

CHAPTER 6

Contribution of Outputs

6.1 Contribution of Outputs to DFID Development Goals

The overall goal of the programme and this component of it is that the livelihoods of poor people be improved through sustainable enhancement of production and productivity of land/water interface systems. However, the project was not intended to do this directly and nor was not designed to develop new technologies. Instead its intended contribution was to provide insights into the livelihood strategies and priorities of people, particularly poor people, dependent on inland fisheries in Bangladesh and Southeast Asia which could then be used to help guide development activities including other projects, and to be used to guide the development of potential research projects to ensure that they take better account of the wider livelihood context in inland fisheries and the problems and needs of poor people.

In summary the achievement of output indicators is shown in Box 6.1

Box 6.1: Achievement of Output Indicators	
Target	Achievement
By project month 2 a framework and guideline developed and agreed for preparing representative livelihoods assessments through secondary sources and PRA.	Prepared in internal workshop in April 2002
By project month 6 classifications, and profiles of fisheries and associated livelihoods for 4 countries prepared from secondary sources covering: location; capital pentagon including role and dependence on fisheries particularly for resource poor stakeholders; legal, institutional and policy framework; threats, trends, and prospects; gaps in information; past research; and constraints.	Presented in internal workshop in November 2002
By project month 8 representative livelihoods assessments disaggregated by stakeholder group, poverty profiles, rankings of constraints and associated researchable issues prepared through PRA for example sites in the main inland fishery systems in 4 countries.	Presented in internal workshop in November 2002 but actually completed in January 2003
By project completion dissemination of a comparative assessment of the levels of poverty, dependence on aquatic resources, livelihood strategies, vulnerability and needs of key stakeholders using inland fisheries in 4 countries and the relationship between these aspects and the resource base, institutions and property rights that govern access to aquatic resources in particular	Comparative assessment not yet distributed. National reports completed for distribution to secondary stakeholders. National partners working on translations of the respective summary volumes for printing and wider circulation. In Bangladesh and Cambodia national workshops were held in March 2003 to disseminate the findings to key stakeholders.

The context in terms of DFID's specific poverty focus and country aims has been already detailed in Chapter 2 (Background). However, the contribution should be seen as fitting within a wider context of informing research and development policy formulation in the target nations and for regional and international researchers and development partners.

WorldFish Center has and will continue to use its existing links and collaboration, for example with the Departments of Fisheries in Bangladesh and Cambodia (where it has respectively been working to develop and test community based management of inland

fisheries for over 7 years and just recently), and with provincial authorities and research agencies in Vietnam and Lao PDR to help take up the results.

In Bangladesh this fits into wider debate on policy in fisheries, particularly inland fisheries, and on research priorities, where the WorldFish Center with national partners has an active role and will make use of the findings. In Cambodia too it fits into recent moves towards people centered fishery management through community fisheries and helps strengthen the capacity of the Department of Fisheries which again will be taken up through further projects with WorldFish Center. However, in Lao PDR and Vietnam there is probably the greater potential impact since inland fisheries have been relatively neglected in terms of fishery science and most importantly the high dependence of many poor subsistence and part-time fishers on these resources. Unfortunately these are the two partner countries where dissemination is more difficult due to their more decentralized administration which lacks ready made focal points in government and donor assisted projects for ready uptake of the findings.

6.2 Promotion of Outputs

6.2.1 List of project reports

The following reports have been prepared and are included as annexes to this FTR

1. Synthesis Analysis Report
2. Bangladesh Country Summary Report
3. Bangladesh Country Status Report
4. Bangladesh Country PRA Report
5. Cambodia Country Summary Report
6. Cambodia Country Status Report
7. Cambodia Country PRA Report
8. Lao Country Summary Report
9. Lao Country Status Report
10. Lao Country PRA Report
11. Vietnam Country Summary Report
12. Vietnam Country Status Report
13. Vietnam Country PRA Report

In addition an Internal Planning Workshop Report was prepared for the initial workshop in April 2002 to guide the project partners.

6.2.2 Workshops and other dissemination

Under the agreements for the project, the national partners (Can Tho University (CTU) and An Giang University, Vietnam; Department of Fisheries (DoF), Cambodia; Living Aquatic Resources Research Center (LARReC), Lao PDR; and Bangladesh Center for Advance Studies (BCAS), Bangladesh) are responsible for holding national workshops to disseminate the findings to target institutions in their respective countries and for preparing translated versions of the country summary report and project executive summary to be printed locally and distributed to policy makers and implementers at different levels.

Further target organizations were relevant international agencies such as FAO and SIFAR, regional agencies (Mekong River Commission (MRC), NACA/STREAM), international NGOs working in the region (Oxfam, Save the Children), and development partners. These were included in the initial planning workshop in Phnom Penh and have been updated on the

study, but it has not proven possible to hold an event to inform them collectively. There is a need for the national partners, the UK based partners and WorldFish to seek outlets for non-formal dissemination with these agencies through their newsletters, seminars, etc.

National workshops were arranged in two countries within the project period - in Cambodia and in Bangladesh. The participants included government agencies, other donors, fisheries sector projects, NGOs, academics, and Departments of Fisheries. In Bangladesh the Secretary Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and Director General Department of Fisheries were the main guests in the workshop, which was also attended by representatives of Ministry of Land and Bangladesh Water Development Board. The national partners and WorldFish Center here presented the national summary report of the project, and gave an overview of the project as a whole. Participants gave their comments on the summary report and the summary report was revised accordingly, they also identified key issues and future research needs. In addition this was preceded by a consultation meeting with a panel from relevant projects and NGOs which helped to shape the national summary report.

