

**REPORT OF THE
TRIVANDRUM
WORKSHOP
NOV. 20-25, 1986**

**TOWARDS AN
INTERNATIONAL
COLLECTIVE IN
SUPPORT OF
FISHWORKERS**

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Proceeding of the Workshop on Issues in Fisheries Development,
held at Trivandrum, India, November 20-25, 1986.

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INTRODUCTION

Responding to the invitation of the SIFFS (South Indian Federation of Fishermens Societies) and the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, India, 40 people of 18 nationalities, came to the Centre for Development Studies, Ulloor, Trivandrum, for five days, from 20-25 the November 1986.

The letter of invitation from John Kurien, research fellow of the Centre, closely related to fishworkers in South India and General Secretary of the ICFWS, Rome, 1984, had sought for response from a wide range of people. The meeting was planned to review and share on action and trends in small-scale fisheries since Rome 1984, and to discuss the need for some more organised follow-up to the Rome Conference, at which more than 100 fishworkers and supporters from all regions of the world, had met, established bonds of solidarity and pledged to support the common cause of small fisheries and fishworkers the world over.

Officially called "Workshop on Issues in Fisheries Development", the meeting brought social activists, organisers, social scientists, marine biologists, anthropologists, economists, engineers, together, with a common unity around the commitment to support fishworkers and traditional fisheries. As participants gathered on Thursday 20th, an informal evening "brainstorming" session took place where the first ideas of support group (Later called 'Collective') were shared.

1. Formal Inauguration Workshop Saturday 22rd November, by the Host, CDS Director, Dr. Krishnan.

John Kurien warmly welcomed the delegates in his capacity as staff of the Center for Development Studies (CDS), as a consultant of fishworkers and as a delegate of the workshop. After his brief welcome remarks, he introduced Dr. T. N. Krishnan, Director, CDS.

Dr. Krishnan, in his opening address expressed his concern over the small fishermen's integration in the national development processes, so that they do not become victims of mechanization and industrialization, but a significant part of the growing economy.

2. On Friday 21st, a very instructive exposure visit was organised for the whole day, to Quilon and Neendakarai.

This visit gave the participants a chance to learn from and interact with various groups involved in fisheries in Kerala, South India. It included a visit to one of the sites of a large-scale fisheries development program, initiated many years ago by Indo-Norwegian development cooperation. The government officers of the fisheries program were present for discussion and

answering questions of the group.

This was followed by a visit to a market at the quay-side where the catch of trawlers and mechanised fishing was being traded.

Then to a number of villages of Kerala traditional fishworkers, where participants met fishermen and women, saw the beaches and the traditional boats, and had some interesting hours of interchange with representatives of the local fishworkers' organisation, and supporters and organisers.

This was followed by a visit to a local boat-building yard in a fishing village, where the fishing boat developed by extensive experiment with local fishermen, SIFFS and Intermediate Technology Development Group (U.K.), was being successfully produced.

For many, this was an exciting and encouraging visit to see the fruits of collaboration with technical experts committed to supporting small fisheries, and organised fishworkers, in which they had an involvement at all stages and levels of the development and production processes. It appeared to many as one practical expression of the possibilities for developing alternatives in traditional fisheries and coordinating fruitfully energies of fishworkers, scientists, organisers and supporters.

3. Saturday 22nd-23rd were devoted to sessions in which regional and country situations were described by participants (see Section 1 below). The purpose was to gain a broad overview of the reality and problems of small fishworkers in different parts of the world and the alternative strategies and organising activity going on in support of fishworkers.

Information on activities and programs which have taken place after the Rome meeting of 1984, was also exchanged, reviewed and discussed.

There were other presentations and discussions on Mariculture; Trends in International Development Assistance; The Monitoring of Development Projects and their impact in fishworkers; On the Role of Women in Fisheries; On the response of International Development Agencies to small fishworkers concerns.

4. On Sunday 23rd-24th; the meeting divided in three groups for intensive discussion on three main areas.

a) International monitoring, covering the need for monitoring of various subjects concerning fishworkers; such as: maintenance of ecological habitats; Pollution; Exclusive Economic Zones; Rights of Fishworkers.

b) Exchange of Development Alternatives; including

approaches, methods of organising Fishworkers; approaches and methods for providing support to Fishworkers organisations; Cooperation among NGO's (South-South and South-North); Promoting linkages among fishworkers groups.

c) Grassroots view of the Functions of a Collective; Views of Fishworkers on need for various forms of support and how it can be organised at the levels of national and international support, beside the problems they can solve themselves.

The reports of these three groups were discussed on 24-25th in the full group, and the final versions of each group's report is reproduced in a later chapter (Section 2).

d) A separate group planned a campaign on Johnson Outboard Motors, which was adopted by the workshop.

5. On 24th-25th November, there were a series of plenary sessions at which group reports were discussed; The plan for a Collective in Support of Fishworkers was debated and found to be needed. Then an "Animation Team" to stimulate and coordinate the work of the Collective was elected by consensus. The finance for this meeting was presented and discussed. Possible names for this Collective were discussed. many details of organising and carrying forward the Collective's aims were discussed; The group sent solidarity greetings and support messages to Chilean fishworkers and Indian fishermen affected by the failure of Johnson out board motors.

6. On Tuesday 26th November evening, the workshop was closed, after warm expressions of appreciation to the Hosts, CDS and SIFFS; to the organisers and especially John Kurien; and to all those who had worked in the background for the help and success of the workshop; and to all the participants and those who shared their concerns and their ideas and experiences.

SECTION 1

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

1.1. Activities in the Participants' countries after Rome.

AFRICA REGIONAL

West Africa

After the impulses of the Rome meeting, a Pan-African-meeting was held in Cape Verde (24-30 Nov. 1985) to try to follow-up the Rome recommendations.

Earlier, in 1984, a first Pan African meeting was held with the participation of five countries, to prepare for the Rome conference.

It was found that there were really very few fishermen's organisations in Africa. Those at the Pan African meeting wanted to 1) Help fishworkers defend the rights of the small fishermen and 2) Promote an exchange of technologies in Africa and on South-South basis.

Organising the Africa regional meeting was very difficult because of the vast differences in experience and levels of organisation throughout the continent. Cape Verde and Senegal took a certain initiative because of the relative strength of their fishworkers. Further, language and representativeness were problems.

The international meeting of fishworkers which was held in Cape Verde in 1985, mainly reviewed the fishworkers situation in West Africa.

East Africa

The islands in the East Africa region where fishing is a major industry had a conference to form a network - namely Madagascar, Mauritius and Reunion. Their conclusion was that support and mutual exchange was crucial among fishermen in Africa and also on a South-South Basis.

The problems are great, and there was the sense of having to start from the bottom and contend with a lack of sense of struggle. They felt it will take 2-3 years to build a South-South network. Building grassroots organisation to defend fishermen's rights will need a great deal of work and time.

LATIN AMERICA

In January 1985 Jorge Riveira organised a seminar in Columbia, involving fishworkers and scientists from many parts of Columbia. This was the work of ANPAC.

In Chile, after much difficulty, a National Conference of fishworkers organisations was held in 1986 (November). About 78 organisations were represented with 117 participants. There were 41 Unions, 12 Cooperatives and 25 associations, from 12 administrative regions of Chile. They created a National Organisation "GONAPACHE", to be directed by a 12 member commission, all elected by the national meeting. This national organisation has two major proposals for action 1) An exclusive zone for Small Scale Fishermen and 2) Obtain a tax on exports which would go to social security for fishworkers in Chile.

At the conference, the results of the Rome meeting were discussed and adopted by popular vote for support.

It should be noted that organising a national fishworkers conference in Chile is a significant event. Though there was a history of struggle of Fishworkers since 1934, the Dictatorship led to the disintegration of national workers organisations, which were replaced by government-related professional organisations.

ASIA-REGIONAL:

ACFOD (Asian Cultural Forum on Development), has programs of exchange and training on the Asian regional level. One of its program is called "fishnet", a network for support and training of workers in small fishermen organisations throughout Asia. This network has increased its action and undertaken various programs in follow-up to the Rome meeting. An international meeting was held after Rome in bangkok to evaluate the conclusions and make plans to implement them in Asia. A number of national training programs for fishworkers and organisers were facilitated and also various exchange and exposure visits of fishworkers within Asia.

ACFOD Fisheries Networks:

In the Fisheries Network, ACFOD is bringing together organisers in different parts of Asia for exchange and learning from one another. It has been one vehicle for building solidarity among fishworkers organisations in Asia, especially in activities undertaken after the Rome Conference.

In the network, they have discovered common problems; e.g. that Small Fishworkers are neglected and do not own their means of production; that they are technologically exploited and that rapid mechanization of fisheries and industrialization is causing ecological imbalance.

They have identified various alternatives and are stimulating action like organising fishworkers For taking a greater part in decisions affecting them, and developing and sharing appropriate technologies.

Philippines:

The International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters, held in Rome was echoed to small fishermen in the 3 regions of the Philippines.

