

AQUANEWS

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

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OVERVIEWS

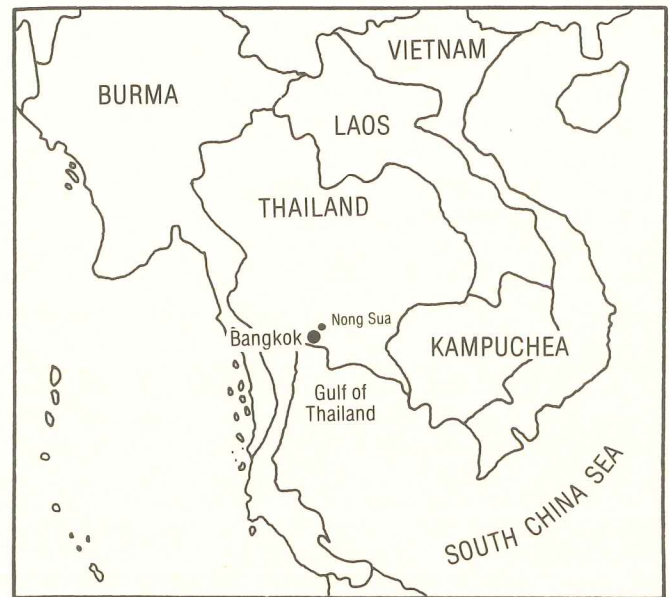
We are now into the second operational year of the CRSP. Research projects have been implemented in six developing countries and the framework for a U.S. research component has been established. During the coming year, we will be taking a hard look at the progress of the program to identify our strengths and weaknesses. This is a key step in preparing for a thorough external evaluation of the CRSP that is to be completed during Spring 1985.

An internal evaluation of the program will be initiated during our upcoming annual meeting of the CRSP Research Team. The Principal Investigators for each project will be asked to summarize research accomplishments and to identify any problem areas. Project teams will be able to assess their own progress relative to that of others. Researchers will be able

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DATA MANAGEMENT

Work is progressing on a data management system for efficient record keeping at the six CRSP project sites. Jim Bustin of Auburn University adapted "The General Manager," a commercially available hierarchical data base program, to meet the needs of CRSP researchers. This adaptation was reviewed by Louis Botsford of the University of California at Davis and Bill Chang of the University of Michigan. Following a test run of the software with CRSP data, a manual will be prepared to facilitate its use at project sites.



MAINSTREAM

THE THAILAND-UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROJECT

The CRSP project in Thailand is one of six parallel research efforts being carried out in developing countries to determine the mechanisms that regulate the productivity of tropical pond aquaculture systems. An agreement signed in April 1983 provided the framework for this collaborative research effort under the joint leadership of the University of Michigan and the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Headquartered at the laboratory of DOF's National Inland Fisheries Institute (NIFI) on the Kasetsart University campus in Bangkok, a team of CRSP researchers are conducting field experiments at the new Nong-Sua Hatchery Station located 100 km northeast of the city.

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(Overviews Continued.)

to draw upon the experiences of other investigators in developing approaches to common problems.

The external evaluation of the CRSP scheduled for Spring 1985 is part of AID's triennial review and grant extension process. This process involves an External Evaluation Panel, and AID personnel.

Jim Lannan
Program Manager

(Thailand Continued.)

Aquaculture is an important food production system in Thailand. The Thai people rely on fish as their primary source of animal protein and most of the fish that are marketed are grown in aquaculture systems. Annual production of freshwater fish and shellfish is about 197,000 metric tons. Species of economic importance include the walking catfish (*Clarias batrachus*), the snakeskin gourami (*Trichogaster pectoralis*) and the giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergi*). With support by NIFI researchers, aquaculturists in Thailand are working to improve pond management techniques, solve disease problems, and expand production of promising species such as the sand goby (*Oxyeleotris marmoratus*) and tilapia (*Tilapia nilotica*).

The Nong-Sua Hatchery Station is a center for research on a serious acid problem that affects southern and central Thailand fish ponds during the monsoon season. It is also being developed as a source of fingerlings as part of an active extension program. Construction of the station was initiated in 1982. Facilities include 80 earthen ponds ranging from 800 m² to 3,200 m² in surface area, 80 outdoor concrete tanks and a laboratory-office complex. Twelve 800 m² ponds and one 3,200 m² fingerling production pond are dedicated to CRSP research.

