

## 4.3 Information Management

The Information Management and Networking Component (IMNC), the research support component that works most closely with the Program Management Office (PMO), performs critical organizational roles related to information. IMNC is charged not only with the dissemination of technical and programmatic information, but also with the collection and analysis of impact information. This component also facilitates electronic and face-to-face networking. IMNC works in very close collaboration with the PMO. This chapter focuses on the activities of the IMNC itself. Networking activities of the program, as reported to by program researchers to the IMNC, are presented in Chapter 4.4.

Since this first year of the *Continuation Plan 1996-2001* was also the first year of the IMNC component, project staff last fall participated in an iterative process to develop a component mission statement and strategic plan. Those meetings yielded a detailed annual calendar of publications and other milestones aimed to focus staff resources and to meet reporting deadlines imposed by the terms of the program grant as well as by the CRSPs own priorities and objectives. The IMNC mission statement is:

To increase awareness and visibility of the PD/A CRSP by publishing and providing accessible technical and programmatic information, to monitor and report CRSP impact, and to foster networking among persons involved in aquaculture.

Objectives are to:

- Identify target audiences for publications;
- Disseminate technical and programmatic information generated by the CRSP by providing appropriate materials and avenues;
- Track outputs of CRSP investigations;
- Promote networking of CRSP participants with aquaculturists around the world.

During the reporting year, IMNC staff conducted a thorough overhaul of the program's mailing list database, which now numbers over 850 entries from 56 countries. After establishing a set of name and address conventions, each entry was individually reviewed and brought up to the standard. Next, staff developed a brief survey questionnaire whose purpose included: 1) to determine what type of readership received program mailings (some options were student, researcher, and producer); 2) to confirm that readers continued to be interested in receiving program information; 3) to verify name and address information; 4) to inform readers that most program information, including *Aquanews*, was available in electronic format via the program World Wide Web site.

With the July distribution of the Summer issue of the program newsletter, *Aquanews*, readers also received the survey. The high ratio of mailings to responses suggests that responses are not representative of the group. The overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that they were researchers who wished to continue to receive program publications. Whether researchers who like *Aquanews* are more likely to respond to questionnaires than are other types of readers who do not is a likely confounding variable.

In addition to maintaining a detailed inventory of PD/A CRSP publications, IMNC staff also began tracking publication circulation and distribution during this reporting period in an effort to better gauge what areas of research are of highest interest to the constituency who requests program materials. Since this tracking system is new, no significant trends are yet apparent.

## World Wide Web

In 1995 the CRSP IMNC brought a WWW homepage on-line. Internet users linking to this site have access to information relating to study sites, software, and publications (available in both html and Acrobat formats). Users are also able to place publication orders or other requests for information directly to an electronic mail account at OSU. The site, located at <http://www.orst.edu/dept/crsp/homepage.html>, also contains numerous options for linking to other existing aquaculture sites on the Internet.

Enhancements to the information content of the web site during the reporting period include new pages relating to research site descriptions and a new directory of PD/A CRSP Principal Investigators. Technological improvements include: installation of visitation tracking devices on major pages of the PD/A CRSP web site; development of a more user friendly, online publications order form; and web site redesign to cater better to the broad range of computer hardware and browser types and enhance search engine access. There was also close collaboration with PD/A CRSP Central Database project staff on the design of a web-based, searchable publications database and on the integration of web-based publications, site-information and experimental data. Access to program documents and other information by CRSP researchers at all sites expedites and facilitates discussion of information and cohesion among participants that are geographically disperse.

## CRSP Publications

A 10-year bibliography of CRSP researcher publications appears in Appendix B.

This reporting period saw the actual finished product 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 chapter contributors to this effort. Individual author and chapter citations appear in Chapter 4.4 in "CRSP Contributions to Scholarly Publishing."

During the reporting period, IMNC assisted with the production and distribution of the publications noted below.

PD/A CRSP USAID Grant Document, 1 August 1996 through 31 July 2001.

