

# LINKAGES BETWEEN FISHERMEN AND RESEARCHERS IN MARINE FISHERIES—AN ANALYSIS

*Dr. Sheela Immanuel\* and Dr. K. Kanagasabapathy\*\**

Fisheries play an important role in our country's economic development. In India one million active fishermen are engaged in marine fishing, with about 0.2 million in mechanized sector, 0.17 million in motorized sector and the rest in the artisanal sector. Among the fisher folk engaged in marine fisheries, about 0.7 million work as labourers of whom 65.00 per cent are engaged in artisanal fishing (Devaraj et al. 1998). Fisheries research institutions are mainly involved in the development of fisheries. Even though many technologies were developed by the research organization the adoption of these technologies by the fishermen are found to be low. Linkage between the fishermen and the researchers has an important say to this. The technologies need to be transferred to the fishermen so that they become aware and try to adopt them in their farms. Since linkage is a very important factor a study was taken up to analyse the linkages existing among the fishermen and the researchers.

## Methodology

The study was conducted in the Vypin block of the Ernakulam district of Kerala. A sample of 150 fishermen involved in fishing and culture activities was selected as respondents. Forty researchers who are involved in fisheries research were selected from a research organization located in the Ernakulam district. Data was collected with the help of a well-structured interview schedule. Based on mean and standard deviation, the respondents were classified as high, medium and low category.

## Findings and discussions

### Linkages existing between fishermen and researchers

The overall linkage of fishermen with researchers is presented in Table 1 and 2.

**Table 1.**

Mean 26.68, S.D. 5.48 (n = 150)

Linkage	No.	Percentage
Low	18	12.00
Medium	96	64.00
High	36	24.00

**Table 2.**

n=150

Linkage activities	No.	Percentage
Attending training in KVK	102	68.00
Contacting the researcher through phone	93	62.00
Reading articles by researcher in newspaper	92	61.30
Attending awareness campaigns	88	58.67
Attending seminar	76	50.67
Consulting the researcher for technology	72	48.00
Participating in demonstrations	52	34.67
Reading leaflet prepared by researchers	51	34.00
Hearing radio programmes given by researcher	50	33.33
Participating in farmers functions	50	33.33
Reading fisheries journals	45	30.00
Visiting exhibitions	36	24.00
Viewing TV	22	14.66
Involving in regional level committees	15	10.00
Involving in assessing research needs	14	9.33

\*Scientist (SS), VRC of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh,

\*\*Reader, Faculty of Agricultural Extension, Annamalai university, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.

Table 3. Frequency of linkages between fishermen and researchers

Activities	Linage		Always		Most Frequently		Frequently		Sometimes		Never	
	Yes No	Per- centage	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Training in KVK	102	68.00		--	45	30.00	32	21.33	25	16.67	48	32.00-
Contacting through phone	93	62.00	14	9.33	20	13.33	19	12.67	40	26.67	57	38.00
Reading articles in newspaper	92	61.00	27	18.00	17	11.33	14	9.33	34	22.67	58	38.60
Attending awareness campaign	88	58.67	10	6.67	37	24.67	27	18.00	14	9.33	62	41.33
Attending seminar	76	50.67	10	6.67	30	20.00	17	11.33	19	12.67	74	49.33
Consulting researcher	72	48.00	5	3.34	23	15.33	21	14.00	23	15.33	78	52.00
Attending demonstrations	52	34.67	6	4.00	7	4.67	16	10.67	23	15.33	98	65.33
Reading leaflet	51	34.00	-	-	2	1.33	14	9.34	44	29.33	90	60.00
Hearing radio researcher	50	33.33	10	6.67	12	8.00	8	5.33	20	13.33	100	66.67
Participating in functions	50	33.33	-	-	15	10.00	10	6.67	25	16.65	100	66.67
Reading fisheries journals	45	30.00	10	6.67	2	1.33	4	2.67	29	19.33	105	70.00
Visiting exhibitions	36	24.00		-	2	1.33	18	12.00	16	10.67	114	76.00
Viewing Tv	22	14.66		-	10	6.66	-	--	12	8.00	128	85.34
Involving in regional level committees	15	10.00			-	-	3	2.00	12	8.00	135	90.00
Involving in assessing research needs	14	9.33			-	-	4	1.33	12	8.00	136	90.67

A perusal of Table 1 clearly indicated that majority (64.00 per cent) of the fishermen had medium level of linkage with the researchers which was followed by 24.00 at high and 12.00 per cent at low levels.

