

WFF-WFFP-ICSF-CIC

National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)

Report



21 and 22 March 2016
Multi-Purpose Hall, India International Centre
New Delhi, India

Report prepared by Mariette Correa, ICSF





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List of Abbreviations

BMC	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
BOBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project
BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Programme-Inter Governmental Organization
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CIC	Centro Internazionale Crocevia
CIFA	Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture
CIFE	Central Institute of Fisheries Education
CIFT	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
CSO(s)	civil society organization(s)
DADF	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
EIA	environmental impact assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMS	fish marketing societies
FWO(s)	fishworker organization(s)
GoI	Government of India
GPS	Global Positioning System
GPDP	Gram Panchayat Development Plan
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOPC	International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds
IPC	International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty
LDA	Loktak Development Authority
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MFRA	Marine Fishing Regulation Act
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NGO(s)	non-governmental organization(s)
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIE	National Implementing Entity
NITI-Aayog	National Institution for Transforming India-Aayog

NM	Nautical mile(s)
NOC	No-Objection Certificate
SIFFS	South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies
SNEHA	Social Need Education and Human Awareness
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication SSF small-scale fisheries
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
VGSSF	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples

Preface

A National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) was held on 21-22 March 2016 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The workshop was organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)—in collaboration with World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), Centro Internazionale Crocevia (CIC) with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) to promote awareness about the SSF Guidelines and to mobilize support for their implementation.

The workshop was attended by a wide spectrum of distinguished participants not only from marine and inland fishing communities across India, but also from a cross section of ministries, departments, and agencies both at the Union and state level, dealing with human rights, rural development, decentralisation and local governance, labour and employment, environment, climate change, finance, tribal affairs, planning, fisheries as well as representatives of CSOs/NGOs, research institutions, FAO, IFAD and BOBP-IGO.

The workshop was planned to coincide with the month of the second anniversary of the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 with Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary, ICSF, on board. Representatives from WFFP, WFF and ICSF spoke about her support to the struggles of small-scale fishworkers the world over and the need to carry on the fight in her honour.

The key objectives of the workshop were:

- To inform the small-scale fishing communities across India about the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines;
- To promote all-round awareness about the SSF Guidelines, particularly gender equality and social development;
- To highlight the small-scale fishery organizations' efforts at empowering the fishing communities and valorizing the subsector; and
- To discuss how Indian policies and legislation at various levels to protect life and livelihoods of small-scale fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities can benefit from the SSF Guidelines.

International small-scale fishworker forums, represented by their Indian members, raised their concerns plaguing the sector and discussed what needed to be done to protect their rights and promote their interests. These included the importance of securing access to tenure rights to coastal and inland land and water bodies, the need for measures to ensure their social development, ways in which decent work could be ensured for workers, how the role of women in small-scale fisheries needed to be valorised and their participation strengthened, and the need to address the implications of climate change and natural disasters on small-scale fisheries.

Government representatives from a wide range of ministries and research institutions as well as international agencies spoke about the role they could play and how the SSF Guidelines could provide guidance for legislation, policies and research of relevance to fisheries and fishing communities. Attention was drawn to how existing policies and legislation deal with life and livelihood issues of both men and women and how gaps in legal and policy instruments could be meaningfully addressed by implementing the SSF Guidelines. The workshop helped to inform all the participants about the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines, highlighting the small-scale

fishery organizations' efforts at empowering the fishing communities and valorizing the subsector. Most importantly, the workshop provided a space for government representatives and small-scale fishworker organisations to freely engage with each other and exchange their views and to recommend action plans on how to take the concerns of small-scale fisheries on board.

The SSF Guidelines, formally endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in June 2014, is the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to the small-scale fisheries sector. These Guidelines, developed through a bottom-up process and extensive consultations with fishing communities worldwide, are mainly meant to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition and support the realization of the right to adequate food, to contribute to the equitable development of small-scale fishing communities and poverty eradication and to improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fishworkers and to provide guidance to States and stakeholders to develop and implement ecosystem-friendly and participatory policies, strategies and legal frameworks for responsible and sustainable small-scale fisheries.

ICSF had organized several multi-stakeholder workshops in India prior to this one. The East Coast workshop held in 2015 with support from BOBLME Project was preceded by six consultation meetings with fishworkers and fishworker organizations (FWOs) along the east coast of India in January and February 2015. Three meetings were held in Kerala and three in Maharashtra at the district level, viz. Malvan, Palghar and Mumbai (which included Raigad). Studies conducted by ICSF were also fed into the content of the workshops. (<http://igssf.icsf.net/images/SSF%20India%20workshop/071The%20paper%20Perspectives%20of%20the%20fishers%20and%20fishworkers%20on.pdf>)

The overall objectives of these workshops were to disseminate information about the SSF Guidelines and examine their relevance in varying local contexts, assess serious issues facing marine and inland small-scale fishing communities in various parts of India, examine the need to reconfigure SSF in the context of the challenges it is currently facing, assess how implementing the SSF Guidelines can contribute to improving life and livelihoods, especially of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and women in small-scale fishing communities and explore the need for a multi-stakeholder mechanism to facilitate a co-ordinated, inter-sectoral approach to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Session I: Opening Session

Remembering Chandrika

On behalf of their organisations, Mr. M. Ilango, Member, Coordinating Committee, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Dr. Ujjaini Halim, Member, Executive Committee, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), and Mr. V. Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF spoke about their experiences of working with Ms. Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary ICSF, who was on her way to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, via Beijing to attend the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, when her flight MH370 disappeared. Acknowledging her invaluable contribution to the Guidelines and her tireless work for the betterment of the lives of fishworkers all over the world, FAO has dedicated the SSF Guidelines to Ms Sharma.

Mr Ilango remembered the critical role played by Ms Chandrika Sharma in making the adoption of the SSF Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries a reality. He said that it was our bounden duty to implement the Guidelines out of respect to her immense contribution across the world for the downtrodden. Dr. Halim spoke about Chandrika's inspiration and how we could be guided by her vision and passion. She spoke about Chandrika giving new hope and energy to the subsector and how she was the soul of the Guidelines. She said that Chandrika would continue her journey with the fisher people and fishing communities in their struggles especially towards implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Ms Halim added that Ms Sharma was vital in linking fisher platforms worldwide for the cause of these Guidelines. It is now the responsibility of others in this struggle to continue this fight for small-scale fisheries to realise Ms Sharma's dream which was a collective dream of the small-scale fisheries subsector. Mr V Vivekanandan added that Chandrika Sharma was a distinctive voice working for the rights of the small-scale fishworkers. He spoke about how she had evolved a very distinctive and very unique style of leadership which was very democratic taking everyone onboard. In an area fraught with so much conflict, he spoke about how Ms Sharma made every effort to work with all players, linking with them at all levels, working for larger causes and sticking to principles. This, combined with her preference never to take centre-stage, made her an excellent negotiator.

Other participants also spoke about their experiences of working with her, and how deeply they missed her at this crucial stage of implementing the Guidelines for which she had worked so hard.

Chair: Mr M Ilango, Member, Coordinating Committee, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)



The New Delhi workshop paid tribute to the memory of Chandrika Sharma of ICSF and acknowledged her invaluable contributions to the drafting of the SSF Guidelines

Introduction to the Workshop and its Objectives

Mr Sebastian Mathew, Executive Secretary, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) highlighted that the SSF Guidelines was the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to the small-scale fisheries sector. He spoke about the relevance of the Guidelines to India with a huge population (men, women and children in both marine and inland sectors) greatly dependent on small-scale fisheries. He stressed the importance on ensuring SSF communities' access to health, education, drinking water, housing, electricity, and sanitation to improve their food and nutrition security. The Guidelines are unique in that they are developed within the framework of two main approaches—the human-rights based approach as well as an ecosystem approach to fisheries. Therefore, the quest that underpins the document is to achieve better benefits to small-scale fisheries and fishworkers (both marine and inland) as well as sustainability of fishery resources. It also includes the principles of consultation, participation, accountability, transparency etc. The Guidelines can give guidance on how various national and state schemes offered by many different ministries can be extended to small-scale fishing communities, thereby requiring effective coherent measures towards their implementation.

Mr Mathew pointed out the need for legislation at the national and state level to improve the conditions of employment and work, safety and social protection of all categories of fishers and fishworkers, inclusive of those in both the formal and informal sectors keeping in mind the special circumstances prevailing in fishing communities. He spoke about how the Guidelines provide comprehensive guidance on revamping fisheries policies and legislation and how, for example, the Statement of Intent of the National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2016, India, acknowledges this. Mr Mathew also elaborated on some additional elements that one would like to see in the new National Policy on Marine Fisheries. He hoped that the workshop would fuel the much needed dialogue between and among stakeholders, reflect on how to raise the stature of SSF using the SSF Guidelines and also reflect on policies and schemes that could be used for the benefit of the subsector.

Opening Remarks

Mr Shyam Khadka, FAO Representative in India, New Delhi started his address by pointing out how small-scale fisheries had changed drastically with changes in technology and exploitation of resources by new entrepreneurs leading to extensive ecological damage and consequently a change in livelihood patterns of SSF communities. Sustainability and livelihood challenges make this workshop timely and appropriate. SSF communities, he pointed out, though not necessarily the poorest, are one of the most vulnerable communities the world over, as they are dependent on the vagaries of nature; prone to the maximum number of natural calamities along the coast; most difficult to reach communities in terms of government services as they are far-flung as both geographically as well as politically they are isolated and not a priority. He spoke about how the SSF community is very unorganized, politically fragmented yet highly important with respect to fishery economics (not only with respect to employment and trade but as an important source of livelihood). He pointed out the importance of small-scale fisheries as a way of life which would fast disappear if we did not do something about it. Discussing the FAO perspective, Mr Khadka informed the participants about the country programme framework recently approved by the Government of India where they talked about production and productivity to some extent, but to a larger extent the focus was on sustainability of resources—ground water, soil and marine resources. He explained that this was important for the Government of India as the condition of natural resources was degrading significantly. He noted that these resources, especially marine resources, which we share with other regions, need to be protected. He reiterated that the issues of the workshop were important from various perspectives—economic, human-rights, social—as the small-scale fisheries subsector was one of the communities that had

suffered the most because of development. It has been observed that while many communities benefited from advances in technologies, the SSF sector has actually worsened as they could not make use of the new technologies, with conflicts starting between those who could use these. This is an issue which is significant from a human rights perspective. Noting that neither the colonial government nor independent India were interested in challenging the fishermen for their entitlements as nobody was really interested in the barren beaches, in more recent years, others including bigger fishermen and tourism have taken over spaces traditionally used by SSF, threatening the entitlements and the hereditary possessions of the latter to coastal and marine resources. Comparing the system of taxation of crop farmers which also protected their rights to the land, traditional fishermen, Mr Khadka explained, were not subjected to taxation, a system which went against them in the longer term. Due to the hereditary nature of the profession, entitlements to government programmes, marine, coastal and land resources which they have been using are key areas of concern. He believes that the Government of India has actually adopted several of the provisions of the SSF Guidelines, but more needed to be done. Even more importantly, he called for enforcement mechanisms to be in place as they were necessary to implement the various policies, legislations, and guidelines that India had.

