

# CAMBODIAN POST HARVEST FISHERIES LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

SEPTEMBER 2003

## COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS



POST HARVEST  
FISHERIES RESEARCH  
PROGRAMME

**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development

This newsletter is an output from the Post Harvest Fisheries Research Programme of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), for the benefit of developing countries. The views expressed are not necessarily those of DFID.

### FISHERIES CAMBODIA

- The fisheries sector provides a livelihood for over two million people.
- The sector has a high incidence of poverty.
- Fishing is of national importance for food security.
- The sector accounts for 16% of GDP.

In January 2003 discussions commenced between the Department of Fisheries (DoF) of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the DFID funded Post Harvest Fisheries Research Programme (PHFRP).

The discussions focused on whether, and if so how, methodologies and tools developed by the PHFRP could be utilized within the post-harvest sector in Cambodia. The underlying aim being to improve the management of the sector for the benefit of the poor.

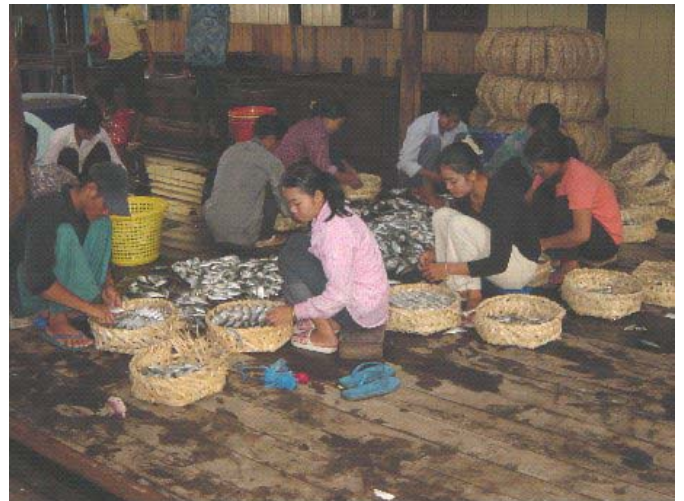
The initial discussions were followed by several feasibility studies and consultations with a number of stakeholders. By June 2003 a project workplan and budget had been prepared.

The DoF and PHFRP have now signed a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of the **Cambodian Post Harvest Fisheries Livelihood Project (CPHFLP)**.

The project will be jointly managed by the Community Fisheries Development Office (CFDO)

within DoF and the PHFRP.

The budget for all Cambodia inputs, including where required the sub-contracting of other organizations, will be administered by the CFDO. The budget for international technical assistance will be administered by the PHFRP.



Fish processing provides employment for many people in Cambodia

## AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The project aims to develop an understanding of how the post-harvest fisheries sector can be better managed for the benefit of the poor.

It will seek to encourage the implementation of policies and management strategies that improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people in the sec-

tor.

The workplan developed for the project consists of a number of interlinked strands of activity.

These are focussed on:

1. The development of a post harvest fisheries overview for Cambodia and the commis-

sioning of nodal studies to improve the understanding of key issues.

2. The building of capacity to enable the development of sustainable post harvest fisheries livelihoods.

3. The implementation of pilot impact projects to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

## POST HARVEST FISHERIES OVERVIEW

The Cambodia Post Harvest Fisheries Overview (CPHO) is a way of systematically representing the fisheries post-harvest sector in terms of its importance, the changes that are occurring within it, and how to respond to those changes to maximize the contribution of the sector to policy objectives.

The CPHO will be developed using information from stud-

ies and reports, from discussions with representatives of key institutions in the public and private sectors and from civil society organizations.

It is a policy and planning tool that will also provide assistance in developing a common understanding of, and an ability to respond to, the needs of the sector.

The CPHO recognizes the

important role that the fisheries sector has in Cambodia in providing employment, income and food security to many of the country's poor and a safety net that can help many others. As such the CPHO specifically addresses poverty in the post-harvest sector and thus caters for a wider range of policy objectives and measures.



Markets and credit play an important role.

## CFDO & PHFRP

### CFDO

The Community Fisheries Development Office was established in 2001 by the Department of Fisheries.

The CFDO envisages the establishment of strong, self-reliant community fisheries throughout Cambodia.

It promotes equitable access to aquatic resources, sustainable management and improvement in fisher-

ies dependent livelihoods.

The CFDO has a research and development section, and sections concerned with legal issues and monitoring and evaluation.

### PHFRP

The purpose of the Post-Harvest Fisheries Research Programme is to produce benefits for poor producers, processors, traders and consumers through the ap-

plication of new knowledge to the improved utilisation of fish from fisheries.

The Programme undertakes research into post-harvest loss assessment and loss reduction, improved utilisation, fish marketing and socio-economic needs of stakeholders.

“...even people predominantly dependent on rice production as a livelihood strategy...rely on rice field fishing as a safety net...”

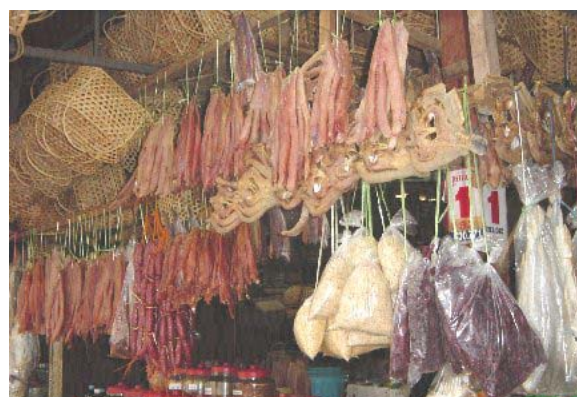
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Dried fish products contribute to food security