At the level of support groups it was echoed in Cebu City, with participants coming from all over the country.

In this conference/workshop, efforts at dividing and organizing the work with small fishermen were discussed as follows:

FCASI and Cakariz	- will take charge of Luzon
Phildhrra	- will take charge of the Visayas
Cedras	- will take charge of the Mindanao

This endeavor is expected to result in the formation of a national alliance of : a) Fishworkers
b) Supporters -

Mobilizations/social action activities by fishermen and their support groups continue, demanding the repeal of Marcos promulgated laws, namely PD. 704 and RP Japan Treaty of Amity Commerce and Navigation. Both laws provide the basis of other fishing laws which is export oriented and have allowed foreign capitalists from Japan to exploit Philippines resources.

The FAO Meeting on Ngo's and Small Fisheries:

It was recalled that during the Rome ICFWS conference, the FAO was not receptive at all to the aims of the conference. After two years there has been quite some change in FAO attitude to Small Fishworkers, concerns.

This has led to FAO calling a small meeting of about 20 persons from NGO's in Rome in July 1986, to discuss areas of cooperation among NGO's, FAO and Fishermens organisations, and to help formulate a policy on Small Fisheries. Some groups which participated were SIFFS (India), ENDA (Africa), ANPAC (Columbia).

It is clear that FAO is seeking a policy more responsive to Small Fisheries, and has now come to accept the ICFWS conference findings.

There is much more understanding evident within the FAO staff, which is very positive, and further follow up is planned, at a regional level.

1.2. SUMMARY OF COUNTRY REPORTS TO THE ICFWS POST CONFERENCE
IN TRIVANDRUM, INDIA, NOVEMBER 1986

MALAYSIA

Reality

The reality of Malaysia's fishworkers can be briefly summarised as follows:

Small fishermen are the most neglected group, who have no equal distribution of the fruits of production. They suffer from policies and programs which exploit the small fishermen and oftentimes this results into ecological imbalances. However, communities of small fishermen are now beginning to organize.

Alternatives and Actions

Supportive groups and fishermen are working out-programs for a more equal distribution of the fruits of production, for democratization and participation in the decision making process and for identification of appropriate technologies suitable for the local situation.

JAPAN

Reality and Problems

Since the time Japan was restored from the ruins of war, it has become one of the world's economic giants. Its rise has its concomitant problems, for with the use of modern technologies and reliance on heavy industrialization, Japan's natural surroundings have suffered. One is on its fishing waters where pollution caused by various toxic elements have killed and driven the fishes away.

The small fishermen were the most seriously affected by the introduction of new but destructive technologies. Their fishing grounds were either destroyed completely or diminished in size. The government failed to respond to the problems of the small fishermen, and government forces were even sometimes used to prevent fishermen's opposition. Some of their cooperatives went into disintegration and failure.

Alternatives

Fishermen have started grouping themselves to protect their rights and oppose unjust fishery plans, and many labor unions and environmentalists have joined the small fishermen's cause. Research and promotion of people's awareness about fishing issues are being done and disseminated to the public, and Asian tie-ups have also been started through exchanges, which are considered to be very important and were intensified after the Rome Conference.

INDIA

Reality

There are 6.5 million small fishermen in India, and there are 150,00 artisanal fishing craft, of which 23,000 are equipped with outboard engines. The industry utilizes mostly gillnets, trawlers and purse seiners. Total fish catch in 1985 was 2.8 million metric tons.

Problems

Fishing problems in India vary from state to state, but one serious problem, faced by all the small fishermen is the intrusion of big capitalists into their waters, these are backed by banks and often indirectly supported by governments. Since the capitalist trawler owners have the needed resources, their fishing projects, programs and crafts are highly mechanized. Because of the imbalance between the small fishermen and big capitalists, the catch of the small fishermen is severely decreasing, and small fishermen are now pushed further below the poverty line; the governments however, seem apathetic to the plight of the small fishermen.

In the west coast, Kerala, Maharashtra and Karnataka, the saturation point of the inshore waters has been reached.

In Kerala, in 1968-1982, the catch of the small fishermen fell by 50%, while the production of mechanised fishing (trawlers, purse seiners) rose by 196%.

According to Government figures, 93% of traditional fishers are below the poverty line.

The mechanized sector has grown directly at the expense of the traditional fishermen. The inshore fisheries in India are overcapitalized, and could have been fully exploited by the traditional fishermen alone.

This situation has given rise to a number of serious conflicts and organised struggles over the years. In 1976 there were conflicts in Tamil Nadu and in 1975, the National Fishermen Forum was created, which voiced the demands of the traditional fishermen, one of which was that the coastal shelf be devoted to traditional fishermen. Though this was partially agreed to, the implementation of the agreement is very weak.

Alternatives

Some alternatives can be seen in the rise of organizations and independent groups among the small fishworkers, and the appearance of groups which support the small fishermen and women in their struggles to secure their rights.

PHILIPPINES

The structure of the Fisheries Development Programme is based on the following treaty, decrees and policies:

- RP-Japan Treaty of Amity Commerce and Navigation - vehemently opposed in the defunct Congress - it was passed by Marcos during Martial Law. The treaty is at the disadvantage of the Filipinos because it opens the Philippines natural resources wide open exploitation by a country with superior forms of technology.

- Presidential Decree 704 - which elevated the fishing industry into a "dollar earning industry" thereby shifting the emphasis from production for national consumption to production for foreign consumption. This decree facilitated smoothly the entry of foreign and national big capitalists into the fisheries.

- 200 mile EEZ - the declaration of the Philippines of its 200 mile EEZ opened further the entry of foreign multinational corporations and the setting up of joint ventures in order to fully "develop" the marine resources of the country.

- Other decrees on tax incentives for foreign investors and remittance of capital, including profits to their mother companies.

The impact on the Fishworkers

The fishing industry became export oriented and at the same time import dependent. Emphasis was centered on production to the detriment of the small fishworkers who have neither the capital nor the technology. Domestic nutritional requirements were sacrificed for foreign exchange.

Modern technology's by-product, pollution, has threatened vast bodies of waters, and the use of new and sophisticated fishing gears has resulted in over-exploitation of marine products. Joint ventures between local fishing lords and multinational corporations have pushed the small fishworkers to the peripheries, while government fishing programs lack the sincerity to alleviate the plight of the small fishworkers. This has resulted in their marginalization.

The February Revolution the Turning Point

Marcos' dictatorial grip of the government was ended through people's power, and Corazon Aquino was installed as the new president of the revolutionary government that is democratic in essence and consultative in nature. Steps are being taken to stabilize the government and rebound from a bankrupt economy, while political and ideological reconciliations are now in process under the new set-up, and a new constitution is up for

ratification by the people.

New government's Thrust on Fisheries

High priority is to be given to the Filipinos in the countryside, and efforts will be made to realize the equitable distribution of benefits. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), by and large, is still implementing programmes carried over from the Marcos regime. But it has started its consultation drives among the sectors concerned on issues affecting their lives.

Alternatives and Responses

- Intensive organizing of small fishermen into organic, cohesive and militant groups with a strong formation and training component.
- Networking and alliance building with small fishermen at the local, regional and national levels through consultations.
- Formation of alternative socio-economic projects truly benefiting the small fishermen, and holding of social actions and mobilizations.
- Alliance of fishermen support groups that will lead to:
 - a. Formation of a mass base among fishermen as an effective group in the repeal of fishery laws and their replacement with just, humane and sustainable fishing laws.
 - b. Collaboration with other sectors in shaping a new economic order to realize the goal of equitable distribution of benefits and opportunities.
 - c. Preparation of fishermen leaders for positions at the local, regional and national levels of the decision making process.

There are some positive signs to be seen, including:

An awakened citizenry brought about by the People's Power revolution in February;
The emergence of people's organization;
New democratic space;
Collaborative efforts between and among the non-government organizations as well as fishermen groups.
This takes place in the context of wide popularity and mass support enjoyed by President Aquino.

COLUMBIA:

Columbia's fishworkers have a magazine for Artisanal Fisheries, which promotes the exchange of information and knowledge and has a regular section for international news and information, including follow-up to the Rome meeting. Important for Columbia's fishermen are: 1) Training from master-fishermen in improved methods 2) Training in Aquaculture 3) Information about effects of trawl nets on Pacific Coast fisheries.

COSTA RICA

Reality

Total population of Costa Rica is 3 million, in which the fishery sector is not very important, economically. It represents about one percent of the agricultural produce and 0.25% of the national product. Fish consumption per capita/year is low, about 4 kilograms, and annual fish catch is 12,000 to 14,000 tons, half of which is caught by industrial fleets are mostly tuna, and shrimps. There are six industrial companies in Costa Rica catching, processing and exporting fish products. There are about 2,500 small fishermen in Costa Rica, who catch fish mainly from costal waters.

Small fishermen are among the poorest groups in the country, with low income, little education and beset with social problems like alcoholism and family disintegration.

