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SECOND PACIFIC COMMUNITY
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 12–16 October 1998)

**SPC WOMEN'S FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT SECTION (WFDS):
SYNOPSIS OF ACTIVITIES**

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SPC Women's Fisheries Development Section (WFDS) : **Synopsis of activities**

15 October 1998

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SPC Women's Fisheries Development Adviser

Distributed to participants at the mini Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries (following request for more information on 14 October 1998) following discussion concerning review of WFDS work, and query whether to continue present "women-in-fisheries" focus or broaden the scope of programme work.

Delegates at the meeting have requested that they be able to review the work of the WFDS in preparation for the 1999 RTMF.

Duration: Feb 1995 to Feb 1999

Funding: Feb 1995-7 (Canada) Feb 1997-9 (NZODA and AusAID)

Staff: Patricia Tuara (Women's Fisheries Development Adviser)
Lyn Lambeth (Women's Fisheries Development Officer) appointed September 98

Objectives: a) Promote the increased involvement of women from coastal fishing communities in regional and national fisheries development activities.
b) Enhance income-earning opportunities for women from coastal communities based on seafood harvesting, processing and marketing, using environmentally sound technologies compatible with the sustainable use of marine resources.

Services: 4 main services are provided:

- i) **Information** - for and about the activities of women in the fisheries sector
- ii) **Research** - baseline studies as the basis of national assessment reports
- iii) **Training** - the organisation and delivery of workshops
- iv) **Income-generating projects** - promotion and support for small scale projects

Activities: **Feb 1995 - February 1999**

i) Information

1. Network of information set up in February 1995 following initial contact with fisheries and women's government and non government representatives in member countries.
2. *Pamphlet* on services of WFDProject disseminated to network.
3. First and second issues of *Women in Fisheries Special Interest Group Bulletin* produced and disseminated. (2 issues produced each year). Third issue in production.
4. Training manual, *Setting up a Small-Scale Business - A Guide to Women in Fisheries* produced and disseminated.
5. Training manual, *Practical Methods for Preserving Seafoods - Salting and Drying* produced and disseminated.
6. French version of training manuals in production.

ii) Research

1. **Kiribati** (1995) - Training needs assessment completed on women involved in fisheries activities. Report with Kiribati government. Findings used to determine topics in 2 national workshops. (Technical Consultant, Vaine Wichman).
2. **Cook Islands** (1995) - Socio-economic survey of fisheries exploitation in Aitutaki as part of a Lagoon Fisheries Management Plan. (WFDS and Resource Assessment Sections of SPC, and Cook Islands Min. of Marine Resources Staff).
3. **Tonga** (1995) - Training needs assessment completed. Report with Tonga government. Findings used to determine topics in 1 national workshop. (Technical Consultant, Vaine Wichman)
4. **Fiji** (1996) - Socio-economic survey carried out on the role of women in the kai (freshwater clam) fishery in the Ba province. Data collected and analysed as part of a Kai Fishery Management plan. (WFDS, Ba Fisheries Office Staff, and local village women).
5. **Marshall Islands** (1997) - National Assessment on the Role of Women in Fisheries in the Marshall Islands completed. Report at SPC printery. 100 copies to be sent to Marshall Islands government before end of 1998. (WFDS)
6. **Nauru** (1997) - National Assessment on the Role of Women in Fisheries in the Republic of Nauru completed. Report at SPC printery. 100 copies to be sent to Nauru government before end of 1998. (WFDS)
7. **Niue** (March 1998) - Field survey on the role of women in fisheries in Niue completed. Working draft report at present time. (WFDS)

iii) Training

1. **Tonga** (1996) - workshop for women from Tongatapu, Vavau and Ha'apai teaching practical techniques in processing and preservation of seafoods, seafood hygiene and nutrition, marketing, and sustainable resource management. Local expertise provided by Min. of Fisheries, the Health Dept, and local businesses. Overseas expert, Jasmin Espejo-Hermes. Co-ordinated and funded by WFDS.
2. **Kiribati** (1996) - 2 workshops held to teach practical techniques in fish handling and quality control. Funded by WFDS and using technical expertise of Steve Roberts (Post-harvest Fisheries Adviser) as workshop lecturer.
3. **SPC Noumea** (1997)- Gender analysis workshop for SPC staff (targeting Fisheries staff) introducing staff to the concepts and practices of gender analysis. Forum Sec. Gender Issues Adviser Gayle Nelson as workshop lecturer. Co-ordinated by WFDS.
4. **Nauru** (20-24 April 1998) - for 26 women on alternative fishing techniques, alternative seafood recipes, and sustainable resource management. 2 overseas technical experts used for this workshop (Lyn Lambeth and Jasmin Espejo-Hermes). Co-ordinated and funded by WFDS.
5. **Marshall Islands** (10-14 August 1998) - Ebeye Fish Base workshop on processing and marketing sea foods for 14 participants (9 women and 5 men). Local expertise provided by MIMRA and Min. of Interior and Social Services. Funded by WFDS. Co-ordinator and main lecturer - WFDA.
6. **Vanuatu** 14-25 September 1998 for 20 women, on seafood processing, handling, packaging and export techniques for women involved in seafood businesses. Funded by WFDS and local expertise from Fisheries Dept used.
7. **Niue** (29 September to 1 October 1998 and 2 October to 7 October 1998) - Workshop on the Production and Marketing of Shellcraft for 18 women which taught how to use mother

of pearl shells in local designs, how to use local shells in novel designs and how to market shellcraft. Workshop on the Processing and Marketing of Seafoods for 25 women which taught seafood processing methods (salting and drying, smoking, and making new seafood recipes), and marketing of seafoods.

