

INFORMATION DIVISION OF SEAFDEC AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the main functions of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) is to disseminate and exchange information on aquaculture. Its two other functions are to promote and undertake aquaculture research and to develop human resources for aquaculture development. The information functions is discharged by AQD's Information Division created in November 1986, integrating various AQD units handling information-based services.

Before the Information Division was created, the then Training and Extension Division (now Training Division) handled dissemination of aquaculture technology to fish farmers through outreach seminars. Library and documentation activities, including implementation of the Brackishwater Aquaculture Information System (BRAIS) Project, was under the operational control of the Office of the Chief, and then later, the Training and Extension Division. The then Research Information Services Unit, under the Research Division, processed, stored, and retrieved AQD research data. The former Publications Office was a unit under the Office of the Chief and then later placed under the Training and Extension Division which also directly related with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia (NACA) Regional Lead Center in the Philippines in the area of information activities, particularly the FAO Aquaculture Information System (AQUIS). Briefing of visitors and distribution of information materials to guests were handled by the then General Affairs Office of the Administration Division. All these information-based services and activities are now being implemented by the Information Division.

2. FUNCTIONS OF THE INFORMATION DIVISION

The Division acquires, processes, and disseminates information on tropical aquaculture. This includes relevant information on breeding, feed development, fish health, and farming systems of aquaculture species such as finfishes, crustaceans, molluscs, and seaweeds. Research results including processed research data, are stored in a data bank.

The Division disseminates technologies developed at AOD to fish farmers through outreach seminars, lectures, and the print media. It produces techno-packages and assesses their utilization. It implements the Brackishwater Aquaculture Information System (BRAIS) Project, with funding support from IDRC. It also implements the Aquaculture Technology Outreach Program (ATOP) with financial assistance from the Philippine Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC). In January 1989, the implementation of ATOP activities was being evaluated. (Separate documents on BRAIS and ATOP have been prepared for this seminar).

3. PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES

Under the Information Division are three Sections, namely, Documentation, Techno-Transfer, and Publications.

3.1. Documentation Section

Total AOD Library acquisition at present is 8,688 monographic volumes, 4,531 pamphlets, 1,780 SEAFDEC publications, and 3,346 journal volumes. Operational since 1984, the three-year BRAIS Project has been extended for two years until April 2, 1989. BRAIS has published the Brackishwater Aquaculture Abstracts; Special Bibliographies on prawn, milkfish, mussels, mud crab, sea bass, and grouper; State-of-the-Art Reviews on siganids and prawns; and the BRAIS Newsletter. It will soon publish Directories of Aquaculture Scientists/Experts and Aquaculture Institutions. The ongoing survey of BRAIS utilization seeks to assess the importance of BRAIS to users of brackishwater aquaculture information. The BRAIS Clearinghouse Service is fully operational to serve the need for aquaculture information at the regional and international levels. BRAIS was spawned from the Library's AQUADOC Project which aimed to locate, collect documents, organize and disseminate pertinent information to the clientele; and to provide a mechanism for national cooperation among libraries and information centers in the field of aquaculture.

3.2 Techno-Transfer Section

From its inception in November 1986 until 1988, the Section has conducted aquaculture outreach seminars and lectures through the *Alay Palaisdaan* project in ten regions of the Philippines, involving 28 sessions and benefitting more than 1,200 small fish farmers. The seminars were conducted in coordination with the regional offices of the Department of Agriculture (DA) with funding assistance from TLRC. Through the Section, AQD also participates in agro-industrial caravans and fairs organized by DA.

3.3 Publications Section

The following information materials have been published by AQD through the Publications Section: 10 extension manuals, 5 aquaculture technology modules, 13 technical reports, 5 volumes of quarterly research reports, a quarterly newsletter that carries aquaculture research and industry development information, a bi-monthly news service for fish farmers and extension workers, posters on prawns, various proceedings and brochures, and compilations of research publications previously published in scientific journals or edited proceedings, authored by AQD researchers and visiting scientists.

4. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Through the Information Division, AQD regularly contributes to the SEAFDEC Newsletter published by the SEAFDEC Secretariat. Exchange of information at the national, regional, and international levels is carried out via document exchange programs, the Library's Clearinghouse Service, the BRAIS networking activities, and ATDP activities.

