

RE-CONFIGURING THE SMALL- SCALE FISHERY OF KERALA STATE

**An initiative to revive the discussions on the relevance of the
small-scale fishery and the challenges it currently faces in
Kerala State**

Initiative undertaken by

PROTSAHAN, Trivandrum

Funded by

**INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS,
Chennai**

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Introduction

The Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (VGSSF) provide small-scale fishing communities and small-scale fisheries (SSF) world-wide a tool to claim their rights to livelihood, safeguard their fisheries, and participate in determining their future course of development.

The VGSSF also focuses on the importance of SSF in poverty eradication and providing food security to the communities. The importance of securing SSF is highlighted in the context of the human rights of communities and their full participation in decision making.

Development priorities and the technological preferences related to them, have for long continued to erode the material resource base on which these SSF communities depend. Although the fisheries in several parts of the world are in jeopardy, they still continue to be the only means of livelihood of a considerable number of people. It is important for communities to be able to defend themselves against various onslaughts from external sources that erode their livelihoods. They also have to overcome the internal contradictions that have penetrated their own community cohesiveness.

The current initiative which was centred in the Kerala State of India was undertaken as an effort to initiate discussions and dialogues, with a wide group of stakeholders and interest groups in the SSF of the state, to consider the steps needed to re-configure the status of the SSF in the state.

The initiative was composed of three main activities: (a) making available a summary of the VGSSF in the local language for wide-spread diffusion in the coastal areas of the state (b) conducting discussions and brief studies pertaining to some challenges being faced by the SSF in the state (c) based on the above two, conducting a series of three regional seminars to initiate a thought and discussion process about whether the SSF of the state continues to be a viable and important sector of the fisheries, and if yes, how to re-configure it in the context of the challenges it is currently facing.

The five-member team of the **Protsahan** who undertook this initiative have a collective experience of relating to various dimensions of the SSF communities of Kerala which adds up to well over 150 person-years. Three of them have been pioneers in socio-economic and political action among the SSF communities of Kerala State commencing from the late 1960s. They continue their involvements to-date. Two of the team members are from the SSF community.

SSF Communities of Kerala State

The SSF communities of Kerala State form the backbone of the fisheries sector. The active fishers today number about 150,000. Over the last 40 years the SSF sector has undergone a great metamorphosis on all fronts – socio-economic, technological and political.

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Once seen as a rank 'outlier' community, measured by on conventional socio-economic parameters of development, today their conditions have greatly improved. This can be attributed to the combined result of collective action and the positive responses of the state arising from it. This has resulted significant improvements in housing, education and health. There has also been significant increase in fish prices and appropriate organisational interventions in fish marketing which account for increases in household income. Family incomes from other sources – such a remittances from the Gulf countries where some members of the family may work – have also become a source of funds for making social and fishery related occupational investments.

Technological up scaling has also taken place over this period. This has been possible due to greater availability of credit from the organised banking sector and the foreign remittances within the family and the SSF community. However, informal credit continues to play a significant role.

From total dependence on human and renewable energy sources to propel their fishing boats, they have shifted almost totally to the use of mechanical propulsion. The same can be said about the shifts which have taken place in the size and in the materials used for their fishing gears. From small easily manageable nets and tackle made from cotton and other natural fibres, they have up graded to using large gear made from nylon and mono-filament nets requiring mechanical power for their paying out and retrieval after fishing.

The realm of management of the fishery resources remains a matter of contention. Significant steps were taken in the 1980s for legal enactments which had important resource and ecosystem conservation implications with positive results in the fishery as a whole. But the unbridled investment spree in the SSF (mentioned above) has created a context where the SSF fish economy taken as a whole is economically unviable, though individual fishers may still be operating profitably from a strict private costs and earnings perspective.

The physical eco-system of the state's 600 km coastline has also been undergoing a major change. Over the last 40 years it has become interspersed at frequent intervals with physical structures such as piers, groynes and breakwaters which are intended as safe landing centres for the evolving bigger craft and gear. The resultant unintended and unpredicted erosion and accretion caused by these structures has converted what was once a predominantly sandy coastline into one which is lined with granite seawalls.

The combined effect of the technological changes in fishing and the physical changes in the coastline have had a significant bearing on the occupation and work pattern of the women in the SSF communities who were once an important part of the economic lifeline of the sector. This transformation in their lives cannot be regarded to be wholesome from a gendered social or economic perspective.

It is a combination of the factors mentioned above which pose a serious question about the future of the SSF communities and the SSF sector in the state.

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It is in this context that the VGSSF becomes an important tool in an effort to re-configure the SSF in Kerala. This initiative must be seen as a small, first step in initiating this action.

The Components of the Initiative

1. VGSSF Summary

A brief summary of the essence of the VGSSF was completed in English and then translated in the local language – Malayalam. This summary was printed and the booklet was widely distributed across the state to the key community leaders of the SSF and to the representatives of their social, economic and political organisations. The summary was well received and commented upon both informally (during discussions in the coastal villages) and formally (at the seminars). An important community leader, who is also the Chairperson of the state-sponsored small-scale fisheries cooperative called by the acronym MATSYAFED, referred to the VGSSF as the Magna Carta of the small-scale fishes.

The PDF of the VGSSF summary is included in

2. Discussions and Studies

One of the important strategies of this initiative was for the team members to re-establish and re-kindle their contacts with the ‘transformed SSF sector’ in an effort to comprehend what indeed was happening at the local levels. The VGSSF summary was used very effectively as an entry point for this action.

