

**Adaptive learning: a framework for adaptive co-management.**

Natural resources, and in particular, small-scale fisheries are complex and dynamic. Management often has to be undertaken without a complete understanding of the system being managed (and therefore what the best management actions should be). In such cases an 'adaptive learning' approach can enable management and improvements in understanding to occur simultaneously. As an approach, adaptive learning provides a structured process for co-management with 'learning as an objective of doing', emphasising learning processes in management. Experience from implementing the approach in rice-fish systems in South and fisheries in Southeast Asia by MRC, MRAG, WorldFish and CIFRI have shown that the approach can increase the skills and knowledge of all involved and lead to increased benefits to those, including the poorest, dependent on the fisheries. The adaptive learning guidelines that have been produced as a result provide a tool for development practitioners wishing to implement adaptive co-management. They will be available in English, Khmer, Lao, Bangla and Vietnamese from and explain the principles of adaptive learning and show how these principles were, and can be, executed in real field settings.

**Want to know more?** Contact [r.arthur@mrag.co.uk](mailto:r.arthur@mrag.co.uk) or visit the adaptive learning website at [www.adaptivelearning.info](http://www.adaptivelearning.info)