



CASE STUDY

Fish Breeding Training Helps Villagers Earn Cash



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“I haven’t been out fishing at all since the tsunami. I lost my boats and all other income. My life was brought down to zero...I am very glad this project came in to help us because it teaches us everything we need to know about raising pond catfish. It’s really given me new chance to live on my own again”, said a former fisher villager.

Challenge: The tsunami destroyed fish stock enterprises along the Andaman Coast in Thailand. Fish stock suppliers have yet to rebuild and recover their capacity to replenish backyard catfish farming cottage industries. Fisher families who supplemented 30% of their household incomes from catfish farming no longer have incomes or resources to restart their livelihoods.

Initiative: USAID’s Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Project, implemented in partnership with the Asian Institute of Technology, brought nine village representatives to Bangkok to learn how to produce young fish using artificial breeding techniques. During the training, villagers not only learned how to establish and manage back yard hatcheries but also developed simple business plans to foster future enterprise development.

Results: Villagers are now able to produce their own fish seed without having to rely on a local supplier. Through small investment capital from the project, the villagers will build back-yard hatcheries and sell their fish in the local market following their business plan. In order to expand income generating activities and sustain fish resources in the local area, villagers will share fish breeding knowledge with neighbors. By diversifying fishery practices, villagers will become more resilient to economic and environmental factors that impact their lives and livelihoods.