We met key individuals from the SSF community personally – men and women fishworkers; community leaders; cooperative leaders; trade union activists; fishery scientists and bureaucrats; NGO representatives -- so that we could hear their perspectives about the changes which have taken place over the last four decades. This was also used as the opportunity for us to invite them personally to attend the respective seminars in their regions to discuss the VGSSF guidelines.

These visits also helped the team members to make field level contacts and collect information and data for the five studies which were considered to be appropriate for understanding how to re-configure the SSF in Kerala.

We provide below some of the salient points emerging from the five studies undertaken. The studies in themselves are presented as a separate document.

A. THE STUDY ON CHANGING FISHING TECHNIQUES

1. Over the last 15 years there have been very significant changes which took place in the small-scale fishery of Kerala State particularly with regard to the nature and investment in the fishing units. The main factors which spurred these changes are the “open access” nature of the coastal waters and the hugely increased demand for fish in the local, national and international markets.

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2. The trigger for these changes came as far back as the 1980s when the mechanised trawlers pushed the traditional non-mechanised fishing units to a corner and alienated their production and livelihoods. At that juncture outboard motorisation of traditional crafts came as a great saviour of the small-scale sector. For example the modification of the ring seine brought traditional small-scale fishers back into the competition for fish.
3. This big Olympic race for fish between sectors and within the “traditional” sector has resulted in a huge excess capacity in ring seines and also introduced the tendency for destructive methods like mini-trawling and pair trawls. This was an unfortunate trend which was wilfully overlooked by the state, the fishers and the civil society.
4. The overall result has been less number of fishing days for all and bulk landings for the lucky ones – first person to reach the fish/fishing ground get all the fish.
5. The investment levels have reached unbelievable levels of Rs.100 lakhs and a fishing unit is more like a naval unit – steel hull boat, 2 FRP carrier boats, 550HP engine and 3 OBMs; echo sounder, GPS, wireless sets; mechanical hydraulic winch; a bus to transport the workers to the port. And we still call this small-scale!
6. One of the important consequences of this increased investment is the great levels of indebtedness of the fishermen to merchants. The result is that they have to give up their fish at the price and place dictated by the financiers. The autonomy of fishers has been lost.
7. Today we have close to 500 ring seine units in Kerala and the annual production is stagnating at 6 to 6.5 lakh tonnes. There is growing inequality in the fisheries sector and the overall average income is falling. The fish is being diverted to fish meal manufacture because they accept bulk landings.
8. Will the Guidelines help to strengthen the overall rights and status of the small-scale fisheries of Kerala? Is there a real, prosperous future for SSF fishing in Kerala? Or is SSF a sunset sector?

B. THE STUDY OF FISHING COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PROGRESS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Kerala State is known the world over for its unique human development experience. The population of Kerala has a high quality of life – high literacy, high life expectancy, favourable sex ratio – more women than men; low infant mortality. All this has been achieved in the 1970s and 1980s despite the relatively low income of the state.
2. In 1995, it was shown by studies of the Centre for Development Studies that this high quality of life of Kerala was not applicable to two communities – the fisherfolk along the coast and the tribals in the hills. They were “outliers” in the Kerala development experience.
3. In the case of fisherfolk, following their major socio-ecological movement on the 1980s and the greater politicisation of the fisherfolk, the attention of the state has turned to them in a limited way. The attention on the mechanised sector of fishing which started in 1960s was stopped and the focus was turned to the small-scale fishery from the 1990s onwards. Through the Matsyafed, the Welfare Board and many other initiatives, greater welfare measures and development initiatives were provided. All this contributed significant improvements in their collective quality of life. Housing, education and health facilities improved significantly.
4. However, in the last three decades, the fishery sector production and its contribution to NSDP has been declining at the macro level. In the case of fishery resource too, there is decline in stock and variety, most of which has hurt the small scale and traditional fishery.
5. At micro level too, there is evidence of increasing poverty and indebtedness among the fisherfolk across the selected districts. The poor socio-economic situation of the fisherfolk is closely related to their increased due to the family formation and the initial lack of land ownership, the situation of very congested housing still prevails as a serious challenge among the small-scale and traditional fisherfolk. This, together with deprivation in basic amenities leads to poor human

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- development outcomes. The incidence and prevalence of communicable diseases are much higher among the marine fisherfolk. Also the occupation related ailments and life style diseases.
6. On the educational front, though, there has been considerable improvement in literacy and educational status among the marine fisherfolk. However they lag far behind in achievement of higher education and technical education. This then inhibits their access to the new opportunities in the changing labour market at the state, national and global level.
 7. Since fishing was not a source of increased income for the vast majority of the working fishers, we must conclude that the higher human development outcomes can only be explained by income sources outside the fishery.
 8. The migration to gulf, employment in government and other sectors outside fishery are important income accruing channels among the fishing communities. But there is lack of credible data to support this observed change and therefore warrants further detailed enquiry.
 9. One important observation is the spatial disparity in the development outcomes with fishers in the Christian dominated district of Trivandrum and the Muslim dominated district of Malapuram being much poorer and with lower human development outcomes compared to the rest of the fishing community in Kerala.
 10. One significant observation is that it is a historical disadvantage in the initial conditions of development which resulted in the fishing communities being “left behind” in the human development progress of Kerala. The three historically important factors of land reform; the presence of social reform movements and the role of missionaries in spreading English education were absent in the fishing communities. Having been deprived of these processes, the community continues to lag behind and continues to be unable to overcome this initial disadvantage.