He emphasized the need for self-governance mechanisms and the need for self-empowerment of FWOs so that they can govern the resources up to the EEZ. Stressing the need to preserve ground water resources, he said that working through these community based ground water regulatory systems was found to be far more effective and efficient. He appealed to the gathering to focus on empowerment of SSF and establishment of enforcement mechanisms for a better future.

Welcome Remarks

Dr Ujjaini Halim, Member, Executive Committee, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) highlighted the importance of SSF and spoke about the plethora of challenges that they faced, women being more negatively affected than men. She spoke about the participatory process leading to the adoption of the SSF Guidelines, and was grateful to the Government of India and FAO for adopting this soft law. Emphasizing the importance of SSF in India, Ms. Halim added that the Guidelines do not define SSF or discuss the modalities for implementation and that this was left to each country. She stressed on the importance of all actors collaborating and the challenges of policy coherence and interdepartmental cooperation with regard to successful implementation.



Ujjaini Halim, Member, Executive Committee, WFF; M. Ilango, Member, Coordinating Committee, WFFP and V. Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF at the opening session of the New Delhi workshop

Session 2: SSF Guidelines Implementation

Mr M Ilango, Member, Coordinating Committee, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) chaired this session noting that unless the SSF Guidelines take legal shape, they would be of limited use.

SSF Guidelines: An Overview

Mr David Brown, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer/Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Bangkok explained that he was working in Bangkok as the interim fishery officer of FAO. He gave an overview of the SSF Guidelines and the key milestones towards their adoption. Recognizing that the Guidelines were the result of a global effort, he acknowledged the role played by civil society and the Government of India as major drivers in the process towards endorsement of the Guidelines. Elaborating on the components of the Guidelines, he spoke about the guiding principles. He explained the work of FAO towards their implementation at the international, regional and national levels with examples of national actions that have been taken. Informing the participants about the plans ahead, including the Umbrella programme, he emphasized the role that all stakeholders had to play and the need to work together.

Mr. Brown drew attention to FAO's implementation strategy, which included work at the international, regional and national levels; at the policy level this included mainstreaming the principles and provisions of the Guidelines in all strategies and actions and developing support to specific areas of implementation. Sharing with participants the BOBLME-SSF Guidelines related activities and achievements, Mr Brown spoke about the key outcomes of the various workshops at the regional level, the similarity in challenges across the regions and the opportunities ahead. Stressing the importance of using the SSF Guidelines as a tool, he said that they were multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral, and that there was a need to build on existing knowledge and develop strategic engagement among partners.

Guiding Principles of the SSF Guidelines, Human Rights Law and the Constitution of India

Dr Ujjaini Halim, Member, Executive Committee, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) presented the guiding principles of the SSF guidelines in the context of human rights law and the Constitution of India, stating that it was important to understand these in order to develop strategies for the implementation of the Guidelines as these had to be done within national laws and policies. She noted that the SSF Guidelines were broad and were reflected in other human rights instruments.

Discussing the key provisions of the Indian Constitution which respect, protect and promote human rights, she highlighted those which were relevant to the SSF Guidelines. She then listed in some detail the 13 Guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines, mentioning how these were also in the Indian Constitution. With each of the Guiding Principles she elaborated on the actual situation and the challenges in implementation. In conclusion, she pointed out that though India has a Constitution which highly values human rights principles, political will was needed to implement the SSF Guidelines and FWOs were willing to cooperate with the government and other actors for poverty eradication and sustainable development of small-scale fishers.

Report of the ICSF Meetings on the SSF Guidelines in India

Mr V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF presented a report of the various ICSF-BOBLME meetings and workshops on the SSF Guidelines in India and the consultations held in parts of the country with multiple stakeholders. He explained the context of why the workshops were organized, viz. to feed back into the communities who had contributed to the development of the SSF Guidelines.

He emphasized some of the common issues that emerged including the concern about the future of small-scale fisheries, the importance of the human rights-based approach and the difficulty in defining what constitutes small-scale fisheries. He also highlighted the threats the sector faced, their weak tenure rights and social development, the increasing vulnerability especially of women, and the implications of disasters and climate change on the small-scale fisheries sector. He reported on the suggestions that emerged towards creating an enabling environment, including the need for strong political will and representation of women and men small-scale fishworkers in decision-making bodies and research studies that affect their lives and livelihoods.



David Brown, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer/Consultant, FAO; Ujjaini Halim, Member, Executive Committee, WFF; M. Ilango, Member, Coordinating Committee, WFP and V. Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF at the session on SSF Guidelines implementation of the New Delhi workshop

Session 3: Panel Discussion 1

Social Development, Employment and Decent Work for Responsible/Sustainable Fisheries (based on items listed under the Seventh Schedule and Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India)

The first Panel discussion was moderated by Mr. C.M. Muralidharan, Member, ICSF. He requested the panelists to respond to the following questions:

- How can decent work for all small-scale fisheries workers (men and women) be promoted in the formal and informal fishery sectors?
- What is the adequacy of measures to ensure access of fishing communities (men and women) to social development and, in this context, what are the gaps that need to be addressed?

Mr Velji Kanji Masani, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Gujarat spoke about the huge changes he had seen in Gujarat when as a child he used to go out fishing with his father, especially the shift from hook and line to canoes, to larger boats and now trawlers. He explained that there was not enough progress on scientific fishing techniques with the changes in technology, leading to reduction in catches. Referring to the small-scale fisheries sector, he said “We are cutting our own legs, but see no way out”. He also spoke about the need for NGOs in his area, Mangrol, to increase awareness about the importance of education. The fact that he has studied till Class XII was a big deal in his village. He stressed the need for implementation of welfare schemes, infrastructure development and simplification of the insurance claim process.

Mr Shankara Behara, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), Odisha noted that tenure rights in Odisha are not guaranteed. Fishing communities were especially affected by natural and man-made disasters and developments in the coastal belt, they had poor access to health, housing, water and sanitation facilities. Fisherwomen had low access to government finances. The lack of collateral, he said, led to exploitation of fisherwomen by middlemen and moneylenders. He emphasized the importance of pensions for fisher people, safety at sea and the depletion of fish stock due to, among other factors, pollution. He urged the government to create insurance policies against disasters, protect fishers in territorial waters, pay compensation during fish ban periods and scientists to look into depletion of fish stocks.

Dr Y S Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Programme-Inter Governmental organization (BOBP-IGO), Chennai emphasized the need for a plurality of agencies to deal with the three topics that the panel had to discuss, viz. social development, employment and decent work, as they were in the domain of different government departments and therefore governed by different Acts. He clarified that these three subjects were not solely in the domain of the fisheries department. In fact, they were in the domain of a large number of ministries at the national and state level.

Like most UN documents, he said, the SSF Guidelines too was a dry document, very difficult to read. He noted that it draws on twelve international voluntary and non-voluntary laws. They also refer to the work of a large number of international agencies like the International Labour Organisation, the International Maritime Organisation, FAO, WTO etc. Drawing from so many documents, and then placing responsibility on a large number of ministries and departments, Dr Yadava pointed out, makes implementation very difficult. The challenge, he said, was to penetrate the ministries and departments. He felt that the workshop should identify the entry points to all Ministries and Departments that could be approached to realise the SSF Guidelines. The workshop should discuss on the usefulness of a National Plan of Action for implementing the SSF Guidelines. There should be stress on capacity development within and outside the various departments responsible for dealing with SSF.

Mr Manash Choudhury, Deputy Adviser to the Government of India, Agriculture Vertical, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, New Delhi emphasized the need to rework the SSF Guidelines to make it simple. Indicators need to be developed to monitor the progress of its implementation and to measure the outcome. He pointed out that the ground reality was that fishing communities were denied their rights and were under the control of moneylenders. He spoke about the huge difference in wages between men and women with most of the offshore work being done by men and most of the onshore work being done by women. He said that the wages were even less than in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme (MNREGA). Though right to food and work was legalised, Mr Choudhury noted, the practice was different. Despite the fact that the fisheries sector was growing, and the earnings were in billions of rupees, he wondered whether the existing fisheries resources were sustainable.

Dr Shamila Monteiro, Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Goa, Goa spoke about the vulnerability of small-scale fisheries as an occupation. She stated that though there are many schemes that can realise the aim of the SSF Guidelines in the states, the incoherent policies of different departments are a hurdle. For example, there are many schemes under which housing could be made a reality for fishing communities but there are issues within the coastal regulation zone (CRZ) notification which make this impossible. She asserted that traditional access to the beach should not be blocked. Bringing into focus the importance of tenure rights for SSF communities, she reflected on the urgency of zoning where areas could be reserved for traditional small-scale fishers, with guidelines developed for the same. She agreed with the need for capacity-building of the Fisheries Department. She spoke about the need for educating fisherwomen for value addition of products, decreasing dependence on middlemen and to protect their rights to market spaces. Dr Monteiro also pointed out the need for facilities for migrant workers on fishing boats, insurance covers for fishermen and women, safety at sea, facilities at landing centres and how the importance and dignity of fishing as a profession should be respected.

Mr Namdithiu Pamei, Deputy Director, Centre for Organisation Research and Education, Manipur spoke about inland fisheries in the Manipur context. He informed the participants that about 100,000 people were dependent on Loktak lake which was the largest inland freshwater lake in North East India. Under the Manipur Loktak Lake (Protection) Act 2006, the Loktak Development Authority (LDA) becomes the owner of the lake, taking over inherent rights of fishing communities. He was critical of burning down of *phumdis* (floating islands) inside the lake in 2011 destroying all household items, fishing gear and savings of traditional fishers. He rued the lack of dialogue between fishing communities and the state agencies, the gap between the Central government and the State government, and the lack of coordination between state departments adversely affecting SSF communities. He stressed the importance of involving fishers, including women, in the LDA. He pointed out the lack of awareness on SSF Guidelines and the step-motherly treatment given to fishers. He explained that the fisheries department did not control the fish products in the Lake; it was the local fishermen, and especially women who determined the price. He pointed out that the fish catch was reducing annually, so the fishing community has a fish festival where they sell their products at the river banks, negotiate directly with consumers, and avoided middlemen. One of the purposes of this festival is to point out that even with less fish catch, they can command prices. Mr. Pamei also spoke about the lack of social security measures, redressal mechanisms, potable water, and primary education in the Lake area.

Mr Mangaraj Panda, Secretary, United Artists Association (UAA), Odisha spoke about the high levels of salinity of ground water in the coastal areas and the lack of potable water supplied by the authorities. He drew attention to the vulnerability of small-scale fishworkers

related to their health giving examples of how reflected light at sea affects eye-sight, how women carry heavy loads on their heads and sit in the sun for long hours and how access to sanitation was poor. He pointed out that these issues among others, were being discussed with the government for many years but successive governments had done little or nothing for the betterment of the small-scale fishing communities. He said that migration was increasing due to low catches, but that the prices of fish partly compensated for the low catches of small-scale fishing communities. He suggested that migrant labour should be registered in the places where they work and that interdepartmental coordination between fisheries and labour is needed at the national and state level.

