Aquaculture information sources for small-scale fish farmers: the case of Ghana

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May 5, 2010

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The Ghana ministry of fisheries and the ministry of Agriculture provide free extension services and other technical services to fish farmers in Ghana, e.g. producing fingerlings at government-operated fish hatcheries for sale to farmers. Non-governmental organizations and universities have also provided some technical assistance to fish farmers in efforts towards the development of aquaculture in Ghana. The study identified the various sources of aquaculture information to Ghanaian fish farmers and examined the factors that affected their decision to utilize these alternative sources of information. Using choice modeling techniques, the study found that the probability of farmers seeking information on aquaculture from the Ghana government increases with literacy by about 43% more than with illiteracy and by about 34% with an increase in total size of ponds. The probability that a literate farmer will choose to obtain aquaculture information from a non-governmental organization decreased by about 10% compared with an illiterate farmer. The probability of choosing ‘other sources’ for aquaculture information increased by about 27% for farmers residing in Ashanti region compared with farmers in the Brong-Ahafo region but the probability of farmers seeking information from ‘other sources’ decreased with literacy and number of years farming.

This abstract was excerpted from the original paper, which was in Aquaculture Research 40:1516-1522, 2009.