

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIRST REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 7 - 11 August 1989)

Technology Transfer Between Latin American Countries and
Pacific Island Nations

POST-HARVEST FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY
(Paper Prepared by the Secretariat)

Background

1. During the Pacific Latin America Countries - Pacific Island Nations, International Fisheries Conference, held in Lima, Peru, on September 26 to October 1, 1988, one of the proposals adopted by the meeting concerned technology transfer between countries of the two regions, with post-harvest fisheries identified as a potentially important area for future cooperation and technology exchange. The Conference subsequently proposed a study visit by SPC's Fish Handling and Processing Officer to fish technology institutes in selected Latin American countries to identify and formulate cooperative programmes between the two regions.

Proposal

2. It is suggested that the visit to suitable post-harvest fisheries institutes in Latin America by SPC's Fish Handling and Processing Officer, proceed as recommended above. Additionally, there is merit to the idea of suitably qualified candidates from the region to participating in this study trip (a limit of three is suggested). This would be an excellent opportunity for fisheries specialists from the Pacific Islands to learn about the activities of post-harvest research and development institutes. Such facilities do not yet exist in the region, although a project proposal for installing a small facility is well advanced. It is recommended that this opportunity should be given to young graduates interested in specialising in post-harvest fisheries, to develop a wider understanding in the methodologies of identifying and solving fish handling and processing problems.

3. Specific objectives for the visit are as follows:

- a. identify areas of post-harvest technology expertise in Latin America which can be of benefit to Pacific Island Nations and to utilise this expertise for short specialised technical courses (identified and approved at the Lima conference);
- b. explore cooperative inputs into applied research and development projects of mutual benefit. Post-harvest fisheries projects that would possibly benefit Pacific Island Nations, include the following important activities:

- (i) develop suitable wet-salted preserved fish products similar to the salted products developed in Peru, with species more suitable to the Pacific Islands (to include appropriate packaging);
 - (ii) product development for value-added tuna products. Tuna is the single most important marine resource in the region, most of which ends up in cans. A great deal of interest has been expressed by Pacific Island Nations in developing alternative products from this raw material, for example, a product that will simulate 'beef jerky';
 - (iii) improved traditional fish curing - targeting isolated outer islands and atolls. For example, develop agrowaste artificial driers utilising coconut husk as fuel, and develop a convertor or furnace that would change coconut husk into a suitable smoking fuel for the production of quality smoked fish (coconut husk is generally the only abundant and renewable fuel material available on such islands).
- c. identify technical literature in post-harvest fisheries technology from Latin America, of potential value to Pacific Island Nations, and to establish the need for a project to translate these from Spanish to English.

4. Fisheries technology institutes in Latin America considered appropriate for the visit include:

- a. Instituto Tecnológico Pesquero Del Peru, Casilla, Peru;
- b. Instituto de Fomento Pesquero, Santiago, Chile;
- c. Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

5. Each of these institutes has an active R&D programme in post-harvest fisheries, in support of national programmes to increase fish consumption in the general populace. Correspondence outlining the objectives and work of SPC's Fish Handling and Processing Project have been sent to all three institutes in preparation for the possible visit.

Action required:

6. The meeting is invited to consider the merits of this proposed study visit and to comment on the suggested inclusion of up to three post harvest fisheries officers from the Pacific Islands. While the activity has been raised informally with potential donors, the endorsement of this meeting is required before any further action is taken.