Sri Lankan small-scale fishing organizations will benefit from the establishment of a Fish Finance Network Association (FIFNA) which was launched in Colombo on 14 May with the support of RFLP.

FIFNA brings together 30 small-scale fisher organizations in the Negombo, Chilaw and Puttalam fisheries districts which are providing micro-finance services such as savings schemes and small loans to their members.

The formation of FIFNA marks the first time that such a network has been

created in Sri Lanka for small-scale fisher communities.

Forming a network will help these fisheries organizations develop further and provide greater economies of scale for their operations. FIFNA will facilitate better access to credit from larger lenders as well as other micro-finance services such as micro insurance for its members. In addition, the Association will act as the fishers' representative to the micro-finance industry.

For more see: www.rflp.org/fish_finance

Gender

Gender mainstreaming strategies and tools: the RFLP experience

A paper highlighting the importance of undertaking gender mainstreaming as part of fisheries interventions, focusing on the experiences of the RFLP has been published in Asian Fisheries Science (AFS). The AFS special issue also includes an article by Hue

University's Nguyen Dang Hao entitled Gender Issues in the Fishery Communities of the Central Coastal Provinces of Vietnam which draws on findings from the RFLP baseline survey for Viet Nam.

See www.rflp.org/AFS



Resources

Fish and Animal Protein Consumption and Availability in Timor-Leste

A survey of Fish and Animal Protein Consumption and Availability in Timor-Leste has been produced for the very first time with the support of RFLP. The report provides analysis of the quantity of fish and animal proteins consumed, patterns of consumption and the market challenges.

Key findings include that levels of animal protein consumption amongst people living in non-coastal areas of Timor-Leste are significantly lower than those living in coastal or urban areas.

The survey revealed that while fish or meat was eaten daily by 67 percent of those in coastal areas, the figure was just 40 percent for those in non-coastal areas. For urban areas the figure stood at 52 percent.



Meanwhile, levels of fish consumption per capita in non-coastal areas stood at 4kg per capita per year (kg/cap/year), far short of the world average of 16.4 kg/cap/year.

Price and availability were consistently reported as

the main reasons limiting the consumption of fish and seafood. Access to markets to purchase fish/meat was found to be especially limited in non-coastal areas with 19 percent having to walk for 30-60 minutes and 37 percent having to travel by public transport for over 30 minutes in order to do so.

"The results of this survey point to the need to enhance access to protein and especially fish in the non-coastal areas," said RFLP's Enrique Alonso. "Enhanced preservation of fish through the provision of ice will allow larger quantities of better quality fish to reach the areas that need it. This will help make fish easier to access, while at the same time make it less expensive."

"The survey findings will also provide direction to government and donor development policy and strategy as well as investment decisions targeting food security and nutrition," he added.

Download from www.rflp.org/timor_leste or www.peskador.org



Puttalam Lagoon profile

An environmental and fisheries profile of Sri Lanka's Puttalam lagoon system has been produced. It reviews available information about Puttalam Lagoon – the current status of its resources and its people, as well as the threats to its existence – within the context of coastal resource management.

Download from: www.rflp.org/Sri_lanka

RFLP lessons learned: Post harvest, livelihoods and gender

A workshop report highlighting key lessons learned by RFLP teams with regards to post harvest, livelihoods and gender mainstreaming is available.

Download from: www.rflp.org

Training materials: catch handling and hygiene (Vietnamese)

Vietnamese language training materials for small-scale fishers on steps to improve catch handling and hygiene are available.

Download from: www.rflp.org/post_harvest

RFLP Sri Lanka newsletter

A newsletter highlighting RFLP's activities in Sri Lanka has been produced in both English and Sinhala languages.

See: www.rflp.org/Sri_lanka



Resources we like!



Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries - <http://genderaquafish.org/>

This website – part of the Asian Fisheries Society - is devoted to the exchange of information on gender in aquaculture and fisheries from all parts of the world and is home to a wide range of useful resources and links.

About RFLP

The Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP) sets out to strengthen capacity among participating small-scale fishing communities and their supporting institutions in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. By doing so the RFLP seeks to improve the livelihoods of fisher folk and their families while fostering more sustainable fisheries resources management practices. The four-year (2009 – 2013) programme is funded by the Kingdom of Spain and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) working in close collaboration with national authorities in participating countries.

Contact us

Should you have any feedback, comments or suggestions on any of RFLP's activities please contact the information officer steve.needham@fao.org



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