Discussions

Following the presentations, the Chair summarised the salient points that the panellists raised and opened the floor for questions and comments. There was some discussion regarding building of houses in CRZ III areas with prohibition only in CRZ I areas. Despite this, panchayats asked for CRZ clearance before giving an NOC for construction of houses, making it difficult for fishermen to go through the process. It was felt that the process needed to be simplified. The issue of ensuring social security, especially for women, was raised. It was explained that while the National Scheme for the Welfare of Fishermen, a nodal scheme adopted by the DADF would continue till March 2016, there would be no separate scheme for fishers in isolation under the DADF and specific needs like health, housing, insurance etc would be under programmes of different departments. In Tamil Nadu, it was explained that the Fishermen Welfare Board implements various social security programmes for fishermen and women which include programmes on education, maternity benefits, insurance etc. The surcharge was collected on diesel that is supplied to the fishermen and five percent of the revenue collected from local inland water bodies reserves is used by the Fishermen Welfare Board for these purposes.

It was suggested that NITI Aayog develop indicators on the SSF Guidelines and that capacity building of government departments be taken up on an urgent basis. The need was also expressed to have a baseline documentation of traditional rights on inland and marine fisheries in order to protect traditional rights from getting extinguished and a data bank of migrant sending and receiving states so that mechanisms could be developed. Expressing willingness to develop indicators, Mr Choudhury of NITI Aayog emphasized the need for a collective approach.

It was felt that the lack of potable water across the country's fishing villages was a huge problem that had to be addressed. Attention was also drawn to the need for responding to the constant complaints by SSF on the destructive fishing practices of trawlers.



Velji Kanji Masani, WFFP; Shankara Behara, WFF; Y S Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO; C M Muralidharan, Member, ICSF; Manash Choudhury, Deputy Adviser, NITI Aayog; Shamila Monteiro, Director, Department of Fisheries, Goa; Namdithiu Pamei, Deputy Director, Centre for Organisation Research and Education, Manipur and Mangaraj Panda, Secretary, UAA, Odisha at the first panel discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Session 4: Panel Discussion 2

Tenure Rights to Land and Water Bodies, Livelihoods and Responsible/Sustainable Fisheries (based on the items listed under Seventh Schedule and Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India)

Mr V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF moderated the discussion requesting panellists to focus on the two questions they had been previously given.

Do inland and marine small-scale fishing communities (men and women) have secure tenure rights to land and fisheries, including for habitation, fish processing and marketing? What are the successes and failures in securing such tenure rights?

- How can secure tenure rights to small-scale fishing communities allocate fisheries resources in an orderly manner, address inter-gear conflicts, area-based conflicts, IUU fishing, overcapitalisation and thereby ensure responsible and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity?

Mr T Peter, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Kerala welcomed the SSF Guidelines, stating that though these Guidelines clearly indicate the rights that need to be given to SSF, the reality is otherwise. He said that sustainability of marine and inland fishery resources will ensure the sustainability of SSF and that policies and measures which lead to harming the resources, e.g. allowing destructive fishing practices, should be discouraged. He also condemned the practice of giving value to trash fish in the form of fish meal for poultry. This, he felt, was further depleting the resources and giving an incentive to do so. However, a gender sensitive, economically just and environmentally sustainable fisheries policy cannot be achieved by the fishing community alone but through scientific, democratic processes which also ensure informed participation of traditional fishing communities in decision-making processes. He critiqued the current model of development which is premised on the gross domestic product (GDP) alone. Mr Peter also indicated that the drafting committee for the Marine Fisheries Policy should include representatives of traditional fishing communities for an effective and efficient policy, acceptable to the SSF.

Mr Harinarayan Mohanty, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), Odisha requested the group to think about ways in which small-scale fisheries could be made sustainable. Their right to their life, livelihoods, tenure rights, etc., need to be defended through legislation in the way the Forest Rights Act does for the forest dwellers. He spoke about the *Char* areas in Odisha—land formation by alluvial deposits in a river through gradual accretion to its bank—and revealed that there was confusion about whether the land was with the revenue or other departments. He highlighted the vulnerability of women and the discrimination they face, as well as the problem of alcoholism in the fishing community. He criticised the leasing of water bodies to outsiders, bypassing the panchayats. Mr Mohanty also reflected on how semi-intensive or intensive aquaculture was rampant in brackish water areas and was negatively impacting SSF as it was detrimental to coastal ecology and marine biodiversity stating that protests of people against illegal activities were often not heeded by the authorities.

Mr Nishat Ahmed, Director of Fisheries, Government of Bihar, Bihar informed the participants that a draft State Fisheries Policy is on their website, open for comments. Suggestions have been received from the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA). As per the Bihar Fish Jalkar Management Act of 2006, the management of government water bodies rests with the Cooperative societies. However, the rules were not framed. The Act was amended in 2007 and 2010 with rules amended as well, and the new rules are yet to be notified. In the current amendment the period of lease of water bodies, including ponds, lakes, wetlands, etc is increased to seven years and will be leased out to the cooperatives. The department also undertakes training of farmers who are sent to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes. The problem lies in the fact that

different aspects of fisheries are under the jurisdiction of different departments. Fisheries and its development including fishing communities is the subject of the state fisheries department, cooperatives are with the cooperative department, markets are under municipalities etc. Based on the notification that fisheries is at par with agriculture, the electricity tariff, mortgage as collateral, of fisheries families is at par with agriculture. The Department of Fisheries has tried to get the Finance Ministry to also notify fisheries as agriculture, but this was turned down claiming that fisheries is not viable. He called for alternative activities to be encouraged during the fishing ban period when migration was increasing. Pointing out the need for a database of fishers migrating for labour, Mr Ahmed talked about the high levels of migration of fishers from Bihar to Uttar Pradesh (U.P), Chattisgarh and Maharashtra. Similar to the marine fishery survey, he called for an inland fishery survey which has not been done in India, till date. He rued the lack of importance given to fisheries as a sector. Though crop insurance is provided in Bihar for aquaculture, he said that the high premiums were a deterrent for poor farmers. He felt that more work needs to be done regarding this especially in areas which are rain-fed like Bihar and which experience intermittent drought and floods.

Dr V V Sugunan, Senior Consultant, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad said that the SSF Guidelines are highly commendable, though their implementation is an uphill task and is left with the State. India, with its vast territory and the huge diversity of small-scale fisheries practised in marine and freshwater ecosystems, poses a mindboggling task even to define who is a small-scale fisher. He proposed as a first step a thorough documentation of the traditions and customs of small-scale fishers seen throughout India. He also expressed concern about implementation of the Guidelines even if a policy or framework was in place. The next challenge facing the VGSSF guidelines is to come up with measurable indicators for VGSSF implementation. The challenge is particularly huge with respect to SSF, especially in the current paradigm where “development” is measured in terms of production, income earned, export income earned, contribution to the GDP, etc. He was of the opinion that we need different yardsticks to measure the achievements against the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and also need to convince funding agencies and policy makers about sustainable fisheries as a viable indicator for assessing funding, fund utilization, etc. Therefore, the task at hand is not only to create supporting legislation/policy framework but also to develop indicators.

Ms Suman Singh, Director, Sakhi, Bihar said that the bane of Indian fisheries is that the focus is fully on marine fisheries while inland fisheries is neglected. Though the fisheries departments’ efforts to increase the lease tenure of water bodies to seven years are welcome, no commercial banks are ready to finance for a lease less than 10 years and therefore her organization has made a submission to the Bihar Fisheries Department to increase the lease period to 10 years. She spoke passionately about banks refusing to finance women since they do not recognize that women can be ‘fishers’. She also indicated the need for a gender orientation for people drafting the policies as they still use the term “fishermen”. She said that mindsets had to change to accept women as fishers. She demanded to know the direct investment made by the government in women in fisheries compared to other social development sectors. There are no segregated data on how many women are members of the cooperatives and how many women received settlements. Ms Singh said that there is a dire need of institution building at the grassroots, capacity development at the cooperative level and implementation of the policies already in place. She reiterated the need for capacity-building of fisheries department and was looking forward to see how the SSF Guidelines would be used for the welfare of SSF and women, in particular.

Mr Oinam Rajen Singh, Secretary, All Loktak Lake Areas Fishermen's Union (ALLAFUM), Manipur informed the participants about how a mega hydroelectric dam in Manipur has created huge problems for SSF communities especially due to the depletion of fish stocks. He said that the SSF communities were misled about the benefits of the dam. A protected zone has been created in the reservoir area that prevents people from fishing. He strongly criticised the eviction notices served to people who had lived there for years, saying that people were now forced to migrate. He said that solid waste was being dumped in the lake on a daily basis and just as it had happened with nearby rivers, Loktak lake would also die in some decades. The Fishermen's Union has asked for the dam to be decommissioned to help the lake survive as well as to protect the welfare and the rights of SSF communities.

Dr Gopal Krishna, Acting Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai elaborated on responsible fisheries and conservation being key to sustaining the subsector and to ensure resources for the future generations. Reiterating the points raised by the previous speakers on threats facing small-scale fisheries, he pointed out the need to look into earmarking of specific areas for different stakeholders, conflict management, value addition to increase revenue and improve social conditions, and alternative means of livelihood as activities yet to be fully undertaken. Talking about the need for competence-building, he informed that his institute provided this service at grassroots level, to fisheries department and to entrepreneurs. He opined that mariculture and aquaculture are the answers to depleting and dwindling resources. In the interests of different stakeholders, Dr. Krishna promised that his institution would do its best as part of the Fisheries Policy Committee. He stressed the need for all stakeholders, and not just the government, to be part of implementing and decision-making with respect to all relevant legislation and policies.

Dr Leela Edwin, Principal Scientist and Head, Fishing Technology Division, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi gave a glimpse of the development of ring seine fishery in India and the classification of ring seine units. She explained that ring seine operations with small mesh sizes have resulted in indiscriminate landings of juvenile fish. However, the carbon emission and global warming effects of ring seine were seen far less than single-day and multi-day trawlers and therefore can be considered as an option to replace the same. In order to make ring seining more responsible, Dr Edwin was of the view that the mesh size needed to be optimised in accordance with targeted resources; fishing effort to be controlled by optimizing size of craft, gear, engine power and number of vessels; operating seasons to be sensitive to lifecycles of fish; operations should not clash with traditional fishing grounds of coastal fishing communities; and juvenile fish trade to be banned. She spoke about inter-gear conflicts and said that community-based decisions for allocation of different areas for different gears was feasible. This calls for capacity building of fishers, establishment of tenure rights for different gear groups etc.

Dr C Ramachandran, Principal Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi said that we need an aquatic logic as we are talking about a three-dimensional space. He urged reflections on the basic questions, "How to fish, how much to fish, and who should fish?" He gave an overview of the trends in marine fish landings in India, explaining that it was increasing compared to global trends. He said however, that past performance is not an indicator of future returns especially in the case of fisheries. India, to make its fisheries sustainable and to reduce conflicts, should work towards a regional management system such as an interstate fisheries commission. Dr C Ramachandran spoke about the mariculture advantage where the gender issue can be addressed by giving more rights to women.



