First annual seminar of SIPAM National coordinators

Bari, Italy, 5-6 March 1997

1.INTRODUCTION

The first annual seminar of SIPAM National coordinators took place in Bari, Italy on 5 and 6 March 1997 in the premises of CIHEAM in BARI, Italy. The meeting was combined with a session of the ICRAM project «Observatory for Aquaculture in the Mediterranean.».
It was attended by the SIPAM Regional Co-ordinator, the SIPAM Data Manager, M. Pedini and R.Coppola on behalf of FAO and the representatives of the 12 SIPAM member Countries (CROATIA, CYPRUS, EGYPT, FRANCE , ITALY, GREECE, MALTA, MOROCCO, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, TUNISIA and TURKEY.).

A representative of AQUARIUS Company (wageninigen , HOLLAND) attended the meeting as observer.

The meeting was opened by the Technical Secretary of the GFCM Aquaculture Committee, Mr. Mario PEDINI, who expressed his thanking for ICRAM and for the country representatives; he outlined the main items of the meeting which were, as previously announced to the participants:

-Presentation on the status of the SIPAM, including the reporting of data by the countries and discussion on the final DOS version.
-Downloading of additional national data into the regional module.
-Presentation of the WINDOWS Software and practices with the new software.
-Downloading of the DOS data into the new WINDOWS Software.
-Presentation and Discussion of the SIPAM Programme of work for 1997 and 1998.

2. Status of the SIPAM Network

The SIPAM Regional Co-ordinator, Mr. HADJ Ali S. presented the SIPAM status report on the basis of a written document previously distributed to the participants. He started by remembering the main recommendations of the GFCM Aquaculture Committee (Rome, September, 9-12, 1996) for SIPAM which are :

-To accelerate the preparation of the regional data base, as a matter of urgency, requiring the participation of the national Centres.
-To prepare a written proposal for activities for 1997-1998 which should include those covered by existing sources and complementary for the purpose of seeking additional funding for these activities.
-To reinforce the operation of the national Centres in particular for the main producing countries, which also involved additional direct contacts from the staff in the Regional Centre.
-To work jointly between the Regional Centre, Technical Secretariat, FAO Legal office for the formalization of the pending legal documents.
-To contact potential donors to expand the SIPAM Capabilities (FAO).

From the Regional Coordinator statement, it appears that:

2.1 Twelve Countries are actually participating to SIPAM: CROATIA, CYPRUS, EGYPT, FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY, MALTA, MOROCCO, PORTUGAL, TUNISA and TURKEY.

Bulgaria has expressed, during the last GFCM Aquaculture Committee meeting, interest in being linked to SIPAM. Contacts have been done by the Regional Centre to formalize this request. Algeria and Syria are in the same situation with their participation to the Network.

The meeting recommended that the Regional Centre get into touch with Algeria, Bulgaria and Syria to initiate the formalization of their participation to SIPAM in 1997. The F.A.O. TCDC scheme is expected to be used to facilitate the starting of the SIPAM National Centres in those Countries.

2.2 With regard to the Regional Centre in Tunis it was noted that the programmer, Mr. GARRAM, left in account of ill-health. The meeting has urged the Government of Tunisia to replace him soon. Concerning the SIPAM account a temporary solution was proposed by F.A.O. consisting of using the GFCM account (FAO/UN TRUST FUNDS US Dollars, 490650/67/72, Banca Commercial Italiana, FAO Branch).

The French project GCP/REM/055/FRA in support of the establishment of the SIPAM terminated by the end of 1996. Mr. Denis LACROIX, data manager, left the regional Centre on August 1996.

2.3. Concerning the SIPAM Software the new DOS version 1.4 was distributed to the National Centre on September, 2, 1996. Malta and Marocco have benefited for its installation of the assistance of the Regional Centre under the FAO/TCDC scheme
This software version was demonstrated to the working Party on aquaculture of the Committee for the development and management of the Fisheries Resources of the Gulfs of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (Cairo, October, 1996).