C. THE STUDY OF COASTAL STRUCTURES, THEIR IMPACT ON THE COAST AND THE FISHERY

1. The natural processes of erosion and accretion over the different seasons of the year along the coast of Kerala has radically changed over the last four decades due to human intervention
2. These human activities include those undertaken at the coast and also far away from the coast on the 42 west flowing rivers of Kerala. The activities include – building dams; construction of harbours; dredging of river mouths; mining of sand upstream of rivers; the coast construction of seawalls and groynes; destruction of coastal vegetation etc.
3. The shoreline changes on our coast are monitored by the Irrigation Department and they are the only agency who systematically collect and collate data about the physical changes of our entire coast.
4. What these studies show is that over the last 40 years over 63 percent of our coastline (total length 560 kms) is eroding and more than half (53 percent) our coastline is lined with granite walls.
5. The initial cause of shore erosion, which then triggers the demand for seawalls, comes from the construction of other structures such as harbours and breakwaters built perpendicular to the coast in order to create “safe havens” for landing fishing boats. (photo of breakwaters etc)
6. One systematic but unintended effect of all such construction is erosion in one place and accretion in another. We have some dramatic examples of the effect of building such breakwaters. At the place where erosion takes place, the demands for seawalls arise.
7. Seawall construction in Kerala is based on the recommendation of the CWPRS, Pune.
8. It is now recognised that seawalls, in the long run DO NOT provide protection for the shoreline. The waves of the Arabian Sea are far too strong for them. Seawalls only provide profits for the contractors and are one of the major contributing factors for the problems resulting from granite quarrying in Kerala. If the SSF of Kerala disappear in the next decade, it will be mainly due to seawalls as they destroy beach based fish landing. Every kilometre of sea wall costs Rs 7 crores to build and Rs 3-4 crores to maintain annually! This is a vicious circle.

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9. The solution to this intractable dilemma is radical – remove all structures; move the fishers to behind the hazard line (use all the granite to re-build the new houses!) and let the sea re-establish its old natural relationship with the coast of Kerala!!

D. THE STUDY ON THE CHANGING ROLES OF WOMEN IN THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERY

1. Traditionally women have been involved in pre-harvest and post-harvest activities and marketing of the fish harvested by beached based SSF along the coast
2. Changes in fishing technology – particularly the use of mechanical propulsion, use of more active gear (like ring seines) and harbour based landings resulted in greater role of male merchants in financing the fishing which has gradually become large-scale. This has had a major impact on the earlier independent and autonomous roles of women.
3. Reduction of beach based SSF operations has reduced women's role in local marketing. Forced them to travel to more distant landing centres and face more competition from male merchants.
4. Where there are no landing centres/ports, women are then forced to shift their purchases to the wholesale markets and buy (poor quality) iced or frozen fish for sale in retail markets.
5. Many women have also opted to do wage jobs under male merchants/boat owners/processing centre owners
6. There is a masculinization of the wholesale and retail markets and women involved in marketing are marginalised mainly due to their weaker financial capital base.
7. Added to this, there is the whole discrimination of women due to the lack of basic facilities in markets (clean water, lack of toilets, no changing and resting rooms, poor waste disposal) which further put them at a disadvantage.

E. THE STUDY ON ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERY

1. Kerala State has a long history of organisations for small-scale fishers. The first cooperative was organised in 1917 in the State of Travancore, now part of Kerala. Thereafter, after Kerala State was formed in 1956, the Government organised separate credit, producer and marketing cooperatives for the fishers.
2. These top-down initiatives failed miserably, with a few notable exceptions such as the fisher cooperative in Marianad, Trivandrum which integrated all the three functions of credit, production and marketing.
3. In 1984, following the struggle of the small-scale fishers demanding a better deal for their sector, the government initiated the formation of cooperatives on the lines of the Marianad model. This network was called MATSYAFED.
4. Matsyafed was envisaged as an economic organization which was to develop a business plan and strategy to maximize the economic benefit of its members. It had a Business Development Plan (BDP) which was meant to elevate Matsyafed as a business organization which would not be a burden to Government (like many of the loss making public sector organizations) and also serve the economic and social welfare needs of the fishermen.
5. The activities were also diversified into non-fishing activities for generating self-employment opportunities targeting women and youth. The formations of SHGs, thrift and credit mobilization, promotion of microenterprises are some of the initiatives.
6. Matsyafed needs to spearhead in a big way to accomplish the major challenge of attainment of prosperity of the SSF in the State and therefore a check and balance is always necessary for attaining profitable business endeavours without loss of the perspective of social responsibility.

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7. In Kerala there is a context of “too many people chasing the same fish in the same coastal waters”. The negative effect has been falling productivity, disturbing ecology, higher capital and operational cost and reduced income to fishers. Matsyafed has not really updated itself on this very important aspects such as the changing scenario in the sector leading to over fishing and sustainability of resources.
8. Matsyafed needs to equip the fishers and the 666 primary Cooperatives with an updated perspective to cope with the changes and the opportunities. New policies, strategies and business plans are needed in the changing scenario
9. Cooperativisation of the small scale fish workers need to be continued. It is the most important activity for betterment of the one of the outliers communities in Kerala.
10. The need of the hour is for Matsyafed’s core team and the line staff with its 30 years of professional experience to review its earlier phase of CBO building to bridge the present gap in updating fishing practices and its sustainability on one hand and accessibility of markets favorable to the producers and their organization on the other.

