

# Threading the STREAM Components

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## Improving rural livelihoods in Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal and the Philippines

### Cambodia

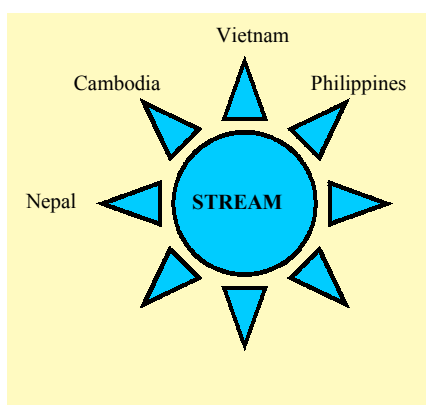
Cambodia has a Human Development Index of 0.517; 4.3 million live on less than US\$113 per year. In Cambodia, fish provides 70-80% of all animal protein intake and foraging for fish, crabs, shrimps, snails, frogs and green vegetables occupies nearly 90% of households. 36% of households live below the poverty line and every year a huge migration takes place within Cambodia to the Tonle Sap to trade rice for Trey Riel (*Henicorhynchus sp.* – a small cyprinid) and other small fish species to make prahoc (fish paste), a key component of seasonal food security for poor rice farmers.

Until recently, millions of poor Khmer people who rely on capture fisheries for their livelihood and food security were excluded from the country's massive inland fishery.

Cambodia is radically changing the way it manages its fishery, including the creation of the Community Fisheries Development Office (CFDO) to manage the provision of greater access for poor resource users.

The Department of Fisheries has requested support in this process from the STREAM Initiative. A partnership agreement has been signed between STREAM, the Department of Fisheries (CFDO) and the NGO SCALE to support people, who are (potential) beneficiaries of new government service provision to play a role in the definition and development of those services.

STREAM has built national and provincial capacity in participatory and livelihoods approaches, piloted a process for learning about the livelihoods of farmers and fishers in order to support the reformulation of policy on fisheries management, established a communications hub to share lessons from and with others; provided a Management Consultant from



### STREAM partnerships

STREAM is an Asia-Pacific-wide communications and learning platform, promoting participation, communication and policies that support the livelihoods of poor aquatic resource users. Through its network of service providers, alliances and partnerships STREAM helps to find solutions to partners most complex and critical challenges. STREAM communications involves a suite of web-based initiatives, linked national communication hubs and physical networks.

STREAM has been established by a partnership between the Network of Aquaculture Centres for Asia Pacific (NACA) - an Intergovernmental organisation of 15 Asia-Pacific governments, the UK Government, Department for International Development, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, and the International NGO, Voluntary Service Overseas; with financial support from DFID South East Asia, the DFID Renewable Natural Resources Programme (NRSP), AusAID and FAO. STREAM is beginning to work in Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Nepal and India.

Accenture, through the VSO business partnership scheme to help establish the new office and is providing digital literacy training through the Asia Pacific Regional Technology Centre.

Within this process, STREAM will provide examples of approaches and practices being discussed or implemented in other parts of the region, building links and contacts with other key policy development players and support lesson learning pilots.

### Vietnam

Between 30 and 45% of Vietnamese people are poor. Fish and aquatic resources play a key role in their diet, and aquaculture and fisheries management is receiving increased attention in efforts to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty. The Ministry of Fisheries, together with provincial organisations, donors international agencies and STREAM has developed a new poverty focused approach to support poverty alleviation through support to aquatic resources management (Sustainable Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation - SAPA). The Ministry of Fisheries has entered into a partnership agreement with STREAM, to help support people who are (potential) beneficiaries of government service provision.

STREAM has built national and provincial capacity in participatory and livelihoods approaches, piloted a process for learning about the livelihoods of farmers and fishers, established a communications hub to share lessons from and with others; and is providing provided a Management Consultant, through the VSO south-south partnership scheme to help establish the new office and is providing digital literacy training through the Asia Pacific Regional Technology Centre. Through this, STREAM will provide examples of

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### DFID NRSP/STREAM 's focus on an improved policy on aquaculture service provision for poor people in India

approaches and practices being discussed or implemented in other parts of the region, building links and contacts with other key policy development players and support lesson learning pilots.

#### Philippines

More than 40% of Filipinos live below the national poverty line. Millions rely on capture fisheries for their livelihood and food security. The use of dynamite and poisons in fish capture is common, especially where few livelihood alternatives are available. The decentralisation of power has dislocated the Fisheries line agency from local development, sometimes impacting on sustainable management. The Bureau of Aquatic Resources and Fisheries (BFAR) and SEAFDEC AQD have discussed with STREAM the need for support to help tackle poverty and unsustainable practices. A partnership will soon be implemented between STREAM and BFAR to support people, who are (potential) beneficiaries of government service provision.

