

aquacultureNEWS

In this issue of Aquaculture News we report on a wide variety of projects involving aquaculture in the developing world. The Institute has long been successfully involved in Asia, and current foci include Vietnam and Bangladesh, all countries where aquaculture in both freshwater and marine habitats has enormous potential. Projects now often involve several countries and numerous collaborators, such as the successful "Self-Recruiting Species in Aquaculture" study which looked at the role of those species in the livelihoods of the rural poor in five countries in South and South East Asia.

Some of the earliest overseas work by the Institute was in Africa, but aquaculture development in that continent has been constrained primarily by non-technical reasons. However, there are now signs that African aquaculture is really on the move and the Institute is once again involved, most interestingly perhaps in the development of fish culture in urban and peri-urban zones. We look forward to establishing new links with African colleagues to develop the important role aquaculture can play in that continent.

The Institute of course continues to expand its interests in UK and European aquaculture and in this issue you will find an account of a new project funded by the UK Research Councils Rural Economy and Land Use Programme which is investigating tilapia production within UK agricultural farms as a diversification strategy. This intriguing concept is being examined, not only from the point of view of fish production, but also from that of socio-economics and human health benefits. This involves a collaboration between the Institute, the Department of Marketing, and the Public Health Research Group at the University and is an example of the very welcome closer links being established between ourselves and other academic departments at Stirling.

I am sure that developments such as those described in this issue of Aquaculture News point the way for the Institute to expand into new fields to maintain our pre-eminence in aquaculture research and development.

PROFESSOR RANDOLPH RICHARDS

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- FRONT COVER: Freshwater aquaculture in Hai Duong Province close to Hanoi is booming. Policy changes more than ten years ago regarding use of land and increasing purchasing power of people living in and around Hanoi have stimulated grass carp-based polyculture, including other Chinese carps such as the bighead carp pictured here. The demand for larger fish by urbanites has led to production becoming multi-stage, with many people and communities benefiting as they specialise in food fish production, food fish marketing or trading of different sized juveniles. This fish is about to be transported live to the market. Cover photograph by Dave Little.

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