

**ESTABLISHMENT OF POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH IN
THE MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH DEPARTMENT,
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

by

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Abstract

The paper describes the newly established post-harvest fish technology unit within the Marine Fisheries Research Development Centre, SEAFDEC, Singapore. The main elements of the work programme are listed.

INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), established in 1968, is a regional organization formed under the auspices of the Ministerial Conference for the Economic Development of Southeast Asia. The Centre comprises three departments – the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) in Singapore, the Training Department in Thailand and the Aquaculture Department in the Philippines. The Centre is governed by a Council, the policy-making body, consisting of Directors representing the member countries namely Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet-Nam.

The Council of SEAFDEC, at its 8th Meeting in 1975, recognized the need for research and development of fishery post-harvest technology in the region and approved its inclusion into the activities of the MFRD; which are now as follows:

- (i) To develop the fishing grounds in Southeast Asia by experimental fishing;
- (ii) To carry out research into fishing gear, equipment, fishing methods and general handling of fish at sea in close cooperation with the Training Department;
- (iii) To conduct investigations of fisheries resources and research in fisheries oceanography for Southeast Asian countries;
- (iv) To conduct research and development of post-harvest fish technology;
- (v) To train research personnel and technicians; and
- (vi) To undertake such other activities as may be determined by the Council.

OBJECTIVES OF POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, SEAFDEC

The fundamental objective of post-harvest technology development in Southeast Asia is maximum utilization and minimum wastage of all available fish resources, thereby alleviating the problems of wastage and protein malnutrition in the region.

There are many other objectives which include better wet fish handling, storage and transport, improvement of traditional products and development of comminuted products. The programme will also conduct research related to maximum fish utilization, including underutilized species and fish waste. Quality control and inspection will also be covered. In addition a system for the smooth transfer of technology will be instituted.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND STAFF

In 1976-77, the MFRD made preparations for the implementation of the post-harvest technology programme. Two buildings provided by the Primary Production Department (PPD) of Singapore were renovated; a processing laboratory was completed and a microbiology/biochemistry laboratory will be available shortly. Essential equipment for the laboratories will be purchased this year to enable research work to commence.

Meanwhile the PPD has allocated three technically qualified staff to the MFRD, and accepted MFRD scientists for re-orientation and training in microbiological, chemical and organoleptic methods and techniques of analysis. Specialized training overseas and attendance of conferences and study tours will continue to be arranged for familiarization purposes, in order to build up the team working in this section.

Japanese experts are expected to strengthen the research work of the section. In due course, scientists and technicians from SEAFDEC member countries will be invited to participate in the research activities thereby effecting technology transfer for post-harvest technology development.