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para la  
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y la  
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| <b>COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES</b>   |
| <b>SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE</b>  |
| <b>Ninth Session</b>  |
| <b>Bremen, Germany, 10-14 February 2004</b>   |
| <b>Agenda Item 11</b>   |
| <b>COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE AS INTERNATIONAL<br/>COMMODITY BODY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE<br/>COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES</b> |

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade was designated as the International Commodity Body (ICB) for fishery products by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) in February 1991 and was therefore in a position to sponsor fishery commodity research and development projects to be supported under the Fund's second account. The Sub-Committee assumed the role of Supervisory Body, which includes the very important function of proposing new projects. In this context, FAO created in 2000 an Expert Group to advise the Sub-Committee in its supervisory function, including the preliminary assessment of new projects. These pages summarize the past projects and give a list of project ideas for endorsement.

## STATUS OF PROJECTS

2. Seven fishery commodity related projects have been approved by CFC since its inception. The first, executed by INFOPECHE became operational in May 1995 and terminated in December 1998. The INFOFISH project, executed in Bangladesh, started implementation in the last quarter of 1996 and terminated in December 1999. The CFC project in Brazil and Argentina executed by INFOPESCA was completed in November 2001. These three projects were finalized already before the last COFI Sub-Committee Meeting; they will not be described here.

3. The project "Technical information services for smallholder fisheries and promotion of international trade" (Project Executing Agency (PEA): INFOSAMAK) seeks to improve smallholder fish production and aquaculture, in addition to development of value added products and their promotion, training in quality assurance and identification of investment opportunities. The project started in October 2001, and has since then carried out two workshops and various activities for the improvement of quality management and value-addition in four countries: Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen.

4. The project "Production and marketing of value-added fishery products in Eastern Africa" (PEA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) /Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization) aims to develop and promote production of value-added products from inland waters fish (Nile Perch and dagaa). Activities involve small-scale cottage enterprises, many of which are run by women (for dagaa), and more structured industrial processing companies (for Nile perch). Implementation started in spring 2002. Various market reports have been commissioned in order to identify new products for intra-regional and international markets.

5. The project "Promotion of processing and marketing of value-added tuna products from island countries in the Asia-Pacific" (PEA: INFOFISH) is carried out in the Maldives and Papua New Guinea. It aims at the promotion of export processing and domestic marketing of value-added tuna products from island countries in the Asia-Pacific through adaptation and transfer of technologies for processing and presentation, promotion of investment in ventures for processing and marketing. An important part of the project is dissemination of relevant technologies and information in the two target countries as well as other developing countries in the region. Implementation started in spring 2002, with visits to various markets and companies including a processing plant in Indonesia which is producing hamburgers and sausages from fish mince.

6. The project "Development of processing and marketing of tilapia produced in big Latin American river basins" (PEA: INFOPESCA) will concentrate on the promotion of tilapia products by improving quality management, product development and marketing. Implementation started in March 2003.

7. Two "fast track" projects have been carried out under CFC funding. The first one "Valorization of Fishery Products in West Africa" was carried out in spring 2003. The second one

“Seminar on Artisanal Fisheries in Central America and Caribbean” took place in La Havana in November 2003.

8. Six projects are presently in the pipeline, two of which are seeking finance to follow-up completed technical assistance projects and four new technical assistance projects. The full description of these projects is given in Annex 1.

### **EXPERIENCE AND OUTLOOK**

9. The projects completed so far have received a positive evaluation by the CFC. That can be attributed to the expertise available in INFOPECHE, INFOFISH and INFOPECA in the field of post harvest activities in fisheries, fish handling, fish marketing, fish processing and quality management. The close collaboration of all INFOservices under the FISH INFOnetwork umbrella also helped to disseminate the results of the projects to all member countries of the network.

10. It will be noted that FAO's role in the execution of CFC funded projects is different from its involvement in United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or trust fund financed projects. All CFC projects relate directly to promotion of the private sector with the direct participation of private companies in concert with the national government. At the same time the capacities of the PEAs are strengthened through experience gained in executing these projects. While the official role of FAO is that of the "Supervisory Body", substantial professional staff time is spent on assisting and advising PEAs in the execution of their projects.

