

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AQUACULTURE SANITATION

Human Health Impacts of Aquaculture/ Activity/ 07HH103UH

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ABSTRACT

An international workshop was held in Culiacan, Sinaloa and Santiago Ixcuintla, Nayarit for thirty-nine participants including small-scale farmers, government officials, NGO's, researchers and extension agents. The purpose of the workshop was to increase technical capacity in the areas of bivalve culture and sanitation, and provide a venue for development of collaborative opportunities. This was the fourth annual international event sponsored by CRSP and included representatives from Mexico, Nicaragua and the U.S.

INTRODUCTION

Bivalve mollusk culture is a priority for aquaculture development throughout LAC. In the case of Mexico, state governments (e.g. Nayarit, Sinaloa, Sonora) and the federal government have prioritized shellfish culture for development for nearly ten years. The Autonomous University of Sinaloa and its numerous partners in aquaculture development have recently worked together in an integrated effort to accelerate development of the shellfish industry with long-term support from CRSP/USAID. In the case of Latin America, there is wide spread recognition of the potential for shellfish aquaculture, but progress towards realizing its potential has been slow until recently. The Central American University (UCA), has been promoting shellfish culture and management of the shellfish fisheries for over ten years with support from multiple donors, including CRSP. This workshop was the fourth in a series of international workshops sponsored by CRSP that have provided an international venue for exchanging knowledge and lessons learned related to shellfish culture and sanitation. Additionally, the topic of increasing extension capacity is addressed in these workshops.

The objectives of this training workshop were to:

Present the results of research and development efforts in three countries (U.S., Mexico and Nicaragua);

- Increase technical capacity among farmers, researchers, NGO's and government officials both within Mexico and with international colleagues;
- Increase extension capacity and partnerships;
- Provide a net working opportunities for small-scale Mexican farmers; and
- Develop strategies for current and future collaborative efforts.

METHODS

The workshop was held in two parts. The first component was held at UAS in Culiacan, Mexico on Sept. 22-24, 2008 and included two days of conferences with 19 presentations, and one day of field visit to a pilot site where shellfish polyculture (oyster, pen shell, shrimp) is being demonstrated in conjunction with a Santa Maria Bay community. Thirty-six persons participated in this part of the workshop. This area of the Bay (Altata) is now targeted for shellfish growing water classification by the State of Sinaloa and the Mexican Federal Government. The second component was conducted in Nayarit State in Santiago Ixcuintla. One day of presentations (11) were held the first day. Thirty-nine persons participated in this part of the workshop. Two field visits were made; the first on September 26, 2008 to a major oyster growing area, Pozo Chino. This area is one which is now projected for shellfish growing water classification by the State of Nayarit and the Mexican Federal Government. The second field visit on September 27, 2008 was to another major oyster growing area, Boca de Camichin.

Workshop organizers included: UAS, Sinaloa Institute of Aquaculture, Sinaloa State Aquaculture Sanitation Committee, CIAD, National Polytechnical Institute (CIIDIR-IPN), Autonomous University of Nayarit and University of the Coast. Dr. John Supan from LSU also participated. An industry volunteer from the U.S., Mr. David Nisbet, owner of Goosepoint Oyster Company, also attended and provided technical input. Erick Sandoval, CRSP Collaborator and Microbiologist at UCA-Nicaragua, attended the workshop and made several presentations. He also visited several microbiology and public health laboratories in Culiacan and Nayarit. The US PI, Maria Haws, also participated in organizing the workshop and made several presentations.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Training and exchange of lessons learned included participation for thirty nine HC and four U.S. participants. The workshop was also video-taped and DVD's with the video and powerpoint presentations were delivered to the participants after conclusion of the workshop.

BENEFITS

There was a high level of satisfaction among the trainees and several have since put the acquired knowledge and skills to use. Participants in this workshop were either farmers, extension agents or government officials with direct involvement in aquaculture development or its regulation who have since either become integrated into the CRSP network in Mexico or have attended subsequent trainings (Regional workshop on shellfish culture and sanitation ,07HH104UH and Training in BMPs for the production of mollusks in Nayarit and Sinaloa, 07BMA04UH). One particularly notable partnership that has emerged from the collaborative training efforts is the partnership between CESASIN and UAS. CESASIN (Sinaloa State Aquaculture Sanitation Committee) originally focused on regulating biosecurity for shrimp farmer and providing extension services to them, representing the principal extension corps in the State. Since the CRSP work began, they have expanded to providing coverage and services to shellfish farmers and have been

strong partners in the CRSP efforts. The on-going exchanges between UAS and UCA (Nicaragua) has also been beneficial in establishing ties between scientists from these countries. Additionally, the materials that have been produced during the workshops have been used extensively in three countries for other training and education purposes.

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