

specialises in the production of shrimp and Thailand is a major tuna producer.

- Fish and seafood currently meets about one quarter of the world's food protein needs. The role for fish as a source of protein is particularly important for developing countries. In addition, publicity regarding the health benefits of seafood has led to increased consumption of seafood in major markets and generated new levels of trade, from which developing countries may perceive a conflict between meeting the food needs for national populations and seeking essential foreign exchange through exportation of seafood. Thailand provides an interesting example of how one country resolve the apparent conflict. The tuna factories in Thailand have provided 20,000 new jobs, mostly for women, and created more food security for families in Thailand, removing the basis for conflict.

- The international fish trade in developing countries still has many obstacles. The FAO helps via a strategy (Rome 1984) that aids countries in maximising returns from international trade via fish marketing and utilization of value-added and higher value fish products. This increases the ability to compete effectively and appeal to foreign customers.

- Quality control is still a problem and the FAO is providing assistance via such services as Infofish, 3 regional projects (Infopeche etc.) and the Globefish data bank - collectively known as the FAO Fish Marketing Assistance system. There are also skill upgrading, promotion and marketing programs provided. The aim of improving their trading outlook is also supported by FAO-funded participation in trade shows, conferences etc. (Seafood 90 was attended under this program by delegates from Senegal and Mauritania).

- Global demand for seafood is increasingly calling for an optimization of resources and skills - a challenge for developing countries to increase trade and foreign exchange earnings. They need to improve market networks, adopt conservation strategies, improve trade services and high-quality products. The FAO is prepared to assist in all these areas.