

What's New in Aquaculture

Call for research grant applications from developing country scientists

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) provides support to young scientists of merit in developing countries by awarding research grants and providing grantees with additional services such as travel grants and purchasing assistance.

The IFS supports research related to the renewable utilization of biological resources in areas such as crop and animal production, forestry, food science, natural products, aquaculture and fisheries, as well as research on the sustainable utilization and conservation of natural ecosystems, including themes such as water and biodiversity. Proposals for projects may address biological, chemical, or physical processes as well as social and economic relationships important in the conservation, production, and renewable utilization of the biological resource base.

Research grants are awarded up to a maximum value of USD 12,000 for a period of one to three years and may be renewed twice. They are intended for the purchase of equipment, expendable supplies, and literature. Applicants must be citizens of, and carry out the research in, a developing country. They should be attached to a university or national research institution in a developing country. As well as being under the age of 40 (under 30 for applicants from China) and at the start of their research career, candidates must possess a higher academic degree, which should be at least an MSc or equivalent.

Applications are made on the application form, in English or French, which is available from the IFS Secretariat or can be downloaded from the website <http://www.ifs.se>, or contact IFS at Grev Turegatan 19, SE-114 38 Stockholm, Sweden, Fax: +46-8-54581801.

Shrimp Disease Control and Coastal Management in India

A report of the national workshop held in Chennai from 4-6 March is now available. The workshop was the culmination of the two and a half year

MPEDA-NACA Technical Assistance Programme. The findings and recommendations from the study were presented to strengthen health management in India. For more information on the Technical Assistance Programme contact Mr Vishnu Bhat (MPEDA) vbhat@mpeda.nic.in or Dr Michael Phillips michael.phillips@enaca.org. The report can be downloaded (PDF 371 KB, 12 pages) from

http://www.enaca.org/Shrimp/Publications/NACA-MPEDA_Workshop_Summary.pdf

Kimberley Aquaculture Aboriginal Corporation Newsletter No. 11

This KAAC newsletter is available for download. This issue features stories on:

- Cherabin Aquaculture Mission to Thailand;
- Trochus Project;
- Multispecies Hatchery Activities, and the opening of the new Manbana Aquaculture Hatchery and Visitor Centre in the Kimberley area.

If you are interested in aquaculture development, or would like more information on aquaculture, please contact KAAC's Community Aquaculture Project Officer, Jacynta Fong, KAAC, PO Box 180, Broome WA 6725, Australia, Phone +61 (08) 9192 1482, email kaac.capo@bigpond.com. The newsletter is available from http://www.enaca.org/KAAC_Newsletter_11.pdf

New bigger, juicier, meatier oysters

Australians may soon be eating bigger, juicier, meatier oysters thanks to a new smart oyster tray for oyster farmers. The new taste experience for seafood lovers has been made possible by a specially designed smart polymer that stops the growth of organisms that interfere with the food supply needed by growing oysters.

The smart oyster tray was designed by a team of research scientists from both CSIRO and Australia's Co-Operative Research Centre for Aquaculture (CRC). Dr Veronica Cross of

CSIRO Novels Materials & Processes says, 'The Smart Oyster Tray means higher-grade, meatier oysters, because the young growing oyster is not obstructed from the free flow of nutrient-rich seawater it feeds on. The Smart Oyster Tray also means less work for oyster farmers, who for years have fought off the seaweed and algae growth that has crowded the long-lines and trays suspended from rafts in "off-the-bottom" oyster farming'.

Fouling is often removed at harvest by hand, by low or high-pressure hoses, or by dipping "young" stock in a solution that kills unwanted organisms. All very laborious tasks that are now no longer necessary', says Dr Cross.

The new Smart Oyster Tray comes in the form of a traditionally shaped oyster tray, manufactured with specially designed polymers (plastics) that contain slow-release, harmless biodegradable antifouling chemicals. Dr Cross says, 'The Smart Oyster Tray is a high-density polyethylene, which contains an environmentally benign antifouling chemical agent within the plastic's molecular structure, which is slowly released over time. The antifouling chemical agent is an environmentally safe organic compound as it degrades in seawater in a matter of hours.'

The development of this material required the identification and selection of a new antifouling polymer suitable for injection molding and compatible with the antifouling agent. The product can be used for the culture of edible oysters, pearl oysters, abalone and prawns. Applications for the CSIRO Smart Oyster Tray are likely to extend to other shellfish farming, nets used in aquaculture and underwater farming infrastructure.

Dr Cross says that CSIRO is currently interested in discussing the development of its technology for commercial use with parties with an interest in the manufacture and marketing of aquaculture products. For more information, contact Dr Veronica Cross, Industry Manager, CSIRO Novel Materials & Processes +61 (03) 9545 2978 or email veronica.cross@csiro.au.