11. In view of CFC's desire to see a substantial level of co-financing of projects, significant efforts have been made to interest other donors in value addition projects. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) participated in two of these projects and FAO Programmes (trust fund projects and technical cooperation projects) have also supported CFC projects.

### **SUGGESTED ACTION BY SUB-COMMITTEE**

12. The Sub-Committee is requested to comment on this programme and in particular on future orientations for project activities. The Sub-Committee is requested to suggest additional avenues to be followed in the identification of possible co-financing sources. Members are requested to comment on and endorse the pipeline projects presented in Annex I and to present further project ideas or profiles for consideration.

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**ANNEX 1**

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**PIPELINE PROJECTS*****INFOPESCA: Consolidation and expansion of artisanal fish production for export in Central America and Caribbean***

In many countries in Central America and the Caribbean, artisanal fisheries is an important part of fish production. Various difficulties are encountered by these industries, including lack of facilities at landing sites for unloading, handling and storing high quality fish which could be exported directly by them in fresh or processed form to markets in the USA or Europe. In addition fishermen and women have not been able to obtain formal training and technical assistance which will enable them to comply with mandatory international standards, including HACCP, and so qualify for official "approval" to export to major world markets where considerable potential for their products exists. The project will contribute to improved development, incomes and standards of living in the artisanal fishing communities in general and in rural fishing communities in particular. It will contribute to improved export earnings for participating countries and ensure improved availability and equitable distribution of fish for human consumption within the sub region. This project is based on the recommendations of the CFC/INFOPECA Seminar on artisanal fisheries, La Havana, 21 November 2003.

Project duration: 36 months

Estimated total cost (CFC, participating co-operatives, co-financing agencies): US\$ 2 280 000

***INFOFISH: Organic Aquaculture in Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia***

This project aims at developing standards and market access for products from organic aquaculture in three countries. Shrimp, seabass and tilapia have been identified as potential species for this project.

Project duration: 36 months

Estimated total cost (CFC, participating enterprises, bilateral assistance and government agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations): US\$ 1 200 000.

***INFOPECHE: Development of production and marketing of small pelagic fish from Mauritania and Guinea***

This project aims at improving the earnings of small-scale fisherfolks through better handling of fish landed and better marketing towards local and export markets. This project idea is based on the outcome of the fast track project, completed in May 2003.

Project duration: 36 months

Estimated total cost (CFC, participating enterprises, bilateral assistance and government agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations): US\$ 800 000

***INFOSA\*: Assistance to small-scale fisheries in Mozambique and Angola***

This project aims at improving the performance of small-scale fisheries in Mozambique and Angola with respect to fish trade. In addition it will facilitate the access to global markets, which

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\* INFOSA is the sub-regional office of INFOPECHE in Namibia, a project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

will have positive effects on intra- regional trade and offer a better balance of products in the consumer markets.

Project duration: 36 months

Estimated total cost (CFC, participating enterprises, bilateral assistance and government agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations): US\$ 486 000

***INFOPECA: Loan Financing of Value-added Fish Production in Rio Grande and Mar del Plata***

The technical project "Rehabilitation and Development of the Seafood Processing Industry in Rio Grande and Mar del Plata" executed by INFOPECA and financed by CFC, undertakes market research, production trials of value-added fishery products and training in quality assurance, in collaboration with private sector entrepreneurs in Argentina and Brazil as detailed earlier in this document. The proposed loan financing project will include design of specific investment proposals, inventory of existing machinery, loan financing of machinery and other hardware purchases.

Project duration: 36 months

Estimated total cost (CFC, participating enterprises, bilateral assistance and government agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations): US\$ 5 600 000.

***INFOFISH: Loan Financing of Value-added Fish Production in Bangladesh***

The technical project "Export Promotion of Value-added Fishery Products and their Sustainable Development" executed by INFOFISH and financed by CFC, undertook market research, production trials of value-added fishery products and training in quality assurance, in collaboration with private sector entrepreneurs in Bangladesh as detailed earlier in this document. The proposed loan financing project will include design of specific investment proposals, inventory of existing machinery, loan financing of machinery and other hardware purchases.

Project duration: 24 months

Estimated total cost (CFC, participating enterprises, bilateral assistance and government agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations): US\$ 4 300 000.