

of issues. Whilst the local situation differs from country to country in the region (and between regions) there are some strategic issues of common concern where the sharing of technical information could be of mutual benefit.

In December 2007, the SPC aquaculture section hosted the Pacific-Asia Marine Fish Technical Workshop, held in Noumea. Selected countries with prospects towards developing a marine finfish aquaculture industry were invited to attend the workshop, together with a regional group of experts on this topic.

French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands were invited to participate at the workshop. The following regional organisations, from Australia, the Pacific and Asia (IFREMER, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific, University of the South Pacific, Queensland Department of Primary Industry - Northern Fisheries Center, The WorldFish Center and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), also attended. Private sector investors for the region were also represented with Good Fortune Bay Fisheries (from Australia and the Marshall Islands) and Aqualagon (from New Caledonia). A total of 25 participants from Pacific, Australia and Asia attended the workshop.

This workshop was a technical consultation between marine finfish aquaculture experts and SPC member countries that are active in marine finfish aquaculture.

Its goal was to provide SPC with advice on the most feasible options for marine finfish aquaculture and identify a regional framework for collaboration to address priority research and development needs in the Pacific.

The workshop objectives were to:

- Provide an update on status of marine fish farming within selected Pacific Islands.
- Assess global trends of the industry in terms of production and markets.
- Consider niche opportunities for the Pacific region, for example in terms of export and domestic markets and alleviation of food security.
- Identify priorities for research, development and training requirements.
- Establish programs for further regional and inter-regional collaboration.

NACA presented its regional aquaculture program and related activities and emphasis was made on the Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network, a strong potential link for the SPC and its members. The Coordinator of the Marine Finfish Aquaculture Program (NACA), Dr Sih Yang Sim provided a very detailed presentation on the status and trends of marine finfish aquaculture in Asia, including the markets, the economics of the industry, the farming practices used in the different countries

and also a scope for future development. Asia is often used as a model for Pacific islands which can learn from mistakes and successes of this region.

At the workshop participants are divided into small groups and worked on the following subjects:

- Development of linkages with the Asia Pacific region, three groups (simulating Asia, Australia and The Pacific) analysed the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and strength of those three regions towards providing guidance the Pacific.
- Design of a regional strategic plan for marine finfish development in the Region (establishing objectives, strategies, action and indicators).
- Development project concepts to address bottlenecks in this industry in the Pacific Region.

An interactive CD, compiling all the PowerPoint presentations as well as the group work's result was published at the end of the workshop and is available on request from the SPC aquaculture section ([marieangeh@spc.int](mailto:marieangeh@spc.int)).

A marine finfish aquaculture development strategic plan will also be developed during 2008, compiling the different experiences of the Pacific and using the results of the group work. It will be posted on line on the aquaculture portal [www.spc.int/aquaculture](http://www.spc.int/aquaculture).

## Developing Better Management Practices for Marine Finfish Aquaculture

A workshop on the 'Development of Better Management Practices for Marine Finfish Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region' was held in Lampung, Indonesia, 7–10 November 2007. The workshop was held to begin the process of developing Better Management Practices (BMPs) for the marine finfish aquaculture sector, which is growing rapidly in Asia. The rapid expansion of marine finfish aquaculture, and concerns regarding its environmental sustainability, has led to the development of several accreditation / certification schemes, and the proposed development of others. NACA and ACIAR are concerned to ensure the participation of small-scale farmers, who provide the bulk of production in Asia, in certification and market access

schemes. The development of a BMPs-based approach is intended to allow small-scale farmers to adopt practices that will better support their participation in more formal accreditation / certification schemes in the future, and facilitate market access by small-scale farmers in the face of increasing consumer demands for environmental and social responsibility in aquaculture. The 4-day workshop was undertaken as part of the ACIAR-funded project 'Improved hatchery and grow-out technology for marine finfish aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region' (FIS/2002/077). The workshop was attended by 60 participants from Australia, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Norway, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, involving participants

from government, research, NGO and the private sector. There was a strong participation in the workshop by the private sector, with about half the participants coming from private industry, including representatives of farmer organizations and feed companies. Industry participants were supportive of the need to develop BMPs for marine finfish aquaculture as a way to enhance the sustainability of their industry. The workshop was also attended by representatives of environmental and other NGOs. The full report from the workshop will be available in early 2008. The workshop was organized by NACA and the Directorate General of Aquaculture (DGA) of Indonesia in conjunction with the Australia Centre for International Agricultural Research.