

AQUANEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POND DYNAMICS/AQUACULTURE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

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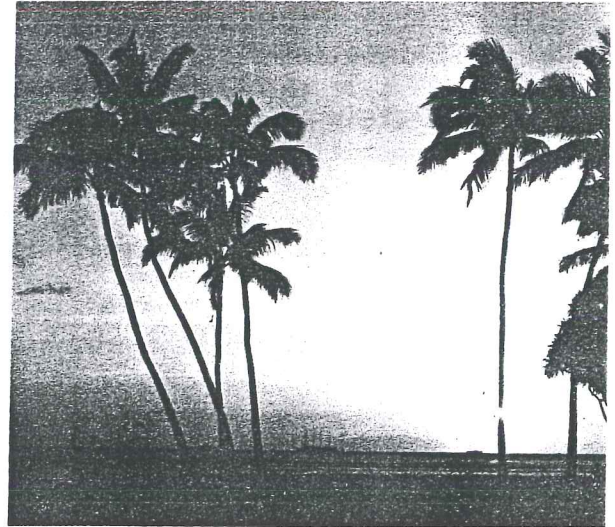
EEP FILES REPORT

The External Evaluation Panel (EEP) has submitted their CRSP evaluation report to the Program Management Office (PMO). The Panel was appointed in 1984 to provide an external evaluation of program accomplishments. It is composed of four impartial senior scientists selected by the Executive Council and approved by the JCARD/BIFAD. They are: Dr. James Avault, Louisiana State University; Dr. Kenneth Chew, University of Washington; Dr. Richard Neal, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management; and Dr. Ziad Shehadeh, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

The report is a culmination of several months of effort by the EEP. Evaluation procedures included visits to the six project sites (with members of the EC and USAID representatives) to become familiar with the research on-site. The Panel also participated in the 1985 CRSP annual meeting in Honolulu. After intensive interviews there with all components of the CRSP team, a report was drafted and submitted to the PMO in May.

The Panel was favorably impressed with the CRSP. They feel much has been accomplished and attribute this to effective administrative and technical management and an excellent "cooperative spirit" among participating institutions, administrative committees, and the Program Manager/Management Entity.

The report also includes recommendations for strengthening the CRSP in certain areas. Recommendations for strengthening administrative functions include: 1) expansion of both the



HONOLULU 1985

The Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP 3rd Annual Research Planning Meeting was held March 18-21 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The 35 participants included: U.S. and host country Principal Investigators (PIs) and Research Associates (RAs) from all six projects; members of the Executive Council (EC); the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); the External Evaluation Panel (EEP); the Program Management Office (PMO); and the AID and BIFAD representatives.

The first day provided each project time to present an overview of the research on-site and accomplishments to date. The remaining 2 1/2 days included intensive sessions by project members to draft the work plan for the coming year (with TAC guidance), and EEP and EC interviews with project teams and the Program Manager. This meeting was especially important, as the CRSP is preparing for the AID Triennial Review.

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(EEP, continued)

Executive Council and Technical Advisory Committee, 2) implementation of the Research Team; and 3) abbreviation of the management chain to allow faster reaction time to field projects and improved communication. Some recommendations for overall problem areas include: 1) restriction of extension and training activities in the field; 2) immediate resolution of the Central Data Management problem; 3) amendments of several standard field procedures; and 4) increased interaction among field projects.

Program members, AID and the BIFAD will have an opportunity to review the full report in the near future. The EEP is to be commended for the thorough and intensive effort expended in completing this report. ■

(Honolulu, continued)

Participants were transported to the meeting site at the National Marine Fisheries Service Lab. This afforded them an opportunity to visit the NMFS facility and the University of Hawaii campus nearby.

The meeting was very ably hosted by Dr. Philip Helfrich and his assistant, Cindy Hunter, of the University of Hawaii. A clambake at the University of Hawaii Coconut Island Marine Station in Kaneohe Bay provided an opportunity to visit that facility and was an enjoyable finale to a productive and successful meeting. ■



FROM THE EDITOR

With the Winter 1985 issue of Aquanews, all of the CRSP projects have been highlighted in "Mainstream". It has been over a year since the first project was featured, so updates may be a valuable way to keep up with the progress of each project. PIs will receive requests for short updates for future issues.

Starting with this issue, Aquanews will initiate a new series of "Guest Editorials" on matters relating to the CRSP. The intent is to inject some new ideas, and provide a forum to voice concerns and opinions which may not be heard any other way. There will be no parameters for content other than that it relate in some way to the role of the CRSP in international aquaculture. Jim Lannan will provide the editorial for this issue. Others of you will be asked to contribute for future newsletters.

It would also be of interest to hear from the U.S. and/or host country Research Associates. Space can be set aside in each issue for RAs to voice concerns or opinions relating to CRSP matters. Given the variety of project countries and lifestyles, even a description of day to day life in a foreign country (with photos) could be an interesting feature. This kind of column would only survive by the interest and participation of the RAs themselves. If you would be interested in contributing for subsequent issues of Aquanews, please let me know.

