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AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SISTAN BALUCHESTAN

NEW TRENDS IN AQUACULTURE - SECTOR STRATEGY APPROACH STAKEHOLDERS/EXPERTS CONSULTATION

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The consultation held during the seminary NEW TRENDS IN AQUACULTURE - SECTOR STRATEGY APPROACH remarks the positive approaches obtained up till now by the project financed by the Italian cooperation.

Development programmes contribute to social and economical improvement. The combination of Iranian raw materials, human resources and Italian know-how and expertise can be mutually beneficial to both sides.

In this context it is crucial to support the civil society and the economic sectors, promoting projects and investing in local human resources, considering that the appropriate economic activities are strictly connected to development programmes.

Italian Cooperation, UNDP, SHILAT IFO and CIRSPE are managing the Aquaculture Development Project in Sistan Baluchestan Province since may 2005, with the target to contribute to the reduction of social imbalance, raising the income level of the local populations and communities, through the reinforcement and dissemination of aquaculture.

In Sistan Baluchestan Province there are interesting prospects for the development of this sector, but along with the potential recognised by the main office, which continues to invest on structures and equipments, there are clear problems of growth and consolidation, strictly connected to evident limitations in terms of technology, service and marketing.

In the area of Zabol near the border with Afghanistan, there are aquaculture facilities run at small scale rural level for the culture of trout and carp that show production limitation connected to the fingerlings supply, that prevents these families enterprises from properly planning their activities, moreover constraints related to cashflow and marketing, must be highlighted.

In this situation the water conflict between Iran and Afghanistan (Hamun lake) is another element of social and economic instability.

In the south of the Province a large facility for the shrimps raising has been constructed near the location of Gowater, roughly 110 km to the east of the city of Chabahar, where private farmers rear shrimps for export according to business-based strategies.

The project intends to reinforce aquaculture activities both in terms of production/technology and economic results; in order to raise the socio-economic level of the groups and populations involved.

The seminar points out the following opportunities, constraints and strategies:

A) Opportunities

The main aquaculture opportunities in Sistan Baluchestan are the following:

- 1) Importance to develop small scale freshwater aquaculture in rural area of Zabol
- 2) Planning of freshwater fishery according to an ecological and responsible approach
- 3) Consolidation of shrimp rearing activities in Chabahar site

B) Constrains

The seminar identifies these main constrains related to the above sector opportunitites:

Freshwater sector

- 1) cash flow for the rural aquaculturists
- 2) high quality seeds for rearing
- 3) permanent technical indications/assistance
- 4) marketing approach

Freshwater fishery

- 5) lack of ecological and biological data

Shrimp sector

- 6) Need to increase PL production in Chabahar site
- 7) Strategy to reduce production cost (ex nursery approach)
- 8) Cash flow for shrimp farmers
- 9) Permanent technical indication assistance
- 10) Disease control
- 11) Marketing constrains

D) Strategies

According to the above constrains the seminary indicates the following stategies for future proposals:

- 1) Development of microcredit promotion by Iranian Institution and International Donors
- 2) Improvement of Zahak hatchery in order to produce high quality fringerlings (20 gr)
- 3) Support to the fishermen by microcredit to collect data
- 4) Bank support/credit for shrimp hatchery rehabilitation, new construction and management
- 5) New definition of the extension service in shrimp rearing and fresh water
- 6) Rearing protocols/manuals for farmers
- 7) Marketing approach