Harinarayan Mohanty, WFF; T Peter, WFFP; Nishat Ahmed, Director of Fisheries, Bihar; V V Sugunan, Senior Consultant, NFDB; V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF; Suman Singh, Director, Sakhi; Oinam Rajen Singh, Secretary, ALLAFUM; Gopal Krishna, Acting Director, CIFE; Leela Edwin, Principal Scientist and Head, CIET; C Ramachandran, Principal Scientist, CMFRI at the second panel discussion of the New Delhi workshop



T Peter, WFFP; Harinarayan Mohanty, WFF; Nishat Ahmed, Director of Fisheries, Bihar; V V Sugunan, Senior Consultant, NFDB; V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF; Suman Singh, Director, Sakhi; Oinam Rajen Singh, Secretary, ALLAFUM; Gopal Krishna, Acting Director, CIFE; Leela Edwin, Principal Scientist and Head, CIET; C Ramachandran, Principal Scientist, CMFRI at the second panel discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Session 5: Panel Discussion 3

Value Chain, Post-harvest and Trade: Empowering the Role of Women in Small-scale Fishing Communities

This session moderated by Mr. Gilbert Rodrigo, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) attempted to address a few key questions:

- How is the participation of women in harvesting, post-harvest and distribution stages of the value chain protected towards enhancing their income, livelihood security and well being (e.g. legislation, policies and measures to pay living wages; ensure access to savings, credit and insurance schemes; guarantee better working conditions; social protection; provision of amenities and services, access to information (techniques, weather, market, etc.)?
- What are the institutional mechanisms in place (e.g. cooperatives and professional organizations), especially to protect the rights of women in harvest, post-harvest (inland and marine) and trade, and to enhance their participation in decision-making processes?
- How could women's participation as leaders and members be improved in cooperatives and professional organizations?
- Are there effective measures in place to ensure fair distribution of benefits from both domestic and international fish trade along the small-scale fisheries value chain?

Ms Maglin Peter, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Kerala pointed out the lack of data and disaggregated data (different types of jobs—as many as 50 types of jobs were reported in which women are involved in fisheries in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, for example) on women in fisheries, reflecting the lack of acknowledgement of the role of women in fisheries. This has led to lack of proper space in policies and other legal frameworks which has caused immense hardship to women in fisheries. She was sceptical of the successful implementation or adoption of SSF Guidelines in this data vacuum. She stated that the lack of data is the sole reason behind many maladies facing women in fisheries today. She pointed out that unlike earlier where women had a hold over markets and marketing, they now lacked marketing facilities, were exploited in markets in the way of entry fees (as high as Rs. 100-150 or \$ 1.3- \$ 2 in some places) and were, displaced by factors such as male-friendly technology development (namely ice plant chains/freezers; development of harbours, etc.)

She spoke about the lack of hygiene and facilities provided at the markets leading to various health issues including uterine problems. She drew attention to the high levels of migration of women in search of jobs and markets, sometimes spending only one night a week with their families, often sleeping in the trucks that transport them, raising issues of safety and security. Due to the long hours they have to spend for procuring and marketing fish, women, Ms. Peter noted, had less time to eat food leading to malnourishment. She stressed that no development in fisheries is complete without taking into consideration women in fisheries and no policy in fisheries is successful if it is blind to these women.

Mr Shankara Behera, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), Odisha agreed with the points raised by Ms. Maglin Peter saying that fisherwomen were the most vulnerable; they get lower wages than men, they have poor access to education, health, credit, entitlements and property. He spoke about the high levels of alcoholism among men in fishing communities causing huge suffering among the women and the need for alcohol-free zones. He said that fisherwomen involved in post-harvest needed capacity-building on innovative value-added products and needed easy access to credit from banks, explaining that women found it several times more difficult than men to lease water bodies. He suggested that women should

have space in the panchayats to participate in decision-making and should get compensation post-disasters. Policies, Mr Behera felt, should be gender sensitive for which data on women in fisheries were important. He also believed that to move ahead women needed to be organized, fisherwomen cooperatives need to be strengthened and women to be made aware of their rights.

Ms Jesu Rethinam, Director, SNEHA, Tamil Nadu spoke about the trends in small-scale fisheries, the shift from shore-based fisheries to harbour-based fisheries, reduction in domestic fish trade, and the lack of spaces for women. She explained gender participation in the fisheries value chain and the importance of gendered value chain analysis. Advocating for the need to increase women's visibility in small-scale fisheries, she suggested what needed to be done, which included improving access for women vendors to fish in landing centres, improving access of women to beach and fish processing facilities, providing better amenities at markets, preventing displacement from markets, and improving facilities for processing, marketing, storage, transport as well as training of women. She added that women should be in the mainstream of leadership and also empowered to function effectively.

Dr Arpita Sharma, Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai said that the SSF Guidelines was a landmark instrument which needed policy, legislative, institutional, cultural, traditional and gendered frameworks to implement at all these levels. Highlighting the role of women across the value chain, she deplored their lack of representation at leadership levels in the cooperatives, though they participated in meetings and as office bearers. She stressed the need for leadership training for all women so that their voices could be heard and their interests taken into account. She reiterated what previous speakers had said about the problems women faced. She spoke about the need for solutions to the problems women faced and for policies which are gender sensitive. Acknowledging the difficulties in implementation even of policies that were already in place, Dr Sharma called upon participants to explore the possibility of wet markets which are controlled by women so that they did not have to pay for spaces in markets without any facilities provided. She emphasized the need for women's cooperatives, strengthening fisheries departments that were understaffed and recruiting more extension officers who could look at social issues of SSF and not just production. She informed the gathering that women are paid less than minimum wages or fixed daily wages at export centres for prawn peeling and salaries are given to the families and not to women directly. She said that even though there is slight increase of salaries compared to earlier days, benefits are far fewer resulting in lower migration of women from Kerala to other states for jobs in peeling centres. She urged that SSF should share in the benefits accruing from exports and the promotion of the subsector for long term sustainability.

Ms Ujwala Jaykisan Patil, Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti, Maharashtra shared the woes of women fish vendors in Maharashtra. She said that all processing was done by women once fish land at the centres, but no facilities were available including drinking water, and water for cleaning fish. She noted that other than 67 markets of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and 21 private fish markets, there are many informal markets in the city of Mumbai. With increase in residential areas, markets have also increased without improvement in facilities leading to erosion of customers from traditional markets, drawing people towards malls where fish is kept in a clean and more presentable manner. The existing markets along with informal markets have been mapped with ICSF support and presented to the BMC. In the redevelopment of fish markets, she said that BMC had promised some reservation of space for women fish vendors; this was a matter of tenure rights of women fish vendors. Even with all these markets there are no women cooperatives in Maharashtra and byelaws do not reflect women's views. This has to change and the redevelopment should take into consideration the views and demands of women in fisheries.

Mr P P Surendran, Deputy General Manager-Commercial Operations, Matsyafed, Thiruvananthapuram pointed out that fisheries lack the attention received by agriculture in India. The waiving of fisher loans is never heard of and the interest subvention plan usually offered to agriculture is not offered to fisheries. The vulnerability of the occupation is therefore capitalized by middlemen who make a huge profit. To give greater income to fishers the plausible solutions are value adding/improvement of fish catch, strengthening institutional mechanisms to support small vendors, especially women, and developing entrepreneurship. The freshness of fish is key to getting higher price for fish. This is related to the way it is harvested and the way it is handled as well as management of markets and landing centres. NFDB while funding refurbishing of fish markets also should include a clause that management of the place is given to stakeholders. One good example is Munambam harbour, Kerala. The evolution of new markets and new models of marketing is inevitable and women in fisheries need to adapt to the changing times. He spoke about how the current methods of vending are becoming non-viable economic alternatives as customers prefer going to shops and malls. Credit is also key to successful fish marketing and Matsyafed has some successful models where fish vendors are offered finance at 0% interest. Leadership is key to good cooperatives and the role of women in such leadership roles is currently dismal. This indicates the need for good capacity building measures to empower them. He noted that schemes existed in various parts of the country but mechanisms to access them were lacking. Mr. Surendran felt that the government incentivising the export sector adversely affected the domestic market and food security.

Dr V V Sugunan, Senior Consultant, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad noted that we already have indicators, for example the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD) has construction of harbours as an indicator of development; NFDB and other agencies quote construction of clean markets as an indicator; but these developmental activities should not result in elimination of women from the subsector. He urged a revisit of indicators that really reflected development where, for example, the role of women in the value chain is intact and their participation is enhanced. He urged the participants to focus on an action plan rather than analyse the merits of the SSF Guidelines.

Mr R Lakshminarayanan, Senior Rural Finance Manager, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-assisted Post Tsunami Livelihood Programme (PTSLP), Government of Tamil Nadu, informed the participants about the IFAD project in six districts of Tamil Nadu, post the tsunami of 2004. He explained that fishermen are indebted to traders who pay them much lower than market rates for their catch. He told the group about the Debt Redemption Fund that IFAD supported through South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS). Debts were assessed and grants given to clear loans on the condition that they would form fish marketing societies (FMS) and move out of the arrangements with traders. He said that 50 FMS and three federations have been formed; they have their own building with all facilities and are auctioning fish on their own. He felt that they were now getting a good price and even had savings. He explained that the programme was focused on women through Joint Livelihood Groups; identified women were trained in hygienic fish handling. Mr Lakshminarayanan said that there was a need to introduce innovative and vibrant programmes within the available legal framework, to bring in sustainable changes in livelihoods. He mentioned 200 dry fish enterprises that have been supported by IFAD, which other states were now studying towards replication.

Discussion

Participants flagged some issues for consideration. A request was made to have exposure visits as part of workshops in the future. East Godavari has an amazing model of women's cooperatives which could be shared. Strong views were expressed against purse-seining which participants

from Maharashtra felt were not promoting sustainable fishing. They spoke about the conflicts between SSF and purse-seiners and how the number of licenses given to boats was far in excess of what scientists had recommended for sustainable fishing. Effluent from industries and the increasing pollution along the coast line meant that SSF had to go far beyond 12 nautical miles. The need to train traditional fishworkers for export-oriented markets was also expressed.



Jesu Rethinam, Director, SNEHA; Maglin Peter, WFFP; Shankara Behera, WFF; Arpita Sharma, Principal Scientist, CIFE; Gilbert Rodrigo, WFFP; Ujwala Jaykisan Patil, Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti; P P Surendran, Deputy General Manager-Commercial Operations, Matsyafed; V V Sugunan, Senior Consultant, NFDB; R Lakshminarayanan, Senior Rural Finance Manager, IFAD-PTSLP at the third panel discussion of the New Delhi workshop



Ujwala Jaykisan Patil, Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti; Maglin Peter, WFFP; Shankara Behera, WFF; Jesu Rethinam, Director, SNEHA; Arpita Sharma, Principal Scientist, CIFE; Gilbert Rodrigo, WFFP; P P Surendran, Deputy General Manager-Commercial Operations, Matsyafed; V V Sugunan, Senior Consultant, NFDB; R Lakshminarayanan, Senior Rural Finance Manager, IFAD-PTSLP at the third panel discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Session 6 : Panel Discussion 4

Natural and Human-induced Disasters and Climate Change

Dr Ujjaini Halim, Member, Executive Committee, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) moderated this session, requesting participants to discuss the following:

- What are the implications of natural (e.g. tsunamis, cyclones, floods) and human-induced disasters (e.g. pollution, coastal erosion, destruction of coastal habitats, etc.) and climate change for food security, nutrition, post-harvest and trade (e.g. changes in fish species and abundance, fish quality and shelf-life), housing and livelihoods?
- What are the critical issues in human rights when considering disaster risk reduction and management (e.g. non-discrimination, compensation, etc.)? Are there policies and plans, and monitoring/early warning systems in place to address natural and human-induced disasters in fisheries at various levels? Do they include a human rights perspective?
- What are the examples of adaptation and resilience building in small-scale fisheries? What role can small-scale fisheries play in green house gas (GHG) mitigation efforts?
- Are there local/state/national strategies for adaptation and mitigation in relation to climate change and small-scale fisheries? What do they include and what are the gaps? How could climate change issues of relevance to small-scale fisheries be included in national, regional and global climate change planning?

