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CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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ALL INDIA CENSUS IN THE MARINE FISHERIES SECTOR- PLANNING AND FIELD OPERATIONS*

The information base on the potentialities of man power involvement, the number of fishing crafts and gears and infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours, landing jetties, ice plants and cold storage-cum-freezing plants available in the coast of India is a pre-requisite for planning developmental programmes in marine fisheries. This also provides the frame for conducting sample survey for the estimation of marine fish production and fishing effort in India. In order to understand the status of the traditional small scale fisheries sector in the changing pattern of fishing industry, periodic frame surveys for estimation of these parameters are vital. Keeping these in view the Institute has been conducting frame surveys at regular intervals ever since 1948-49.

Besides, the National Commission on Agriculture has emphasised in its recommendation that Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute should conduct quinquennial census in order to update the inventory of fishing resources available in the coastal villages with the help of State Governments. This gave a fillip for the Institute to undertake a rapid and intensive census on a massive scale during May-July 1980.

The planning for the conduct of the census was carried out much in advance. The various proformae in different languages required for recording the primary data were prepared and finalised in consultation with State Governments. The major items covered in the house-hold schedule were family size, educational status, number of active fishermen, number engaged in associated fishing activities, number of mechanised and non mechanised fishing crafts, number of fishing gears, type of ownership and number of fishermen engaged in aqua-culture practices. In the village schedule, information on fishing harbours, landing jetties, transport facilities and number of boat building and repairing yards, cold storages, freezing plants, fish curing yards, peeling sheds, banks, co-operative societies, educational institutions, hospitals, post offices etc. was included. The house-hold schedules to be filled in with the help of local persons engaged for

the purpose were printed both in English and the regional languages of the maritime states, namely Oriya, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi and Gujarathi. Suitable publicity materials in the form of attractive folders and wall posters in respective regional languages were also prepared (Fig. 1 & 2).

The Institute's personnel from the different divisions required to organise and supervise the census work in various states were identified sufficiently early. Each person put in charge of the work in 12 to 15 villages was to select, train and guide the local helpers engaged in the collection of census data. Senior staff of the Institute were placed in overall supervision of the work in different states. Orientation training to the staff was given at Contai, Cuttack, Waltair, Madras, Mandapam Camp, Cochin, Karwar, and Veraval. Wide publicity was given through the press, Akashvani and Doordarshan well before the commencement of the census.

The census work was carried out in the maritime states of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Daman, Diu and Gujarat during May-July 1980. About 2,000 marine fishing villages were covered and information collected as per the village and household schedules. In spite of the strenuous field work involved in covering difficult terrain and inaccessible villages it was possible to complete the collection of census data in two phases each covering a period of about one month with the whole-hearted co-operation received from the villagers, those connected with the fishing industry and officials of the State Governments.

The voluminous data collected are being processed. The statewise information on the current status of the manpower resources and infrastructure facilities involved in the marine fisheries sector of the country would be made available in published form as soon as possible.

*Prepared by Fishery Resources Assessment Division.