The small fishermen look up to the Ministry of Agriculture but its implementing arm, the fisheries department has a low budget compared with other departments. Furthermore, it has no priority in coming up with development plans because of the fishery sectors low economic weight.

At present, there are no important fishery development projects being undertaken by the government and there are no government policies of fishing in the country. One project the government st up was the cooperatives but these failed because they did not respond to the real problems of the small fishermen. Other projects the government started but never finished were a production plant, a place for fishermen to sell their catch, an ice factory and other infrastructure. Another project the government launched was the selling of petroleum to the fishermen at subsidized rates. But this benefited only the big fishermen.

Alternatives

During the last five to eight years, people have realized the necessity of forming associations to fight for their rights and gain economic benefits from the industry. Today, there are various types of organizations in the country serving the different needs of the fishermen.

At the level of national policy, the Costa Rican government entered into an agreement with neighboring countries regarding its territorial fishing waters. The agreement calls for the payment of fees by other countries in order to fish inside Costa Rica's waters.

The Universities and the small fishermen are working hand in hand to solve the industry's problems. Recently, their protests have been elevated to the Costa Rican Congress.

Pressure is being exerted on programs that seriously affect the plight of the small fishermen.

Small fishermen are now organizing themselves and the experiences of other countries toward the solution of fishery problems will be of great help to them. A tight watch is being kept by the small fishermen on pollution.

CHILE:

Fisheries catch in Chile rose to 5 million tons in 1986, and there is a large fleet of industrial fishers as well as artisanal. The number of jobs in the small - scale sector grew from 5000 in 1961 to 43600 in 1985, mainly in two regions, the Central and Southern. In 1980 about 1/2 million tons was exported which earned US\$233 million. In 1985, more than twice this amount was exported, but earnings only increased to US\$275 million.

The ownership of fishing cooperatives is such that 80% of the shares in 10 cooperatives are owned by one man, whose income is said to be US\$1 million per day.

In Chile itself, however, people have no money to buy the fish, and national consumption has fallen from 14 kilo per person to 4 kilo per person.

The Alternative in Chile is to 1) build a national organisation of Artisanal Fishworkers, for which a positive beginning has been made in 1986; 2) continue support of the national committee of fishworkers "GONAPACHE", which also has some International links.

SENEGAL:

There are about 40500 artisanal fishermen in Senegal providing more than 75% of the total catch per year. In contrast to the importance of the small scale fisheries in the country, (providing almost 80% of the human consumption of fish demand, supplying jobs, involving less "capital Using", etc.-.) the living conditions of the small fishermen are getting worse because of the cooperatives. Actually, instead of creating collective forms of organization of the production, the political, social and administrative factors that contribute to the failure of the cooperative tended towards a personalization of the agents concerned by offering the latter the opportunity to obtain loans for their equipments. Isn't this the reason why only 9600 (24%) are members of the cooperatives? This effects the women especially who are losing progressively (fishermen's wives) their role in the market and are now being exploited as factory workers. In fact, the artisanal handling of fishery products remains the exclusive function of women. It should be noted that for some years now due to certain factors linked especially to the drought, worsened by lack of infrastructural outlets (creation of jobs), several rural youngsters have switched over to the artisanal fish handling sector as pieceworkers. The role that these women play in the fishery sector and in the Senegalese economy in general is undisputable considering that fish is basically a short term perishable product. The artisanal fish handling plays several roles: it generates income for women in a country where women are denied access to modern or intellectual jobs; it is a regular basis of the artisanal fishery economy, since during the low-catch period it provides for reserves and makes it possible for excess unsold fresh fish to be absorbed; it constitutes a source of relatively cheap nitrogenous food preferred by consumers and makes it possible for consumers in the remote rural areas to have access to fish.

The mechanization of the fisheries which had already begun by 1953, has really been developed since 1963. Similarly, the encircling gill net which is placed in a technologically middle age between set net and the beach seine, was introduced in 1965. The introduction of the sliding purse seine in 1972 similarly constituted a technological landmark in the history of artisanal fisheries in Senegal. With the introduction of new fishing gears (out-board motors for example) some influence can be exerted on the type of remuneration. Unlike the beach seine, the purse seine has modified the organization of work. Fishery revenue distribution for the first type of fishing is effected with half the proceed going to the net and the other half going to the crew who are fed and lodged by the proprietor even in the poor catch period. We should emphasize the fact that the revenue from purse seining has been decreasing consistently. Two reasons are behind the decrease of revenue: firstly, the overwhelming decrease in unit and wholesale prices of fish is largely determined by the quantity of yield all the more so since the targets of purseiners are composed of fish that are of low

commercial value; secondly, there is a considerable increase in fuel consumption which accounts for about 20% on the turnovers realized and for 44% on the intermediate consumption (bait, maintenance and depreciation of motor and fishing gear) although it is subsidized by the state.

Another problem is the environmental pollution (including hot water waste from fish factories) that is damaging the fishing grounds of small fishermen.

MAURITIUS:

The island of Mauritius has about 2500 Small Fishermen, of whom only 25% are in the 10 cooperatives. They are all at economic survival level and politically marginal.

The government has invested about Rs 2200 per fisherman per year, but this is for research and for development projects imposed upon the fishermen from above.

The alternative is the longer term process of organising the fishworkers from below, towards increasing their bargaining power, and understanding the background to their situation.

In Mauritius the population is a combination of Hindus, Muslims and Christians and smaller groups of the religious - ethnic backgrounds. The fishermen are mostly from Christian background and more than half are descended from ancient slaves who took up fishing after their liberation.

CANADA:

The East Coast of Canada has 5000 km of shoreline, along which fishing communities are spread out. The situation of small fishermen was serious, and being in fishing was identified with poverty. Before the 200 mile limit was introduced cod stocks were fished out.

Since the 200 mile zone, there is now a comprehensive resource management strategy, and the prospects for small fishermen are improving.

There have been years of high investment leading to over-capacity. Purse seiners were introduced after scientists said there were no resource limits, but inshore fishermen became organised and fought to have an agreement limiting their catch to 20% of total. From this successful struggle an inshore fishermen organisation grew.

There were many actions, including three major strikes, which involved inshore fishermen and crew on trawlers, and big advances were made, and small fishermen won a number of issues advantages they fought for.

FRANCE

After Rome, there has been activity in France, with the setting up of a fisheries Support Group by CCFD. This group is active in lobbying, publishing, disseminating information, and will make a film on Small Fishermen. They also intend to lobby in support of Southern Fishworkers groups and stimulate flow of information North-South.

Development NGO's in France

Only a few development NGO's are active in the fisheries with a view of supporting the development of the fishworkers. The main one is de CCFD (Catholic Committee Against Hunger), which set up a special action group to study issues raised during the ICFWS Rome conference in 1984. The CCFD has done fund raising campaigns, held forums on fisheries, published reading materials on relevant fishing issues and disseminated information to other partners in the Third World.

Other NGO's working with fishworkers are involved in the production of audio-visual materials including films on the plight of small fishworkers. These materials can serve as instrument for creating awareness of the problems and for stimulating discussions among participants.

Some points on relationships between Southern and Northern NGO's

Southern NGO's expect their northern counterparts to understand the need for the relationship to be flexible enough to allow room for evolution in the approach to development. The situation of northern NGO's are changing. There is now a more discriminating attitude to the way donations are spent. There should be recognition of the fact that strengthening of group commitment at the grass root level should be a precondition for the granting of funds for projects. More frequent and pertinent exchanges of information between Northern and Southern NGO's would strengthen a relationship based on shared confidence.

1.3 TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

There are some broad trends which can be observed in international development assistance to fisheries. These are, in brief:

1) The amount invested in industrial fisheries has declined in recent years. It is being largely replaced by increased investment in aquaculture and shrimp culture.

2) There is a trend to give more attention to small-scale fisheries, but still not as a satisfactory level or quality. Development banks would like to see larger investments shifted from industrial fisheries to artisanal fisheries.

3) In general Ngo's involved in fisheries do not give enough consideration and study to government fisheries development plans.

4) The ecological habitat is being destroyed on a large scale, while we are experimenting on a very small scale.

1.4. DEVELOPMENTS IN MARICULTURE (AMCOC REPRESENTATIVES)

Fishworkers in the fishery industries and small scale fishermen have one thing in common: they both are suffering from fishery policies (and fishery sciences serving them) blind for the social and ecological effects of a management of biological resources based solely on economic considerations and mechanisms.

Tropical rural fisheries are suffering from the application of Western concepts and the lack of an authentic concept appropriate for their development. Industrialized fisheries are a stone-age type foraging with technical means but without the care and concern of traditional fisheries.

There is a new development, however:

Japan is investing huge sums into extensive mariculture, and other industrialized countries are likely to follow her example.

This is more than a technical innovation or even the rediscovery of ecology: historically speaking it is a rediscovery of traditional knowledge, concepts and methods which have been alien to the industrialized fisheries of the West but were and are traditional elements of the rural fisheries in tropical Asia and other regions.

