

A new partnership under the sun

Aquaculture for Africa - Unlocking the Potential

Giorgia Monti, Project Officer AFGRP

Catherine Lecouffe of the Systems Group explains ...

Lionel Dabbadie from CIRAD visited the IoA twice in June 2004 and January 2005 under the Large Scale Facility Scheme of the EC to work with the Aquaculture Systems and Development group of the IoA on the "Use of quality methods for assessing the sustainability of aquaculture research and development projects". This visit was also to promote cooperation in research, academic and educational exchanges between the University of Stirling and CIRAD. CIRAD is the key French research institute aiming at the rural development of tropical countries through research, trials and courses, mainly in agriculture, forestry and the food-industry. The aquaculture department is a small but focused research group within CIRAD.



Catherine Lecouffe and Lionel Dabbadie in front of Castle Campbell, January 2005

To further cement the relationship, Professor Lindsay Ross, Dr Dave Little and Catherine Lecouffe visited the CIRAD facilities and met the team from 11th until 13th of July 2005. This visit was supported by both CIRAD and the French Embassy in London. High on the agenda was sampling of French cuisine and wines of the region of Montpellier where CIRAD is based but also presentations by the two teams of the research ongoing in our respective institutes. There was a special focus on the Philippines due to the presence of Dr Pierre Morissens, who has been working in the Philippines for 8 years and because Lionel has recently been posted there. Researchers from IRD (French Research Institute for Development) also presented their work related to aquaculture.

The first IoA/CIRAD link will be through a case study on the potentials and constraints

of a Fairtrade certification scheme for shrimp farming in the Philippines, within the framework of Catherine's PhD. A short preliminary visit is to be made in early October 2005 to evaluate the possibility of applying the methodology used in her Bangladesh case study. This visit could lead to a further longer visit (4-6 months from April 2006) to be organised depending on the preliminary results. A proposal for funding under the Alliance 2005 programme (British Council) was submitted in early June 2005. This programme's goal is to support participation in seminars and academic meetings by funding travel of the different parties. The collaboration will focus on the "Impact of certification schemes on sustainable development and livelihoods of small-scale aquaculture producers in tropical countries" a common ground of interest of Lionel and Catherine. For the longer term, the CIRAD programme in the Philippines offers a good base for small case studies within the framework of undergraduate and/or postgraduate student theses.

Field research areas differ between CIRAD and IoA and the collaboration between IoA and CIRAD will allow the learning of methods from each other and permit the development of joint tools for poverty



(from left to right): Pierre Morissens, Jerome Lazard, Catherine Lecouffe, Lionel Dabbadie, Dave Little and Lindsay Ross, CIRAD, July 2005

alleviation in developing countries. Our collaboration will widen the scope for the dissemination of our respective findings in the field, not only through publications but also by positioning the two research institutes even more strongly on the European aquaculture research scene.



The 7th Conference of the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa was held 12th – 15th September 2005, at the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. Under the title 'Aquaculture for Africa - Unlocking the Potential' the conference aimed to promote more effective collaboration between the different stakeholders involved in the development of aquaculture throughout the Sub-Saharan African region. The event attracted over 200 participants from the private sector, research institutes and governmental agencies across Africa; South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Angola, Botswana and foreigner speakers from UK, USA, Hungary and Switzerland.

The DFID Aquaculture and Fish Genetics Research Programme sponsored a session on "Fair market development for African Aquaculture", with presentations from Prof. Jimmy Young (Department of Marketing) and Dr Krishen Rana (Institute of Aquaculture) of the University of Stirling and other speakers from Malawi and Ghana. The aim of the session was highlight aquaculture as an opportunity for poverty alleviation, both through production and consumption, promoting equitable market access for producers and affordable market prices and choices for consumers. The session highlighted the crucial importance of considering the market perspective to unlock the potential of aquaculture in Africa and also looked more widely at the way aquaculture can fit into the broader development framework for Africa approved by NEPAD in Abuja in August.

Pictured, left to right, are contributors to the 'Fair Market Access' session: Giorgia Monti, Leslie Ter Morshuizen (Aquaculture Innovations, SA), Emmanuel Kuanda (University of Malawi, Bunda College, Lilongwe, Malawi), Krishen Rana, Jimmy Young, Steve Amisah (Department of Fisheries and Watershed Management, University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana) and Pete Britz (Chairman of Organising Committee, Department of Ichthyology & Fisheries Science, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, SA).