As an attached agency of DA, AQD relates closely with DA central and regional offices and other units and contributes to the publication of DA's *UNLAD-ANI* Magazine, participates in the newly organized EDP Circle of DA, and coordinates with DA on the implementation of its Agriculture Information Network (AGRIN).

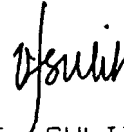
AQD serves as the Lead Center for the BRAIS network. At one time, it has also served as Lead Center for AQUIS which has not been operational since 1985.

5. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Information Division will intensify document acquisition and processing, continue computerizing collections, and pursue information networking activities. Exchange of information will continue to be undertaken at the national regional, and international levels.

The Division will continue the aquaculture outreach seminars and assess dissemination effectiveness of technologies and information materials on small fish farmers. To further serve the information needs of fish farmers, more techno-packages will be produced from significant research results at AQD. These techno-packages will take the form of manuals, pamphlets, leaflets, technical reports, video coursewares, and correspondence coursewares.

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AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH PROGRAM

1. INTRODUCTION

The Aquaculture Technology Outreach Program (ATOP) is a joint undertaking of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) and the Aquaculture Department (AQD) of SEAFDEC. The Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of ATOP was signed on May 4, 1987 by *Mr. Jose M. Kalaw, Jr.*, TLRC Director General for TLRC, and *Dr. Veravat Hongkul*, SEAFDEC Secretary-General for SEAFDEC and AQD. The program was however, launched only upon the signing of the Supplemental Agreement by *Mr. Kalaw* and *Dr. F.J. Lacanilao*, AQD Chief on July 4, 1987.

ATOP was conceived to come up with the following outputs: technology communication materials for all forms of media; technology publications, correspondence, films and video; trainings/seminars/forums/workshops; information management and data banking activities; and financing program for aquaculture technology livelihood projects. More specifically, ATOP seeks to hasten countryside development in aquaculture through a series of seminars, and production of manuals, pamphlets, leaflets, and audio-visual materials on fishfarming techniques.

2. ATOP ACTIVITIES

ATOP comprises four major activities, namely: Technology Training, Technology Publications, Technology Films and Video, and Technology Correspondence Course.

2.1 Technology Training

2.1.1 *Outreach Seminars for Small Fish Farmers Also Known as ALAY PALAISDAAN*

Alay Palaisdaan is a series of aquaculture outreach seminars for the small fish farmers. It seeks to bring the benefits of modern and improved aquaculture technologies to the countryside through on-the-spot farm consultations, lectures, and informal discussions with the fish farmers.

The project was formally launched on February 17, 1988 in coordination with the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA). Aquaculture outreach seminars were conducted in ten regions throughout the Philippines, involving 28 sessions and benefitting more than 1,200 small fish farmers.

2.1.2 Aquabusiness Seminars

These seminar courses, conducted in Metro Manila, were addressed to big business and development workers already engaged in, or intending to go into fish or prawn culture.

From July 1987 to May 1988, ten seminar sessions were conducted on the following topics: Prawn Hatchery and Nursery Operations, Prawn Culture (Grow-Out) and Management, Marine Finfish Hatchery, and Freshwater Aquaculture.

2.2 Technology Publication

This activity aims to disseminate technologies to the target audience in simple language, to facilitate their widespread adoption. Three kinds of publications will be produced, namely: manuals, pamphlets, and leaflets.

As of December 1988, three manuals were scheduled for production, while two pamphlets and five leaflets were being readied for publication.

2.3 Technology Films and Video

This activity involves recording a complete training course (maximum of 15 hours) in a video tape. The lecture of the resource person(s) shall be recorded in a tape together with some background footage on specific aquaculture activity.

Five video coursewares are scheduled for production in February 1989, while another five are tentatively scheduled for production in July 1989.

2.4 Technology Correspondence Course

This is a training program that uses the postal communications system in the transfer of technology and livelihood skills to entrepreneurs, farmers, workers, and other users. Training materials are self-instructional and self-contained.

Production of the initial five coursewares were finalized. Each courseware consists of modules, the first of which is an introductory module. This module covers a brief introduction of a courseware, learning objectives, and industry study. Each module is subdivided into lessons which contain self-testers and answers to self-testers.

3. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of ATOP activities was being assessed in January 1989 as part of the project's evaluation process. Results of the evaluation will be used as basis for the possible revision of forthcoming ATOP activities.

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