This historical fact seems to be all but overlooked in the

present discussion of artificial reefs and fish aggregation devices (for both of which Amcoc will use the term "Artificial Fish Habitats", AFH's in future).

This is due to the fact that the "re-discovery" of extensive mariculture and the use of AFH's has occurred in three quite independent lines among

- marine biologists working in ecology and fish behaviour,
- fishery scientists looking for an improvement of fisheries, and
- development researchers, e.g. those of the Bay of Bengal Program.

Only this historical perspective gives us a full understanding of the trend towards extensive mariculture:

It means a reversal of the trend to see the Western industrialized countries as the pace-setters for fisheries development.

It means (or could at least mean) that now the West learns something from the East: to see fisheries as "cultivating the seas" with mariculture as a management principle comprising care, concern, conservation and capture.

And it is by no means accidental that the break-through (which it seems to be) occurred in Japan: in this country as in numerous other Asian countries AFHs have been known, and used, since hundreds of years.

This is more than a fact calling for recognition.

It is a challenge to recognize the role mariculture has always played in rural fisheries in Asia, and to develop it - But we are cautious: a new technological mariculture does to traditional fisheries what technology-based capture fisheries have already done, and contribute to do, to small scale rural fisheries.

Amcoc's plans for its further work in this field include

- an audio-visual documentation on traditional mariculture and its enhancement in rural fisheries projects in Asia, the Pacific, and Africa;
- the meeting of a small group of experts who are already working in rural mariculture development in South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific;
- the establishment of a training and development project for rural mariculture in a suitable place in the India, Ocean region.

1.5. THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FISHERIES

It was agreed to devote a session of our meeting to an exchange of perspectives on the role of Women in Fisheries. This was because since the Rome meeting, in a number of situations it became more clear that women actually play a very significant role in the traditional fisheries sector, and can continue to play an important role in organising for change within this sector.

A paper "Fisheries from a Feminist Perspective" by Nalini Nayak was circulated, as a background, (see Appendix No. 3)

The women participants invited the men first to share their perspectives, observations and feelings on women's role in fisheries. Many diverse points emerged, including the following:

- Role of women becomes more important in poorer circumstances (Africa).

- Women play multiple functions in poor households, especially fishing communities; they tend to be more militant; but to get jobs of lower income (Latin America)

- Women have an important economic role, optimizing the use of income; they are more innovative in devising means of survival, they play a role of "positive middlemen" in business side of fisheries (Africa); Women are in general economically better off than men in African fishing villages, and show good money management.

- Women play an important role in fishing development; They are generally better organised for mutual assistance; they can be good grassroots organisers.

- It seems that almost everywhere women are victims of a deeply-rooted stereotype that men are the "producer", or the "hunter", and women organise marketing, distribution and consumption.

- there were also observations along the lines that it is women as a group who resist change in fishing communities, and who are conservative; that middle-class women can exhibit self-centered or family-centered behaviour.

- It seemed a common thought that men and women must work together to improve the condition of life and work of women, and small fishworkers as a whole, though it will not be easy for men to accept that they may have to change, and deal with women's anger as they seek to change their situation.

The women participants responded with some reflections on what had been said, as well as on the general question of women's role, covering:

- We must all try more to see women as the "human person", as "MAN", and there is need to fight oppression and exploitation together.

- It is important to stress not what is male or female, but what is just and right, and work for treatment of all as humans, with respect and dignity.

- Forms of leadership must be found to facilitate women's participation; Women must be enabled to participate in liberation, not only in production functions.

- Men should struggle to remove some of their mental blocks about women's traditional roles; Do women not now have the right to question the traditional roles that they play? If all jobs are equal, let the person most adept do the job, enjoy the work being done, and enjoy the right to make decisions.

SECTION II

2. REPORTS OF THE GROUP MEETINGS

2.1. MONITORING IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR (GROUP A)

Investment trends and external assistance (with large-scale capital) in fisheries and their impacts on fishworkers.

The group made the following observations:

1. Main international banks invest without knowing linkages between capital investment, fishing effort, and resource availability, with consequent effects in terms of fishworkers' indebtedness.
2. Policies of large agencies like FAO, EEC, WB, ADB etc. as well as private companies' strategies, should be monitored; policies of communist countries should be included in such studies.
3. Academics should be avoided by the involvement of fishworkers groups in impact monitoring:
 - * we need to identify groups at grass roots level who can participate in the monitoring process.
 - * we need to have contacts in different countries where development is planned
 - * we need to pass the information on policies and potential impacts to fishworkers groups
4. A core national group should first come up with a base line study in countries where the collective has connections; impacts of policies could also be studied on a regional basis.
5. A data base should be established, including data which would be judged to be crucial by fishworkers organizations.

Status of Fishworkers

The idea that we should have a database on artisanal fisheries got further developed by the suggestions that we should bring out a "Status of the fishworkers" report which would be a compilation of different country situations. This it was felt should be on the lines of the "States of the Environment" report will give in a consolidated form information that could be of use

to NGO's, fishworker organisations and policy makers and be of interest to the general public. There was a long discussion on how this information could be collected and how the relevance of any particular information should be judged. It was explained that when a country profile was attempted in India it had to be a fairly general report without fishworker issues coming to the fore. It was felt therefore that the report should try to present information as appropriate to the perspective of fishworker. Apart from detailing the impact of development the responses of the fishworkers are to be recorded also. There were further discussions on the process of compiling such a report. The final consensus was that the first edition of the report which could be ready in a year or so should cover only the countries where the collective has its contacts and may be a simple affair with many gaps. The report could be refined and updated every few years including more countries more data and more analysis. Towards the end of the session it was generally accepted that while the concept of fishworker was all embracing, the group tended to talk with only the artisanal fishermen in mind. The fishworkers in the industrial fleet and the processing industry tended to get forgotten in the discussion. It was therefore specifically decided that the Status of the Fishworker report should include details of all categories of workers who come under the common/label of fishworker.

This was followed by some general discussion on the international monitoring project. It was suggested that the international monitoring project should be seen under 3 different categories.

1. To develop a data base on fishworkers.
2. To provide regular news of events through bulletins
3. To do in-depth studies on specific areas like aquaculture external aid investment, fishery products trade, etc.

Monitoring of aquaculture development

- It is recognised that, with the depletion of capture resources, large-scale investment is going into aquaculture development: fishworkers should know about the mechanisms of such investments and the links between government and international money.
- The impacts of aquaculture development cover all the headings listed for the monitoring project. Competition for access to resources in particular to land, is the main issue: in Chile, for example, Japanese firms are fighting for coastal concessions and, in Ecuador, there have been conflicts between capitalist fish-farmers and peasants.

- We should devise a methodology for monitoring aquaculture development: advance knowledge can be obtained about such development and transmitted to fishworkers' organizations.
- We should also realize that aquaculture may be a long-term option open to fishermen, and it would be advisable to identify examples of fishworkers' participation in its development.
- Sometimes governments launch into aquaculture projects without being aware of the technical problems: efforts should be made to modify official plans before they are implemented. In India, for example, reference to the land tenure Act has successfully stalled an ill-conceived programme.
- Advance information on aquaculture development may be of concern to consumers' as well as to activists who are striving to organize fishworkers: some solutions to problems may come from fishworkers themselves.
- Impacts on of aquaculture development on fishworkers, families.

Food-Studies: fish as food

- fish trade trends
- how people are affected by rises in national fish prices
- nutritional aspects of aquaculture development
- depletion of resources from the point of view of the consumer: litigation is possible.

Results of EEZ Legislation for small scale fisheries

Conclusion: What sort of collective?

The group came to the conclusion that the Collective should be legally registered, but based on informal contacts between its members. Experience since the Rome Conference has shown that an effective follow-up requires a secretariat, however small. At the same time, it was emphasized that the Collective should be based on the ability of its members to understand each other: working relationships founded on trust would be established through personal contacts. On the other hand, funding and research coordination may be facilitated by the Collective having a recognized identity and solid in-house structure. Latin

American experience would suggest that it would be wrong to claim that the collective represented fishworkers; it should essentially be a group of committed individuals, supporters of fishworkers.

It would be a mistake for collective members to represent national bodies, since the collective's aim is to address issues which have to be tackled at international level without incorporating existing differences between various bodies at national level.

The collective could maintain a critical working relationship with technical assistance agencies on a consultative basis as the latter could be useful sources of information; however, it should be realized that we would thus run the risk of the agencies claiming that fishworkers had been consulted about development programs.

2.2. DEBATE ON DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES AND ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGIES (Group B)

1. Agenda under discussion.

- Organisation of Fishworkers; Approaches and Methodologies.
- Support of Fishworker Organisations; Approaches and Methodologies; Appropriate Technologies.
- Co-operation amongst NGO's.
 - " " Co-operatives
 - " " Fishworker Organisations.