In Bangladesh further uptake has come through a national research planning workshop in April 2003 jointly organized by WorldFish Center and Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, here the national partner to this project presented one of the resource papers, and while the scope was the whole of the fisheries sector, one of the key areas was inland fisheries research and policies. This workshop attended by senior policy makers and a wide range of research stakeholders confirmed several of the research priorities identified in the earlier workshop.

6.3 Future Actions and Research

The partners in Lao PDR and Vietnam are due to hold national workshops in the coming months (delayed due to new year festivals and other commitments). Also from the project provision all four national partners have agreed to translate their respective country summary reports into the national language, it is hoped that this can be combined with the key findings from the comparative study and the resulting short reports will be distributed widely to decision makers, practitioners, local government and researchers.

Further dissemination is expected to include short articles in newsletters, web pages and CD distribution. The PRA methods and tools used for the local livelihood assessments are already being incorporated within participatory planning and assessment in our ongoing projects, and hopefully will also be used by the partners in their research programmes.

A major outcome from the project is identification of potential research topics for the future and of issues that are common between the Mekong and Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basins. Some of the latter are likely to be taken up through the CGIAR global challenge program on water and food.

6.3.1 Example from Bangladesh

In the National research planning workshop on 3-4 April 2003 the two working groups on inland fisheries identified the following possible priorities considering respectively primarily research areas, and secondly more generally development, policy and research:

Inland fisheries

1. Institutional linkages

- Environment

- Water management; water sharing, conflict, Integrated Floodplain Management options
 - Fish and agricultural management
 - Opportunity and constraints
- 2. Existing leasing and access**
 - Assess existing policy and recommended conservation policy
 - Impact on poor
 - Impact on fisheries
 - Distribution of benefits under different situations
 - 3. Impact of habitat restoration and conservation**
 - Economic and social benefit
 - Biodiversity
 - Habitat destruction/impact of flood control works
 - Seasonal dimension
 - 4. Alternative income generation methods to reduce fishing pressure**
 - 5. Appropriate assessment mechanism of fisheries resources**
 - 6. Population dynamics of important species**

Open water fisheries

- 1. Development of an action plan**
 - Rationalise and harmonise with other related policies
 - Process & rationalisation can be simultaneously run with development of action plans
 - High powered council with the concerned ministries
 - Consultation with all concerned (national to grassroot level)
 - Study on policy impact and the possible conflicts
- 2. Jalmahal Policy**
 - Better access and management
 - Administrative systems that are not for revenue generation only
 - Community based management
 - Can contribute in poverty alleviation
 - PRSP - how it fits with the fisheries sector
 - Reinvestment of lease money for improvement of fisheries (social fund)
 - Change of jalmahal management over period
 - Court cases
 - Open access - benefit goes to the rich
 - One jalmahal leased out two purposes in a time (farming & fisheries)
 - Improve/simplify the leasing process
- 3. Governance and enabling legislation with respect to openwater fisheries**
 - Water sharing/use
 - Improvement of land use
 - Degradation of wetlands and loss of habitats (degree and extent) and their restoration
 - Encroachment of water bodies
 - Conservation of water bodies
 - Preference of base line

- Capacity of enforcement of various regulation
- Sustainability of sanctuaries

4. Strengthening of capacity of Department of Fisheries

- Would have the ability to assess fisheries Environmental Impact Assessment
- Multidisciplinary professionals

5. Impact of stocking

- Knowledge gap
- Local versus exotic species

6. Responsibilities of research

- Adequacy of mandate
- Capacity to conduct research on policy issues

Finally the participants developed short outlines of the rationale for 48 possible researchable topics in the whole fisheries sector, 19 were placed in the high priority category (Table 6.1). Out of these 10 were on inland fishery and livelihood issues (although some spread also into aquaculture or marine fisheries).

Table 6.1 Highest priority research topics for medium term from a Bangladesh national workshop held in April 2003 (topics which half the participants ranked as high priority).

Research topic	High	Med	Low	Don't know
Management of shared stocks (hilsa) and assessment of the likely effects on biodiversity by the release of exotic species	27	14	1	0
Fish health management - diagnosis, prevention, control & care	27	13	2	0
Dissemination of aquaculture technologies	27	10	2	3
Assessment of the impact of aquaculture technologies and fisheries management regimes on the poor	25	15	2	0
Constraints to the effective implementation of government fisheries policies	25	11	4	0
Conservation and rehabilitation of hilsa breeding grounds	25	9	7	1
Conflicting water use in aquaculture	24	18	0	0
Genetic stock improvement of commercially important aquaculture fish species	24	12	4	2
Impact and sustainability of the use of invasive exotics in aquaculture	24	14	3	1
Livelihood strategies of fisheries and aquaculture dependant households	24	14	1	3
Assessment of the impact of aquaculture technologies and fisheries management regimes on the poor	25	15	2	0
Alternative income generation options to reduce fishing pressure on open-water bodies	23	15	3	1
Studies on the population dynamics of important fish species (wild, stocked, inland & marine)	22	18	1	1
Impact of habitat restoration in open-water fisheries	22	18	2	0
Governance & enabling legislation affecting open-water bodies and wetlands	22	16	3	1
Analysis of the constraints of current water body leasing policies	22	15	4	1
Gender empowerment in fisheries and aquaculture	21	17	4	0
Impact of coastal aquaculture (shrimp farming) on the soil quality of paddy fields	21	17	3	1
Development of low cost, quality feeds for commercially important cultured fish (esp. broodstock and early rearing)	21	14	6	1

Bold indicates topics relating to inland fisheries