Shrimp Media Monitoring now available as separate newsletter

If you would like to receive the full text bulletin in your email, you can now subscribe to Shrimp Media Monitoring in a separate email newsletter. Just submit your email address in the subscription box at <http://www.enaca.org/Shrimp/index.htm>

The State of World Fisheries & Aquaculture 2002

The Food and Agriculture Organization has just released its latest review of the status of global fisheries and aquaculture. This comprehensive publication contains the latest global production statistics and trends. It is available for download (PDF 2.4MB) from http://www.enaca.org/World_Fisheries_Aquaculture_2002.pdf
[Thoroughly recommended – a must have for anyone who needs to know about global aquaculture trends – Ed.]

Gender and agriculture in the information society - invitation for proposals

CTA, IDRC, and IICD have launched GenARDIS: A small grants fund to support work on gender issues in ICTs in agricultural and rural development in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The programme was developed in recognition of the constraints and challenges encountered by rural women in ACP countries with respect to ICTs. The challenges include limited time availability to participate in training and use of ICTs, minimal access to technology such as radios, mobile telephones or computers, inadequate availability of information in local languages that is relevant to local contexts.

The fund provides an opportunity for organizations in ACP countries to strengthen gender-related work on ICTs in agriculture and rural development. Submissions can consist of research programmes, small projects to be executed, publications, broadcasts, etc. and must be owned and executed by organizations or individuals in ACP countries. We invite proposals from inhabitants of ACP countries focusing on innovative use of ICTs by and for rural women to improve the well being of

families and communities. Nine of the best submissions will be granted a one-time sum of EUR 5.000 each to develop their activity.

This is a competitive call for applications for non-renewable grants of up to 5,000 Euros. The deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2003. An expert panel will judge the submissions. Announcement of the successful applicants will be made on June 1, 2003. Successful applicants will be expected to write a comprehensive report on their use of the funds and contribute to a workshop to be held in 2004. All submissions must be received before the deadline (April 15, 2003). Submissions via e-mail are preferred.

CAFRAD has been contracted as mediator and administrator for the grant providers. For more information and to obtain an application form, please send an email to GenARDIS@cta.int

List your grants here & get better proposals

Want to raise awareness about your grants or donor programme? Would you like to get better quality proposals? Send us the details of your programme related to aquatic resource management and/or related livelihoods and we'll include it in our various media channels. Contact simon.wilkinson@enaca.org.

NACA's 16th member - Iran

NACA is pleased to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent a letter of accession to the NACA Agreement, signed by the Honorable minister of Jihad-e-Agriculture. Iran has been a long-time participant in and supporter of network activities. On behalf of the network the Secretariat welcomes this formalization of an already prosperous relationship, and we look forward to working even closer with our Iranian colleagues.

Shrimp Health Management Training Workshop 18-23 August, Thailand

This course is co-organized annually by NACA and the Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute of Thailand. The course runs for six days and includes lectures, practical, case studies, visits to farms and adequate time for discussion. The lectures are based on the

information contained in the book "Health Management in Shrimp Ponds" and are illustrated with an extensive range of photographic slides. Emphasis is placed on the benefits of maintaining healthy stock and preventing disease through appropriate management of the pond. The use of chemical treatments will be covered but only as part of an integrated management system. Topics addressed include an update on shrimp culture systems; pond environment; pond preparation; water management; farm records; disease; larval assessments; chemical treatments; and the current situation in Thailand.

The registration fee is US\$ 750. It covers the cost of tuition, a copy of "Health Management in Shrimp Ponds" and the workshop dinner. Participants will be responsible for the cost of hotel accommodation and subsistence during the workshop.

Key resource speakers include Dr Pornlerd Chanratchakool (AAHRI), Dr James F. Turnbull (Stirling University), Dr Chalor Limsuwan (Kasetsart University) and Mr Dan Fegan (National Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology). For further information download the brochure (PDF 223 KB) from <http://www.enaca.org/Training/ShrimpHealthWorkshop.pdf> or contact The Training Officer, P.O. Box 1040, Kasetsart Post Office, Bangkok 10903, Thailand, Telephone: +66-2-5611728 to 9, Facsimile: +66-2-5611727, E-mail: training@enaca.org.

Board Bionotes: Asia-Pacific Chapter of WAS

The new President is Dan Fegan (Thailand), President-Elect is Mike Rimmer (Australia), Secretary-Treasurer is Pedro Bueno (Director General of NACA). Vice President is Yves Harache (New Caledonia) and the two new directors are Charles Bai (Korea) and Robert Bishop (New Zealand). Renee Chou (Singapore) and Wilfred Yapp (Philippines) remain as Directors. The full bionotes on the new board are available for download (PDF 193 KB, 7 pages) <http://www.enaca.org/PDF/NewBoardIntroBionotes.pdf>.