2. Vision of Development.

- Human values should be the focus of development.
- Development activities should take place in a framework of balanced ecology and harmony between Man and Nature.
- A balanced approach to development based on social justice.
- Development with a long term perspective and commitment where a responsibility for the resource and future generations is taken into account (role of education).

3. Organisational Strategies.

- A thorough analysis of the situation prior to implementation (proper development planning); this should include an analysis of sociological, political, religious, economic, and cultural factors.
- Creation of a space in which alternatives can be tried.
- The tools of social analysis should be developed from the point of view of the oppressed; but the fishworkers would arrive at their own analysis. Stress here should be given to the process of peoples consciousness and participation.
- Primary analysis should be carried out by fishworkers and/or fishworker organisations.
- Way of using pure science and social science as these can be misused, misrepresented and misinterpreted as well as excluding human values. Efforts should be made to develop people oriented science.

4. Organising Fishworkers.

Strategies and Methodologies.

- Thoughts were shared about unionization strategies, specific difficulties on organising in this sector were expressed.

- (a) Instability of Sector itself causes difficulties in sustaining struggles.
 - (b) Difficulty in maintaining the momentum of the struggle and, therefore, raising questions about aligning political activity with developmental activity, with special attention to encourage new democratic and participatory forms of functioning.
- It is important that the organising of fishworkers takes place in relation to other movements and peasant workers movements in marginalised sectors of society.
 - Mention was made regarding the aspect of leadership and institutionalization of the fishworker Organisations. Efforts should be made to rotate leadership functions.
 - In the context of education, efforts should be made to incorporate as far as possible cultural values, especially where ethnic differences divide the working classes.
 - Some examples of alternatives were given (there may be many more)
 - (a) In Canada a Fishworkers Organisations came to a collective agreement on price between the producer group and the group of buyers. The feeling was that this experience was extremely positive.
 - (b) A self imposed licensing policy based on consensus of the fishworkers rather than a state legislated scheme met with success.
 - (c) Example from S.E. Asia on diversification on fish production by introducing new techniques and species on a co-operative basis.
 - Maintain experience of evaluation of the success of a development programme by a fishworker from another country.

5. Fishworker Organisations

Methodologies and Approaches.

- Pressure group function of Collective; but must have credibility.
- Function of Collective as information cleaning house (training in Resource Management).
- Function of collective in Research and Development.
- Function of Collective in a Political role.

- Linking role of Collective between Fishworker Organisations and providing solidarity for Fishworkers.
- Representation of all regions; particularly countries and regions (Africa) which are not organised yet.
- Must accommodate various sorts of organisations and people who are in support of the small fishworkers.
- Essential that there be a data base and documentation which is available for all; local level supporters should also have a national or regional data base from which this 'super data-base' can be formed, and which can be used to support local struggles.
- It is important that when fishworker organisations and fishworkers come into difficulty, (support function in terms of creating space on human rights issues) moral support should come from both local supporters and the first world.
- As many trade and technology questions relate to the first world, contact should be built up with as many NGO's as possible in the first world.
- Pressure group function should include lobbying at National and International level, to Governments, concerning all issues relating to fishworkers; (exclusive zones, tourism, fish as good, export of protein).

6. Cooperation between NGO's.

- It is necessary for the collective to promote maximum collaboration among all NGO's, who support (in any way) the cause of fishworkers. This means at National; Regional and International levels.
- Special attention should be given to Africa in terms of strengthening NGO's. The forms of collaboration are very important - South-North, for example for supporting Northern NGO's in action against technology and capital transfer; South-South collaboration which would include promoting the exchange of appropriate technologies and working methodologies between the worker organisations themselves, and to provide a flow of finance and information.

The Need

It is very clear to all concerned that the fisheries scenario has changed drastically. The local and traditionally oriented artisanal sector has turned into a modern sector with international dimensions. In the past, the exploitative forces were local and apparent. Now the action of local collectives is very limited and cannot check the multi-dimensional exploitation due to this internationalisation of the sector. Fish workers all over the world face the same exploitative forces. The grass roots all over the world cannot come together automatically. We expect that this collective which is in the process of formation will be this hitherto missed link.

Any development in any part of the world may bring retrogression or progression in our lives in the near future. People's initiative in any part of the world may be the answer to our problems that we face now. Unfortunately the knowledge of such things are beyond the reach of the grass-roots. Here is another need for the collective.

International market-oriented organised exploitation demands us to create an International Co-operative which will be, a 'Cooperative of Co-operatives' for an economic activities in the areas of production of fish implements, marketing, etc.

In short, we expect the collective to be 3 dimensional in its activities - Academic, Political and economic.

Activities:

1. Collection of information, analysis and its dissemination.
2. Guiding the grass-roots about the areas of research, information gathering and actions to be initiated.
3. Legal actions wherever it is feasible in the areas where there is international dimension.
4. Formation of a mechanism enabling communication from bottom. Shall we call 'asemination'?
5. Creation of man-power through periodic training programmes, in fishery economics, fishery technology, fish biology, Aquaculture, etc. Training Institutes in the future?
6. Developing appropriate technology viable to the local conditions and feasible from fish worker's point.

7. Initiatives to form an International Co-operative specializing in economic activities.
8. Organising field exposure and training programmes for the fish workers showing the possibilities of exploiting other potential areas of sea as the part of diversifying the sector, like off-shore fishing, mariculture, other resources, etc.
9. Promotion of international leadership capable to initiate and maintain all these actions.

Structure:

The organisational components of the collective should be four dimensional:

- 1/4th comprising individuals who are committed experts in the field, preferably pioneers in different areas.
- 1/4th should represent the interested NGO's having international reputation.
- 1/4th should represent the National Collectives which are to be formed as the corollary to the International Collective.
- 1/4th should be the fish workers for whom all these meant.

The National Collective should meet annually, the continental or, Regional Collective in every two years and the International Collective in every three years.

Finally, we caution the group that the collective should not act as an Intermediary in channeling funds to NGO's.

SECTION 3

CONCLUSIONS OF PLENARY DISCUSSIONS ON THE IDEA OF THE COLLECTIVE

The participants spent considerable time in intensive discussion on the idea of a collective to support fishworkers, the objectives and the means of setting up such a collective. Many ideas were proposed, criticized and debated in an open and constructive way.

The following is a summary of the major conclusions reached, all of which were finally the subjects of consensus among our group.

3.1. The Need for a collective in Support of Fishworkers

* The group reached the consensus that, in order to more effectively work for the rights development of fishworkers and the traditional fisheries sector, an international support entity should be formed.

* It was decided to form this entity with the participants present at this meeting as its initial members.

* It will be called "International Collective in Support of Fishworkers" (I.C.S.F.)

Notes

At the Rome Conference of Fishworkers in 1984, it was clear that small fishworkers the world over have many problems in common, and that they have much to share with one another, and much to gain by mutual support.

However one of the conclusions of the Rome meeting was that the main initiatives would be at national and regional levels, and an international structure "from the top down" would not be relevant.

Since the Rome meeting a number of very encouraging initiatives have taken place locally, nationally and regionally in Asia, Africa and Latin American and in "the North".

In reviewing these actions and in seeing the emerging needs for information, for training, for various forms of support, we concluded that the time is ripe to give form to the need for more international exchange, and common action in support of the cause of fishworkers in all the regions.

We agreed to the name "Collective" to emphasize that it should be an open, flexible and informal group of individuals who join together to support the fishworkers in their struggles to defend and develop their way of life, in any part of the world where this is threatened.

The main requirement of members should be their commitment to and involvement in the cause of fishworkers and small scale fisheries. This would mean that fishworkers and those who work to support them alike could be members of the collective.

The members would commit to work where they are, and share knowledge, information, experience and other resources. The name "collective" also implies a non-hierarchical style of functioning, without any bureaucratic elements. There should be a striving for transparency among members about everything the Collective undertakes. The "Credibility" of the entity is very important.

It would consist of individuals who would not be acting as "representatives" of their own organisations. Though some members may discuss their own participation with the organisation with which they work, the membership will be as individuals, sharing their time, experience etc. and be founded on trust based on personal contacts among members.

It was felt that the collective should not act as a intermediary in channeling funds to groups.

Neither would it represent in any structural sense, the fishworkers. It is a group of committed individuals, in support of fishworkers.

However, though informal in style, the Collective must have an identity, and should most probably be legally registered and should have a small secretariat.

3.2. Priorities, Tasks, Guidelines for the Collective

Conclusions

- I. The Collective will monitor on a regular basis the "State of the Fishworkers". It will start by compiling within one year a comprehensive set of data and information on the situation of fishworkers and small scale fisheries covering :
 - Global analysis
 - Country fishworker profiles
 - Use of Aquaculture
 - fish as food
 - Artisanal Economic Zones
 - Sea Resources

- II. The Collective will undertake and facilitate where possible activities in Support of Fishworkers, to include:
 - Collection of information, analysis, and dissemination among grassroots fishing groups. Information may be written, audio-visual, videos etc.
 - Promoting grassroots research on problem of small fisheries.
 - Study of aquaculture and its impact on small scale fisheries.
 - Pooling of existing resources and making an inventory of those available.
 - Being in a position to respond to specific requests from fishworkers groups, especially for information, training, advice, exchange of knowledge. (A "clearing - house" function)
 - Arranging and Supporting various forms of exchange among fishworkers and their organisations; enabling communication from the bottom - among grassroots groups.

