

Better-practice approaches for **culture-based fisheries** development in Asia

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Foreword

We are pleased to make this manual on better management approaches for culture based fisheries widely available. It is the outcome of collaborative research and development efforts that involved farmers, fishers, rural communities around freshwater bodies such as small reservoirs and lakes, development workers, technicians and scientists in several countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. This manual is not a recipe book. It distills and presents practical experiences, local knowledge, empirical results of scientific studies, and relevant theories into a coherent guide.

Why do we need such a manual? Culture based fisheries have been demonstrated as a cost- and resource-effective way of increasing supplies of fish in rural areas. Importantly, in the development context, it is a communal activity. As such, it needs and engenders cooperation and harmony for proper outcomes and sustainability. It does not involve complicated technical activities. Farmer communities with relatively limited experience in fish culture can productively engage, manage and benefit from culture based fisheries. This manual is part of the efforts to encourage governments to adopt and popularise culture based fisheries and to implement the practices effectively and efficiently. It is specifically aimed to provide guidance to development workers and program planners for integrating community based fisheries into rural development plans and programs, and to farmer communities.

The core scientific information for the manual is based on two projects, funded by ACIAR, in Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The relevance of these projects and their success has been amply

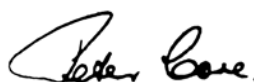
demonstrated by the fact that the governments of Sri Lanka and Vietnam have adopted the findings to popularise CBF. Others are in the process of doing so.

To initially disseminate the results, as well as to improve this manual, ACIAR requested NACA, in conjunction with Deakin University, to conduct workshops in selected Asian nations to share and discuss the findings from the research projects. An earlier version of this manual was developed for these workshops, which were conducted in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Indonesia.. The manual has been vastly improved by feedback from the workshop participants.

NACA and ACIAR would like to acknowledge the contributions of ACIAR Research Program Manager Barney Smith and the authors for their combined effort in conceiving and planning the dissemination of the research results, developing the manual and organizing the series of country workshops. We appreciate the assistance of the Mekong River Commission for financing the translation of this manual into Lao, and the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR, the Department of Fisheries of Cambodia and the Directorate of Aquaculture, Indonesia for organizing the workshop in Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia, respectively.



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