3. Regional Seminars

The purpose of the three one-day regional seminars was primarily to initiate a thought and discussion process about whether the SSF of the state continues to be a viable and important sector of the fisheries, and if yes, how to re-configure it in the context of the challenges it is currently facing. The seminars were given the common title: **The Sustainable Development of the Small-Scale Fisheries Sector**

The seminars primarily intended to create greater awareness about the VGSSF. As copies in Malayalam were distributed earlier, there were expectations that the quality of the discussions would be good. We hope that the carefully selected participants in each of the seminars would become evangelists and champions of the VGSSF.

At the seminars we intended to provide a feedback of our findings from the five studies, we hoped to engage some of the key persons from the SSF communities who were involved in the 5 case studies in a dialogue about the results and highlight the policy issues arising from them.

Given the fact that there has been a rapid evolution of the SSF in Kerala in terms of scale and investment, it was also hope that we would get an informed consensus on “small-scale” in Kerala and identify the “vulnerable and marginal” within the sector.

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In the limited time available to achieve these objectives the seminars followed a standard agenda at all the three venues. We dispensed with the usual “opening sessions” and replaced them with a brief introduction of ourselves and the agenda for the day.

This was followed by an elaborate presentation using power-point slides and in Malayalam with script and numerous illustrations and photographs of the reality of the coast and the fishery of each region. This was then linked to the raging controversy in the state over a report on the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy authored by an expert committee of scientists. The merits and de-merits of this report and its linkages (or otherwise) to the VGSSF were presented. The salient conclusions from the studies were also discussed in the context of the provisions of the VGSSF. The overall effort was to “contextualise” the VGSSF into the realities which were being confronted by the whole fisheries sector and search for its relevance in helping to re-configure the SSF of Kerala.

In all the three seminars, the MATSYAFED, the cooperative federation of the SSF in Kerala assisted in the organisational efforts far beyond their call of duty. They were enthused by the VGSSF as an important document to strengthen their organisation and their functions.

A. Report of the One-day Seminar at Kasaragod

Date: 6th May 2015

Venue: Municipal Vanita Bhavan Auditorium, Kasaragod Municipality Complex, Kasaragod

Seminar Title: Sustainable Development of Small Scale Fisheries

Number of Registered Participants: 49 invitees (of which 23 women) + 5 Resource Persons = 54

The seminar started at 10.30 am with Smt. Vanaja, District Manager of Matsyafed briefly welcoming the gathering and alluding to the significance of the VGSSF at this juncture in Kerala’s fishery history.

This was followed by introductory remarks by Dr John Kurien, member of the Protsahan team. He highlighted the importance of the participatory manner in which the VGSSF evolved globally. He also pointed to the role of the ICSF in this global process and in particular the role played by Ms. Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary in whose honour the VGSSF was dedicated following her disappearance on the ill-fated flight MH 370 in March 2014. He also introduced the members of the resource team stressing their vast experience in the SSF of Kerala.

There was then a self- introduction of the participants: There were 26 men and 23 women participants. The group included representation from organisations which included: the Dheevara Sabha, the Malsyathozhilali Congress (INTUC), CITU Fishworkers Union and the Muslim League Fishers Union. There were also leaders of some of the Matsyafed fishermen cooperatives. One leader of trawl boat owners association also participated. The women participants were mostly fisherwomen involved in fish marketing. Actual sea going fishermen were fewer than expected due to the sudden availability of fish that day after a long drought! The Kasaragod Deputy Director of Fisheries was also present. One director board

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member of Matsyafed and a member of Fishermen Debt Relief Fund Board were also present. There were three representatives of the Dheevara Sabha from the neighbouring Kozhikode and Kannur districts.

Mr. A.J Vijayan, member of Protsahan made the power point presentation on the topic. (Presentation is attached separately). The presentation was in Malayalam and clarifications on the points were also made.

This was followed by tasty lunch prepared and served by the local unit of the women's organisation Kudumbashree.

Group discussions were taken up in the post-lunch session. The participants were divided into three groups and they were asked to discuss three questions given to them.

One group consisted of women fish vendors and the female extension workers of the Matsyafed who facilitated the group participation.

An important subject that all the groups discussed was what constitutes the small-scale fishery today: who should be included and who are not? There was no consensus on this question.

One person each from the groups presented the group discussion report.

Group Reports

Group 1 (women fish vendors):

Mechanized trawl fishing boats operating from Mangalore and here are still affecting the fishing operations of local small-scale fishing units as both operate very near the shore.

Women fish vendors of the district do not get enough fresh fish for marketing and depend on fish coming from distant places kept in ice for weeks and often of very poor quality. Men control the fish markets and cheat women when fish is weighed. Though there are scheduled markets, many women are forced to sit along the road side and pavements as the markets are ill-equipped and not managed well.

The group agreed that fish depletion is taking place because of the use of small mesh nets. There are changes in small-scale fishing units also and the earlier diversity in net design is disappearing with only ring nets dominating the scene. Destruction of mangroves has affected the resources. They need to be protected. Deep sea vessels should fish only in the deep sea. The group did not agree that catching fish for fish meal is adversely affecting resources. They emphasised that only after fish for local markets was auctioned did the remaining fish go for fish meal.