STREAM has commissioned a study of Aquatic Resources and Poverty in the Philippines and has agreed to support lesson sharing through a Communications Hub in Iloilo. Within this process, STREAM will provide examples of approaches and practices being discussed or implemented in other parts of the region, building links and contacts with other key policy development players and support lesson learning pilots.

#### India

About 500 million people in India live on less than US\$1 per day representing one third of the world's absolute poor. The Eastern Plateau region of India is characterised by poverty and inequality, land alienation and seasonal migration. The scheduled castes and tribes are amongst the poorest communities in India.

Over the last six years, appropriate forms of aquaculture have been identified, introduced and tested with representative groups of poor people in Eastern India (by the Eastern India Rainfed Farming Project and the DFID Natural Resources Systems Programme "Integration of aquaculture into the farming systems of the eastern plateau of India" project. Multipurpose use of water resources including fish culture is now a dynamic part of people's livelihoods of 193 groups of poor men and women (over 4500 farmers) in the communities where the research was undertaken. These are poor women and men, typically belonging to scheduled tribes or castes, and many lack the means to produce sufficient food throughout the year. Their livelihoods are characterised by seasonal migration, exploitation and underpayment.

Aquatic resources management and its role in rural development especially amongst tribal groups is receiving increased attention from Indian government and the support schemes are being reformed in the 10<sup>th</sup> 5-year plan. The Fisheries Commissioner has invited the DFID NRSP project R8100 "Investigating improved policy on aquaculture service provision to poor people" under the STREAM initiative in association with NACA to play a role in reforming the Fish Farm Development Association scheme or suggesting a new "tribal" Rain fed fish farming component.

STREAM will work with tribal women and men, EIRFP (now Gramin Vikas Trust), the Department of Fisheries and elements within state and national governments to facilitate poor peoples to have a voice in the process of shaping policies from which they are to benefit.

#### Nepal

Nepal ranks 77<sup>th</sup> out of 90 developing countries on the UN Human Development Index (HDI), poverty is most acute in the rural areas, especially the western Tarai, hills and mountains

(HDI 0286-0.414). Aquatic resources management and its role in rural development is receiving increased attention from His Majesty's Government Nepal, which has requested support from the STREAM Initiative. STREAM has commissioned a report on Aquatic Resource and Poverty in Nepal, and discussions were held in Khatmandu in March with Department of Fisheries Development (DOFD), the Nepal Agricultural Research Council, and the Agricultural Information and Communication Centre regarding their role and work, government policy and the formulation of the 10<sup>th</sup> 5-year plan. There was discussion of STREAM, especially the role of a Communications Hub Manager, National Co-ordinator, Country Strategy, and a regional overview of STREAM, including stakeholder networks and livelihood analysis work.

Government policy on fisheries and aquaculture is framed within a series of recent reports, plans and policy seminars. These include the 1996 report "Fisheries and Aquaculture in the economic development of rural Nepal", Nepal Fisheries Society; the 9<sup>th</sup> 5-yr plan (1997); a seminar proceeding (1999) Prospects for fisheries Development under the Agriculture Perspectives plan DOFD, and a Report on the Symposium on Cold Water Fisheries (2001). The government is now formulating its 10<sup>th</sup> 5-year plan, the sole objective of which is poverty alleviation. Fisheries receive about 1% of the agriculture budget. The National Planning Commission has also commissioned Special Programmes in 5 priority areas (Fisheries, Horticulture, Forestry and Herbs, Livestock and Watershed Management).

The potential for STREAM to add value to the on-going policy changes, especially the Special Programme in Fisheries Plan 2002, and in particular the component, which aims to provide opportunities for ultra-poor and displaced communities, was discussed, including logistics, a timeframe and our potential roles and responsibilities.





*From left to right: Dr S.D. Tripathi, Dr Graham Haylor & Mr Bill Savage on their inception visit to Ranchi, Jarkhand.*



*Colleagues from Gramin Vikas Trust participate in the opening ceremony of a farmers fair in a village in Purulia, West Bengal.*



*Villagers enjoying a fun moment during speeches at the farmers fair*



*Farmers at a stall exhibiting GVT projects in the tribal village.*



*Village girls performing a dance for the audience*



*The men and boys bringing in the catch.*



*Dr Tripathi has a key informant discussion with the villagers*



*Mr Prabhakar Mahato, the village "jankar" (expert), Mr Savage & Mr Gautam.*