

Foreword

Commonwealth Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development have consistently called for greater attention towards the development of aquaculture as a means of augmenting marine fisheries production and as a source of protein, especially in areas of poor accessibility.

The Commonwealth Consultative Workshop on Village Level Aquaculture Development in Africa held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, 14-20 February 1985, set out to address some of the problems encountered and to identify solutions in mitigating the slow progress of village level aquaculture in Africa.

Some of the constraints which face aquaculture development include the inadequate provision of resources for technology development and transfer, the slow adaptation to existing socio-economic conditions, and the slow rates of adoption and application of new technologies due to inadequate support services for extension personnel. These services include the provision of fish farming gear, transportation, and credit facilities to farmers.

The consultation was held with the support and co-operation of the Government of Sierra Leone and that of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Aquaculture Development and Co-ordination Programme, the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) and private consultants.

The Commonwealth Secretariat extends its gratitude to the Government of Sierra Leone for hosting the consultation and for the tireless effort of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, especially the Acting Chief Fisheries Officer and his members of staff for all of their support without which the programme would not have been a success.

Thanks are also due to all participants whose first-hand knowledge of events in the field gave insight into the constraints field workers are faced with. Special thanks are due to all those individuals who contributed excellent papers and discussion topics, which formed the basis of the consultation.

These papers have been edited by Ms. H. R. King and Dr. K. H. Ibrahim, to whom I am grateful.

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