They stated that the debt burden of fish vending women is on the rise because they depend on private money lenders. Women also face domestic problems like the alcoholism of men.

The group demanded exclusive markets for women fish vendors. Also stressing that exploitation of middlemen at auction centres should be stopped.

Group 2:

This group reported that they did not agree with Government giving licences and opening up the seas for larger foreign fishing vessels operated by companies.

Fisheries policy should be based on "Fishing rights only for Fishworkers". The local fisher's rights to fish anywhere in EEZ should be accepted. Various fisher organisations have already organized protests and agitations against opening up the seas to larger companies and will continue to protest.

They stated that there are many fishing units in their areas that cannot be considered as "small-scale". They include trawlers, purse-seiners and crafts using in-board engines, locally known as "Kappal Vallams". These units use destructive fishing gear and cause over fishing.

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They also destroy fish habitats. This kind of craft and gear is also very capital intensive. They need to be strictly regulated if not banned.

Motorisation of fishing crafts was initially intended primarily to reduce the drudgery of labour. But it also ended up making the fishing units larger. Now they require harbours to land. The demand for harbours is increasing because of this. The group was not able to take a position on the drawbacks of harbours – like the erosion caused by them. They felt they need to study the issue more closely although they agreed with the photographs in the power point presentation showing the erosion caused by all the harbours in the region.

The group agreed that fishermen continue to be a vulnerable section in our society and hence many new measures are needed in education, health and social security. They suggested that land adjacent to the coast should be reserved for housing for the fishing community as the threat of erosion is looming large.

Group 3:

The group reported that mechanized boats of all kind including in-board engine driven vallams cannot be considered as small-scale. This is because they use active gears like trawling and involve in overfishing and they are also capital intensive.

The group wanted coastal sand mining to be totally prohibited. Coastal pollution should also be strictly regulated as this is affecting the fishers which come close to the coast to feed and breed. They felt that there was need to rethink the construction of seawalls and groins stating that they should be constructed only after proper scientific study and only if highly necessary. There was some discussion on the follow-up. Many wanted to know how this process would be followed up. The Protsahan Team emphasised that the initiative will have to come from the fishers' organisations and that PRO TSAHAN is willing to give inputs and facilitate discussions. Matsyafed officials said they would follow-up with more meetings on the topic discussed.

The seminar concluded with a summing up by AJ Vijayan.

Dr. Titto D'Cruz proposed the vote of thanks.

B. Report of the One-day Seminar at Trissur

Date: 19 May 2015

Venue: Dreamland Hotel, Thriprayar, Trissur Dt.

Seminar Title: Sustainable Development of Small Scale Fisheries

Number of Registered Participants: 53 invitees (of which 15 women) + 5 Resource Persons = 58

The participants came from the Central Kerala districts of Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulum and Alappuzha. Matsyafed Officials, the Deputy Director of Fisheries, Panachayat President, KSSP members, Board Members of Matsyafed, Local Fishermen Trade Union Leaders of the Congress Party and CPM, Presidents of Fisheries Co-operative Societies, Women Peeling Workers, Fish Workers of Purse Seiner, Ring seiners and other Fish Workers, Fish Auctioneer and Fish Head Loaders were the participants in the seminar. Due to the unexpected public protest organized by the left parties on the same day, a few of the trade union leaders were unable to attend the seminar.

The seminar commenced at 10.30 am with the welcome speech of Mrs. P. Geetha, Matsyafed District Manager, Thrissur. She welcomed all the participants and appealed for an active participation in the seminar. She underlined the need for the collective effort for the realization of the VGSSSF in the State and she appreciated the effort of ICSF to initiate this process. The other important points and appreciation in the welcome speech included her

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appreciation of the pioneering work of the Protsahan Team members who started the Marianad Cooperative in the early 1970s. She also highlighted the changes in the SSF with higher investments and also the depletion of the fishery resources. She also said that through the 666 primary cooperatives of Matsayfed much could be achieved if the inputs from the seminar are taken seriously.

Dr. John Kurien then introduced the five members Team and the need for the active participation of the multi-stakeholders present in order to find a way forward. He also explained about the ICSF and the process that led to the development of the VGSSF.

This was followed by a self-introduction by all the 53 participants

Mr. A.J.Vijayan then made the presentation of the VGSSF with a power point presentation prepared for this region. Despite the rather long presentation, the entire group listened attentively. The participants appreciated the presentation and were very enthused to get this illustrative and critical overview of their fisheries with inputs from the relevant sections of the VGSSF.

As there was a lot of apprehension regarding the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy of the Government, Mr. Vijayan then made some important clarifications. He explained that the Meena Kumari report had given a lot of importance to the traditional SSF and how it should be supported rather than rejected. This was a new perspective for many present as they had not read the Report but merely followed what some leaders had to say. Nevertheless, Mr. Vijayan emphasized that it was the Government of India that had not taken the suggestions in the Report seriously and declared a New Deep Sea Fishing Policy that was detrimental to the traditional SSF and the fish resources per se.

Group Discussions were organized in the post-lunch session. The participants broke into groups according to the districts they came from. There was no separate group for women since the women present were not workers or directly from the community but represented various fishery institutions.

Brief Responses from the Groups:

Kochi Group:

The policies of the government, particularly the deep sea fishing policy needs to be amended by restricting the access to fishery resources only to the fishing communities like it has materialized in Gujarat.

