

Bay of Bengal Programme

Development of Small-Scale Fisheries

EXPERIMENTAL CULTURE OF
SEAWEEDS (*Gracilaria Sp.*)
IN PENANG, MALAYSIA

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This paper reports on a one-year pilot project for seaweed culture centered at the Fisheries Research Institute at Glugor (GFRI) in Penang, Malaysia. The work was undertaken during a 12-month period in 1983-84.

Following discussions between the Malaysian Department of Fisheries and the BOBP, an experimental seaweed culture project was decided on in 1982 with the following limited objectives:

- to determine whether and which species of seaweed of the genus *Gracilaria* could be cultured
- to determine the most feasible methods of culture
- to select some typical culture sites with suitable characteristics; and
- to give on-the-job training to counterpart staff.

The project's long term objective was to establish an ongoing agarophyte seaweed production industry as an alternative means of employment for inshore fishermen of Malaysia.

Implementation of the project on behalf of BOBP was entrusted to ARDP (Agronomic Research, Development and Production Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii). The ARDP made available an expert consultant, Jack Fisher; while research facilities, staff and other counterpart support were extended by the Fisheries Research Institute, Glugor, Penang. (The staff included Ms. Faazas Latif, Mr. Sulkhifli Talik, Mr. Chan Seng Mei and Mr. Samad Mohamad). The small-scale fisheries project of the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) provided a part of the funds, and also monitored and reviewed the project.

This paper discusses project rationale and effort on seaweed culture sites and species, farm production technologies, the methods and materials used, the conduct of seaweed farming experiments and their results.

The small-scale fisheries project of the Bay of Bengal Programme started in 1979. During its first phase, which terminated in 1986, the project was funded by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Its main goals were to develop, demonstrate and promote appropriate technologies and methodologies to improve the conditions of small-scale fishery in member countries – Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India.

This document is a working paper and has not been cleared either by the FAO or by the Government concerned.

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