Overseas expertise for Shellcraft workshop provided by Technical Consultant Joan Rolls. Local expertise for Seafood workshop provided by DAFF and private sector.

Both workshops co-ordinated and funded by WFDS. WFDA main lecturer in Seafood workshop.

iv) Promotion and support for small-scale income-generating projects

1. **Regional** - production and dissemination of video, *Shellcraft - an income generating venture for women: The Cook Islands Experience*.
2. **Marshall Islands** - has submitted a request for assistance but needs to provide project details.
3. **Nauru** - rather than use funds allocated for income-generation, the Nauru govt has asked that the money be used to produce a video and a booklet on the harvesting techniques of women in fisheries. Currently there is no documentation of women's fishing activities, so it is hoped that the video/booklet will help to preserve the skills of women, as well as promote greater public awareness of these skills. Filming begins in November 1998.
4. **Niue** - the women have requested that materials be provided that are used in income generating activities e.g., jewellery hooks/attachments for earrings and necklaces, small hand drills, as well as fish hooks and lines for rod and line fishing. Other women are interested in setting up small businesses and will be submitting project proposals. One woman who processes and sells seafood, and is developing a catering service is interested in undertaking courses in seafood handling, processing, presentation and catering.

Shellcraft equipment (jewellery attachments, glue guns etc..) given to women during shellcraft workshop. Additional jewellery attachments sold to Hinapoto Craft shop, so women have a local sources for their shellcraft needs. Women taught how to use simple home made tools for making shellcraft (therefore drills not needed). Fishing gear not donated as it is readily available in Niue and is not too costly.

Additional requests

1. **Tuvalu** - Baseline study for National Assessment report, workshop, support for a small-scale income generating project. Lyn Lambeth is following up on this.
2. **Palau** - Revision of National report on women in fisheries, workshop, support for a small-scale income generating project. Lyn Lambeth is following up on this.
3. **Wallis and Futuna** - at the mini RTMF the delegate referred to a request made to the SPC Women's Bureau for training in net repair for women. Need to follow up on this with Bureau.
4. **CNMI** - informal request made to WFDA for visit to CNMI to initiate programme of assistance to women in the fisheries sector.
5. **FSM** - informal request made to WFDA for visit to FSM to initiate programme of assistance to women in the fisheries sector.
6. **Marshall Islands** - informal request made at mini RTMF for workshop similar to Ebeye one to be held at Jaluit Atoll.

Regional collaborative projects

1. **FFA** - Under CSPODII, FFA has acquired funds to assist the Solomon Islands, Palau and Vanuatu in compiling Tuna Industry Management Plans. 3 technical sections of SPC, including the Women's Fisheries Development Section have been approached to carry out in-country surveys for each plan. The WFDS will be collecting socio-economic data, while the Capture Section will be collecting on training and infrastructure needs, and the Oceanic Fisheries Programme will be collecting scientific information.
 - i) **Solomon Islands** - (11-21 July 1998) the WFDA travelled to Honiara with the Forum Secretariat's Gender Issues Adviser to collect baseline data on the existing roles of men and women in the tuna industry, and attempt to incorporate the likely gender impacts of future industry development. The information gathered will assist in addressing the benefits and costs of tuna industry development on stakeholders. The aim is to ensure that the development of the industry is sustainable.
 - ii) **Palau** - fieldwork tentatively set for November 1998.
 - iii) **Vanuatu** - fieldwork tentatively set for early 1999.
2. **USP** - informal request for assistance from Robin South for his Post Graduate students funded under CSPODII. Have provided information and advice to Women in Fisheries graduate from Tuvalu (Lilian Sauni).
3. - informal request for collaborative input into Post Harvest Centre work (request from Tony Chamberlain re work programme). Provided comments on Tony's CSPODII proposal, and provided advice and in-country contact addresses.

Project Review

1. More and more countries are requesting the services of the WFDS which is a positive sign.
2. Documentation of women's activities has been well received by those countries where baseline work has been carried out. Aim for final National Assessment reports for Nauru and Marshalls before end of 1998, and Niue by 31 January 1999. Work to begin on other countries as per requests.
3. Institutional changes are needed at the national level to ensure that support is given to women in the sector. WFDS may need to consider providing support to Fisheries Depts to assist in developing appropriate programmes. Both Nauru and Niue have plans to recruit Women in Fisheries Officers, and they may need assistance from WFDS.

Other comments re work programme of WFDS

Although delegates at the RTMF felt they needed more background information and time re the WFDS work programme, a number of constructive comments were made which provide guidance to the WFDS. These preliminary comments are as follows.

There is a need for:

1. More data and documentation of baseline studies carried out and disseminated.
2. Increased linkages with NGOs in recognition of their work with women in the sector.
3. Further development of existing WFDS activities.
4. Programmes that develop women's capabilities beyond their traditional roles in fisheries.

5. Development of suitable training programmes recognising the role that women play in marketing the catch of their menfolk.
6. Supporting national initiatives which encourage the employment and training of female fisheries officers (not necessarily as Women In Fisheries Officers but as effective fisheries officers who may be able to recognise and endeavour to cater to the needs/issues of women involved in fisheries activities).