Beaches need to be protected with a bio shield rather than by the existing sea wall. Sea walls should be deployed only where it is indispensable.

Control measures on craft, gear and OBM power are necessary. A participatory fishery management system should be put in place.

Alappuzha Group:

Now fish and fishers are starving; need to change it through conservation of fishery resources. Land is also becoming scarce for housing of the fishers. There is need to make more land available. There is a need for a more active fish workers movement.

Trissur Group:

It is not clear from the presentations which are the small scale fishing units to be supported. In Gujarat mechanized fishing is prominent and in Kerala we have traditional fishing. How will this duality work in the context of VGSSF?

Beaches are eroding in Kerala. Need corrective measures to protect the beaches as it is essential for beach based traditional fishing.

25 years back the fishing units were much smaller, fishing was better and no one was hungry. But now the size of the craft and gear has tremendously increased, fishing capacity is also increased and this has depleted the resources. We need control measures for the present and for the future.

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Concluding remark were made by Ms. P Geetha of Matsyafed. She asked who should be protected by whom? We have the natural fishery resource available but who will protect it? Is it the responsibility of the Government or the community? It should be the collective effort.

She thanked the Protsahan team for their inputs and said that the Matsyafed would do its best to take this information to the field through its 666 primary coops and ensure mobilization of its members for the cause.

C. Report of the One-day Seminar at Trivandrum

Date: 9th June 2015

Venue: Chaitram Hotel, Trivandrum

Seminar Title: Sustainable Development of Small Scale Fisheries

Number of Registered Participants: 60 (of which 19 women) + 5 Resource persons

The third regional level VGSSF dissemination program was held at Chaitram Hotel in Trivandrum. The invitees were various stake holders of the fisheries sector mainly from Trivandrum and Kollam districts. Being the state capital where the important personalities and policy makers have their offices, this seminar was seen as the most important of the three from the point of influencing policy.

Various publications of ICSF were displayed at the venue.

Dr. John Kurien introduced the program and gave a brief history of the development of the VGSSF guidelines including the role of ICSF and of Ms. Chandrika Sharma who also had spend some years in Trivandrum as a student in the Centre for Development Studies. He also explained how the Protsahan team had prepared for this seminar and made a brief noting about the other two seminars held in Kasargode and Trissur. He welcomed all the delegates saying this was to be an interactive process as all stakeholders in the fisheries were represented.

There was a quick round of self-introductions with each briefly mentioning her/his role in the organization represented.

This was followed by detailed presentation by Dr.Titto D'Cruz on VGSSF guideline in the Kerala context. The various components of the guidelines were presented along with the changing context of the Kerala fisheries. The New Deep Sea Fisheries Policy was also alluded to in some detail and the different perspective on the Meenakumari Report was also provided.

Panel Discussion

The hour long presentation was followed by a panel discussion on which was:

- Mr. Dinakaran (Chairman, Matsyfed and General Secretary, Akhila Kerala Dheevera Sabha),
- Mr. V.V Saseendran (President, CITU Fishermen Union, Kerala),
- Mr. Lal Koparambil (President, Kerala Swathantra Matsyathozhilali Centre),
- Mr. Kutty Ahmed Kutty (Ex-MLA, Indian Union Muslim League, Tanur),
- Mr. T. Peter (Secretary, National Fishworkers Forum)

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- Mr. Ignatius Manroe, Deputy Director of Fisheries
- Ms. Sita Dasan (District Coordinator, SEWA Union).

Brief Rendering of the Points made by the Panel Members

Kutty Ahmed Kutty:

- The 61 day ban cannot be made applicable to the small motorised crafts of 8HP
- Seawalls cannot be removed as suggested. However, the green alternative is possible. There are some cactus varieties which grow on the beach sands and offer good protection from the sea
- As regards Muslim youth they should diversity from their fishing activity. This occupation is looked down upon and so they do not get wives.
- This seminar was a good start. But we must meet again.

V. Dinakaran

- Read the SSF guidelines many times. We are discussing here what 126 countries agreed and so we should take this document seriously. This is the SSF Magna Carta.
- It is the traditional fishing communities who are the real small-scale fisheries so there is no need to have any doubt on the definition of SSF
- Those who belong to the traditional fishing communities remain as traditional fishers even if they own a big fishing vessel.
- The Dheevra Sahba struggle is to place the community on the SC list. Otherwise they will continue to be poor even though the sector is generating so much wealth.
- The big fishing assets belong to the big companies and not the fishers
- There must be aquarian reforms. Right of first sale.
- A 2 nautical mile ban for mini-trawling and 12 nautical mile ban for all other industrial fishing. No foreign fishing to be permitted in our EEZ.
- There should be some mechanism whereby some share of the foreign exchange earned from marine products exports be used for the social and economic upliftment of the fishing communities who labour to harvest it.
- The debt relief should also be applicable to fishers
- This discussion should be taken beyond this level. We must meet together to convince the state and the centre about the merits of the SSF.
(LATER AGREED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CALL FOR A MEETING OF SMALL GROUP OF KEY PERSONS TO DISCUSS THE STRATEGY TO TAKE THIS FORWARD)

T. Peter

- Have a fear about this SSF guideline of the FAO. It does not target the real enemy. It says nothing about the trawlers and the corporates who are our main enemy.
- Trawling and purse-seining are not suited to our seas
- Matsyafed should not fabricate nets which are destructive. They should not sell higher HP engines.
- We do not need new fishing units in Kerala. Only replacements.
- The mesh of nets should be square type
- Not of the opinion that ALL light fishing or use of artificial reefs is bad
- Not to have seawalls is a political decision.

