

First Annual Meeting of ACIAR Project FIS/2006/144

Strengthening regional mechanisms to maximize benefits to small-holder shrimp farmer groups adopting better management practices (BMPs)- ACIAR Project (June 2007-November 2009)

First Project Meeting Report (21 November 2007)

First annual meeting of the above project was held in the MPEDA Meeting room, Cochin, India, from 9.00-13.00 hours on 21st November 2007. The meeting was attended by project partners from India (MPEDA, CIBA, NaCSA), Vietnam (NAFIQAVED), Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia and Intergovernmental NACA. Representatives from other BMP projects in the region (IFC, WWF, FAO), and Seafood Alliance also participated in the meeting. ACIAR Fisheries Program Manager attended the meeting. The list of meeting participants is provided as **Annex 1**.

Chairman MPEDA gave the formal opening address and highlighted the importance of promoting BMPs in small scale aquaculture and thanked ACIAR for supporting the regional project. Sena DeSilva thanked ACIAR for supporting the project and thanked MPEDA for hosting the meeting and suggested the possibility of developing a large BMP regional project covering key commodities and several NACA member countries. Barney Smith provided brief insight into ACIAR involvement in BMP programs in the region and ACIAR expectations. The meeting was conducted as per the agenda (**Annex 2**).

Meeting Outcomes:

- Objectives and expected outcomes of the ACIAR regional BMP communication project was presented and discussed. Follow up activities to implement the 4 key objectives of the ACIAR BMP communication project was discussed and agreed. Project partners agreed to support the project activities
- Brief overview of all the ongoing shrimp BMP projects in the region were presented and discussed. Members agreed that the proposed BMP website will provide a good platform and opportunity for all the project partners to stay in touch and share information.
- Information on BMP projects for other aquaculture commodities (e.g. catfish) ongoing in the region was presented to the meeting. The need for bringing all the aquaculture BMP activities in the region under one umbrella was recognized
- Information on linking ongoing research activities to development and implementation of BMP programmes in the region was presented to the members. The need to actively integrate new research findings into the BMP programs and revise/modify BMPs was recognized as very important to keeping the BMPs scientifically sound.
- Draft template of BMP website was presented and discussed. Agreement for BMP webpage on NACA website obtained from project partners. BMP webpage will be launched in January 2008.
- Draft template for shrimp e-newsletter was presented and discussed. Agreement for shrimp e-newsletter was obtained from project partners. Newsletters will be produced quarterly, starting from Jan 2008.

- Agreements obtained from project partners and other BMP project implementers in the region to provide information to the BMP website and shrimp e-newsletter
- The project partners agreed to use the ACIAR BMP communication project as a platform for development, dissemination and enhancing communication of contextualized BMPs in target countries
- The meeting agreed to the suggestion of developing TOR for communication focal points in target countries. NACA will develop the TOR
- Ways to improve market access to BMP compliant small scale farmers was discussed in detail. Some details about the ongoing work in Thailand was provided
- The meeting realized that it is important to make the consumers in importing countries aware of the impact (positive/negative) of their purchasing decisions on the small scale farmers in producing countries
- Possibilities of developing pilot studies in market access and cluster certification methodology, under the ACIAR BMP communication project were discussed and agreed
- Ongoing work on development of standards for shrimp under the WWF shrimp dialogue was presented and discussed. The meeting was informed of the next round of dialogue in Asia (April 2008)

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Meeting Agenda

Time	Item	Presenter
9.00	Welcome and Formal Introductions	MPEDA/NACA/ All
9.15	Overview of the ACIAR project (FIS-2006-144) and expected meeting outcomes	Mohan
9.35	Expectations of ACIAR	Barney Smith
9.45	Brief overview of ongoing and proposed shrimp BMP projects in the region with emphasis on communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia (ADB, FAO,IFC,WWF projects) • Thailand • Vietnam • India • Malaysia • Indonesia (ACIAR project) 	Mike Phillips, Arun, WWF DOF NAFIQAVED MPEDA, NaCSA, CIBA DOF Dick Callinan
10.15	Tea Break	
11.00	Brief overview of BMP projects in other commodities	Mike Phillips/Mike Rimmer/Sena
11.15	Linking BMP projects to regional research outputs and other initiatives (e.g. certification)	Peter Walker, Rohana/Mike
11.30	Approaches to strengthen regional mechanisms under the ACIAR project (FIS-2006-144) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMP webpage - presentation on template and contents followed by discussions • Shrimp E-newsletter-presentation on template and contents followed by discussions • Development and dissemination of contextualized BMPs using the project platform and enhancing communication • Markets and BMPs - brainstorming/discussion session • Developing TOR for communication focal points in target countries 	Koji Koji Callinan/Mohan followed by open discussion Mike, followed by open discussion Mohan/Mike followed by discussion
12.45	Conclusions and Way Forward	
13.00	Lunch	