

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Promotion of Coastal and Inland Small-scale Fisheries for Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Southeast Asian Region

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*In the Southeast Asian region, coastal and inland fisheries are the main fishing sectors, socially and economically. People rely on coastal and inland water systems for their primary source of nutrition as well as livelihoods. Recently, fisheries production in the region had been declining due to various reasons that include over fishing, illegal fishing activities, use of destructive fishing methods, and lack of data and information on regulation for fisheries management and enhancement.*

*The ASEAN countries are aware that community-based fisheries management (CBFM) and participation of communities in coastal and inland fisheries resources management are important approaches for fisheries management. Enhancing the role of communities in fisheries management is crucial in addressing concerns on inadequate financial and human resources for effective fisheries resources management is promising.*

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) has been conducting on-site training on practical approach to community-based fisheries and co-management in coastal or inland area; for fisheries officers, who can serve as trainers to promote this concept to fishers. Organized in 2012 and early 2013, the on-site training was a collaborative effort of some SEAFDEC Member Countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand with SEAFDEC. A sub-activity of the improvement of information gathering on small-scale coastal and inland fisheries towards sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asian Region, the training was covered by the Project on Improvement of Information Gathering System for IUU Fishing Related Countermeasures in Southeast Asia.

### Community-based fisheries management

Community-based fisheries management is an approach in fisheries management where the government shares the power or responsibility of managing the fisheries resources with local governments and local fisheries institution. The fishers are formed into group as community fisheries management organization (CFMO), and together with support officers who have knowledge and experience on promoting and working with local fishery, the stakeholders are involved in the activities of CFMOs.

Although the CFMO plans and manages the group, fisheries officers need to support them especially in the promotion of techniques as well as in management of fisheries and aquaculture



or HRD for the fisheries communities. Eventually, the CFMO would be able to operate the group by themselves with less support from the government.

### On-site training program

The on-site training program focused on the development of effective tool for appropriate co-management plans including prescription of management measures to reduce impacts from fishing, protect key habitats, and promote the concept of practical approach to rights-based fisheries management in coastal and inland areas. Fisheries officers who are trained on communication skills are expected to impart their knowledge to local fishers. Moreover, special relevant subjects had been added to the present curricula as requested by the participating countries.

#### Vietnam

On-site Training on Practical Approach to Rights-based Fisheries Management in Coastal Areas was held in Nha Trang for 18 fishery officers from 10 to 12 July 2012 in collaboration with the Fisheries Administration of Vietnam. The subject on “how to organize and facilitate community-based co-management including the gathering of fisheries information in coastal areas” was added to the present training program.

#### Cambodia

The On-site Training on Practical Approach to Co-management in Inland Fisheries was organized in Siem Reap for 30 Cambodian fishery officers from six provinces from 4 to 7 September 2012 in collaboration with the Fisheries Administration of Cambodia. The special subject on fisheries law in Cambodia was added to support the fisheries policy reform of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the strategic framework of Decentralization and Deconcentration (D&D).



*A trainee is imparting fisheries management concepts via trial presentation for fishers (top); and Cambodian resource person presenting the special subject on fisheries law in Cambodia to the trainees (above)*

#### **Lao PDR**

The On-site Training on Practical Approach for Enhancing Community-based and Co-management in Inland Fisheries was organized in Vientiane for 43 fishery officers from 11 to 14 December 2012 in collaboration with the Lao People's Democratic Republic's Department of Livestock and Fisheries. The role played by a mobile hatchery in breeding popular species, such as common carp and silver barb, was incorporated in the training.

#### **Myanmar**

The On-site Training on Practical Approach to Community-based Fisheries Management in Coastal Areas was organized in Yangon for 45 Myanmar fishery officers from 17 to 21 December 2012 in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar.

#### **Thailand**

The On-site Training on Practical Approach for Enhancing Community-based Fisheries Co-Management in Inland Fisheries will be held in Nakhon Ratchasima Province for 40 fishery officers from 13 to 18 January 2013 in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The subjects on mobile hatchery, fish releasing



*The trainees are brain storming for trial presentation (above); and training on "How to operate mobile hatchery" (right)*

technique, restoration of indigenous fish, fisheries law have been added to the present training curriculum.

All presentations in local language are available for download at [www.seafdec.or.th/index.php/training-courses](http://www.seafdec.or.th/index.php/training-courses)

#### **Imparting knowledge gained from the training program**

Before the end of training, the trainees imparted and applied their knowledge and experiences from the training course via trial presentation to fishers in local fisheries communities. The main objective of the trial presentations is to educate the fishers and make them understand on the importance of sustainable fisheries resources and CBFM. Fishers were also encouraged to participate in the fisheries management activities. Socio-economic data collection and communication skills were adapted and applied in the trial presentations.

#### **Output of the training program**

The output of the training courses could be seen from the trainers who were able to strengthen their capacity and gain common understanding on the concepts of right-based and community-based fisheries co-management, protection and management of the critical fisheries habitats for that were imparted to the fishers to ensure sustainable fisheries resources in their geographical areas. Furthermore, a training tool kit will be produced to support the relevant efforts of the SEAFDEC Member Countries and other interested countries.

#### **References**

- SEAFDEC. The Regional Guidelines for Co-management Using Group User Rights for Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia. 55 p.
- Deniela B. Raik. 2002. Capacity Building for Co-management of Wildlife in North America. Human Dimensions Research Unit Department of Natural Resources Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. 22 p.