Mr Gilbert Rodrigo, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Tamil Nadu noted that global warming has three main consequences—rise in sea levels, warming of the sea and changes of climate and seasons. The first, he pointed out, has led to coastal erosion with reduction of space for fishing and drying activities and destruction of houses. Submergence of islands and land areas sandwiched between sea and backwaters leading to migration; depletion of rare species affecting livelihoods; destruction of wetlands, mangroves and marshy lands affecting coastal farmers and fishers, especially Dalits—were some of the issues he highlighted as a result of sea level rise. Sea warming would destroy coral reefs and hence breeding grounds, fish species will be affected and may become extinct and unwanted species, including predators, may increase. Climate change could also cause confusion in breeding time and place among species. Floods can increase destroying nutrients in the sea and increase siltation in rivers. Increasing rain leading to inundation of places especially lowlands and breeding grounds for diseases. Climate change could also increase emergence of pests, microorganisms leading to new diseases. Increased catch could be a temporary phenomenon; the fishing community should be prepared for this. Natural disasters affect fishing communities greatly. Fishing communities can organize and plan for a response and need to be involved in the response. He encouraged the involvement of traditional fishing community panchayats as well in planning a response. Man-made disasters could be slow killers; resisting becomes difficult; fishing communities suffer most and their voices should be heard. For any intervention on the coast, fishing communities in the area should be consulted well in time, with mechanisms in place to involve fishing communities in addressing violations.

Mr Manab Bose, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), West Bengal shared his experiences of working with marginalised fishworkers in Odisha. He noted that there was an increase in natural disasters in recent years, to which even the administration was finding it difficult to respond. Disasters are natural and man-made—either way the response is insufficient. He was emphatic that disasters related to rivers are not natural, giving the example of the river Ganga

and its pollutants and flooding. He spoke about the reduction in fish affecting life and livelihoods and that temporary resettlement during flooding was given to people dependent on the river. However, he explained that resettling fisherfolk in hilly areas was no solution. Further, he elaborated on the hardships women faced, including lack of security when temporary shelter was unavailable. Urging the government to classify river erosion as a 'disaster', he said that the protracted struggle to do so had not achieved results. He suggested that fishing communities democratically participate in decisions related to disaster management for which empowerment and organization is needed.

Mr Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi stated emphatically that there was no such thing as 'natural disasters' and that they were all man-made. He gave the example of floods and the damage they cause which was due to man-made development and not unseasonal rain. He was clear that it was human intervention that led to disasters and pointed out that even international instruments recognized the need to do away with the term "natural". He then elaborated on the trends in disaster impact, saying that the improvements in end-to-end systems have managed to save lives; but still a lot remained to be done to save livelihoods as the number of people being affected by disasters is steadily increasing. He asked how we could achieve resilience and 'build back better' and said that we needed to address the issue of ecosystem health in building back resilience. He spoke about the lack of systematic documentation of what is happening to different sectors of the economy. This documentation would help with baselines as well as building systems for resilience.

Dr Nandakumar, Protsahan, Thiruvananthapuram through his presentation on Global Ocean Temperature Anomalies, increasing particularly since the 1980s, touched upon the imminent threat to coastal communities due to three phenomena such as sea-level rise, global warming and acidification of oceans. He explained with examples how this will impact the organisms in the sea - such as the snapping shrimp whose snap gives orientation and direction to many marine species. There is a huge chance of this snapping shrimp being silenced by the end of the century which could disorient a whole lot of marine life dependent on it. Dr Nandakumar also drew attention to the ways the coast is being modified due to the damming of rivers upstream which causes less sandy and more clayey beaches which lead to further need for dredging. He also indicated the impacts of coastal structures being put up such as groynes, break water structures which cause erosion and accretion simultaneously at two different points which in turn "necessitates" seawall construction. This has a huge ecological cost (apart from huge financial cost for its construction and maintenance) in terms of destruction of granite areas to make tetrapods. Dr. Nandakumar concluded his presentation by presenting some adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Mr Bharat Patel, Namati, Gujarat reiterated the opinion of previous speakers that it was man-made disasters affecting small-scale fisheries. He spoke about the devastation to the entire Gujarat coastline due to large scale industrial development and how it has wiped out small-scale fisheries. He elaborated on the various districts of Gujarat where the sea has become a dumping ground for all the toxic waste of chemical factories lining the shore, compounded with large-scale destruction of mangroves for projects and displacement of coastal and fishing communities by offering them the unwelcome idea of alternative livelihoods. He drew attention to the fact that chemical factories were disregarding norms regarding waste disposal leading to the destruction of marine life. He spoke about the destruction of mangroves to reclaim land for construction, displacing small-scale fisheries and forcing them to seek alternative livelihoods. Quoting examples like the depletion of prawns in the Little Rann of Kutch due to the development of large-scale salt pans, and the high erosion (almost 42% of Gujarat's coast is in the high erosion area) due to blocking of rivers which carried water to the sea, Mr. Patel condemned the forms of development

that were adversely affecting the lives and livelihoods of the small-scale fishing communities. Earlier fisherfolk used to migrate to the sand dunes of the Bhadreswar coast for 8 months of the year to do fishing. Following a World Bank funded project to control coastal salinity and the construction of *bhandaras* (permanent diversion structures) the sand dunes are now destroyed. Large-scale encroachment in the area, development of the port and the Special Economic Zone have compounded the problem. Fisherfolk are now expected to show identity cards to enter areas to which they had traditional access. All these factors have led to decreasing fish catch severely affecting the traditional livelihoods of SSF. He believed that with compliance of norms, the negative impacts of these man-made disasters could be decreased.

Dr Satheesh C Shenoi, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and Director National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India pointed out that about 93% of the heat generated due to global warming is absorbed by the ocean while 3% heats up the land, 3% melts the polar ice caps and only 1% heats up the atmosphere. It is also scientifically proved that 73% of the 93% heat absorbed by the Ocean gets concentrated in the Western Indian Ocean. This has disastrous impact on monsoon patterns, especially important for a country whose major proportion of agriculture is rain-fed. The global average of sea level rise is 3.1% while for Indian Ocean it is more than 4%. This has led to a change in the occurrence of certain species of fish. For example, this could be the reason why sardines and mackerels migrate northwards of the Indian peninsula. Lakshadweep, known for its tuna products depends mainly on skipjack tuna (more heat tolerant) and we may eventually see the diminishing of population of yellowfin tuna (seen in deeper waters). Dr. Shenoi called for better systems in place including early warning systems and to evacuate people post-disasters.

A A Hebbar, Indian Coast Guard, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi pointed out that oil slick is one of the biggest dangers looming over the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. Other than having a knee-jerk response to a crisis, India still fails to have a systematic response to mitigate the effects of such a catastrophe. In the event of oil pollution at sea the fishing population are not allowed to land catch for several days, sometimes running to a couple of weeks. There is evidence that in a small harbour in Mumbai the loss of fish catch in terms of income per day if fishing is not allowed runs to several crores of rupees. He gave several examples of the disastrous effects of oil slicks, especially on fish species. It is seen that some economically important species of fish, even after the 30th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Slick case, Alaska, United States, have never fully recovered and most of the species took an average of 10-15 years to recover. He said that unlike in the West, we did not have monitoring stations in India to track data after spills. He informed the participants of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) and the 1992 Fund Convention which provides compensation due to oil slicks. In the event of an oil slick accident, fisher community can claim compensation but this has to be corroborated by certain supporting documents such as log book of activities, business continuity record, record of earnings, proof of fish caught, baseline data of catch revenue, its documentation, etc. Pointing out that this documentation was completely lacking in the case of Indian fishing communities, resulting in loss of compensation claims, he was clear that this was due to low levels of awareness among the fishing community or their supporters. He strongly advocated awareness campaigns and capacity building of all stakeholders regarding the IOPC Funds.

Dr Maya Devi, Deputy General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Lucknow said that though nature does not distinguish between rich and poor, there are some who are more vulnerable than others. She explained the concepts of adaptation and mitigation and India's climate finance requirements. She elaborated on NABARD's key climate finance innovations which have helped to build resilience and to improve efficiency.

She informed participants about the pilot projects on climate change adaptation including community based adaptation practices. NABARD acting as the national implementing entity (NIE) of the UNFCCC in India. She talked about climate finance under a UNFCCC programme and informed that funds for fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and mitigation were available.

Dr Madhumita Mukherjee, Additional Director of Fisheries (Technical), Directorate of Fisheries, West Bengal focused on one of her research studies, elaborating on the study done on river Ganga, explaining that rivers have run dry and several fish species are endangered. She explained that they studied three factors—craft, gear and catch—so that based on these findings they could address livelihood issues. She spoke about the vulnerability of villages, loss of livelihoods, coastal erosion and weak attempts at dealing with these, and the high post harvest losses due to lack of facilities. In the long run, she pointed out, this will affect sustainability of fisheries, survival of fishworkers and the nutritional standards of millions. Despite biodiversity protection laws, implementation is weak; however, fishing communities are forced to take up other professions, women being particularly disadvantaged.



Participants at the New Delhi workshop

Session 7 : GROUP DISCUSSION

Groups were decided in advance taking into account areas of expertise, regional and gender balance as well as representation of different sectors. Government representatives were clubbed into two groups that focused on creating an enabling policy environment. Topics were given based on components of the SSF Guidelines. Questions were given to each participant in the language of their State or in English as requested.

Group representatives presented the key points of their discussions in a session chaired by Mr David Brown, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer/Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Bangkok

On the issue of tenure rights, Group 1 stressed that fishing communities needed to have secure tenure rights to land and fisheries and that their customary rights as well as sea and land rights should be protected. They called for the establishment of (Recognition of Fisher Rights) Act to protect the rights of the fishers and other traditional coastal communities on similar lines as that of the “Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006”. Fishing area till 30 fathom should be reserved for traditional small-scale fishers in Maharashtra. They suggested the formation of a state level third party monitoring committee with fair representation of fishing communities, CSOs/NGOs, cooperatives and that capacities of fishers-related agencies should be built.

In the context of employment and decent work, Group 2 discussed the need for capacity building of fisherwomen in value addition; basic education for the children of the fisher communities in their mother tongue; and, training of fisher youth in handling communication devices, GPS, etc. The group felt that the fisher community panchayat should be recognized as the local unit to handle any programme; welfare schemes should be uniform in all the coastal states of India; a special bank for the fisher people should be established where only their boats will be taken as collateral; and, families with women as head of household would be provided with the lean season and fishing ban season benefits. On the issue of safety and occupational health, they suggested that health schemes and facilities be established to cater to the specific need of the fisher communities’ health issues. Migrating fishermen should be insulated against arrest by the neighbouring countries through agreement on innocent crossing of maritime boundaries and housing schemes should be sensitive to potential disasters. The group also discussed the implementation of labour laws to recognize fishers, women and men, as labourers by the Labour Department, scrutiny of processing units to ensure they provide migrant fisherwomen with decent working and domicile conditions and decent pay including compensation for lean periods; and government intervention to ensure proper contracts with companies within and outside the country.



