

Capacity Building in Aquaculture, Fisheries Management and Coastal Management for Coastal Women Workshop: “Opportunities for Coastal Women in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Coastal Management”

Human Health Impacts of Aquaculture/Activity/09HHI02UH

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ABSTRACT

Two regional workshops were held in Nicaragua and Mexico for 127 participants from Nicaragua, Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador to exchange experiences and knowledge in the fields of aquaculture, fisheries management and coastal management. These workshops were designed to highlight the achievements of women's groups. A video was also made which was shown on national television

INTRODUCTION

Since 1996, a team of UAS researchers has been working in coastal communities to develop coastal management efforts which culminated in two officially adopted coastal management plans (Bahia Santa Maria and Boca de Camichin). The findings and results from the Mexico work were published as part of the ACRSP program (Haws, et. al. 2008) and integrated into peer-reviewed publications as part of the USAID SUCCESS program (Crawford et. al. 2010; Haws et. al. 2010). Since that time, the same team and a number of partners from the education, government and private sectors have continued with implementation efforts following the recommendations of the management plans. A similar effort has been in place in Nicaragua since 1998, which led to the official adoption of the management plan for the Estero Real (Royal Estuary), a watershed which drains approximately 30% of Nicaragua and parts of Honduras and is a major tributary for the trinational Gulf of Fonseca. In both nations, the primary target groups have been socially-disadvantaged groups including women, fishers, disabled and indigenous groups. Women comprise approximately 80% of the total stakeholders involved. The range of the CRSP work, including leveraged efforts and similar projects have included topics such as: fisheries co-management, development of national regulations for previously unregulated fisheries species, alternative livelihoods (aquaculture, eco-tourism, handicrafts, bakeries), large-scale water quality monitoring, aquaculture best management practices, seafood sanitation and quality and bivalve sanitation. Two major cross-cutting themes in this work are conservation and food security. Although efforts have been made to disseminate the results of these many years of work for both the research and the extension efforts, more work needs to be done in this area. Additionally, although women are active and involved at all levels, the participation of women can be further enhance and their individual and collective capacity improved. This work proposed to accomplish this through holding two regional workshops, one in Nicaragua and one in

Mexico, to provide a venue for exchanging lessons learned and practical methods. Women, including young girls, were the primary audience for this work. Attempts were made to involve participants who had not had the opportunity to become involved previously.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES INCLUDED:

- Hold two regional workshops for women and female children to provide an opportunity to exchange lessons learned and identify future needs
- Inclusion of young women to broaden the participation of women in the future
- Provide training with a focus on alternative livelihoods (including aquaculture) that are specifically targeted to users of threatened natural resources (e.g mangrove wood cutters, shrimp post-larvae fishers)
- Produce an outreach video highlighting the achievements of each nation's women in these areas. This will be shown on TV channels in both countries and distributed to institutions working with these topics.

METHODS

Nelvia Hernandez, Eufresia Balladares, Lorena Irma Camacho Lopez and Eladio Gaxiola took the lead on coordinating the planning and organization of the two workshops. Ms. Camacho Lopez (Sociologist) attended the workshop in Nicaragua and presented the coverage on the Mexico efforts. She was thus familiarized with the Nicaraguan efforts and was able to present that latter at the Mexico workshop. The Nicaragua workshop was regional in nature, with participants from Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador. The Mexico workshop was also regional, with women and community groups from the States of Sinaloa, Nayarit, Sonora, Baja California Sur and Baja California Norte.

RESULTS

The Nicaragua workshop on July 26-27, 2011 and had 96 participants. Session topics included:

- Development of an integrated plan for sustainable extraction (Gulf of Fonseca/El Salvador project).
- Social Capital-a critical aspect of the success of oyster culture in Sinaloa Mexico (presented by Lorena Irma Camacho Lopez)
- Seed production and culture of mangrove molluscs
- Black cockle enclosure culture system
- Program for alternative cockle fisheries management and shellfish sanitation
- Visit to the voluntary no-take zones for black cockles in Asseradores Estuary
- Visit to the cockle culture and tourism project in Las Peñitas-Leon

The Mexico workshop took place in Guamúchil, Sinaloa, México on September 3 and 4, 2011. There 31 participants on the first day and 28 on the second day. Session topics included:

- Exchange of experiences from Baja California Sur, "Exportation of ornamental species"
- Exchange of experiences from Nayarit State, "Women's association of Boca de Camichin for the development of limited resources"
- Exchange of experiences from Sonora State, "The only social cooperative of women oyster farmers"
- Exchange of experiences from Baja California Sur, "Women shellfish growers"

- Exchange of experiences from Sinaloa State, “Women’s crab picking cooperative-production of crab meat”
- Exchange of experiences from Sinaloa State, “Women’s production of handicrafts based on natural resources”
- Exchange of experiences from Sinaloa State, “Playa Colorada Mariculture Cooperative”
- Experiences from Nicaragua, “Women cockle collectors from Nicaragua”.
- Tour of the oyster culture farm of the Playa Colorada Mariculture Cooperative.

The workshops were video-taped and have been shown on Nicaraguan television. The participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the workshops and the exchanges of information and experiences were valuable for all.

CONCLUSION

The workshop was very beneficial for increasing the level of communication and cooperation between the four institutions and the multiple community stakeholders participating in this work.

BENEFITS

One hundred twenty-seven participants from four countries increased their knowledge of approaches to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

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