

Fishing for Information Panel

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Fisheries Information Users in Bangladesh

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Abstract

Information is generally stored and preserved for the purpose of making it available whenever and wherever it is needed. Fisheries Information plays a vital role in fisheries research and development in Bangladesh. It is an important and valuable resource and affects societal development (Hanif 2005). Users need information in specific contexts. Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) has established a Library and Documentation Centre (FRILDOC) to disseminate fisheries information to users. It has vast information resources on fish and fisheries including books, journals, reports, extension manuals, dissertations, conference proceedings and e-resources. Most of the fisheries information users in Bangladesh use FRILDOC. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, Agricultural Research Institutes, teachers and students of fishery-related universities, researchers, policy makers, extension workers, farmers and private entrepreneurs are the main users of this information in Bangladesh. BFRI recently participated in the Aquatic Commons project of IAMSLIC (International Association of Aquatic and Marine Sciences libraries and Documentation Centers). Facilities provided by the Aquatic Commons Digital Repository are very useful to the users. BFRI always tries to enhance the flow of information to the users. The fisheries information users of Bangladesh also eager to become familiar with technology and information generated by Southeast Asian aquaculture and fisheries scientists through BFRI. This manuscript describes the fish and fisheries related information users of Bangladesh, i.e. educators, researchers, training specialists, and NGOs and private entrepreneurs, who are responsible for fish production.

Keywords: Aquaculture, fisheries, information centers, libraries, Bangladesh, fisheries in Bangladesh.

Introduction

Fisheries in Bangladesh are very important in the economy of the country in terms of nutrition, income generation, and foreign exchange. Fisheries in Bangladesh are diverse; there are about

795 native species of fish and shrimp in the fresh and marine waters of Bangladesh and 12 exotic species that have been introduced. In addition, there are 10 species of pearl bearing bivalves, 12 species of edible tortoise and turtle, 15 species of crab and 3 species of lobster. About twelve million people are directly associated with the fisheries sector, and of those 1.4 million people depend on fisheries related activities (Shah 2003). In Bangladesh aquacultural and fisheries activities are generally managed by male members of the family. Recently women have been encouraged to participate in fish production and processing through the motivation of GOs and NGO workers and some private entrepreneurs. During 1982-2014 fish production increased from 0.75 million metric tons to 3.55 million mt as a result of technologies and dissemination (DoF 2014) Now Bangladesh is the fourth major inland fish producing country in the world (FAO, 2014). The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) and the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) are the main organizations responsible for aquaculture and its development. Different universities, organizations within other ministries and local and international NGOs are also involved.

Fisheries Information Users in Bangladesh

Day by day the number of fisheries information users in Bangladesh has been increasing. Information on fisheries plays a vital role in fisheries research and development in the country. The main fisheries information users are Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL); Department of Fisheries (DoF); Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC); Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI); Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC); Faculty of Fisheries, Bangladesh Agricultural University; Department of Fisheries, University of Dhaka; Institute of Marine Biology, University of Chittagong; Department of Fisheries, University of Rajshahi; Marine Fisheries Academy, Chittagong; Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline, University of Khulna; Faculty of Fisheries, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University; Faculty of Fisheries, Chittagong Veterinary & Animal Science University; Faculty of Fisheries, Sylhet Agricultural University; Agricultural Research Institutes (ARIS); private entrepreneurs; and fish farmers.

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI)

Fish and fisheries are an integral part of the culture and heritage of Bangladesh. This sector plays a significant role in nutrition, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. Keeping in view the immense potential of the sector in providing better nutrition and job opportunities, particularly to the poorest of the poor, and the urgency for optimum scientific utilization of the aquatic heritage, the President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh was pleased to promulgate an Ordinance entitled "The Fisheries Research Institute Ordinance, 1984" on 11 July 1984. In pursuance of this Ordinance, the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) was established in July 1984. In 1997, the FRI has been renamed as Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) through the amendment of the 1984 Ordinance (BFRI, 1997). It has five stations in five agro-ecological zones and five sub-stations, respectively. The stations of the Institute are Freshwater Station (FS), Mymensingh; Riverine Station (RS), Chandpur; Brackishwater Station (BS), Paikgacha, Khulna; Marine Fisheries and Technology Station (MFTS), Cox's Bazar; Shrimp Research Station (SRS), Bagerhat. The sub-stations of the Institute are Sub-Station (RS), Rangamati; Sub-Station (FS), Santaher; Sub-Station (FS), Jessore; Sub-Station (FS), Khapupara;

Sub-Station (FS), Sayedpur. BFRI developed more than 40 improved aquaculture, biotechnological and fisheries management technologies so far (BFRI, 2015). Developed technologies have played a vital role in increasing fish production and poverty alleviation.