Participants at the group discussion of the New Delhi workshop

The group asked for trawlers to be positively encouraged to go for deep sea fishing with onboard accommodation beyond 100 naut. miles, so that the traditional fishermen have their space within 100 naut. miles free of trawling, as the areas within 12 naut. miles were already polluted. They felt that beach landing of craft should be encouraged for SSF fishers and creation of jetties and mini-fishing harbours should be avoided where possible. Sophisticated fish markets and transportation facility should be provided to fisherwomen to operate and use and existing landing sites should have dedicated facilities for women.

Finally, in terms of policy formulation, the group felt that the criteria for below poverty line (BPL) categorization of fisher communities needed to be reworked, based on the net income, and after factoring in investment, depreciation and replacement costs of capital. Fishing should be recognized as an occupation on par with agriculture. All fisher community financing should be done through a National Fisher Development Board and a separate policy document for the traditional fisher communities should be developed containing all these recommendations.



Participants at the group discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Group 3, requested to suggest measures to improve the social development of SSF, advocated the protection of traditional rights of inland fishers (especially, those affected by lake development authorities in Manipur); secure land rights, decent housing, sanitation facilities, potable water and health infrastructure for fishing communities. They called upon the Fisheries Department to coordinate with all relevant and related government departments to build policy coherence, and panchayats to take adequate responsibility of social development of fishers. The group suggested that the possibility of single window approach for clearances for house construction should be explored. The group urged that traditional leadership decision-making should be made more democratic, unbiased and gender inclusive; fisherwomen institutions developed and legally recognized; and, institutional mechanisms for social development of fishers should take into consideration the cultural and traditional differences between states and districts. Other suggestions included the creation of low interest loans/interest free loan to women groups for livelihood activities, low interest education loans for children from fishing communities, vocational education for fishers related to fishing, marketing and value chain, insurance cover for active fishermen and women, government subsidization of insurance premium for fishing craft of traditional fishers, adequate monetary compensation for all fishers during ban season, issuance of identity cards for inland fishers and women fish vendors like marine fishers, coverage of fish vendors (men and women) under the cooperative societies and promotion and capacity building of primary fishing cooperative societies to take up complete fish marketing therein bypassing middlemen. They recommended that the SSF Guidelines be widely disseminated at the grassroots through a series of awareness programmes with enough resources allocated for this purpose.



Participants at the group discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Suggesting specific actions to enhance women's role, status and contribution in fisheries and in the fishing/domestic spheres, Group IV called upon the Government to develop, maintain and publicise a data base which includes all pre-harvest and post-harvest activities in which women in fisheries are involved. They stressed the need to ensure 50% women in leadership positions in cooperative societies, traditional governance structures which have both men and women and form new women cooperatives and co-management committees in all fish landing centres and harbours, with 50% women involved in post-harvest activities. These committees, they suggested, should be federated at the union, district and state level. As with the previous group, they felt that proper savings and credit schemes including interest-free loans should be designed and implemented for women in fisheries, and long pending loans are to be assessed and waived.

Regarding marketing, the group suggested hygienic fish markets to be developed with necessary infrastructure facilities; market management committees to be formed with women who use the market; women marketing cooperatives to decide management issues; harbours to be women friendly; transportation facilities for women vendors to be ensured including separate space for women vendors in state transports and railways. They felt that local governance structures should construct and maintain safe night shelters for women. Apart from this, it was suggested that proper insurance schemes be designed and implemented through the existing cooperative societies for accident claims, cashless medical claims and maternity benefits, minimum wages be raised and strictly implemented in all fish processing industries, exporters must contribute a fixed percentage for women development activities and the State should take effective measures to design and implement programmes through fisheries welfare boards. Most importantly, the group stressed that women involved in fisheries and allied fisheries including pre-harvest and post-harvest activities should be recognized as workers and all social security schemes should be designed and implemented also to benefit them. They urged the DADF to evolve a national policy for improving the status of fisherwomen on par with fishermen. Representations from women's organizations should be included in the government and research institutes involved in fishery related work.



Participants at the group discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Group V stated that disasters and climate change impacts are exacerbated by various infrastructure projects on the coast and near inland water bodies, making it imperative for the fisheries sector and fishing communities to have a say in the approval of these projects. Policies like CRZ, Environment Protection Act, land use policies etc., need to be studied, gaps addressed and disaster mitigation and adaptation aspects integrated in them. The group suggested that the CRZ notification should be tightened and converted into a law, strengthening, monitoring, and enforcement systems, stricter environmental impact assessment (EIA), and community participation and representation in CRZ implementation and decision-making bodies and technical support toward their meaningful participation. The need was felt for a strong system of punishments for violations of environmental laws, compensation for fisherfolk to seek losses from projects with negative impacts, to develop oil spill plans and response, to draw up resettlement plans for areas vulnerable to sea level rise, to take up alternative methods, especially soft measures, for shoreline protection; and to curb sand mining, dumping of untreated effluent, and solid waste in the sea. Disaster management and livelihood rehabilitation policies focusing on all stages of value chain in post-disaster situation and insurance of fishing assets and credit for fishing equipment are important for effective rehabilitation. Development of appropriate marine communication system is needed to inform fishermen at sea about impending hazards. The group finally discussed approaches/tools in a disaster situation to “Build back better” and advocacy with NDMA to ensure proper implementation of the 2004 Disaster Management Act.



Participants at the group discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Group VI and VII discussed how the SSF can be promoted in India particularly through the government machinery at various levels. They felt that the definition of SSF should be people-centric and include traditional fisherfolk, migrants, etc. To protect SSF interests, they suggested zonation, declaring 12 nautical miles exclusively for SSF, exclusive zonation for unmotorized craft. In terms of government engagement, they suggested that other sectors be identified and involved in the implementation of SSF guidelines, the scope of existing national/state level platforms/committees be extended to monitor implementation and awareness campaign on the SSF Guidelines needs to be conducted at central, state and panchayat levels. Gaps need to be identified in the existing national policies in terms of principles stated in the Guidelines, and addressed in national policies. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries GOI must take the lead role and prepare action plans for each Central Ministry and ensure Inter Ministerial Co-ordination. At the State level, Governments should ensure allocation of adequate funds and identify key agencies for implementing various programmes on the Guidelines, including for example, education of children of fishers, proper housing and tenure rights for fishing community. Panchayats need to ensure health, sanitation and drinking water at fishing villages, proper marketing facilities including cold storage and transportation and protection of natural water resources in their jurisdictions.

A discussion on whether it would be a good idea to monitor the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, since they were voluntary, culminated in the view that monitoring may be required till the principles of the Guidelines were mainstreamed in national and state policies. Indicators that could be considered were educational levels, health and medical reach, quality of life, human rights violations, and availability of social protection.



Participants at the group discussion of the New Delhi workshop



Participants at the group discussion of the New Delhi workshop



Participants at the discussion of the New Delhi workshop

Session 8: Panel Discussion 5

Protecting life and livelihoods: How can the SSF Guidelines provide guidance for legislation, policies and research of relevance to fisheries and fishing communities?

Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), Chennai, moderated the session requesting participants to respect the time for their presentations.

Mr Rishu Garg, Technical Officer, Natural Resource Management, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, New Delhi noted that every panchayat plays a major role in economic development and social justice of the area under its mandate. Fisheries is one of the 26 subjects included in the 11th Schedule. However, the levels of devolution and fragmentation have differed across states; not much has been done. Fishery is a constitutional mandate for gram panchayats. Panchayat has the power to implement the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), they can also develop the same without the fear of it being changed. They have the potential to engage in a participatory approach involving the poor and marginalized. Capacity building of elected community representatives could be conducted to help them come up with more equitable inclusive development plans for their respective panchayats. Mr. Garg said that the focus under the 14th Finance Commission is on basic amenities, infrastructure and livelihoods. The Ministry has also indicated the idea of “Beacon Panchayats” to highlight those who have worked well. Gram Panchayats can take up social development measures, affordable access to essential services, entitlements to social security schemes. They can also make several subplans within GPDP for different sectors which could also include fisheries. He spoke of the need for development of eco-friendly policies ensuring the participation of women and marginalised communities.

Dr Sanjay Pandey, Fisheries Research and Investigation Officer, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi welcomed the SSF Guidelines and highlighted its importance in a country like India where 95% of its fisherfolk are in the small-scale sector. As the line department responsible for fisheries, it is its responsibility to see the proper implementation of the SSF Guidelines. To make it more effective we need to identify the soul of the SSF Guidelines and compare it with the 2004 Comprehensive marine Fishing Policy, the draft 2015 National Marine Fisheries Policy and the marine fishing regulation acts at the state level. It is also important for the state governments to see how to align the existing policies to SSF Guidelines, to identify gaps etc. There are many provisions in SSF that are already reflected across existing policies and schemes of the government, which need to be capitalized. Elaborating on the current scenario in fisheries, he pointed out that catch effort was increasing, catches were reducing, there were intersectoral conflicts and other powerful sectors were dominating. He recognized that the challenge was to protect the livelihood of SSF communities. He explained that certain elements within the SSF Guidelines are already being carried out by the fisheries department through the welfare schemes for the fishers and fishing community. However, he acknowledged that elements in the Guidelines such as disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, tenurial rights are new to the Fisheries Department. He felt that the timing of the workshop and the SSF Guidelines was good as a new national legislation was taking shape for marine fisheries. He expressed a need to bring coherence in new policies. The outcome of the workshop, Mr Pandey hoped, could be that certain recommendations supporting SSF are incorporated in the new national fisheries policy.

Mr P P Surendran, Deputy General Manager-Commercial Operations, Matsafed, Kerala noted that appropriate legislation in keeping with the SSF Guidelines is needed to establish tenurial rights, protect livelihoods of SSF and ensure sustainable fisheries in the long run. He said that Kerala has adopted aquarian reforms where fishing is confined to fishing communities. However, this also needs to be revisited. Once tenurial rights are established it can help the resources to bounce back as it

will help to control fishing effort. In Kerala, in the last few years an understanding on minimum legal size for 53 species is arrived at and communities are pushing for the implementation of the same. Capacity building of stakeholders and entrepreneurship development are key to small-scale fishers. Though their fishing capability is at par with the best in the world they fail in marketing capability. Capacity development, product diversification and improving markets are essential. Interministerial cooperation and intervention is also essential, but he acknowledged that it would be a challenge for the fisheries department to involve other sectors in the coming years.

Mr B K Mishra, Managing Director, National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED), New Delhi spoke about the importance of fisheries cooperatives of which there were 18,000 all over India. He said that cooperatives are the backbone of the fisheries sector as individually people do not have a voice. He emphasized the need to strengthen and empower the cooperatives and that SSF Guidelines could be best implemented through raising awareness through the cooperatives. In the inland sector only 30% of the cooperatives are functional or have access to ponds. This calls for greater awareness as well as emphasizes the importance of grassroots approach and experience which is critical for planners. He expressed concern about the fact that many cooperatives were failing due to dual control—under the Cooperatives Department and the Fisheries Department—and that they should be only under the latter. Blue revolution will be a reality if cooperatives are involved and VGSSF could be a good tool to make this happen if implemented well.

