



Toward Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Relevance of IFREDI

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Cambodia's own Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute is implementing this technical assistance with the support of ICLARM (the WorldFish Center). The goal of the TA is sustainable management and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity in the Tonle Sap basin. Its purpose is to kick-start IFREDI as an efficient, effective, and relevant research and development institute. Its outputs lie in the realms of (i) institute management, (ii) research and development, (iii) technology transfer, and (iv) policy development and dialogue.

On 10 June, we met to review the activities that will accomplish the purpose of the TA. I recall circumscribing the context in which IFREDI finds itself. I referred to ever-growing consumptive use of natural resources in the Tonle Sap basin, which place the lake's ecosystem and the large population that depends on it at risk. I spoke about the suite of loan and technical assistance projects that comprise ADB's Tonle Sap Initiative and to the other projects, funded with ever-scarcer grant aid, that other multilateral and bilateral actors finance. I looked forward to the research that IFREDI can carry out to (i) make fish more affordable, (ii) add to the diversification of fisheries, (iii) generate employment and income for fishers, (iv) create alternative livelihoods, (v) conserve and rebuild fish stocks, (vi) provide policy advice on management arrangements for aquatic resources, and (vii) buttress community efforts to manage aquatic resources and protect biodiversity.

At the midterm of a TA, one is usually in a position to carry out an in-depth review of the progress of the activities being funded. And so, we are all keen to hear of the TA's accomplishments so far, including development of twinning arrangements. I, for one, would like to hear from staff of IFREDI, on whose shoulders the burden of this enterprise ultimately rests, responses to the following questions:

- Is appropriate counterpart staff being made available to participate in the TA and to benefit from it?
- Are management competencies; policy capacity; operating systems; organizational efficiency; operational effectiveness; and planning, monitoring, and control being improved, and how?