

## BEHIND THE WORKSHOP

### Gülsüm BALÇIK- The Project Secretary



Workshop on Aquaculture in Turkey was held in Trabzon Turkey, on November 7-9, 2001. This workshop was organized jointly by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Central Fisheries Research Institute (CFRI). The study was focused on to exchange the knowledge and discuss on the problems and the shortages existing in fisheries especially for turbot, seabass, seabream and trout.



First of all opening speeches were given by Mr. Adil YAZAR, Governor of the Province, Mr. Yılmaz BEKİROĞLU, Director of CFRI, Ms. Yukari SAİTO, representative of JICA in order. After than oral presentations were given to start. Trout was the first species handled of the first day, it was followed by seabass and sea bream. Second day turbot was observed from seed production to brood-stock and grow-out.

As known, in such programs, scientists, researchers and members of the private sector come together and exchange their knowledge and experiences and try to solve the problems exist in the sector. The workshop brought together senior staff from organizations as General Directorate of Agricultural Researches (GDAR), General Directorate of Agricultural Production and Development (GDAPD) of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) as well as representatives of JICA, universities, guests from France and Russia and the members of the private sector.

The workshop included paper presentations and discussions on trout, sea bass, sea bream, and especially turbot, from broodstock and seed production to grow-out. Guest scientist Dr. Jeannine Person from France shared her experiences and knowledge on turbot aquaculture in her own country. There is no standard method for turbot culture in France. Another guest scientist was Dr. Olga Maslova from Russia who described the efforts to develop rearing techniques for turbot. The goal in Russia is to increase the natural turbot stocks in the sea by releasing hatchery-reared juveniles.



Research-based information was shared by the participants, the difficulties of the aquaculture sector were considered, and solutions were discussed. It became clear that it is necessary to establish close linkages among fish farmers themselves and with the local governments, research institutes and universities, and suppliers and buyers and other members of the sector. Improvements can be

made through associations and cooperatives.

Interest was expressed for alternative species that can be farmed besides the existing ones. A representative of Kılıç Deniz Ürünleri Co. explained that they are conducting studies on the species (sharpnout seabream, dentex, waker and common seabream) which have the high market value both in Turkey and in the Mediterranean countries.

A very hot issue was the high expense for the fish feed, as high as 80% of the production cost of fish in some farms. Turkey depends on foreign countries for fish feeds. Feed quality also needs improvement.

There were some questions from fish farmers about water pollution. Researchers explained that aquaculture is responsible for a small share (about 0.7%) of the pollution from a total of 51 sectors using the seas in Turkey and the level of pollution caused by fish farms was found to be low when compared to the water quality parameters. For protection against pollution, a 1-2 km distance has to be maintained between fish farms and this has to be taken into consideration during the construction stage.



Another of the most important problems discussed during the meeting was fish diseases. Mr. Yılmaz BEKİROĞLU presented the good news that the first fish diseases laboratory has been established in the CFRI to serve the needs of fish farmers not only in the Black Sea region but all around Turkey. The laboratory can diagnose viral, bacterial, parasite, fungal and nutrition-related diseases.

Mr. Erkan GÖZGÖZOĞLU of MARA-GDAPD, explained about the inadequacy of existing procedures and legislations and the need for some regulations. In order to surpass the administrative problems, he expressed the need for the establishment of a General

Directorate of Fisheries. Prof. Dr. M. Salih ÇELİKKALE said that it is necessary to establish a Fisheries Federation with the combined effort of both MARA and other units of the sector. By means of this federation, services can be rendered with less expense, and plans can be made for import and export so that the income of fishermen can be increased.

The Fish Culture Development Project in the Black Sea conducted JICA and CFRI drew much interest. Everybody was pleased to know of such high-quality detailed scientific research done in Turkey. Launched in April 1997, the Project is nearing completion. The Turkish side requested a follow-up Project for a period lasting two more production seasons. Project Leader Dr. Shiro Hara explained that such a follow-up project is under evaluation. Dr. Emin ÖZDAMAR, JICA Turkey Office, said that because of the limited budget of the Government of Japan, it may be difficult to implement an extension period. With or without an extension, MARA may be able to sustain the Project.

We hope this workshop be helpful to the sector.



NOTE: Proceeding of the Workshop on Aquaculture in Turkey, November 7-9, 2001, Trabzon, Turkey, was presented as a special publication, in Turkish Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Volume 2, Number 1.