CRSP Working Paper on Regional Plans. July 1997. 26 pp.

PD/A CRSP Data Report, v. 1, General Reference: Site Descriptions, 2nd. ed.  
Bowman, J. ed. 1996. Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program. Office of International Research and Development, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. 74 pp.

Fourteenth Annual Administrative Report  
Clair, D., B. Goetze, D. Burke, M. McNamara, and H. Egna, eds. 1996. Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program. Office of International Research and Development, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. 94 pp.

Fourteenth Annual Technical Report  
Burke, D., B. Goetze, D. Clair, Egna, H., eds. 1996. Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program. Office of International Research and Development, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. 192 pp.

#### Eighth Work Plan

This document describes the standardized set of experiments to be undertaken by the CRSP during the period 1 August 1996 through 31 July 1998. Printed Summer 1997, 172pp.

CRSP Participant Directory, published December 1996 and July 1997.

CRSP List of Publications and Order Form, published December 1996 and July 1997.

#### CRSP Research Reports

This is an in-house publication series which includes Notices of Publication. The following Research Reports were issued in the last year:

- 96-97 Effect of stocking ratio on semi-intensive polyculture of *Colossoma macropomum* and *Oreochromis niloticus* in Honduras, Central America. (11/96)
- 96-98 Texture and chemical composition of soils from shrimp ponds near Choluteca, Honduras. (11/96)
- 97-99 Institutional requirements for aquacultural development in Africa: Lessons from Rwanda. (1/97)
- 97-100 Estimating *Oreochromis nilotica* production function for small-scale fish culture in Rwanda. (1/97)
- 97-101 Phosphorus fertilization strategy in fish ponds based on sediment phosphorus saturation level. (1/97)
- 97-102 Polyculture of tilapia with marine shrimp. (1/97)
- 97-103 Timing of supplemental feeding for tilapia production. (4/97)
- 97-104 Optimal resource allocation by fish farmers in Rwanda. (4/97)
- 97-105 Observations and model predictions of daily areal primary production in a eutrophic brackish water culture pond. (4/97)

- 97-106 Comparison of three mixing devices in earthen culture ponds of four different surface areas. (4/97)
- 97-107 Inclusion of tilapia as a diversification strategy for penaeid shrimp culture. (5/97)
- 97-108 Semi-intensive shrimp pond management and quality of effluents. (5/97)
- 97-109 The Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP-sponsored proceedings of the third conference on the culture of tilapias at high elevations in Africa. (6/97)
- 97-110 The CRSPs: International collaborative research support programs. (6/97)

## Impact Monitoring

During year one of the *Continuation Plan 1996-2001*, impact indicators for project monitoring were developed for each project activity. These were jointly developed by IMNC staff and researchers. These indicators are listed in each subcontract and were arrived at in discussions between researchers and IMNC.

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 IMNC project 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). In cases where baseline data is not available, there may be a need to expand the scope of data collection or make changes. 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.

In addition to these formal impact indicators, IMNC staff developed an impact form which is designed to capture researcher activities related to items such as:

- Institution building (contacts with host country scientists, government officials, extension, agents, farmer organizations, farmers, non-governmental organizations)
- New host country involvement
- Physical support for host country institutions (i.e., pond renovation)
- Linkage development (with USAID missions, regional institutions, etc.)
- Conferences attended
- Seminars, presentations, and or workshops given
- Electronic linkages
- Publications
- Theses
- Informational material developed

These forms are requested on a quarterly basis and allow the IMNC to monitor and track progress in the areas of outreach, public service and professional development.

Chapter 10 provides an encapsulation of information contained in impact reports submitted by researchers during this reporting period.

## Program Promotion

**I**MNC also develops displays for use at aquaculture and other, more general, academic conferences and exhibits. One example of this is an annual event at Oregon State University called University Days. This event is an opportunity for new faculty to become acquainted with campus programs. The CRSP takes advantage of University Days to showcase the program and to inform new potential collaborators about program activities on campus, throughout the US, and abroad.