

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE
PEOPLE, TRADITIONALLY INVOLVED IN THE HARVESTING OF
GRACILARIA LICHENOIDES (SEEWEEDES) FROM PUTTALAM LAGOON

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This study was carried out mainly to find out the living standards of the fishing communities engaged in harvesting seaweeds around Puttalam lagoon. This survey was performed from January to May 1987 by interviewing 162 fishing families with a prepared questionnaire. The economic situation and the living standards of the people occupied in this trade seem to be very low. Small single houses of less than 300sq.ft are predominant in these areas. About 75% of households share common wells. 76% of the households have no latrine or toilet facilities. Kerosene is the main source of energy for lighting. They earn about 150-200 Rupees per day by selling dried sea weed to the export companies whereas their income from fishing is about 60 - 75 rupees.

The existing wild stocks of Gracilaria seem to be not sufficient to meet the growing demand for them. This is the major limiting factor for the improvement of living standards of the fishing families engaged in seaweed harvesting. Therefore the new developments of small scale commercial seaweed culture systems would be very important.

F-10 : 09th Dec. 1987 (Wednesday) 10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.

F-11 : 09th Dec. 1987 (Wednesday) 10.45 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.