Dr V V Sugunan, Senior Consultant, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad expressed concern that in this whole discourse on fisheries in India, inland fisheries and its issues are pushed to the periphery almost to the point of elimination. Small-scale fisheries are environmentally sustainable, more equitable and inclusive, and compliant with an ecosystem approach to fisheries even in an inland fisheries scenario. However, as we move from capture to culture-based fisheries and with increasing intensification, he showed with examples how all these qualities decline. He explained that there was a lot of scope for small-scale fisheries in reservoir fisheries. However, the failure is when the planners apply the logic of aquaculture to reservoir systems. He felt strongly that the practice of putting reservoir under lease should be discontinued, pointing out how this would kill livelihoods of SSF in the inland sector and destroy the ecology of the reservoir as intensification exacerbates. Privatisation of a common property resource such as a reservoir should be stalled. A reservoir should be developed for the community which would also help conservation of habitat.

Dr Leela Edwin, Principal Scientist and Head, Fishing Technology Division, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) clarified certain concerns that came up after her earlier presentation and said that legislation or policies should be put in place a) to stop catching juveniles; b) to ensure judicious use of synthetics in the marine environment—it is found that due to the over use of synthetics in the marine environment almost 36 species have polyester component in their viscera; c) for gear marking/tagging since gear lost or abandoned in the sea can be traced. These measures were important for the health of fish stocks.

Dr C Ramachandran, Principal Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi noted that fishery science in India was crisis born and is crisis driven and that an unregulated fishery is not a sustainable fishery. He said that the data on landings were very poor. The quality of the results that come out of the fishery surveys is as good as the data derived. Therefore, he called for the development of a National Data Acquisition Plan for Fisheries, stating that any fishing license should accompany a mandatory requirement of sharing catch data.

Dr Sonali Huria, Research Consultant, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi shared that NHRC can be a valuable ally to redress human rights challenges that the SSF communities face as they look into the issues of violations against marginalized communities in order to protect their rights. In the context of Human Rights, she added to the list of treaties mentioned by Ujjaini Halim the previous day, to which India is a signatory which could have relevance to the

SSF sector and recognize several important rights. These include the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Forced Labour Convention, Equal Remuneration Convention, Abolition of Forced Labour and the Discrimination in Employment and Occupation Convention. She drew attention to the mandate of NHRC as recognized in Section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 where the NHRC can respond to complaints of violations of human rights or abetment, negligence or dereliction of duties in the prevention of such violations by public servants; it can intervene in any proceedings concerning human rights pending before courts with the approval of the court; it can visit prisons or other places where persons are detained to study the living conditions of the inmates; it can review the safeguards provided by the constitution or any law for protection of human rights and recommend measures for their implementation; it can review international treaties and make recommendations to the government regarding their implementation; it is expected to spread human rights awareness in society; it undertakes and promotes research in the field of human rights; and is expected to encourage efforts of NGOs working in the field of human rights. She briefly spoke about how NHRC's powers, functions and monitoring mechanisms can promote and protect the rights of SSF communities. On the question of guarding collective rights of fishers, there is only one incident on the Loktak Lake where traditional fishers have appealed to the NHRC to intervene with the incident of destruction of their *phumdis* (floating islands) following the implementation of the Loktak Lake Protection Act of 2006. She explained that NHRC can respond to collective rights violations if communities complain. NHRC has also started monitoring flagship social protection programmes of the Government. Groups can bring to the notice of NHRC their particular vulnerabilities or poor access to these flagship programmes. NHRC also has a programme protecting human rights defenders who are under attack.



Rishu Garg, Technical Officer, Ministry of Panchayati Raj; Sanjay Pandey, Fisheries Research and Investigation Officer, DADF; P.P. Surendran, Deputy General Manager-Commercial Operations, Matsyafed; B.K. Mishra, Managing Director, FISHCOPFED; V.V. Sugunan, Senior Consultant, NFDB; Leela Edwin, Principal Scientist and Head, CIFT; C. Ramachandran, Principal Scientist, CMFRI; Sonali Huria, Research Consultant, NHRC; Pravin Putra, Assistant Director General (Marine Fisheries), ICAR at the New Delhi workshop

Dr Pravin Putra, Assistant Director General (Marine Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi pointed out that the bane of Indian Fisheries is the gap between the research conducted and the realities confronting the communities. This has been happening for long and this is the reason why data are not actually forthcoming from the fishers or

fishing community. Whenever research is conducted one has to do a reality check with the community for whom the research is done and take their points of view into consideration. He was of the opinion that involving SSF communities in the research would increase ownership of implementation, especially since research is now focusing on conservation of resources. He gave the example of fishing communities being aware that they are catching juveniles and that this was harmful, but they could not see options. He drew attention to the need for a National Inland Fisheries Policy if one wanted to adopt the SSF Guidelines.

Discussion

Dr Yadava, chairing the session, suggested that the workshop should support a separate Fisheries Department if not a Ministry, using the manifesto of the current government to advocate for this. He listed some of the advantages of a separate entity saying that it would help in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Questions were raised whether NHRC could write to Human Rights Commissions in other countries to look into the conditions of fishers who are arrested and detained in those countries. India has also ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption. Does the NHRC have the mandate and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with this (as this Convention relates to elements in the Guiding Principles of the SSF Guidelines)? In response to queries, Dr Huria of NHRC clarified that the Commission does not play an active role in the Convention against Corruption. Giving the example of engaging with Bangladesh to discuss issues of people who have been arrested at borders, Dr Huria said that the NHRC does meet with other Human Rights Commissions of neighbouring countries. However, this is done with the permission of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as the NHRC does not have jurisdiction outside the country. In the case of fishers arrested in Pakistan, the NHRC wrote to the MEA who in turn took up the issues with their counterparts in Pakistan. Also, the question of NHRC getting compensation from other countries did not arise if fishermen were killed when they entered waters of other countries, as NHRC does not have jurisdiction beyond the Government of India, but NHRC can take up the case with the national government. In response to a question about whether shore based fisheries were part of the Village Panchayat, it was felt that it was up to the State Governments to decide.

Feedback on the Workshop

Following the group discussions, participants were requested to complete and return the feedback forms that had been distributed earlier.



Mariette Correa, Programme Co-ordinator, ICSF at feedback session of the New Delhi workshop

Vote of Thanks

Ms. Ramya Rajagopalan, Executive Trustee, ICSF Trust, Chennai then proposed the Vote of Thanks appreciating the various ministries for their participation and noting the contributions of all the participants that made the workshop a success.



Ramya Rajagopalan, Executive Trustee, ICSF Trust, Chennai delivering the vote of thanks at the closing session of the New Delhi workshop

Annex 1: Workshop Programme

National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation
of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable
Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)

India International Centre, New Delhi
21 and 22 March 2016

Programme

21 MARCH 2016: DAY 1	
8:30-9:00 a.m	Registration
9:30-11:00 a.m	<p>Brief Introduction by Participants Remembering Chandrika Sharma <i>WFFP, WFF, ICSF</i></p> <p>Introduction to the Workshop and its Objectives Mr Sebastian Mathew, <i>Executive Secretary, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)</i></p> <p>Opening Session Chair: Mr M Ilango, <i>Member, Coordinating Committee, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)</i></p> <p>Address Mr Shyam Khadka, <i>FAO Representative in India, New Delhi</i> <i>Welcome</i></p> <p>Dr Ujjaini Halim, <i>Member, Executive Committee, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF)</i></p>
11:00-11:30 a.m	Tea Break
11:30– 12:45	SSF Guidelines Implementation
11:30 – 11:50	Chair: Mr M Ilango , <i>Member, Coordinating Committee, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)</i>
11:50– 12:10	SSF Guidelines: An Overview Mr David Brown, <i>Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer/Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Bangkok</i>
12:10. – 12:30	<p>Guiding Principles of the SSF Guidelines Human Rights Law and the Constitution of India Dr Ujjaini Halim, <i>Member, Executive Committee, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF)</i></p> <p>Report of the ICSF Meetings on the SSF Guidelines in India Mr V Vivekanandan, <i>Member, ICSF</i></p>
12:45-13:45 p.m	Lunch

13:45 – 15:15	<p>Panel Discussion 1: Social Development, Employment and Decent Work for Responsible/Sustainable Fisheries (based on items listed under the Seventh Schedule and Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr C M Muralidharan, Member, ICSF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can decent work for all small-scale fisheries workers (men and women) be promoted in the formal and informal fishery sectors? <p><i>(Note: Decent work in this context would include all rights associated with employment, working conditions, social security and social dialogue in the entire fisheries value chain of all workers, including inter-state migrants).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the adequacy of measures to ensure access of fishing communities (men and women) to social development and, in this context, what are the gaps that need to be addressed? <p><i>(Note: Social development includes the provision of, and access to, food security, nutrition, health, education, literacy, digital inclusion, housing, basic sanitation, potable water and sources of energy).</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr Velji Kanji Masani, <i>World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Gujarat</i></p> <p>Mr Shankara Behara, <i>World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), Odisha</i></p> <p>Dr Y S Yadava, <i>Director, Bay of Bengal Programme – Inter Governmental organization (BOBP-IGO), Chennai</i></p> <p>Mr Manash Choudhury, <i>Deputy Adviser to the Government of India, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, New Delhi</i></p> <p>Dr Sharmila Monteiro, <i>Director, Department of Fisheries, Goa</i></p> <p>Mr Namdithiu Pamei, <i>Deputy Director, Centre for Organization Research and Education, Manipur</i></p> <p>Mr Mangaraj Panda, <i>United Artists Association (UAA), Odisha</i></p>
15:15-15:30	Tea Break
15:30-17:00	<p>Panel Discussion 2: Tenure Rights to Land and Water Bodies, Livelihoods and Responsible/Sustainable Fisheries (based on the items listed under Seventh Schedule and Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr V Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do inland and marine small-scale fishing communities (men and women) have secure tenure rights to land and fisheries, including for habitation, fish processing and marketing? What are the successes and failures in securing such tenure rights? • How can secure tenure rights to small-scale fishing communities allocate fisheries resources in an orderly manner, address inter-gear conflicts, area-based conflicts, IUU fishing, over capitalisation and thereby ensure responsible and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity?