These exchanges should be on any area relevant to the problem of small fisheries and fishworkers organisations, such as, improved technology, transfer of knowledge, methods of organising etc. They could include e.g. exchange of activists, of fishworkers or of scientists. Emphasis would be on "South -South" exchanges, while not neglecting the importance of global aspects and "North - South" exchange.

III. The participants agreed that priority should be given to Fishworkers in Africa during the beginning phase of the collective's activities.

After hearing the review of activities post-Rome and the difficulties of organising in Africa, this was the common mind of the group. This discussion was assisted by the report of the visit of two supporters from India to fishworkers in some West - African countries (See Appendix 4 for this report).

IV. The Collective should find ways of developing a "pressure group" function. It should take up the cause of the small-scale fishworkers in international and regional contexts, putting pressure, exposing, monitoring and advocating in a "political" sense.

Lobbying should take place at National (Government) and International level (Banks, Agencies), concerning all issues related to fishworkers: (exclusive zones, tourism, fish as food export of protein etc.)

The Collective must provide a framework for solidarity for fishworkers and be creative in enabling such solidarity to be expressed and built up.

It is important that the Collective can be supportive and coordinate action when fishworkers and their organisations come into difficulties (e.g. in defending against human rights abuses, exploitation etc.). Here the contacts with the "North" will be important.

The Collective should, after consideration, be able to take up specific requests for international support from a local situation where fishworkers are threatened. An example which will be taken up by the Collective, is the Johnson Outboard Motor Case, in South India. (See appendix 2 for detail.)

3.3. Decisions regarding Organisation and Functioning of the Collective

Here follows a summary of the consensus reached during the plenary discussion on practical aspects of organisation, functioning and concrete program of the Collective.

a) By consensus it was decided that the work of the Collective should be animated and coordinated by a small team, which, for , the present, will carry forward the mandate of the Collective.

The entire group reached consensus to entrust the following people with this responsibility, for an initial period of Three years (until December 1989):

Animation Team Members

- Aliou Sall (Senegal)
- Amporn Sugandhavaniij (Thailand)
- Hector - Luis Morales (Chile)
- Micheal Belliveau (Canada)
- Nalini Nayak (India) [Coordinator]
- Pierre Gillet (Belgium/India) [Secretary]

b) The founding members of the Collective place their full trust in this team to animate and coordinate the functions of the Collective in support of Fishworkers. They give a mandate to this team to act and speak on behalf of the Collective, and only this team can speak on behalf of the Collective (Any other member of the Collective can speak on behalf of the* Collective provided he or she has the prior mandate of the Team.)

c) The time - frame for this team will be until Dec. 1989, after which, if possible members of the Collective could meet once again. The Animation team will hold three meetings in this period.

- i) The first in Africa.
- ii) One in Latin America.
- iii) One in another region (possible, Pacific/Asia)

In each region the meeting of the Committee will be an occasion for giving impulses, animating national support for fishworkers and drawing in groups involved with fishworkers.

d) Membership and Relations to other Bodies

The Collective has taken its start from a group involved in the Rome meeting and its follow-up, who responded to the tentative ideas put forward from John Kurien in May 1986.

It is necessary to allow for an initial period of working to clarify its functions. The main criteria of membership is support for fishworkers, as defined in the "Statement of Shared Concern" (See 3.5 below).

Membership in future will be by:

- i) Requests from individuals who share this concern and can contribute something.
- ii) Invitations to individuals.

The Team will meet and identify people who may request or be invited for membership. They should maintain a list of possible future members, and then at the next General Meeting of the Collective common decisions should be made on membership, (or if necessary by correspondence)

Memberships fees will not be introduced; Members will be asked to commit time, expertise and funds voluntarily. Some income from consultancy services may be considered also.

Working Relationships should be established by the Team with persons and organisations who are helpful and interested.

Relationships with Fishworkers organisations should of course be very close, and the Collective requests the Team to include in their regular reports to the Collective, the way relations with Fishworkers have been developed.

Relations with other support NGO's and networks in other parts of the world should be working relations, promoting sharing, and asking them to undertake certain activities where appropriate. (e.g. with groups like ACFOD, URM and DAGA, in Asia, P.C.O. in India, ANPAC in Latin America, etc.

Relations with donor agencies also should be on basis working relationship, a healthy independence and mutual respect and collaboration. Donor agencies in the North can also be supportive, in solidarity aspects, besides in terms of resources.

e) Structure of the Collective.

There was consensus that the Collective should have an identity. If possible a legal identity would be preferable, but one which embodies the objectives and proposed style of collective functioning. This was entrusted to the Team to study and investigate and prepare recommendations on the most appropriate form.

Members are urged to send suggestions or models to the Secretariat for studying.

Models of international cooperative entities should be studied like I.P.S. (Inter Press Service) or I.C.D.A. in Brussels, TRANNET (Appropriate Technology Exchange Network), ACFOD.

3.4. Proposed Activities and Work Programs

Besides naming the Animation Team and give it the mandate to operate on its behalf, in respect of the functions and general objectives of the ICSF, the Collective members set out some specific actions for the Team to take up in the coming three years, (among other activities the Team may feel are necessary).

These are (in no particular order of priority or importance):

- a) Initiate the data-gathering for the "State of Fishworkers", the first publication of which should be, if possible in 1987.
- b) Make plans for information gathering, clearing - house function, making inventory of resources available in various regions.
Dissemination and sharing of information among the Collective and with other groups should also be planned, using as a start, a simple regular type of Newsletter.
- c) Coordinate a pressure action (as a test-case) on the Johnson Outboard Motor Case, as requested by the fishworkers and SIFTS, in South India.
- d) Plan and implement some exchange programs, giving priority to Africa.

Proposed are:

- Exchange-Training - Africa / Asia
 - Latin America, Columbia / Chile
 - South East Asia / South Asia
 - Thai / India
- These should focus on development alternatives, training, and include fishworkers exchanges.
- An inter-Africa visit will be planned.
Madagascar / Mauritius
- A group from Asia should visit Africa in 1987, having workshops with activists and meeting fishworkers and scientists. (following up some ideas from the visit of two Indian supporters to Africa)
- during Asian Training Program (e.g. ACFOD) Africans may be invited.
- e) Gather material and make plans for studying and monitoring a few major concerns; These should include:
 - Progress with EEZ for small fishworkers
 - Aquaculture / Mariculture.
 - Sea Resources situation.
- f) Study and inform the Collective on the options for giving the Collective an identity and legal structure.
- g) Enter into working relationship with other bodies, networks, agencies etc., as relevant for furthering the objectives of the ICSF. This would include financial support agencies which share the concern and perspective of the Collective.

3.5. Collective Statement of Shared Concern

The following statement was adopted by all the participants as an expression of the concern and the perspective shared by all the members, on supporting Fishworkers. It was decided to print this as a folder for distribution about the intentions and purposes of the collective.

We, the participants of the Inter-Disciplinary Workshop on Issues in Fisheries Development, who met at Trivandrum, India between November 20-25, 1986 affirm our commitment to the struggle of the fishworkers - children, women and men engaged as crew members', small fishers, processing workers and sellers - to defend and develop their ways of life.

From our local experiences, we strongly feel that the accent must be placed on creation and support of alternative long term strategies of development which have as their focus the creation of just, participatory and sustainable structures in which the development activity should take place in a framework which maintains ecological balance, emphasizing harmony between human beings and nature.

We acknowledge the important role that women play in the sustenance of the marginalised fishery sector and are aware that they remain out of the mainstream of the decision making processes. We feel strongly that the condition of the fishworkers will not improve unless the situation and the potential contribution of women are given primary attention.

Efforts will also be made to emphasise the priority of treating fish primarily as a source of livelihood and food.

Meeting two years after the International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters (ICFWS) held in Rome, we supporters from 18 countries reaffirm our desire to express concrete signs of support to the struggles of fishworkers and the programmes of their organisations.

In order to facilitate the cause of the fishworkers at a global level, we decided to form an:

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF)

This collective's main objectives for the next three years will be to:

- * monitor global issues affecting the fishworkers
- * help create space and momentum for the development and sustenance of alternatives particularly in the sector of small-scale fisheries.

To achieve these objectives the collective has chosen the following priorities:

UNDERTAKE A PROGRAMME TO:

- * compile a report on the status of the fish worker and to highlight the particular issues which relate to them.
- * monitor the trends in external assistance and investment flows to the fisheries sector.
- * assess the impact of aquaculture particularly on the small scale fishworkers; explore the potential for their effective participation in it; and examine the scope of aquaculture development as a protein source for the poor.
- * review the experiences of the countries which have adopted exclusive fishing zones for small-scale fishermen.

BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON:

- * private companies, governments and international organizations whose actions threaten the welfare and even the survival of fishworkers. The collective has chosen as its first area of concern the problem created for small-scale fishermen by the technical deficiencies and unfair trading practices of outboard engine manufacturers.

ENCOURAGE EXCHANGE OF:

- * experiences and know-how (technical and social) between developing countries with a view to reducing their dependence on the developed world. Specific attention in this regard will be given to developing links with fishworkers and supporter groups in Africa.

DOCUMENT AND MAKE AVAILABLE:

- * relevant material at the request of fishworkers' organisations

3.6. Proposed Contributions to Resources of the Collective

The initial members of the ICSF each gave an indication of the resources they felt able to commit to the work of the Collective in the initial period (coming 1-3 years). These might be either personal or from the organisation with which they work, or both.

It is of course not necessary to stress that each member is committed to the cause of supporting fishworkers, many are already fully involved locally or nationally in this work.

However the Animation Team, will need to know the resources potentially available within the Collective to be called on and involved.

The list of the details of these commitments from each member is included as appendix 1.

SECTION 4

4.1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO FORM THE CO-FOUNDERS OF THE COLLECTIVE.

- | | | |
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Appendix 1

Initial Inventory of Resources Committed by Collective Members

A session was held in which each participant was asked to briefly state the sort of contribution which he or she could make to the work of the collective (ICSF, and the time available for the Collective's work, if called on by the Animation Team. This offer of commitment of sources from individual members is in the style with which the Collective wants to function.

In order in which each member spoke:

Alicia:

1-1/2 months per year; Contribute to status of fishworkers in Costa Rica/Caribbean; Analysis of data; Contact with Fishworkers.

Robert:

Between one-half and one month per year - after May 1987; Education Aids, Contacts FWS; Status of FWS; Follow-up first meeting Mauritius/Madagascar/E. Africa.

Francisco:

Up to 6 months per year; Promotion of Collective; Status of FWS in Latin America.

Jean Philippe and Rolf:

Will work on monitoring of external assistance; making contacts for funding support.

Nalini:

After May 1987; Support and exchanges in Africa. Amporn:

April/May and October; Status of FWS. Gerd:

About 2 months/year; Consultant on Mariculture; will coordinate travel program; member aquaculture team.

Sok Nye:

Six weeks towards end of the year;

Mike:

Contacts with Nicaragua; EEZ information and monitoring;
Historical Material,

Vivekanandan:

Various forms of help in a number of programs.

Kuroda:

Research on Japanese Connection; Information on Japanese
role, contact with Minimata fishers; link to consumer movement.

James:

1-1/2 months per year free time, support to future Belgium
office of Secretariat; Translation; Looking for funds, working
with CCFD lobby/action group on fisheries, monitoring aquacul-
ture; access to printing and design facilities.

John G:

Preparing and printing the report of this conference; Pass
on documentation on fisheries to Collective; URM/DAGA will col-
laborate with Collective programs in training and study on TNCs;
On-going support to fishworkers organisation in Asia, contacts in
Korea, Taiwan.

John K:

Various forms of assistance to the Team.

Garrie:

Work through ACFOD Asia Fishnet; Contacts; Media.

Chee:

Follow-up on Johnson outboard.

Vijayan:

Monitoring outboard issue.

Bryan:

Monitoring outboard issue; Aquaculture;

Rainer:

Funding support; mobilizing press, information in Germany.

M. Carr:

Plan an edition of ITDG journal on FWS; collect documented evidence for policy changes.

Marie:

Contacts in W. Africa; Transmit information.

Appendix 2

JOHNSON OUT BOARD MOTOR ACTION

The issue

- Supply of 750 inappropriate out board motors by Outboard Marine Corporation, U.S.A. to fishermen in Kerala which have mostly broken down and become uneconomic to maintain within a year of purchase.
- Absence of follow-up by the company and their Indian agent M/s Khemka Spares & Accessories Ltd.; poor availability of spare parts and sufficient servicing facilities; exploitive high pricing of spare parts.
- 750 fishermen families in deep debts ranging from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.40,000/- due to failure of other motors; inability to repay debts leading to action by money lenders and financial institutions.
- Huge loss in fishing income for the affected families due to inability of operate fishing unit without motor; most Johnson owners forced to sell/pawn family jewels and other assets to survive; some forced to take up non-fishing menial jobs to avoid starvation.

Objectives/Goals of Action by Collective

- to get sufficient compensation from the company for all the motor owners to enable them to recover their losses and to start normal fishing operations once again.
- to take action on this case in manner as to send a signal to multi-national corporations that they cannot dump inappropriate motors on fishermen or to use them as guinea pigs for their R & D effort.
- to evolve a methodology to tackle similar problems in the future.
- to give fishermen in other parts of the world inspiration to come out against the exploitative practices of private companies.

Plan of Action

Local Action (SIFFS)

- to go ahead with petition to local Govt. to take action against company and stop harassment of financial institutions for non-repayment of loans by Johnson owners.
- to prepare and send report which can be used by for international campaign.
- letter to Johnson company giving them one month's time to come to term with affected fishermen before launch of international campaign.
- to prepare documentation and material that may become necessary for the campaign. (Help promised by Kalavathi, OXFAM and ITDG for this).

International Action

- Bread for the World to contact US Ngo's for campaign in the U.S.
- Yoichi Kuroda to contact Centre for Investigating Reporting, U.S.A. for help in U.S. Campaign against Johnson Company.
- Chee to contact International Organisations of Consumer Unions, Penang for action in U.S.A. through their U.S. affiliate.
- ITDG & OXFAM & BFDW to help campaign in Europe by media offensive.
- Gary, Amporn & Sock Nye to contact fishworkers in S.E.Asia and get them to express their solidarity with fishworkers of Kerala on this issue.
- Chee to prepare Video programme that may be of use in the campaign and also for educational activities with fishworkers.

The sad tale of Johnson Out Board Motor Owners In Kerala.

This is the sad tale of a few hundred families of traditional fishermen families in Kerala who have incurred heavy debts and are unable to clear them due to a confidence trick played upon them by a foreign manufacturer of out board engines and his unscrupulous dealer in India. The following is the shocking tale of how our ignorance and illiteracy has been exploited and we are left in dire straits languishing in hunger and with the ever present threat of action by banks and money lenders who lent us money to acquire these motors.

Since 1982 many of our brother fishermen have started acquiring out board motors for use on country craft as a means of increasing their fish catches and to come out of poverty. At the beginning there was only one make of out board motors available to us and imported from Japan. It is in 1984 that two or three other makes of imported OBMs came to the market through some Indian dealers. The Johnson out board motors were the first among these new makes that entered the market. We were then subject to a high pressure promotional campaign by the company and the Indian dealer. We were made to believe that Johnson motors are superior to other motors, have lower running and maintenance costs and greater durability. We were promised that a good network of workshops will take care of after sales and spare parts at reasonable price will be made available to us. More over these motors were made available to us through the Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Corporation initially and through the 'Matsyafed', later on as well as some private agencies whose association with the motor gave us confidence to purchase these motors. As the cost of these motors (Rs.13,250/- initially and Rs.14,620/- later on) was beyond our capabilities to buy we availed of loans from different sources: commercial banks, relatives, money lenders, etc. The investment we made was not only for motors but in suitable craft and gear so that the operations will be more profitable. Each of us invested totally in the range of Rs.30,000/- to Rs.50,000/- for a motorized fishing unit using Johnson motors. As all the agencies like the Matsyafed and commercial banks seemed to have confidence in Johnson motors we were able to obtain finance quite easily.

Once we started operations with the Johnson motors we ran into the following problems:

- 1) The running costs found to be very high due to high fuel consumption giving us very little profit from fishing operations.
- 2) The maintenance costs started mounting. We found Johnson having an abnormally high failure rate. Most engines broke-down within the first 5 months itself.

- 3) We found that the cost of spare parts were so high that to revive the broken-down engines we had to spend between Rs.5,000/- and Rs.7,000/- and that too within a few months of operations. This is like asking Maruthi Car owners to spend Rs.20,000/-, Rs.30,000/- in the first year of operation.
- 4) Most of us could not afford these repairs and the company was unwilling to treat these repairs as guarantee repairs. Even the guarantee provision was completely withdrawn by the Indian dealer of Johnson motors.
- 5) Very few of us could afford these repairs and we approached banks and other institutions to lend us money for the repairs. But seeing that the investment could go down the drain because of the failure of Johnson motors banks refused to advance us further loans for repair.
- 6) Even for those who preferred to get the motors repaired even at high costs it became impossible to do so in view of the non-availability of spare parts. Even the organisations like Matsyafed and SIFFS which supplied these motors do not have spare parts as the Johnson dealer M/s Khemka Spares & Accessories Ltd. in India have not made proper arrangement for spare parts supply. Everybody expresses their helplessness saying that M/s Khemka Spare & Accessories Ltd. are no more in the field and cannot be even contacted for spares.
- 7) We have brought our plight to the notice of the Johnson company representatives when they visited us months back. But so far nothing has been done by them also.

