

Book Review

Fisheries development & management in India (1785-1986): A bibliography, by N Subba Rao (Northern Book Center, New Delhi), 1989, pp. xxvi + 292, Hard cover, Rs 280 [ISBN 81-85119-60-0]

This bibliography seeks to document all literature published on fisheries development and management in India from 1785 to 1986. This is the first attempt in such a direction, although some bibliographies on certain selected subjects related to Indian fisheries, have been published earlier.

The literature listed in the present book is divided into 13 major subjects such as Importance of Fisheries, Fisheries Resources, Infrastructure and Supporting Services, etc. Under each major subject there are sub-sections, their number varying from 2 under Economics of Fisheries to as many as 39 under Fisheries Resources. In the chapter on Importance of Fisheries, publications on fisheries related to national economy, fish as food, fisheries and rural development, etc. are listed. In the chapter on Fisheries Development aspects like inland and marine fisheries development, deep-sea fisheries development and international cooperation are included.

Almost all important aspects of inland and marine fisheries are covered in the chapters on Fisheries Resources, Aquaculture and Fishing Technology. In the chapter on Production and Marketing of Fish, the supply trends, demand, marketing, export of fish and fish products, diversification of products, export prices, various methods of preserving fish, studies on nutritive value and chemical composition of fish, etc. are included. Economics of both capture and culture fisheries are included in one chapter. Literature on infrastructure, finance and credit, cooperatives, marketing, insurance, etc. is listed in another chapter. Similarly various papers published on aspects of socio-economics, planning, statistics and administration, fisheries management and fisheries legislation and law of the sea are listed in the respective chapters.

Although this book seeks to bring together all the published material on various aspects of development and management of fisheries in India from 1785 to 1986 listing 4024 references, the

objective does not seem to have been fully realised. For instance, one important special publication from the Marine Biological Association of India, *A Bibliography of the Indian Ocean*, edited by S. Jones, which has listed nearly 17000 publications on a wide variety of subjects relevant to marine fisheries of India, does not find a place in this book. Also certain other bibliographies by Jones (1950, 1951) and Jones and Bensam (1968) on the young stages (seeds) of fishes, by Jones (1952) on *Hilsa* fishery and by James and Natarajan (1976) on diseases of fishes, are not listed. Since a book of this nature should also include earlier bibliographies on subjects related to it, the inclusion of the above bibliographies could have enhanced the value of the book under review. Similarly, although many papers from the special publication of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), *Proceedings of the symposium on living resources of the seas around India*, 1973, have been listed, certain others have been left out.

There are also a few omissions of some relevant papers in the book. Some of these are: (1) Dhu, S, 1906, *The mighty mahaseer and other fish*, Madras, 1918, *The angler in northern India*, Pioneer Press, Allahabad; (2) Panikkar, N K, 1951, on culture aspects in *J Madras Univ*, 21B; (3) John, C M, 1955, on grey mullets, *Copeia*, 1955 (3); (4) Chacko, P I, 1956, on inland fish culture, Govt. of Madras, *Fish Stat Repts & Yearbook*, 1954-55; (5) Malupillai C and Chacko P I, 1959, on culture of milkfish, *ibid*, 1955-56; (6) Bensam, P, 1973, on sciaenid resources, *Proc symp living resour seas around India*; and (7) James, P S B R, 1973, on fisheries development (Univ. Agri. Sci., College of Fisheries, Mangalore, Souvenir).

There are also a few discrepancies which could have been avoided. Some of these are: (1) In page 44, the publications at serial Nos 689 and 690 cited are those of CMFRI, but these are cited as those of Chidambaram (1973 and 1979). The item at serial No. 689 is also not listed in page 268 of the author index as that of CMFRI. (2) In page 45, the publications at serial Nos 719 and 721 appear to be one and the same, of which the latter is the valid one. (3) In page 109, the publication listed at item No. 1658 is that of the Marine Biological Association of India (MBAI) and not of CMFRI, as erroneously cited. (4) In page 235,

the item Nos 3605 and 3606 are found missing. (5) In page 268 of author index, item Nos 3211-3236 (pages 209-211) are assigned to CMFRI; but actually only the numbers 3211, 3212, 3213 and 3236 are those of CMFRI. (6) The spelling of the name Chakraborty, D in page 43, item No. 684 and in the author index in page 268 is not correct. (7) In pages Nos 87 and 116, item Nos 1257 and 1753 are repetitions. The citation at one of these could have been avoided by making a suitable reference in the other. It is hoped that such omissions and discrepancies would be rectified in future editions of the book.

Barring the above, the book however, is a storehouse of information on many important publications on fisheries development and management in India from 1785 to 1986; and will be an asset to libraries, institutions and personnel dealing with fisheries research, development and management, both within the country and elsewhere.

P S B R James
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
P.B. No. 2704, Cochin 682 031, India