

DFID AQUACULTURE RESEARCH PROGRAMME - CAGES II

The objective of CAGES II is to improve the management of sustained, small-scale tropical cage culture in Asia, enabling it to be used as a viable development tool to enhance the livelihoods of the resource poor.

This DFID funded project (R7100), is a joint venture between, the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, Scotland and The Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Conducting a programme of research and support for CARE International's, CAGES (Cage Aquaculture for Greater Economic Security) programme Bangladesh and the Universities of Fisheries, Vietnam.

Small scale, low input cage culture is potentially a valuable tool for diversifying household protein sources for the resource poor of Asia, provided access to water resources can be secured.



Typical marine cage in Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam

Through an increased awareness of the social, institutional and environmental contexts of resource poor groups the constraints to the uptake of cage culture are addressed and opportunities pursued.

Activities include a review of the current status of - and research on - small-scale cage culture in both inland and coastal regions. Cage types and designs, production methods, financial viability and environmental impacts on both resource base and resource base users are evaluated.

Bangladesh: The Institute of Aquaculture, Stirling and CARE, CAGES programme.

Tropical cage culture within inland waters



Typical small scale, low input, cage culture, Bangladesh. The farmer holds a ball of feed, made of locally available, low cost products.

Highlights of Achievements

- Include using 'on-farm' technical trials established by the project. Information is updated, catalogued and distributed to regional offices, increasing the accessibility of technical options to farmers and NGOs and eliminating research trial repetition.
- ? Improved management, structure and utilisation of the CAGES data base achieved in conjunction with better data gathering techniques. This enables concise, accurate and user-friendly information to be collected, presented and disseminated to target groups.
- ? Social surveys with emphasis on gender issues, investigated the reasons for household continuation or abandonment, costs and benefits and impact on a community level, of small-scale cage culture,

Social survey in Jessore region, Bangladesh. The surveys are an invaluable component of the CAGES II project.



Vietnam: The Asian Institute of Technology and The University of Fisheries, Vietnam.

Tropical cage culture in coastal areas.

Highlights of Achievements

- ? The fattening of wild caught grouper and lobster seed in cages was examined, addressing the issues of future sustainability and viable, economic alternative seed supply.
- ? Examining the historical price and quantity data of 'trash fish' enabled both the sustainability of this as a feed to be assessed and the impact demand by coastal aquaculture has on the supply for human consumption.



Trash fish feed for lobster and grouper cages. The sustainability of this source of feed and the search for alternatives is a major component of research in Vietnam

Future Highlights

These include a joint end-of-project workshop in Bangladesh, to assess the potential of small-scale culture to improve the livelihoods of the resource poor and to identify future areas of research and co-operation.

Promotional and disseminating material in a variety of formats will be produced, including generic guidelines for future reference by farmers, NGOs, planners, policy makers and development specialists.

A Successful Programme of Development and Institutional Collaboration.

Through the increased and strengthened links between farmers, researchers, N.G.Os and development institutions there is a growing awareness of the role that cage aquaculture can play in poverty alleviation and livelihood diversification, plus an understanding of the potential benefits of future collaborative ventures.

The relationship between all partners is indeed proving both a stimulating and advantageous developmental approach.