2.4. With respect to data collection the meeting was informed that the existing 2, 367 data in the Regional Centre are linked to 11 data base and 2 editing texts reserved to Legislation and National reports. The meeting considered that more efforts have to be granted by the National Centres to consolidate data collection and to proceed by a heavy data entry, especially with regard to legislation, pathology, bibliography and import statistics data. The delegate of Cyprus stressed the fact that his Country is preoccupated by the delay to have the next regional module release. The Regional Co-ordinator has secured the meeting that the next Regional module release will be prepared and distributed as soon as the Countries will supply the Regional Centre by relevant and sufficient data. It was agreed that the WINDOWS version of the Software is of a great help to enhance the database and data exchange.

2.5.For the SELAM specialised software, the meeting was informed that a scheme of this programme was prepared by the SIPAM regional Centre presented to the group of specialists on marketing of SELAM for comments and acceptance. SIPAM is now waiting for these comments to finalise a prototype of the program.

2.6.In the context of TECAM network, the meeting had expressed its interest to go ahead with the pathology data base. Having in mind that a data base already existed in SIPAM, it was agreed to solicit comments about it from the TECAM Pathology group.

3. Presentation of the WINDOWS Software (SIPAM for WINDOWS). The SIPAM WINDOWS Software was prepared by IMBC on behalf of the SIPAM Regional Centre. The first issue of this version was demonstrated by Mr. Argyris Kapantakagis and Mr. john LAURIJSEN,. from IMBC (Institute of Marine Biology at Crete).

This demonstration was followed by practical sessions on the new software under the guidance of the two IMBC experts. At the end of these sessions each Country representatives was supplied with a copy of the new software «SIPAM for WINDOWS» and was asked to install it, to import DOS data to WINDOWS version and to proceed by new data entry. In case of any difficulties the National Centres Could get into touch either with the SIPAM Regional Centre and /or IMBC (Mr. LAURIJSEN).

4. SIPAM Programme for 1997 and 1998.

The SIPAM Regional Co-ordinator presented the SIPAM programme of work for the biennium 1997-1998 as well the budget (see appendix).
In discussing the presentation the main pointed raised requiring action were :

-The need to accelerate the preparation of the next regional data base release, as a matter of urgency, requiring more effort from the national Centres (by using the new software). The regional centre is in charge of day to day follow up of the progress in this matter. Assistance will be given also by the regional centre in case of problem or difficulties in installing and software operating.

-The importance of the National Network organization. The regional Co-ordinator will visit FRANCE, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, TURKEY and EGYPT to gather information about the existing facilities within the SIPAM Centres in those Countries and to select a Country for a case study in this matter.

-The urgency to formalise the SIPAM pending legal documents (SIPAM software licence and SIPAM agreement amongst the participating Countries). The Regional Co-ordinator will jointly work with the Technical Secretariat of GFCM Aquaculture Committee and the FAO Legal Office to conclude the pending work on the legal issues before the end of 1997 (a joint meeting is expected to be held at F.A.O. Headquarters in the beginning of the second half of 1997 to go on with this matter).

-The need for F.A.O. (GFCM Aquaculture Committee technical Secretariat) and SIPAM Regional Centre to seek for additional founds to finance the activities to be undertaken within the adopted programme of work, particularly by preparing a proposal on analysis of the standard costs of running the system including a formula for calculating the participating countries additional contributions. This proposal will be presented to the next GFCM Aquaculture Committee for its approval.

-The need to go ahead with the specialised data base. In this context two meeting will be organised respectively with SELAM (marketing Software) and TECAM (SIPAM Pathology data base as a basis to build up the specialised pathology software).

5. Conclusion of the meeting

Due to the combinaison of the Coordination Committee with the ICRAM meeting and to lack of time for preparation of the report, this draft report was jointly prepared by the SIPAM Regional Coordinator and the GFCM Aquaculture Committee Secretariat.

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