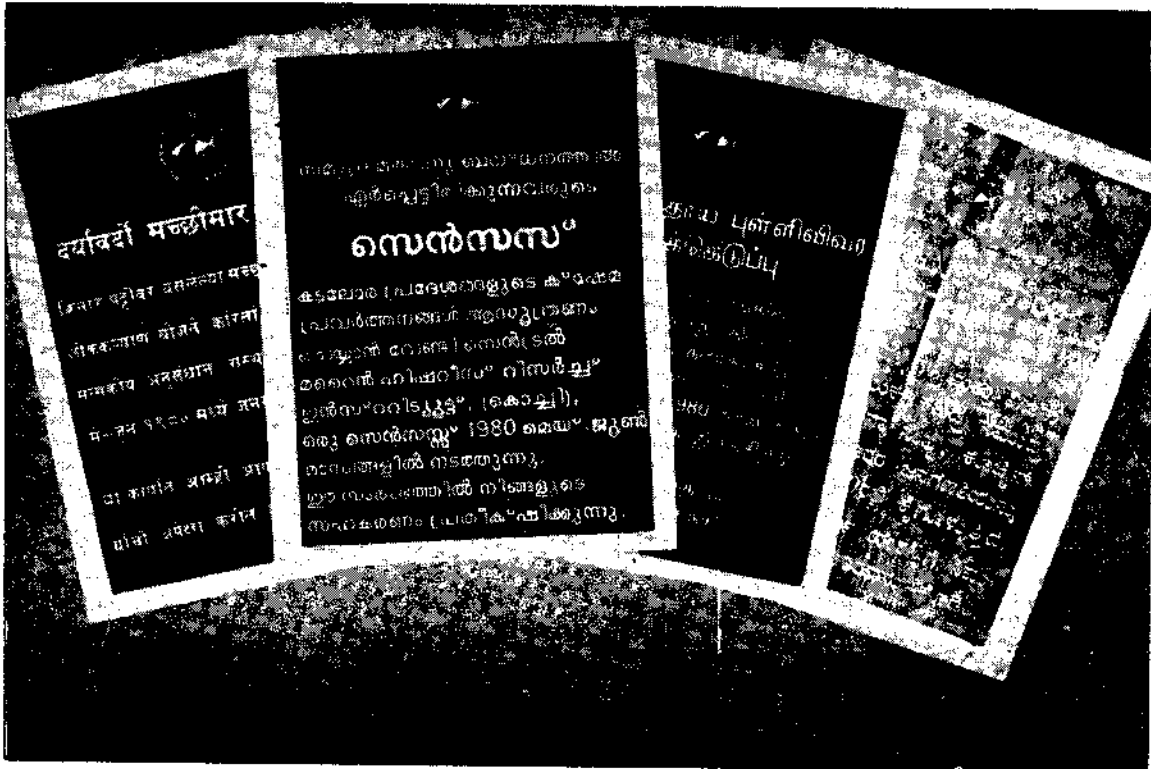


Fig. 1 Publicity wall posters in different languages

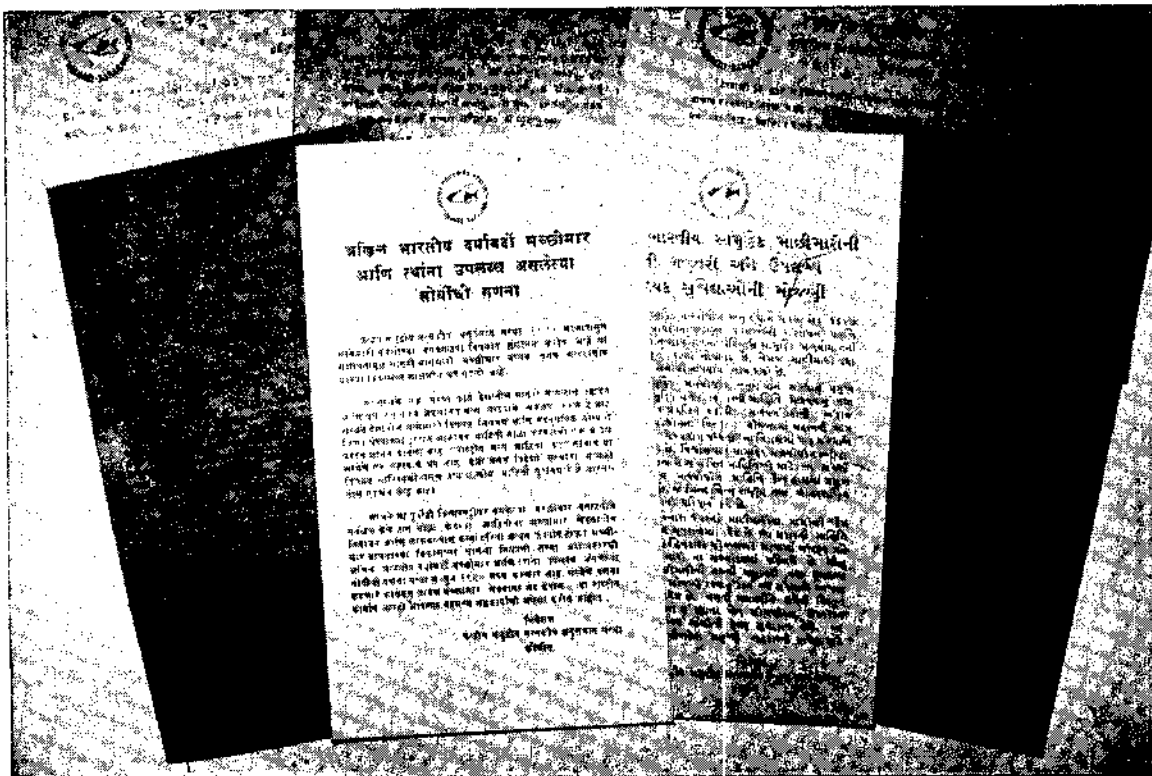


Fig. 2 Hand outs used in various languages



Fig. 3 Planning the strategy for the census in Tamil Nadu,



Fig. 6 Enumerating staff at the job



Fig. 4 All set for the days work



Fig. 7 Enumerating staff at work in a village in Gujarat



Fig. 5 Publicity poster in position in one of the villages



Fig. 8 Staff collecting information about freezing plant.