4. Research Support

Preparation of the *Continuation Plan 1996-2001* entailed a review of current aquaculture literature and discussions with many aquaculturists to determine research needs and constraints to aquaculture development. In addition to limited knowledge of various aspects of production systems, lack of access to training and to information were found to restrict aquaculture development. In response to these needs, the program created research support as a separate building block of its proposed research activities. Research support activities build capacity through education, technology transfer, information management, and networking.

Educational Development, Central Database, and Information Management and Networking are the three branches of the CRSPs research support activities.

The annual activity reports for the Educational Development Component (EDC) and for Central Database are contained in Chapters 4.1 and 4.2 and are presented as prepared and submitted by their respective key project personnel.

Information Management and Networking, a component which is an integral part of program management and whose work is closely prescribed by the reporting requirements and timelines of the grant, reports on its own and on program-wide activities related to publications, networking, and impacts in Chapters 4.3 and 4.4.