	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr T Peter, <i>World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Kerala</i></p> <p>Mr Harinarayan Mohanty, <i>World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), Odisha</i></p> <p>Mr Nishat Ahmed, <i>Director of Fisheries, Bihar</i></p> <p>Dr V V Sugunan, <i>Senior Consultant, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad</i></p> <p>Ms Suman Singh, <i>Sakhi, Bihar</i></p> <p>Mr Oinam Rajen Singh, <i>All Loktak Lake Areas Fishermen's Union Manipur, Manipur</i></p> <p>Dr Gopal krishna, <i>Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai</i></p> <p>Dr Leela Edwin, <i>Principal Scientist and Head, Fishing Technology Division, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi</i></p> <p>Dr C Ramachandran, <i>Principal Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi</i></p> <p><i>(Note: As we understand it, 'tenure right', in this context, refers to the formal or informal right, individually or as group, that defines the relationship between fishers/fishing communities and land/coastal/riparian resources to use, hold, and manage them for habitation, fishery and aquaculture-related activities, recreation, socio-cultural activities, etc., as appropriate, and/or to the formal or informal right, individually or as group, that defines the relationship between fishers/fishing communities and water bodies (lake, reservoir, river, sea, etc.) to use, hold and manage designated areas of these water bodies to fish/farm certain species of aquatic animals for a stipulated period, including by hiring fishers/fishworkers/farm workers, as appropriate, subject to all applicable regulations of the community and the State).</i></p>
17:00-18:30	<p>Panel Discussion 3: Value Chain, Post-harvest and Trade: Empowering the Role of Women in Small-scale Fishing Communities</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr Gilbert Rodrigo, World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the participation of women in harvesting, post-harvest and distribution stages of the value chain protected towards enhancing their income, livelihood security and well being (e.g. legislation, policies and measures to pay living wages; ensure access to savings, credit and insurance schemes; guarantee better working conditions; social protection; provision of amenities and services, access to information (techniques, weather, market, etc.)? • What are the institutional mechanisms in place (e.g. cooperatives and professional organizations), especially to protect the rights of women in harvest, post-harvest (inland and marine) and trade, and to enhance their participation in decision-making processes? • How could women's participation as leaders and members be improved in cooperatives and professional organizations? • Are there effective measures in place to ensure fair distribution of benefits from both domestic and international fish trade along the small-scale fisheries value chain?

	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms Maglin Peter, <i>World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Kerala</i></p> <p>Mr Shankara Behera, <i>World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), Odisha</i></p> <p>Ms Jesu Rethinam, <i>Director, SNEHA, Tamil Nadu</i></p> <p>Dr Arpita Sharma, <i>Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai</i></p> <p>Ms Ujwala Jaykisan Patil, <i>Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti, Mumbai</i></p> <p>Mr P P Surendran, <i>Deputy General Manager-Commercial Operations, Matsyafed, Thiruvananthapuram</i></p> <p>Dr V V Sugunan, <i>Senior Consultant, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad</i></p> <p>Mr R Lakshminarayanan, <i>Senior Rural Finance Manager, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-assisted Post Tsunami Livelihood Programme (PTSLP), Government of Tamil Nadu</i></p>
19:30-21:00	Dinner

22 March 2016: Day 2	
09:00 -10:30	<p>Panel Discussion 4: Natural and Human-induced Disasters and Climate Change</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr Ujjaini Halim, Member, Executive Committee, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the implications of natural (e.g. tsunamis, cyclones, floods) and human-induced disasters (e.g. pollution, coastal erosion, destruction of coastal habitats, etc.) and climate change for food security, nutrition, post-harvest and trade (e.g. changes in fish species and abundance, fish quality and shelf-life), housing and livelihoods? • What are the critical issues in human rights when considering disaster risk reduction and management (e.g. non-discrimination, compensation, etc.)? Are there policies and plans, and monitoring/early warning systems in place to address natural and human-induced disasters in fisheries at various levels? Do they include a human rights perspective? • What are the examples of adaptation and resilience building in small-scale fisheries? What role can small-scale fisheries play in green house gas (GHG) mitigation efforts? • Are there local/state/national strategies for adaptation and mitigation in relation to climate change and small-scale fisheries? What do they include and what are the gaps? How could climate change issues of relevance to small-scale fisheries be included in national, regional and global climate change planning? <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr Gilbert Rodrigo, <i>World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), Tamil Nadu</i></p> <p>Mr Manab Bose, <i>World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF), West Bengal</i></p> <p>Dr Nandakumar, <i>Protsahan, Thirvananthapuram</i></p> <p>Mr Bharat Patel, <i>Namati Namati India-Centre for Policy Research, Gujarat</i></p> <p>Dr Satheesh C Sheno, <i>Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and Director National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Hyderabad, Ministry of Earth Sciences</i></p> <p>Mr Kamal Kishore, <i>Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi</i></p> <p>DIG. A A Hebbar, <i>Director (Fisheries& Environment) Indian Coast Guard, New Delhi</i></p> <p>Dr Maya Devi, <i>Deputy General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Lucknow</i></p> <p>Dr Madhumita Mukherjee, <i>Additional Director of Fisheries (Technical), Directorate of Fisheries, West Bengal</i></p>
10:30 - 10:45	Tea Break

10:45 - 12:45	Group Discussion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social development 2. Employment and decent work 3. Secure tenure rights to land and fisheries 4. Value chain, post harvest and trade 5. Natural and Human-induced Disasters and Climate Change 6. Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 14:45	Presentation of Group Reports
14:45 – 16:15 (With tea-break from 15:30 to 15:45)	<p>Panel Discussion 5: Protecting life and livelihoods: How can the SSF Guidelines provide guidance for legislation, policies and research of relevance to fisheries and fishing communities?</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), Chennai</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mr Rishu Garg, <i>Technical Officer, Natural Resource Management, Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India, New Delhi</i></p> <p>Dr Sanjay Pandey, <i>Fisheries Research and Investigation Officer, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), New Delhi</i></p> <p>Mr P P Surendran, <i>Deputy General Manager-Commercial Operations, Matsyafed, Kerala</i></p> <p>Mr B K Mishra, <i>National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED), New Delhi</i></p> <p>Dr V V Sugunan, <i>Senior Consultant, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad</i></p> <p>Dr Leela Edwin, <i>Principal Scientist and Head Fishing Technology Division, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi</i></p> <p>Dr C Ramachandran, <i>Principal Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi</i></p> <p>Dr Sonali Huria, <i>Research Consultant, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi</i></p> <p>Dr Pravin Putra, <i>Assistant Director General (Marine Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi</i></p>
16:15 – 16:30	Feedback
16:30 – 17:00	Vote of Thanks Ms. Ramya Rajagopalan, <i>Executive Trustee, ICSF Trust, Chennai</i>

Annex 2: Questions for group discussion

National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), India

Multi-Purpose Hall, India International Centre, New Delhi,
21 and 22 March 2016

Questions for group discussions

Group I. Social development

- What needs to be done to promote social development of small-scale fishing communities (e.g. coherence between agencies/departments, policy development, implementation of measures and schemes, capacity development...) Please suggest specific actions for the government (national, state, local levels), the CSOs, other institutions, and the communities themselves. Identify government departments/ agencies that could be involved.
- How can the SSF Guidelines be used to improve the socio-economic situation of small-scale fishers and fishworkers?

Group II. Employment and decent work

- What needs to be done to promote decent work across the value chain for all small-scale fishworkers (men and women) in the formal and informal fishery sectors? (e.g. policy development, implementation of labour laws, extension of social security schemes, addressing challenges of labour migration, safety and occupational health, capacity development...)
- Please suggest specific actions for the government (national, state, local levels), the CSOs, other institutions, and the communities themselves. Identify government departments/agencies that could be involved.

Group III. Secure tenure rights to land and fisheries

- What needs to be done to strengthen tenure rights of inland and marine small-scale fishing communities to the land and water bodies? (e.g. policy formulation, consultation on use of resources, mechanisms to resolve disputes, duties towards sustainable use, capacity development ...) Please suggest specific actions for the government (national, state, local levels), the CSOs, other institutions, and the communities themselves.
- How can SSF communities be supported to contribute to and improve the government-led fisheries management systems?

Group IV. Value chain, post harvest and trade

- What needs to be done to enhance women's role, status and contribution in fisheries and in the fishing/domestic spheres? (e.g. policies to be formulated, women's role in decision-making processes to be enhanced, protecting women's participation in post-harvest work, social protection, ensuring access to credit, decent work conditions, investment in infrastructure, strengthening fishworker associations, capacity development...). Please suggest specific actions for the government (national, state, local levels), the CSOs, other institutions, and the communities themselves. Identify government departments/agencies that could be involved.

- How can the SSF Guidelines help strengthen, develop and implement policies and legislations to protect and promote the rights of women across the value chain?

Group V. Natural and Human-induced Disasters and Climate Change

- What needs to be done to strengthen the resilience of SSF communities to climate events and natural disasters? (e.g. capacity-building of communities, policies and plans, adaptation and mitigation strategies, resource allocation and aid, improvement of existing disaster preparedness and post-disaster response systems...)
- Please suggest specific actions for the government (national, state, local levels), the CSOs, other institutions, and the communities themselves. Identify government departments/ agencies that could be involved.

Group VI. Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation

- How can the SSF Guidelines be promoted in India? Can the Union/state government provide a national-level platform with cross-sectoral representation to oversee implementation of the Guidelines? How can these Guidelines be mainstreamed into national and state policies and legislation in relation to food security, poverty elimination and sustainable fisheries management of small-scale fishing communities?
- Based on the SSF Guidelines, what are the national, state and panchayat level priorities for implementation over the next ten years that can help remove poverty, ensure food security and improve life and livelihoods, especially of the vulnerable and marginalized groups and women in small-scale fishing communities?
- What sort of monitoring systems are needed to assess progress towards implementation of the objectives and recommendations in the SSF Guidelines?

Annex 3: List of participants

National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), India

Multi-Purpose Hall, India International Centre, New Delhi,
21 and 22 March 2016

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Annex 4: Feedback on the workshop

1. Was the **content** of the workshop adequate (was it too basic/simple, was there too much information, was there unnecessary information, was more information needed (if yes, on what)?

2. Were the **methods** used adequate (lecture, group discussion, panel discussion)? Did you have enough time for discussion?

3. Was the **material** given to you useful? Have you understood the translated summary of the Guidelines and full text of the Guidelines? Do you think you will use it again?

4. Mention 2-3 key **learnings** of the workshop that you are likely to take forward in your work.

5. What do you **suggest** we can do to make the workshop more interesting and useful?

Annex 5: Financial statement

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust					
National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries 21-22 March 2016, New Delhi					
Expenditure Statement					
	Expenditure (in INR)				
Remuneration	1,500				
Travels	947,961	(includes travel, boarding and lodging and DSA for participants)			
Communication	17,517	(includes postage, courier)			
Documentation	12,083	(includes printing, stationary)			
Facilities	113,710	(includes meeting hall rental costs)			
Others	401				
Total Expenditure	1,093,172				
Exchange rate (INR = US\$)	66.37	(as on 11 April 2016)			
Total Expenditure in US\$	16,470.88				

ICSF's contribution in kind = 6920 Euros in terms of time contribution by ICSF staff. The report is prepared, edited and made available online by ICSF.

WFF-WFFP-ICSF-CIC

National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)

Report

This publication is a report of the proceedings of the New Delhi workshop on the SSF Guidelines (Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication). The workshop brought together 95 participants from 13 states representing civil society organizations, governments, FAO, and fishworker organizations from both the marine and inland fisheries sectors.

This report will be found useful for fishworker organizations, researchers, policy makers, members of civil society and anyone interested in small-scale fisheries, tenure rights, social development, livelihoods, post harvest and trade and disasters and climate change.



ICSF is an international NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers the world over. It is in status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is on ILO's Special List of Non-governmental International Organizations. It also has Liaison Status with FAO. As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, ICSF's activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns and action, as well as communications.