

Aquatic animals particularly in rural areas are very important resource. Aquatic animals can contribute to household income and significantly to household food consumption. In general the aquatic animals in rural areas are commonly found in low lying areas in the village. Behaviour of aquatic animals in this area is very mobile which means they move around from the different rice plots, trenches, canals, ponds and nearby open water bodies. Most of these aquatic systems are interconnected to one another at least in certain part of the year. Thus group management of the different aquatic systems in area is more appropriate.

## Local Resource Users' Groups (LRUGs)? What are they?

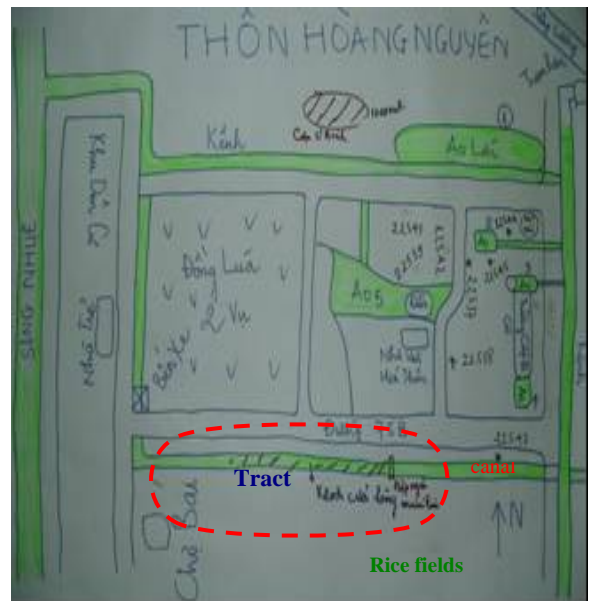
"A group of households (not necessarily farmer) that work together in managing a specific area in the community to enhance productivity and yield of aquatic animals"



Aquatic resources used by farmers extend from their own rice plots to those neighbouring households and open waters (tracts'). LRUGs can help members to identify interconnections and explore joint management.

LRUGs also:

- encourage rural people to listen and share their knowledge and experiences
- improve participation among households and farmers in making decisions to improve aquatic resource management.
- support accountability among themselves and within the broader community



This management approach was developed as an option to improve and sustain the population of self-recruiting species (SRS) in specific area. The group formation and evaluation of management activities was facilitated by staff from SRS project. The main activity of the SRS project was investigating the importance of self recruiting species from farmer managed aquatic system on the overall livelihoods of the community.

## How to set up a LRUG

Step 1, the group discuss the situation of the area and possible management practices that can be applied

Step 4, finally, after the group agreed with the area and the management, members of the LRUG then implement the management of the tract



Step 2, the area to be managed or the "tract" is identified through transect walk and discussion with villagers. Households with plots of land in the tract are then identified as potential members of the LRUG  
Groups of farmers are then identified as potential members of LRUG

Step 3, the potential management identified in step 1 then presented to the group to discuss/ identify and agree on the most appropriate management that they can implement.

## How situation of aquatic resources can be assessed?



After assessing the aquatic resources, the result is then presented to the village or representative of the village including potential villagers that can managed the aquatic resource. During this workshop, information can be validated and feedback from the villagers can improve understanding of the aquatic resources in the village.

Aquatic resources should be assessed based on ecological and social situation. Through discussion with farmers important information can be collected and will serve as guidelines in making decision regarding the aquatic resource.

What are the steps?

1. Identify the different water bodies in the area.
2. Determine who the people who have access in the area are and what product they can get from it.
3. list down the different aquatic animals that can be collected in each systems
4. Using trend analysis, determine the trend of the aquatic animals produced or collected in each area
5. Aquatic resources can then be rank according to importance

Some management activities for FMAS



Deepening the system



Creating inlet and putting screen



Nursing in Hapa



Maintain juveniles in household ponds



Maintain broodstock



Creating habitat

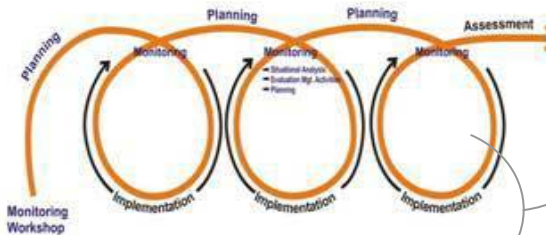
How will I know if LRUG is effective?

We need to have a regular monthly or bimonthly meeting to discuss:  
What we have done so far?  
What problems we encounter?  
What's our observation regarding the area that we are managing?

By having meeting regularly, we can share ideas on how to manage properly our systems.

We can also discuss and decide among the group what solution we can do to solve our problem.

By doing it regularly, we can assess the changes or improvement that we made during the season.





I wonder what are the impressions of those who have tried this approach?

It will increase the population of aquatic animals in our area and nearby villages. Members of the community will learn how to work together



We can share the benefits from member of the group and even those that are close to the area



Gives us chance to share our experiences with other member of the group in managing aquatic systems

**Sample of Agenda for regular meeting**

1. What is the progress of the group in terms of the planned activities
  - a. What activities were planned?
  - b. What activities were achieved and not achieved? Who did what?
  - c. What are the reasons causing the progress of the different activities?
2. What are the problems encountered in implementing the activities or other issues in the group
3. What are the observations in the system?
4. What are the product you collected from the system?
5. Does other people collect product (AA and plants) from the system?
6. What is the next plan of activities?
7. When is the next meeting?

**Checklist of activities for monitoring LRUGs**

- Group Discussion - to hear from each member their views on the situation and for others to learn from the discussion.
- Ranking - to prioritized the problem, benefits and activities
- Resource mapping - to understand the different product/outputs from the system and how it is being utilized

For more information:

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