

5th SIPAM ANNUAL MEETING

8-12/11/2000, ISTANBUL

Introduction

The 5th meeting of SIPAM took place in Turkey, Istanbul, from 8 to 12 November 2000, at the invitation of TURKEY, through TUBITAK, the national council for scientific research in Turkey. The meeting was prepared jointly with the SIPAM Regional Centre of Tunisia, the sipam national center in Turkey and FAO. The meeting was funded by Italy. The members were welcomed by a Turkish representation from TUBITAK - Mr. Pr. Demir Altiner and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) - Ms Erkan Gozgozoglu and the Assistant to . of the General Directorate of Agricultural Production & Development, Mr. Nevzat Uslucan. During the welcome speeches it was stressed:

(a) the importance of aquaculture in Turkey which increased from 3 500 mT in 1985 to 63 000 mT in 1999,

(b) the importance of SIPAM in Turkey where the system became logically the Turkish system of information on aquaculture

(c) the valuable work developed by Ms. Oya Ersan , the national co-ordinator for SIPAM in Turkey, during the last 7 years within the SIPAM organisation.

Mr. PEDINI welcomed all the members, particularly the two new member country representatives from . Libya and Lebanon, and asked for the agenda approval. During the agenda approval M. PEDINI asked to change the first point duration in order to give more time for the second point. This suggestion had a consensual approval.

Upon the request of Denis Lacroix, Mario Pedini asked for a minute of silence, in the memory of Charles de la Pomélie, who recently died. He had been the first representative of SIPAM in France, from 1993 to 1996.

Matters Discussed

Mr. Hadj Ali Salem opened the meeting presenting the Report of the SIPAM regional Centre (RP\0011\1). The major points of the report are:

- (a) SIPAM network progress report
- (b) The SIPAM data situation
- (c) Proposed program of work for 2001

Report on the Current Data Situation

The SIPAM Database Manager, Mr. Mustapha BENDAG presented a report (RP\0011\2) on the data status and evolution since the last SIPAM meeting held in Malta (November, 1999). He stressed the progress achieved in the last years in terms of quantity. Nevertheless he underlined that quality is more important than quantity and asked everyone for active cooperation by completing the records unproperly filled in.

Then, Mr. Rino COPPOLA, pointed out that the word 'seriously' in report RP\0011\2 line 2 of page 3 was out of place since all EU countries couldn't provide because this data is not maintained. Mr. Rino COPPOLA made a second remark on RP\0011\2 regarding section II Data Quality. He stated that this section is more about the status of the data, suggesting that a third section is missing and this regards the real quality of the data inputted eg verification methods.

All the participants recognised the absolute need of a supplementary effort in order to improve the data quality and homogeneity.

SIPAM state of the art

In order to evaluate the SIPAM database usefulness, it was suggested that the national coordinators pointed out how many times and by whom they had requests for SIPAM data.

During the discussion it was stressed that few requests were made to the National Coordinators about data. Nevertheless Ms. Oya ERSAN and Mr. El Ahdal Mohamed presented their country situation where SIPAM has a fundamental importance.

All the National Coordinators presented a report about the SIPAM state of the art in each country and the prospects for the future, mainly related with the national networks. Up to now there is a little number of permanent "locations" providing regular flow of data to the national representative. This seems to be related to the lack of time of the national representative for training such partners.

Marketing and Pathology databases

Concerning the pathology database Mr. Hadj ALI reported that SIPAM efforts near the AAPQIS representatives has still to be developed. Nevertheless, due to some constraints, particularly with the AAPQIS database development, until now it was not possible to make any commitments. But taking into account the subject complexity to be handled among SIPAM representatives, was consensual agreed to adopt the AAPQIS database to posterior implementation within SIPAM.

Mr. Mario Pedini suggested the adoption of a provisional marketing database with records gathered from Globefish. This suggestion had a consensual agreement as an expedite way to answer the great interest shown by several countries. It was also referred that countries, which are not in the Globefish, can provide their data to fill in the records.

Laws & Regulation database

This important and valuable database requires specialised lawyers in order to fulfil the fields properly. Limited work has been done up to now as there is no skilled people available for that purpose in the various countries.

SIPAM Promotion

Denis LACROIX reported that he presented SIPAM at the FAO/NACA conference in Bangkok on the future of Aquaculture (February 2000). SIPAM is considered as one of the best aquaculture information system in the world as it is precisely facing the various demands for information in that field.

Mr. Rino COPPOLA stressed that SIPAM is a very powerful information system when compared to other similar systems but its capacity is being under exploited until now. For him, the first phase of SIPAM is achieved;, now it is need to begin the second one: the expansion.

It is proposed the production of two distinct works. One, of ad-hoc reports which can be proposed by each member to the regional Ccenter. Other, specialised reports and the improvement of the Internet homepage under the agreement between FAO and the portuguesePortuguese government which is still unofficialised. For this improvement it was also announced that ICCRAM will allocate a budget on SIPAM for the next year.

Rino Coppola recalled the first SIPAM-like system, SIPAL, which failed in latin America as a network but remained as a national system in Cuba and Chile, and now the region is interested in SIPAM.

Steering Committee

Mario PEDINI, presented a resume about the work carried out by the 25th session of GFCM (Malta, September 2000). It was stressed that the results achieved by SIPAM were significant although limited means have been given to this network; however, more work is needed to improve the status of SIPAM. As a general conclusion the SIPAM was requested to present more analytical reports.

In order to emphasise the importance of the issue, M. Pedini gave the example of the reports presented in the GFCM main session (RP\0011\3,4,5,6) which seem to be only data tables. After he stressed the importance of having a good set of records to present in the next meeting of the GFCM once it will be discussed the budget to allocate in SIPAM. Once again all the participants agreed with the importance of such documents.

SIPAM for Windows, version 2.3

Ms. RYM CHEBIL made a demonstration of the new SIPAM version to the participants. The main points were the new software installation, the data transition from the previous version to the new one and the main changes which were performed according with what had been suggested in Malta meeting. (see RP\0011\7)

SIPAM home page

No improvement had been recorded as the work had been stopped in Rome. There is an obvious and urgent need to have a skilled person in charge of this task. A specific budget has to be planned for that purpose.

SIPAM Budget

There will be a regular budget for the networks from GFCM. This is planned for 2002. So 2001 will be a transition year. Italy and Portugal would probably support the SIPAM budget in order to bridge the gap between this year and 2002. For the operating of the regional centre, the Government of Tunisia will continue to provide its annual contribution and the requested other facilities

Other

- A new cover had been proposed for SIPAM reports, which had been accepted by the SIPAM members except the logo for which proposals are asked.
- Brochure: With regard to the preparation of the brochure in other languages, the participants expressed their wishes to Morocco to finance the design and editing the Arabic version which wording has been made available by the Regional Center. The participants also recommended the up dating of the brochure already prepared and funded by Portugal. For that the SIPAM National Center in Portugal is requested to send the template of the actual version to the Regional Center.
- Date and place of the next meeting: on the question of the place, Mr. El ahdal said that Morocco could host, in principle, the 6th SIPAM meeting. However his offer should be confirmed once the agreement of the relevant authorities is obtained the date will be precised in opportune time, jointly with the hosting country.

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