The net result of all this is as follows:

- 1) Over 75% of the Johnson motors are not in operations as the fishermen cannot repair for lack of finance as well as spare parts.
- 2) The motors in operation are kept running by fishermen after enormous maintenance costs which put them in the same financial difficulty as those who have stopped using Johnson motors.
- 3) All Johnson motor owners have huge debt to banks and money lenders which they are unable to pay and interest charges are widening.
- 4) Banks have started hounding the Johnson motor owner for loan repayment and lawyer notices have been sent.

- 5) The families of the few hundred Johnson motor owners are in dire straits unable to go fishing without a proper motor. Hunger and action by banks are staring in their faces.

In view of the above serious situation we are making the following demands to the Government of Kerala:

- 1) The Government should immediately take action against the Johnson company and their Indian dealer M/s Khemka Spares & Accessories Ltd. and seek compensation from them for the huge losses sustained by the fishermen.
- 2) The Govt. should ask the banks and financial institutions to stop legal action and harassment on Johnson Motor owners.
- 3) The Govt. should declare a moratorium on interest payment by Johnson motor owners till an honorable settlement of the whole matter is made.
- 4) The Govt. should make a thorough inquiry into the import and sale of an unsuitable motor like the Johnson motor such that similar exploitation of fishermen does not take place in future.

Appendix 3

A Feminist Perspective on Fisheries

Nalini Nayak

It is only normal that a few eyebrows may be raised on seeing this subject on the agenda. Happily at a conference like this there are a fair number of women participants and also a fair number of men who begin to understand the relevance of raising the issue of women's subordination. It must be clearly stated at the outset that the question is not raised either from the liberal feminist perspective which could imply a 'man-hate' attitude - or is it raised from the point of view of 'development perspectives for women' which tends to see women as beneficiaries' - planning for women.

While this is not the forum to go into an historical sociological debate, I think it will suffice to state what is intended when we insist on considering a feminist perspective on fisheries - and then leave the rest for debate. We have gathered here to discuss the problems of the 'small-fishermen' and we have already moved one step ahead to take as our focus of interest the 'fishworkers' which includes women. While highlighting the 'problem' of the fish workers we see very clearly the growing contradictions in the sector - we also go so far as to accept that many of the contradictions require political solutions and at the most, we may be willing to work at creating pressure groups at various levels.

When we met in Rome, the women who were present met separately to share some of our concerns. On very striking part of the discussion was the manner in which the wives of the fishermen of the 'developed world' related their problems and even shed tears when they spoke about the fact that their husbands were now being forced to invest more and go to more distant seas in order to survive. This implied that they too are exposed to all kinds of economic and psychological pressures. Seeing their distress, the woman fish vendor from India replied enthusiastically - 'but why don't you organize and fight it' - little realising how difficult it is for the marginalised groups in the developed world - to fight back while as in India we have the force of numbers.

I think this is where we start: Seeing how first women and then men are stripped of all their creative power and place in society because of the domination of technology on human activity. - one simple example here may be to highlight the sheer loss of numerous skills as we become more and more the slaves of machines - not to say that the modern technology does not require new skills, but these become necessary for a diminishing number of people: and the survival of the others is threatened. This is the peculiarity of capitalism.

Taking a closer look at what this process has done to women in the fishing communities in India - we may not be able to remember a time when they were actually involved in the activity of fishing but remnants of the matriarchal society still remain and this certifies that woman must have held a central place in the community earlier. All of us, nevertheless, recall their active participation in net-making, basket making and role in the distribution of fish and we have also seen how the gradual coming of mechanization ousts them from these sectors and how in our own experience of organizing the fish-producers co-operatives - the co-operatives would have taken over the distribution net-work if it had found it lucrative and if the women had not opposed it.

In areas where the women are still required to work to substitute the household income, they are expected to work equally hard at home and to even eat the smaller portions of food. They are supposed to be at the disposal of their husbands as all the norms support the rights of men to be served and serviced. It is the woman's duty 'Karma'.

Sexual exploitation within marriage is extremely high. It is here that it is interesting to also understand the present phenomenon of the manner in which the sea is raped of her resources and the god given right of men to rape their women. Modern technology takes both for granted as the leading motive is the maximisation of profit and satisfaction.

But maximisation of whose profit? of whose satisfaction? certainly not the mass of people. Modern developments today respond only to the desires of the those people who control the tools of production without the participation of all others who are an intrinsic part of the process of production.

Who controls the tools of production:

- of life (reproduction)
- of livelihood (for consumption)

In this relationship of control and domination the end result is exploitation....

alienation, and finally....
a suicide of the future.

In the area of fisheries, the example stares us in the face. The protection of the sea and its resources have not been the concern of the capitalist, nor are they the concern of the fishermen who struggle to survive and who find it difficult to accept that the resource is limited. That the fishermen must know more about the sea and its resources is imperative to conserve the resource and to guarantee the survival of the sector. From our experience of initiating this debate with the fishermen we realise how difficult it is for them to come to terms with this. The recent motorisation of the traditional sector draws fishermen into new chains of bondage. In order to protect life we have to draw on the experience of women.

It may be necessary for those of us who support the fishworkers cause to therefore draw some inspiration from the women's movement and use more constructively the empowering role of women as agents in the process of change. What are some of these inspirations:

The affirmation of life - we want a future for our children

The personal is political - to break out of the atomized existence forced on us

Let her tell HERstory as he has told HISstory

Let Us transform the earth as one woman has put it

HISstory is of battles, of conquering nature as well as peoples, and of the promotion of technology - the ultimate logic' of which is the 'Arms Race' and the destruction of 'civilization'.

HERstory is of struggle to overcome the tyranny of men's ideas in relation to herself, of giving birth and nurturing - the ultimate expression of which is to secure the survival of humanity.

HISstory has been enshrined. HERstory has been ignored. To continue to give precedence to HISstory over HERstory is to ensure the destruction of both.

Appendix 4

Proposal for a south-south exchange in Africa

Follow-up of the trip to west Africa by Pierre Gillet and Nalini Nayak.

During our visit to some countries in West Africa in April - May '86, we tried to meet with fisheries scientists, fishworker's organizations and field - level workers. During our exchange with them we realised that there are many experiences that the Asians could share with them and the following is what we propose.

At the level of the Scientists:

To facilitate an interaction: A lot of serious work has been done by many scientists in West Africa. The problem is that all of them work specifically in their own particular lines and there is no interdisciplinary exchange. The other problems is that some of the detailed and useful data never reaches thé people for whom it really matters. On the other hand the west coast is so fragmented into little nation states that broad based policy making is out of the question for political reasons. Nevertheless, in order to evolve a comprehensive understanding of west coast and "lagoon" fisheries, its problems and perspective, an interaction and exchange of data among the social scientists, biologist, and oceanographers is essential.

At the level of the fishworker's organizations:

We discovered a number of fishworker organizations mainly in Ghana. Ghana also has one of the largest traditional fishing communities and in this region. It has a history of struggle within the sector itself but issues within the fishing arena are neither clearly defined or taken up as issues by these organizations (together with Unicopema from Togo) and help them evolve an issue based approach and historical analysis in their organizational strategy.

At the level of grass root animators:

We met quite a few active grass root organizers and were particularly impressed by the opportunities and support structures that such organizers have in the socialist countries of Burkina Fasso Ghana and Guinea Bisseau. We, from India, were struck by the fact that such workers seem to lack methodology in their work. On the other hand, we in India have experimented with all kinds of methodology but lack the other support structures that governments seem to provide in these countries. We see here the possibility of a sharing of work and methodology experiences.

The Proposal:

1. An interaction between scientists of the West African countries in Abidjan. We have about 13 personal contacts and could have an exchange of 3-4 days duration. The INADES centre there may be able to host the meeting.
2. A seminar with leaders of fishworker's organizations in Ghana. We have contact with about 5 such organizations and there may be a couple of others which our other contacts there will help organize and host. We may expect about 30 participants for this seminar of another 3 days duration.
3. A workshop with grass root organizers in Atakapame - INADES Togo. We know about 11 such activists who may like to participate.

We feel that all these sessions could take place during the same month towards the end of 1987. Pierre Gillet and Nalini Nayak will take the responsibility for the sessions but would expect a team with at least 2 or 3 others while the sessions are on. Certainly Aliou and Allotely Jordan and other African supporters should be part of the team.

Initial correspondence will be facilitated by somebody in Europe--if James Smith kindly accepts again.

Pierre and Nalini may go a couple of weeks earlier and arrange details. Other members of the team need come only at the time of the sessions.

Details regarding funding for such a meeting will be worked out but we know of agencies who have said this will be possible.

We would like the remarks of the supporters.