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- In own village did prevent the construction of sea walls. But this was possible because there was land available to re-habilitate the people further from the sea and to leave the beach free.
- Alternative livelihoods are needed
- There should be a 90 day trawl ban.
- The key matter is to regulate gear because that is what catches fish. The focus on the craft size is not right.

V.V.Saseendhran

- Welcome the possibility to discuss the issues of SSF
- However, this is a voluntary instrument and so it should be implemented by the fishers themselves
- We must take this to the higher levels to formalise it. There is no definition of SSF. We need clarity on this matter.
- Before giving preference to any third party the priority should be for the SSF
- The ILO working conditions convention should also be linked to this.
- The main focus should be in sustainable fishery
- There is no clarity on the data to make any statements on this. But clearly there is depletion and species extinction too.
- The problem is implementation. No political will for this. We have seen examples in Norway. But for example the quota system is not applicable here. But other aspects from there may be relevant.
- We must implement aquarian reforms. The craft and gear owner must be a fisher. “Those who fish” and not any community member.
- Ban the “kappal-vallams”
- Try methods other than sea wall for coastal protection. Land reclamation for housing and strict implementation of the CRZ rules.
- The employment of women in fisheries should be protected

Lal Koiparambil

- Also not clear about the SSF guidelines because there is no critique of trawlers and corporates who are the main cause of destruction
- There is no difference between the ring seine and the purse seine. They are not destructive. But the workers should be made aware of their responsibilities towards other SSF. They should not fish in the Territorial Sea during the time of bans.
- There are more ring seines than the allowable capacity. This is the problem. The numbers should be controlled.
- Agree with the policy on removal of seawalls. There should be other alternatives for housing for fishers. But the CRZ should not become a tool for the tourist lobby to gain access to the beach.
- The rights to the sea should be first to the “workers” from the traditional fishing castes and not to any member of the traditional fishing caste

Ignatius Manroe

- The artificial reefs set up by the department should be used to aggregate fish and not as a place to fish for juveniles
- FAO has clear definitions about small, medium and large scale and about traditional and non-traditional fishery so we should just follow those international definitions. No need to start creating our own categories

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- The 12 nautical mile and the 200 nautical mile limits also came from international laws and we have accepted it
- How to define the deep sea. It is the sea beyond the continental shelf.
- The seawall issue need to be tackled by also relocating the fisher housing beyond the 200 mts line from the HTL. The proposal for green solutions is good
- Mangroves also grow in some sandy places
- For port building there is need to combine the pier with the breakwater. This can be a solution to the erosion issue.

Seeta Dasan

- The work of the women involved in fish trade is getting more difficult.
- But their numbers are increasing
- The current pattern of fisheries development is yielding lesser quality fish which moves across long distances and displaces the fresh fish from the coast. So the good fresh fish does not get a good price. The acceptance of low priced, bad fish is affecting the consumers. It is also affecting the women fish vendors.
- The hardship of the women in fishing communities is also increasing. The dowry rates are going up with the increased capital needs in the fisheries.
- The basic facilities in the markets and in the villages are still poor. For example water supply. People have to pay to buy good water.
- There should be greater cooperation between all the trade unions to address these issues.

There were many responses from the audience. On the whole, the participants appreciated organising of this seminar and were pleased at the way Dr. Titto D’Cruz, representing the Protsahan Team, presented the issues in a very comprehensive manner.

Group discussion took place after lunch – there were four groups and one specifically of women.

Following points emerged from the group reports.

- Small scale fisheries sector needs to be defined if Kerala's fisheries had to be sustainable. The small-scale fisheries sector, should exclude non-traditional fishing methods and destructive fishing methods. Hence only those fishing techniques that avoid non selective fishing, juvenile fishing and methods that do not destroy fish habitat can be considered to quality to be in the small-scale fisheries sector. This point was raised by two groups.
- Size of nets, mesh size and high HP engines need to be regulated because more power means more fuel. Small boats do not get their share of catch when bigger and more powerful boats operate in the same fishing grounds. There should be a complete ban of ring-seine and the purse-seines should be restricted to fishing at a depth of 100 “mar” (approximately 1 mar = 1 fathom) from the coast. Lights used in fishing should be completely banned. Current usage of boat-seine throughout the year needs to be regulated as it affects other fishers. Only during the months of June, July and August boat-seine should be allowed to operate after regulating the size of the net. Usage of *Kanjil* as artificial reefs should be banned.
- Seawalls along the coast should not be allowed. Rehabilitation of people affected by storm surges should be done at the earliest.