CRSP field work at the Nong-Sua Station was initiated in June 1983. The experimental ponds were repaired and sampling platforms were constructed. Pond soil and water samples were analyzed, indicating an acid water problem. The ponds were filled and drained several times and lime was added to raise pH to suitable levels for fish culture. The fingerling production pond was stocked with 40,000 tilapia fry in August. At the end of October, which marks the beginning of the dry season, the fish had reached an average weight of about 20 grams. They were counted and sorted by sex for stocking in the experimental ponds. CRSP researchers are now collecting data on fish production, water chemistry and limnology.

The U.S. Co-Principal Investigators for the project are Dr. Karl Lagler and Dr. James Diana of the University of Michigan. Dr. Lagler has extensive experience in international fisheries and aquaculture development, and has had an active role in collaborative research in Thailand since the early 1970's. Dr. Thiraphan Bhukaswan, the Director of the NIFI Laboratory, serves as the host country Principal Investigator. Day to day research activities are the responsibility of the U.S. Research Associate Dr. Chang Kwei Lin of the University of Michigan and his host country counterpart Mr. Vijai Sirsuwanatach, a senior fisheries biologist at NIFI. Additional support for project activities is provided by Dr. William Chang and Mr. Nelson Navarre, both of the University of Michigan.



Research staff at NIFI



Seining broodstock at the Nong-Sua Hatchery

CRSP PROGRAM MANAGERS MEETING

A meeting of CRSP Program Managers with AID and BIFAD representatives was held on October 24-25, 1983 in Rosslyn, VA. Participants included the coordinators of the seven CRSPs in operation and those of the Fisheries-Stock Assessment CRSP, which is in the planning phase. AID officials noted that each CRSP should be a cohesive program and stressed the need to enhance the collaborative qualities of the program. Jim Lannan and Michele Leslie, who represented the Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP, raised several specific issues on behalf of program participants. With regard to difficulties in obtaining source waivers for restricted goods and services, AID Contract Managers noted that the filing of a single waiver request itemizing program needs for an entire year may relieve some administrative burden. When asked about policies regarding the use of Embassy and AID Mission facilities by CRSP researchers abroad, AID officials responded that this matter is best pursued on a case by case basis through informal discussions. During a discussion of a third issue raised by Jim Lannan, most CRSP Managers agreed that procedures for obtaining foreign travel approvals have proved overly time consuming. AID personnel agreed that an electronic mail system would streamline the procedure.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

* Bette Premo and her husband Dean reported that the initiation of the Indonesia-Michigan State University Project went well. Dr. Premo notes that she is anxious to correspond with other CRSP researchers to share pertinent information. Her address is: Bogor Baru; Blok AV, No. 12: Bogor, Indonesia.

* Congratulations to the Woessners on the birth of their daughter Heidi during Christmas week in Iloilo City, the Philippines.

Program participants are encouraged to share information by submitting comments and questions to the Editor of AQUANEWS.

ELECTRONIC MAIL

As reported in the first issue of AQUANEWS, a number of CRSP participants have experienced excessively long delays in obtaining foreign travel approvals. In response, the Program Management Office is working to develop a fast and reliable electronic mail system that would link CRSP participants in the U.S. An account has been established with MCI, a private firm that offers a personal computer (PC) networking system. Each user will be assigned an electronic "mailbox" and will be able to send and receive messages through their PC equipped with micromodem. The only user charge will be \$1.00 for each transmitted message of 7500 characters or less. A trial run between the Program Management Office and Auburn University indicated that the system will meet our current needs. AID personnel are interested in joining the CRSP network, which should be fully operational this winter.

BULLETINS

- A meeting of the CRSP Research Team will be held this coming spring. Researchers will review accomplishments at each project site and will develop a standardized workplan for a second cycle of pond dynamics experiments.

- A reminder that research grant applications for the Program in Science and Technology Cooperation (PSTC) are reviewed only once a year, usually early in March. As described in the first issue of AQUANEWS, proposed PSTC projects can be strengthened by a linkage to the CRSP. Interested parties should contact the Office of the Science Advisor, AID/SCI, Room 311, SAI-16, Washington, D.C. 20523, (703) 235-3666.

- The First Annual Administrative Report of the Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP was completed in December 1983. The report addresses the management and technical accomplishments of the CRSP from 1 September 1982 through 31 August 1983.

- The Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP Directory will be updated this spring. CRSP participants should review the May 1983 directory and submit any corrections to the Program Management Office by 1 March 1984.

Program Manager James E. Lannan
Assistant Program Manager
and Newsletter Editor . . . Michele Leslie

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Mark O. Hatfield
Marine Science Center
Oregon State University
Newport, OR 97365