The linkages between fishermen and the researchers activity wise and its frequency are presented in Table 2 and Table 3

It could be seen from Table 2 that 68 per cent of the fishermen had linkage with the researchers through attending training programmes in KVK. Since the KVK is nearby they find it convenient to attend the training programmes conducted at KVK. Majority (62 per cent) of the fishermen had linkage with the researchers through phone. Whenever the fishermen needed any information/clarification regarding their fishing activities they used to contact the researchers over phone and discuss with the researchers regarding the problems they face.

More than half (61.30 per cent) of the fishermen were found to have linkage with researchers through reading newspaper. More than half of the fishermen were found to have linkage through attending awareness campaigns (58.67 per cent) and seminars (50.67 per cent) and nearly 20.00 per cent were found to have linkage through these activities frequently. Meeting and seminars were frequently organized in their villages by the researchers and the fishermen used to attend the programmes.

It is observed that 48 per cent of the fishermen had linkage with researchers through 'consulting them for technology'. The linkage was found to be very low through television (14.66 per cent), participation in regional level committees (10 per cent), and assessing research needs (9.33 per cent). Only a few progressive fishermen were involved in these activities and

there are limited numbers of committees to have interactions with the researchers. So there is an imperative need to develop regular linkage platforms so as to enable the fishermen to have linkage with the researchers. This was also stressed by Allen (1977).

### Relationship between characteristics of fishermen on their linkage with researchers.

Correlation analysis was carried out to find out the relationship of characteristics of the fishermen on the dependent variable linkage with researchers. The results are presented in Table 3.

The results from Table 4 revealed that age, social participation and innovativeness had significant and positive association with the extent of linkage by the fishermen with the researchers while age showed significant relationship at one per cent level of significance and the other two variables were significant at 5 per cent level.

Table 4.

(N = 150)

Variables	"r"
Age	0.198*
Education	0.020 NS
Occupation	-0.209 NS
Annual income	0.084
Experience	0.045 NS
Family type	0.033 NS
Social participation	0.168*
Communication asset	0.117 NS
Cosmopolitaness	0.045
Innovativeness	0.156*
Scientific orientation	0.036 NS

- - Significant at 5% level \*\* - Significant at 1% level
- NS – Non Significant

It could be inferred from the above findings that as the age of the fishermen increased they might be interested to know more about the latest development in the field thereby to increase their income. Once they experience the advantages of adoption of

improved technologies they would like to develop more linkages with the researchers.

With the greater degree of social participation the fishermen will be participating in most of the programmes organized by the researchers and also they would be in a better position to get information about the technologies than others. Most of the programmes are implemented through the societies and hence, if the fishermen have membership in societies their linkage will be more.

So also, as the innovativeness increases the fishermen themselves would be the first persons to test and adopt improvements in the existing technologies and hence their contact with the researchers might be more. Innovative fishermen would normally seek information through various channels and more particularly from researchers. As the degree of innovativeness increases they voluntarily visit the research institutes to meet the researchers in search of innovations.

### Conclusion

This study has clearly indicated the activities through which the fishermen were having linkage with the researchers. It has also highlighted the activities where there is low level of linkage. These findings would help the administrators, policy makers and planners to come out with suitable strategies to enhance the linkage between the two systems which may indirectly contribute to the growth of the fisheries sector thereby enhancing the socio economic welfare of the fishermen in our country.(AER)

### Reference

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