



CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM

CARICOM/JAPAN FRIENDSHIP YEAR CELEBRATORY SEMINAR: SURINAME

**Conference room of the SAIS Building LVV Complex, Letitia Vriesdwaan,
Paramaribo 20 November 2014**

Summary of Meeting Activities

- An opening ceremony which was chaired by Mrs. Yolanda Bobb-Echteld, Senior Policy officer. Department of Fisheries.
 - Welcome and remarks were provided by Dr. E. Rozenblad; Acting Director of Fisheries,
 - Mr. Nariaki Mikuni; JICA Fisheries Expert
 - Mrs. June Masters of the CRFM.
 - The vote of thanks was provided by Mr. Mark Lall of the Fisherman Association.
- Mr. Mikuni provided the meeting with an overview of Japan Fisheries Projects and interventions in the region.



- Mrs. Babb-Echteld provided the meeting with an overview of Japan Fisheries Projects and interventions in Suriname.
- Discussion period led by Mrs. Bobb-Echteld that presented the way forward



Participation of Japan in Suriname Fisheries

- Japanese shrimp trawlers fishing in these areas since the early 1960s.
- Establishment of SUJAFI, a shrimp processing plant
 - Cooperation between Suriname and Japan grows closer.
 - There were 2 shrimp companies, namely Nisshin Maru and Taiyo A&F
 - owning approximately 45 shrimp trawlers.
 - SUJAFI was a joint venture between Surinamese and Japanese entrepreneurs.
- In the period 1979 – 1981 the Japan Marine Resource Research Center (JAMARC) conducted a survey to explore the deep-sea shrimp resources in Suriname and French Guiana.

Several projects have been initiated

- Nishiro in Suriname, better known as Nisshin Maru
 - this company has recently stopped its fishing activities.
- Jacuso, small compared to Nishiro and Tafco
 - Stopped fishing activities in 1982/83
 - All shares were sold to Tafco
- Tafco, later Taiyo A&F
 - Stopped fishing activities in 2002 and most of the vessels were sold to a 100% owned Surinamese company Carib Fisheries
 - Still involved in export of shrimp to Japan
 - Working nowadays in close relation with Carib Fisheries
- Fishing gear company Nishimo office closed, but still bounded
 - Shrimp companies could purchase all their fishing equipment from them
- Carib Fisheries is still doing business with Japan

Contribution of Japan to the Fisheries Sector of Suriname

- Modernize the small-scale fisheries sector
 - Shrimp from artisanal fishermen (Afdamming) were bought and processed in Japan. The results were promising
 - studies have been conducted in fish processing at Boskamp, various fish product were produced, for example “zeezalm, smoked fish and fish balls
 - Personnel were trained in the process of producing smoked fish and fish balls
 - Fishing gears and outboard engines were donated
 - At STIVI freezer units and later an Ice machine were build.
 - (Due to improper management at STIVI the foundation has been close down.)
 - Two fishing centers were build, in Commewijne in 1991 and Paramaribo in 2007.
 - An engineer was attached to VCC immediately after official opening in 1993 for 2 years

- Technical assistance
 - Fishing gear and outboard engines were donated
 - The Japanese engineer had trained many fishermen in maintenance and proper use of outboard engines
 - Training offer to Surinamese citizen and technical assistant for research (Obara – 2000/2001; seabob research)
 - Holsu, private company, is producing surimi, fish meat, in a joint venture with a Japanese company.
- Suriname support to the whale program of Japan

Challenges to Suriname – Japan Cooperation

- Trained peoples moving from working places
- STIVI has been close down
- Insufficiency of skilled workers
- A steady decrease of catch results of *Penaeus* shrimps species in these grounds.
 - Companies are in financial problems
- High fuel costs for fishing operation
- High costs for VMS, help not always on time

Highlights of the Discussion

- JICA could consider interventions at the post harvest level.
- Training in processing techniques (particularly smoking of fish) for boat owners or family members
 - fishers were discussed, but fishers might be too busy for the training.
- Facilities /resources needed whereby the processing could occur.
- The meeting was reminded that high quality fish (fish kept fresh/iced/chilled from catch to sale) would also fetch high prices, simply cut and packaged
 - the price would be dependent on the freshness/quality of the fish, and this type of simple processing would not need added resources such as facilities and technology.

- Marketing opportunities and market standards should be investigated and communicated to the fishers
- The Meeting noted that Suriname was currently not exporting smoked fish
 - Suriname exported smoked fish in the past
- The Meeting was informed that smoked fish from Suriname did not meet the EU standards
 - technology used to smoke the fish
 - levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (Benzopyrene) found in the fish are too high
- Improved technology to smoke the fish is needed but this is very expensive.

- Small scale fishers were hopeful that they could access the fish export market.
 - To facilitate this the fish handing/processing infrastructure available to small scale fishers must be upgraded and the numbers increased.
- There was also a call for fish processing training facilities for small scale fishers.
- The types of aquaculture collaborations that were available or possible under Japan /CARICOM cooperation.
 - Suriname was interested in developing were species from the ornamental sector in particular carp species.
 - The JICA representative indicated that Japan could provide basic training in aquaculture however training linked to carp and other ornamental species would not be available in Japan.

- There was a call for the Government to make a concerted effort to work with the private sector to build fisherfolk organizations
 - two fisherfolk organisation exist , but only one is functioning
- It was also suggested that there should be esignated personnel at the Fisheries Division or the Ministry focused on helping fishers to organize themselves.

Wish list of areas for future interventions

- Scientific research to be conducted for *Penaeus* species in collaboration with Guyana and French Guiana
- Scientific research (stock assessment) of main target species of artisanal fisheries.
- Technical assistance with Bycatch Reduction Devices
- Surinamese fishermen would appreciate technical and financial support from the Overseas Japan Cooperation
- Technical assistance on post-harvest (processing techniques and quality control).

- Possibilities of fishing centers in Saramacca + Nickerie
- Establish a training center in Paramaribo
- Processing facilities in processing for small-scale fisheries
- Strengthening fishermen and fishermen organizations
- Capacity building for public and private sector
- Technical assistance of boat building with fiber glass
- Technical assistance in fishing net construction and repairing
- Technical assistance in aquaculture

Recommendations to make interventions more meaningful

- A set of prerequisites for training (and trainees)
- Strong competent fishermen's organizations
 - by implementing the rules and regulations
 - raising awareness (government and fishers) and building a structure for the organization
 - building strong legally mandated partnerships between fishers and government
 - improving the by-laws of fisherfolk organisation.
- Empowering fisherfolk organizations by improving benefits to fishers
 - recognising the responsibilities of fishers to pay for those benefits
- Improvement in data collection and analysis.



Thank You

Merci
Mèsi

Dank je wel

Arigato gozaimasu
ありがとう

Website: <http://www.crfm.int>