The Chapter continues to grow with approximately 300 members. The first chapter conference will be held in Bangkok in October 2003 with the support of the Thailand Department of

Fisheries and the Network of Aquaculture Centres of Asia-Pacific (NACA).

US FDA proposes registration for food and feed facilities

The U.S. Food and drug Admin C.D.Brugere@ncl.ac.ukistration (FDA) has announced a proposed regulation that would require domestic U.S. and foreign food facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States to register with the agency by December 12, 2003. The proposal is one of the keystones in implementing the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002. This act provided FDA new authority in protecting the nation's food supply against terrorist acts and other threats.

The proposed regulation would require the owner, operator, or agent in charge of a domestic or foreign facility to submit a registration to FDA, including the name and address of each facility at which, and trade names under which, the registrant conducts business, and the categories of food the facility handles. For a foreign facility, the registration must include the name of the U.S. agent for the facility. The U.S. agent may register a foreign facility if it is authorized to do so by the facility. The proposal also would require facilities to update any changes to the information previously submitted within 30 days of the change.

The law requires FDA to notify the registrant of receipt of registration and to assign each facility a unique registration number. Registration will be made available via the internet. There is no fee.

Under the Bioterrorism Act, facilities must register by December 12, 2003. The FDA is offering the public 60 days to comment on the proposed rule. FDA plans to issue a final rule by October 12, 2003 and to have its registration system operational by that time.

Failing to register by the deadline will be a prohibited act which can be subject to civil or criminal action in federal court. The Bioterrorism Act also requires food from unregistered foreign facilities to be held at the port of entry unless the FDA directs that the food be moved to a secure location.

Copies of the proposed regulation may be obtained from <http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/bioact.html>

Source: Suzi Fraser, *Aquafeed.com* 4 February 2003. For more information on this important issue please visit www.Aquafeed.com.

China Imposes Fishing Ban on Yangtze River

China has imposed a six-month ban on fishing the Yangtze, its longest river that will affect 50,000 fish related workers. Under the new ban fishing or selling fish from the river is prohibited. The ban encompasses the whole river basin, which includes over 4,000 km of the main river and another 4,000 km of its tributaries in 10 provinces. Two major lakes are also included, Po Yang and Dong Ting, the two largest freshwater lakes in China. Due to the different times that fish breed within this massive system the bans are as follows Feb 1-April 30th in the upper reaches of the Yangtze (between Deqin, Yunnan, province and Gezhouba, Hubei province) and April 1 to June 30th, in the lower reaches (from Gezhouba to the river mouth).

The ban comes following years of bad fishing practises, pollution and land reclamation that has put many species at risk. The ban is a further legal move following bans on fishing on the middle and lower Yangtze in 2000 and seasonal fishing bans in both the East and South China Seas. (Source: *Onefish, Feb 2003; Xinhua News Agency, Feb 1, 2003*).

US Intends to Implement protective measures against prawn imports

Thailand's The Foreign Trade Promotion Department's US office has reported that the US will make stricter inspections of imported prawn, with an emphasis on testing for chloramphenicol. The US may also follow the EU's example and set quotas for prawn imports from each country. The US is one of the largest prawn markets in the world with an average consumption rate of 1.55kg per person annually and produces only 20 per cent of the prawn it consumes. Despite this in the first eleven months of 2002, exports of Thailand to the US fell by 43% over the same period in 2001.

(Source: *Financial Times Information, January 27, 2003*)

Shrimp inspection relaxed

The 100% inspection of Thai shrimp and chicken exports to the EU could be relaxed due to current negotiations. The EU will send officials to inspect the production processes of these products, but the firms to be inspected will receive no prior notice. The moves follow talks between the Deputy Agriculture Minister and the EU, and it is believed that if successful, the inspections could lead to the future lifting of the current strict inspections. It is estimated that Thailand lost US\$ 250,000,000 as a result of the EU tests on chicken. Thailand considered alerting the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and not raising its imports of powdered milk from the EU. It now intends to send agricultural officials to ports in Europe and the US to help coordinate the inspections.

(Source: *Fish Information and Services, January 2003; Malaysia General News, January 23, 2003; Thai Press Reports, January 28, 2003*).

Bangladesh determined to protect farmers and fishers rights over biological resources.

Bangladesh has outlined its plans to protect farmer's rights over their biological resources, the government intends to support and conduct research in agriculture, plant breeding, fisheries and cattle rearing and turn globalisation to its advantage. The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) organised the two-day workshop on "Protecting Farmers Rights: Issues and Options" to discuss such matters. Issues such as The Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement which Bangladesh is a party to and funding for almost all kinds of agriculture research, animal and plant breeding in the country were discussed. The Bangladesh government has constituted a National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources which has prepared two drafts; Bio-diversity and Community Knowledge Protection Act and Plant Protection Act within the guiding framework of TRIPs.

(Source: *United News of Bangladesh, February 1, 2003*).