

**Regional Workshop on Facilitating Fisheries Activities Information Gathering through  
Introduction of Community-based Resources Management/Co-management in the Southeast  
Asian Region**

**22-24 October 2019, Sakon Nakhon Province, Thailand**

**AGENDA 7. KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESSFUL FISHERIES INFORMATION  
AND DATA GATHERING THROUGH CBRM/CO-MANAGEMENT**

- Supportive national fisheries management policies and legal frameworks enable the promotion of effective co-management (delegation of rights to local communities)

In Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Viet Nam, the establishment of community fisheries is a national policy resulting in the nationwide practice of co-management. In other Southeast Asian countries, *e.g.* Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Viet Nam, their supportive legal framework also give priority towards the promotion of co-management. Although in several cases these are project based, the successful implementation of co-management could be expanded to other communities in the future.

- Understanding of the co-management concept by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs)

As co-management is a concept newly introduced in Southeast Asia after the 2001 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference, SEAFDEC implemented regional program to introduce the concept of co-management for the AMSs. As a result, some countries start adjusting their national fisheries laws *e.g.* Cambodia delegating rights and further empowering fisheries communities, while several other countries also incorporate the concept of co-management and delegation of some management authorities to the communities. Subsequently, training courses were organized for local officers on the implementation of co-management.

- Active-cooperation among members within a community and with relevant local agencies

In the SEAFDEC Project learning sites in Nam Oon, Thailand; Namxouang Reservoir and Khammoune Province, Lao PDR; and Chong Khneas, Cambodia, the Project supported the establishment/strengthening of fisheries community groups and facilitated the discussion among the group members to identify the problems and priority issues. Fisheries management committees were established and came up with management plans/regulations that are agreed upon by community members, including the community members' active part in patrolling activities and reporting illegal fishing cases to local officers. To encourage community cooperation, livelihood programs are integrated in the management plans/regulations, *e.g.* aquaculture, fish processing, eco-tourism.

In addition to improving the resource management and income generation through the alternative livelihood programs, the community-based fisheries management provides the platform for discussion on fisheries management and resolution of conflicts, *e.g.* fishing

grounds, closed fishing season, eco-tourism as the fishers have agreed to follow the regulations adopted by the community.

- Recognition of community management plans/regulations by concerned government authorities (*e.g.* at district or provincial or national levels)

After the establishment of fisheries management plans/regulations by fisheries management committee, such plans/regulations should be endorsed by concerned government authorities, *e.g.* announcement of conservation areas. Once the plans/regulations have been endorsed, these could be widely adopted by the community and complied with by the neighboring communities.

- Ability of communities and local government to sustain the initiatives after the completion of projects with external support

At the project site in Nam Oon Reservoir, the communities have strengthened their cooperation for management of the fishery resources in close cooperation with local fisheries patrolling unit under the Department of Fisheries of Thailand. The intervention of the SEAFDEC Project helped in facilitating the discussion between the communities and local government during the project initial stage. Once the co-management concept has been put to practice, the local government demonstrated their readiness to continue the initiative under its regular funding support after the completion of project.

For project site in Cambodia, the capacity of fisheries communities has been strengthened to be able to generate their own funds for sustainability of their own relevant activities after the completion of SEAFDEC funding support.

- Enhanced awareness of local communities and the public

In order to promote co-management, initiation/promotion of awareness raising programs is necessary, particularly for enhancing the understanding of local communities and the public on the fishery resources; fisheries biology, *e.g.* spawning season, spawning grounds; importance of co-management for sustaining the utilization of fishery resources; and on the management plans/regulations. Information materials had been produced and disseminated through the SEAFDEC Project, *e.g.* announcements, posters, signboards, and others (*e.g.* fans that promote the management plans/regulations).

- Understanding and willingness of communities to participate and support data collection, and capacity/knowledge of local officers and community fishers to support data collection and analysis

The data collected through the SEAFDEC Project were analyzed and the results were reported to the communities to make them aware of the status of their resources and the impact of the implementation of the management regulations. The data collected incorporating local knowledge from fishers had also been used for stock assessment and for determining the spawning season/grounds of important species that serve as basis for establishment of management plans/regulations, *e.g.* mesh size, closed season. This

feedback mechanism had enhanced the awareness of the communities on the importance of data collection, and would strengthen their cooperation in future data collection.

- Creation of incentive system for collection and reporting data on small-scale fisheries

To ensure continued collection and reporting of data by fishers, appropriate incentive systems could be considered, *e.g.* recognition of successful activities by local/national government, provision of opportunities to visit other countries or neighboring communities to exchange information on new technologies, provision of remuneration for fisher-enumerators

## PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS FROM PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Problems/constraints	Suggestions/Proposed actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient time series data/information on fishery resources/production to serve as basis for development of management plans/regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying data items according to the purpose of analysis <i>e.g.</i> production model that are necessary for management plans/regulations and developing the template for data collection with support from local fishers</li> <li>• Enhancing the awareness of relevant government authorities, <i>e.g.</i> DOF, local DOF, on the importance of time series data collection through capacity building</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited number of fishers/enumerators who are willing to collect/report data regularly without subsidies from external project support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing the awareness of fishers on the importance of data to support management that could ensure sustainability of resources by sharing of success stories on effective utilization of the data</li> <li>• Seeking support from the academes to assist in data collection</li> <li>• Encouraging communities and local governments to conduct data collection</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited knowledge and capacity of fishers that impede data collection and recording</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing simple methodology and form that could be used by fishers, although modern technologies could be applied, <i>e.g.</i> mobile application, to facilitate recording of catch and effort data</li> <li>• Securing support of local officers or other persons or researchers who could provide guidance on data collection and recording</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to community fishing grounds by outsiders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing options applicable for respective countries, <i>e.g.</i> payment of conservation/management fees, imposing of licensing fees for all fishers (within and outside the communities) to encourage community to manage fisheries resources in their community fishing ground</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishers (in some communities) prefer to work individually instead of forming into groups, while most of the community members are unwilling to be group leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing awareness building on the benefits of co-management and cooperation among community members</li> <li>• Providing incentives/privilege for fishers to be members of community fisheries, as well as to group leaders</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited involvement of female and youth in community activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing programs to promote gender awareness in fishing communities</li> <li>• Incorporating in future programs, activities that are appropriate for women and youth such as post-harvest processing, financial management, etc.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects with external funding sources to support co-management come with limited timeframe (<i>e.g.</i> 3-5 years), and in some cases, it is difficult to sustain the initiatives by the countries/communities after the completion of the projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing appropriate exit strategy for local governments/communities to be able to sustain the project initiatives</li> <li>• Providing the communities with packages of materials, <i>e.g.</i> logbook or e-logbook that they could use after the completion of the Project</li> </ul>