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (FRILDOC)

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute has established a Library and Documentation Centre (FRILDOC) at its headquarters because of the need to set up a formal system for documentation of all technical information in the field of fisheries research and development in Bangladesh. FRILDOC acts as a repository of literature and technical information and provides latest information on scientific research and experimental development in all branches of fish and fisheries. Most of the FRILDOC collection covers the subjects aquaculture, brackish water aquaculture, marine culture, marine science, biology, ecology, environmental science, agriculture, life sciences, sea weeds, plankton, food processing, feeds, zoology, botany, geography, economics, marketing, geology, socioeconomics and rural development.

FRILDOC acts as a central library for different stations. There are also five libraries in five stations. The library of Riverine Station (RS) contains 2,500 volumes of technical and general books, 3,000 volumes of different research reports and working documents. The library of Marine Fisheries Technology Station (MFTS) contains 975 scientific journals, reference books related to fisheries, research reports and other books. About 488 technical reports, scientific journals and different research reports are available in the library of Brackish Water Station (BS) and 2,800 volumes of technical and general books are available in the library of the Shrimp Research Station (SRS). FRILDOC is operating in a fully automated environment. The various activities of the centre have been computerized using Library Management Information System (LMIS) software.

The total collection of FRILDOC includes 10,326 technical and general books; 175 scientific periodicals; 5,078 scientific reprints; 500 theses; 76 Annual Reports; and ASFA DVDs up to 2015. The following are Special Collections: national publications; Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock publications; Department of Fisheries Publications; Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) publications; Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) publications; Agricultural Research Institutes (ARIs) publications; Bangladesh Agricultural University publications; Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) publications; and Government of Bangladesh (GOBs) publications. FRILDOC also includes international publications from the following organizations: WorldFish; FAO Fisheries Aquaculture Department; Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP); Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC); INFOFISH; NACA; World Bank; Center Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute, India (CICFRI); and the Center Marine Fisheries Research Institute, India (CMFRI).

FRILDOC provides the following services: bibliographical; abstracting; SDI (Selective Dissemination Information); document delivery; current awareness; monthly accession list of books; monthly list of newspaper articles on fisheries; and digital library service (BFRI in Aquatic Commons digital repository (<http://aquaticcommons.org/>)).

FRILDOC maintains exchange programs with more than 60 leading national and international institutes/organizations. The main national organizations are the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), other fishery related universities, Agricultural research institutes (ARIs), Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD), and local NGOs (BRAC, Proshika, PKSF, TMSS). In addition we also maintain exchange programs with the following International organizations: World Fish Center; FAO Fisheries Aquaculture Department; Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP); Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC); Center Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI), India; Center Marine Fisheries Research Institute, India (CMFRI); SAARC Agricultural Centre (SAC); INFOFISH; and NACA .

BFRI Publications

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute gives special value to publications and documentation of aquaculture technologies for wider adaptation. The Institute from time to time publishes research findings, annual reports, newsletters, journals, directories, research reports, proceedings of conferences, seminars and workshops, training manuals, extension materials, booklets, leaflets and posters. The BFRI publications are available in the FRILDOC Library and Documentation of the Institute (FRILDOC) is creating a primary database in this regard. It is important to continue to disseminate the information from the database to farmers and to stimulate discussion on how to improve performance. The channel will be through researchers, extension workers and other appropriate intermediaries. Besides research-based publications, Institute scientists always publish research findings in national and international journals for dissemination of research results to the wider scientific community.

The main BFRI publications are Fisheries Newsletter (HY), Bangladesh Journal of Fisheries Research (HY), research reports (75), proceedings (45), training manuals (25), extension manuals (23), extension leaflets (84), posters (27) and others (170).

Conclusion

Much more information flow is needed for fisheries information users. Further enrichment of the Aquatic Commons digital repository will help our users. A regional, especially Southeast Asian, aquaculture repository should be established.

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Figure 1. Fishing in Bangladesh.



Figure 2. Users Working in FRILDOC.