Agriculture in Africa – an effective route out of poverty?
An APGOOD / DFID / ODI Meeting Series

Wed 14th Dec 2005

Nature, wealth and power: Natural resources, growth and poverty reduction

THE CASE OF FISHERIES

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Outline

1. IDDRA Ltd
2. Objective
3. Contribution of fisheries to global development
4. Fisheries and poverty
5. Fisheries and pro-poor growth
6. Key issues and trends
7. Responses and actions
1. IDDRA Ltd

1) Small, independent research organisation;
2) Offices in Portsmouth and Montpellier;
3) Focus on policy, economics and fisheries management;
4) Working in Africa and Asia for various international agencies and some domestic clients;
5) Advisory role, capacity-building and evaluation (action research)
2. Objective

To provide an overview of world fisheries and the factors which affect the contribution of this sector to development.
3. Contribution of fisheries to global development

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Production</th>
<th>126 million tonnes fish (US $125 billion)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>150 million (fishers and others)</td>
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<td>Food</td>
<td>60% people in DC’s – fish provides 30% animal protein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Fish products (US $80 billion); Access fees, services (US $ millions)</td>
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<td>Fishing nations</td>
<td>China, Peru, Indonesia, Chile, India</td>
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4. Fisheries and poverty

Accepted truth
‘...fisheries is a source of income for over 100 million people, about 80% are poor’ (World Bank, 1992); fisheries synonymous with poverty in LDCs;

Reality:
Many fisheries are capable of generating large amounts of wealth which can be used in different ways; some actors tend to have more access to this wealth than others;

Question:
Can fisheries make a greater contribution to development and poverty reduction?
5. Pro-poor growth from natural resources? (Steele, 2004)
6. Key issues and trends

1. Fisheries resources are difficult to manage (over 50% overexploitation);
2. Open and free access conditions prevail in many fisheries; (IUU, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing);
3. In weak economies, fisheries and other CPR are a source of livelihoods and safety-net for poor;
4. Low level of government attention is common (fisheries undervalued);
5. Low investment in new management systems is common (low capacity for change and adaptation);
6. In weak States, good opportunities for rent-seeking and ‘privatisation’;
7. ‘Mining’ of fisheries, lost opportunity for investment of renewable natural capital in development;
7. Responses and actions

1. Fisheries can be managed successfully!


2. Ownership and property rights need to be in place (appropriate institutions and legal framework);


3. Poverty problems in fisheries often have non-fisheries causes which must be dealt with; (economic growth and diversification)

4. Greater awareness, understanding and political support for fisheries must be established;
   **Action**: Fisheries as part of the NEPAD Process 2005 (Cunningham et al., 2004; Neiland et al. 2005);

5. Investment is needed to underpin changes in fisheries management approaches (to increase capacity; reform structures and processes; and cover transition costs);
   **Action**: Planning and consensus-building for the development of the new Uganda Fisheries Authority (UFA) (Neiland, 2005);

6. Fisheries governance (relations between actors) must be addressed
   **Action**: In Mauritania and Senegal, capacity-building and institutional development in both the public and private sectors has increased effective participation in the fisheries management process at national and international levels (Cunningham / Catanzano, pers comm.)
7. Greater information flows and advocacy concerning new approaches to fisheries management and development to relevant actors and decision-makers within the policy process;

Action: DFID Project on Fisheries and Pro-Poor Growth, dissemination of key-sheet to policy-makers (Cunningham and Neiland, 2005)
• References

• Cunningham et al. (2005) Review of Marine Fisheries in Africa. NEPAD.
• Neiland et al. (2005) Review of Inland Fisheries in Africa. NEPAD.