

---

## 2. Highlights of Program Activities

### Regional Plans

In order to broaden the CRSPs sphere of relevance, CRSP project researchers this year developed preliminary regional plans detailing activities for the next five years for each region in which the CRSP is active—Central America, South America, East Africa, and Southeast Asia. Regional plans are conceptualized as a means to establish a shared vision for all actors in the region and to ensure integration of CRSP research efforts and research support activities.

After discussions at the February 1997 Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, prime site Principal Investigators developed and submitted draft regional plans to the Program Management Office (PMO). The CRSP Board of Directors and the External Evaluation Panel reviewed the draft plans to ensure that they met a set of minimum requirements (these included items such as identification of region; regional objectives; cross-cutting research integration; regional research needs; institutional strengthening; implementation/plan of action; and impact indicators). After review by the Program Director, the draft plans were accepted with contingencies. The PMO collected these preliminary plans into a Working Paper on Regional Plans to provide a starting point for initiating regional activities. The draft Regional Plans will continue to evolve through an iterative process as more regional players and stakeholders are identified and included in CRSP planning activities. The next Annual Meeting in February 1998 will present an opportunity for Principal Investigators to further refine regionalization strategies.

### Impact Indicators

The results framework of the PD/A CRSP *Continuation Plan 1996-2001* provided the basis for the design of impact indicators which were developed jointly by principal investigators and the PMO. These quantifiable characteristics or results of PD/A CRSP research activities are part of all project subcontracts. Principal investigators are required to collect the necessary information and report results to the PMO.

Starting in July of this year, a review of impact indicators was conducted to determine whether they adequately reflect and record project impact. An advisor to the program with expertise in project monitoring has been working with researchers directly to help them identify and formulate indicators for their project sub-contracts that measure impact (rather than output). Several researchers have already made changes to their indicators and are in the process of having these accepted through the PMO. This process is still on-going. The end result is that the program will have a much better framework for determining project impact.

### Philippines Prime Site Request for Proposals

Under previous grants, the Philippines served as a companion site to the prime Southeast Asia site in Thailand. *The Continuation Plan 1996-2001* identified the Philippines as a potential prime site. On 1 April 1997, the Management Entity

released a restricted Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Lead Institution of the PD/A CRSP Philippines Project with a deadline for submissions of 5 May 1997. The RFP was developed with input from the CRSPs three advisory groups. The RFP elicited two proposals, which were sent out for review by the ME to three external and two internal reviewers. The reviewers' evaluations were then distributed to the Board of Directors and External Evaluation Panel for a recommendation. Finding the reviews to be inconclusive, the ME elected to reopen the RFP. On 30 June 1997, the RFP was reopened with a new deadline for submissions of 1 October 1997.

## **Ninth Work Plan Request for Proposals**

**O**n June 8, 1997, the ME issued a restricted RFP for the Ninth Work Plan for CRSP research to be carried out in the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2000. The RFP was developed with input from the CRSPs three advisory groups and invited proposals for regional work plans, cross-cutting research work plans, and work plans for specific research support activities. The deadline for submissions was 1 October 1997.

## **Publication of "Dynamics of Pond Aquaculture"**

**T**his reporting period saw the publication of the new multi-authored book entitled, "Dynamics of Pond Aquaculture," published by CRC Press/Lewis Publishers. This new collection, which approaches aquaculture production as part of the larger agroecosystem, was edited by CRSP Director Hillary Egna and CRSP Principal Investigator Claude Boyd. Director Egna also wrote two of the book's 16 chapters. A great number of CRSP researchers were contributors to this effort. A sampling of reviews received by the manuscript demonstrates the relevance and timeliness of this new text: "A state-of-the-art study of aquacultural research" and "Theory, practice, the latest techniques, and human factors—all covered in this complete reference."

## **InterCRSP Activity**

**I**nterCRSP activity during the reporting period involved progress toward implementing a West Africa Natural Resources Management InterCRSP project that brings together seven CRSPs, the PD/A CRSP among them, and nine African countries. Six proposals were received in response to a Request for Proposals, and four of these were reviewed favorably enough to receive funding. PD/A CRSP Director Hillary Egna served as one of the reviewers. A University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff researcher, Pierre-Justin Kouka, represents the PD/A CRSP in InterCRSP efforts in Cape Verde, The Gambia, Mali, and Senegal, which are presently focusing on reversing soil acidification, loss of organic matter, reducing the effect of runoff on food production systems, and economic analysis.