Aquanews is a worthwhile way to disseminate information from the Program Management Office to CRSP members. It can also be a valuable tool for inter-project communication, and a way to express your opinions and concerns. Please remember to submit any items you feel may be of interest to your colleagues. Suggestions for special topic features are always welcome. ■

GUEST EDITORIAL

"ECONOMICS AND THE CRSP GRANT"

Jim Lannan, Program Manager

The CRSP Management continues to receive inquiries from AID Missions and other sources asking why we are not more deeply involved in the investigation of the economic feasibility of pond aquaculture. It's a very good question.

It would be easy to sidestep the issue by remembering that because of funding constraints AID limited this CRSP to the investigation of bio-technical considerations. This was not as bad a decision as it might at first appear. Those who are asking for feasibility analyses grossly over-estimate the aquaculture data base. It is not possible to do thorough, rigorous economic analyses of pond aquaculture systems at the present time because essential information is not available.

The need for economic evaluation of pond culture systems was given serious consideration during the planning of the CRSP. There was a consensus of all involved in the planning process that CRSP research should not only address increasing the yields of pond culture systems, but should strive to improve the economic efficiency of fish production. Thus the original CRSP proposal was titled "Efficiency of Pond Culture Systems".

It is true that the present aquaculture data base enables one to estimate the maximum yields that might be attained in some pond environments. However, given the information available, it is not possible to explain the variation of yields observed in given environments or to determine whether the observed yields represent the most efficient approach to fish production. With respect to the latter, it is important to remember that maximum efficiency typically occurs below maximum yield.

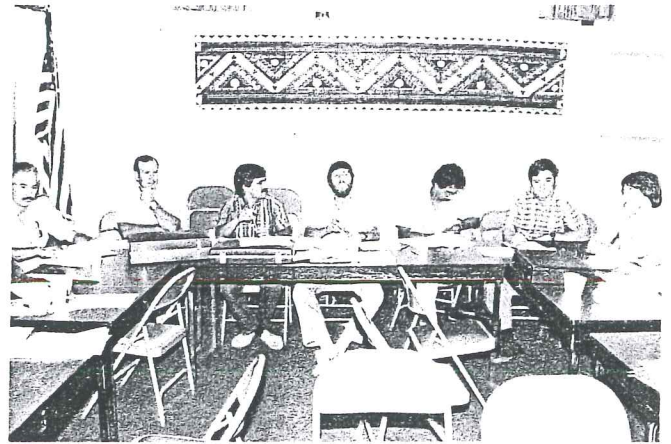
There are two non-mutually exclusive approaches to pond management that can be defined on the basis of food resources available to the fish. In the first, all of the feed is provided in the form of prepared rations. In the second, the

production of food organisms is stimulated in the pond by the addition of appropriate organic and inorganic nutrients. It is a widely held view that the most efficient systems involve a combination of these approaches, i.e., careful control of nutrient cycling through the pond combined with supplemental feeding. The maximum yields attainable with either approach can be estimated from the reported experiences of others. Additionally, the externally fed system can at least be optimized on the basis of food conversion efficiency. However, the yields actually attained with both approaches are subject to substantial variation. The sources of variation are poorly understood and consequently the productivity of aquaculture systems is not highly predictable. The situation becomes even more confounding in systems involving both fertilization and supplemental feeding.

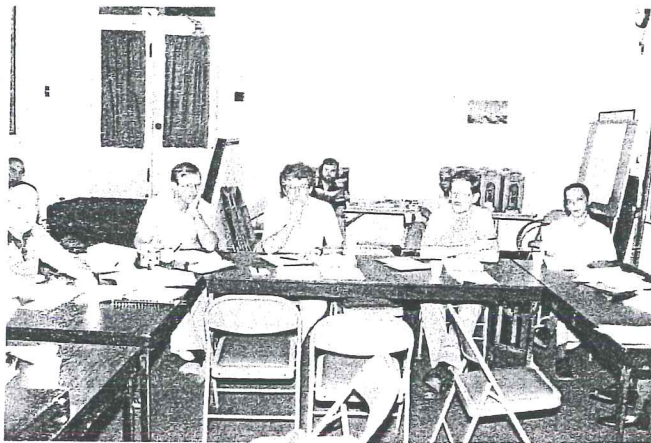
It follows that economic evaluation of pond aquaculture systems would require making numerous and often tenuous assumptions at the present time. These assumptions detract from the rigor of the analyses. In point of fact, rigorous economic analysis will not be possible in the absence of a bio-technical data base such as the CRSP is presently developing. Thus, although the CRSP is staffed exclusively by aquatic scientists, they are in fact involved in a grand experiment in economics. Their data base will provide the first opportunity to rigorously investigate the economic efficiency of pond culture systems. ■

BULLETIN

The Program Management Office will be updating the CRSP Directory for 1985. We plan to return to the bio-data format of the 1983 directory, which includes a short curriculum vitae of each U.S. and host country participant. Each of you should have received a photocopy of the information already on file for you so it can be updated if necessary. Members new to the CRSP will receive requests for address information and a copy of their full c.v. Please have this information to the PMO by June 15th. All CRSP members will receive a copy of the directory. ■



CRSP PARTICIPANTS ATTEND 1985 ANNUAL MEETING IN HONOLULU, MARCH 18 - 21.



Photos by George Tchobanoglous

Program Manager James E. Lannan
Assistant Program Manager
and Newsletter Editor Nancy Brown

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Hatfield Marine Science Center
Oregon State University
Newport, OR 97365