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AQUACULTURE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM



RESEARCH REPORTS

Sustainable Aquaculture for a Secure Future

Title: History Of The Pond Dynamics / Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program

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Date: 20 June 2006 Publication Number: CRSP Research Report 97-A2

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Abstract: The research described in Dynamics of Pond Aquaculture resulted primarily from 14 years of work undertaken by the Pond Dynamics / Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP). The long-term goal of the program has been to develop aquacultural technologies as a means of enhancing food security in developing countries and to strengthen the capacities of U.S. and international institutions to carry out aquacultural research. The Pond Dynamics / Aquaculture CRSP is one of a family of 11 CRSPs that were created to link the capabilities of U.S. agricultural universities with the needs of developing countries. Collaborative Research Support Programs are funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and by participating U.S. and host country institutions. They are among the longest lived international agricultural research efforts that exist within the U.S., and as such they have built vast networks through which research and development occur.

This chapter sets the context and frame of reference for subsequent chapters in Dynamics of Pond Aquaculture, many of which are based on the underlying premises of the CRSP model. A brief overview of the early history and philosophy of the Collaborative Research Support Programs is presented, beginning with its origins in Title XII legislation. Another full chapter could be devoted to the evolution of the CRSP as USAID responded to changes in foreign policy and development assistance in the U.S. and elsewhere; however, the focus on the early history of the CRSPs reflects the fundamental adherence of the various CRSPs to the structure and philosophy set forth by the framers of early CRSP legislation. A special section on the role of the social sciences in the CRSPs is presented to highlight how CRSP biotechnological emphases integrate with social and political concerns. Again, another chapter could be written on this subject; hence, the attempt is to set the context for understanding the last few chapters of this book, most of which report on combined efforts by the CRSP and others in making technologies

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available to farmers and researchers. The history of the Pond Dynamics/ Aquaculture CRSP is explored from two angles - as an outgrowth of U.S. aquaculture and as a vehicle for alleviating hunger and poverty in developing countries. Finally, descriptions of Pond Dynamics/ Aquaculture CRSP research sites, research priorities, research objectives, and program components are presented as a reference for Chapters 3 through 14.

This abstract is excerpted from the original paper, which was in Egna, H.S. and C.E. Boyd (Editors), 1997. *Dynamics of Pond Aquaculture*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, pgs. 19-52.

CRSP RESEARCH REPORTS are published as occasional papers by the Program Management Office, Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program, Oregon State University, 418 Snell Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-1643 USA. The Aquaculture CRSP is supported by the US Agency for International Development under CRSP Grant No.: LAG-G-00-96-90015-00. See the website at <pdacrsp.orst.edu>.