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- At least for some years from now, except for replacement of existing units, no new fishing units should be allowed
- Investment in fishing should be restricted only to fishworkers who involve in catching fish. Ownership rights of fishing units should be vested with active fishing people irrespective of caste and religion.
- Distance restriction should not be made applicable to those doing small-scale fishing
- Ecologically sensitive zones in the sea should be identified and to protect such zones, fishing in those zones should be reserved only for small-scale fishers. Industrial and factory effluence discharge should not be allowed into the coastal waters. Sand mining from the shores should be completely stopped. Entire coast needs to be made plastic free.
- Focus areas of fisheries studies done by scientific community may be decided with involvement of different stakeholders including fishworkers. Traditional knowledge of fishworkers also be documented and valorised.
- In order to implement the VGSSF guidelines, a new law should be enacted. Social auditing should be done to ensure that the guidelines are implemented.
- To implement the suggestions, each organization and institution shall discuss these subjects within their organizations
- At least in the district level, a permanent platform of different stakeholders should be formed. Mr. Dinakaran said he would take this forward. The local regulations suggested in such platforms and those formulated by local fishing communities should be supported for implementation by government. Overfishing, juvenile fishing and destructive fishing be banned over the period in phases/stages. Three months trawl ban should be strictly implemented and following 9 months, trawling should be allowed only beyond 12 nautical miles.

The meeting was concluded by Mr Vijayan who said he hoped that the enthusiasm shown would materialize in taking the guidelines forward through implementation. He thanked all the participants for making the seminar successful.

**Appendix - A
Group Discussions Guide**

1. Can we make use of the FAO new Guidelines to strengthen small scale fisheries.
 - Ensuring use rights of the fish resources, fishing areas in the sea, coast and coastal land to the ssf.
 - How can we ensure gender equality in these rights
 - Sustainable development of these resources on a participatory basisHow can these guidelines be taken forward through your organisations? What are the possibilities and problems you for see?
2. Are there fishing units in your area that cannot be included in the category of Small scale fishery. If so which are these. Explain why they cannot be included in ssf.
3. People in Kerala feel there is a problem of resource depletion in the coastal waters. Do you agree? If you agree, what are the indications of this? What are the causes for this problem - the fishery and non fishery aspects. Do you think we use fishing techniques that lead to this depletion? Do you think catching and selling fish for fish meal makes unnecessary pressure on the resources? Do you think all this over fishing has affected the food security , the

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- employment and livelihood of women involved in fish marketing and fish processing. To tackle these issues, can any of the provisions for the guidelines be used? If so how?
4. Social development criteria in fishing communities – health, education etc. are generally lower than the Kerala average. Do you think that within the fishing communities there are more vulnerable groups, like landless fishermen, families depending only on women’s income and fishermen using only non-mechanised crafts? If yes, kindly indicate which.
 5. Problems like coastal erosion, coastal pollution, sand mining, destruction of mangroves constructions like sea walls, break water groins, and impact of climate change are all issues that affect coastal communities. What are the solutions for this issues? Do we have alternate suggestions?

**Appendix - 2
List of Participants at each Seminar**

PARTICIPANTS AT KASARGODE

Sl no	Name	Position	Address
1	Smt. K. Vanaja,	District Manager	Malsyafed District Office, Kasaba beach, Kasaragod- 671 121
2	Mr. Sherif	Deputy Manager,	Matsyafed District Office, Kasaba beach, Kasaragod - 671 121
3	Advocate Sri. U.S. Balan	State Vice President,	Akhila Kerala Dheevera Sabha, Near Press Club jn,Kasaragod - 671121
4	R. Gangadharan	Member, Fishermen Debt Relief Commission, Cong-I Office,	Omlinks Building, Near New Badariya Hotel, MG Road, Kasaragod-1
5	Sri. Prakasan		S/o Kartyayani Near Puthiya Bhagavati Temple Bakel, Kasaragod - 671 318
6	Dr. Padmanabhan	Deputy Director of Fisheries	Meenaffice PO, Kadapurath Kanjangad, Kasaragode Dt.
7	Mr. K. K. Kunjabdullah	President Padanna Kadappuram Matsyathozhilali Vikasana Sahakaran Sangam	Padanna Kadappuram PO, Kasaragod - 671
8	Shri. V.V. Uthaman		S/o T. Raman Mavila Kadappuram PO

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			Padannavazhi - 671 312 Kasaragod
9	Shri. Kattadi Kumaran	District Secretary CITU	Matsyathozhillali Union Sujithalayam, Kattadi Kulavayal PO, via Anandashramam Kasaragod - 671 531
10	G. Rajesh	Secretary, Youth wing, AKDS	Keezhur Kadappuram Chandragiri PO Kasaragod - 671 317
11	K. Shambhu	Taluk Secretary, AKDS	Near Govt Fisheries School, Bakel PO Kasaragod - 671 318
12	K. Raveendran		Ajanur Kadappuram Kulavayal PO Kasaragod - 671 319
13	Muttathu Raghavan		Thuruthy PO Cheruvathur Kasaragod - 671 313
14	K. Manoharan	Kanhangad Taluk Secretary, AKDS	Poonchavi South Kadappuram Poonchavi South PO Kasaragod
15	D.L.P. Narayanan		Thaikadappuram PO Odiñjavalappur Neeleswaram, Kasaragod Dt
16	K.S. Anandan	State Council Member, AKDS	Kasaba Kadappuram Kasaragod - 671 121
17	Krishnappa Udiyavar	Dt. Vice President, AKDS	Udiyavar Beach, Manjeshwaram Kannatheertha PO Kasaragod Dt
18	Smt. G. Lakshmi	Mahila Wing Secretary, AKDS	Kasaba Kadappuram Kasaragod - 671 121
19	Shri. Durgadas	Kannur District Secretary, AKDS	Kowayi PO Payyannur Kannur District.
20	P. Govindan	District President, AKDS Kannur	Karivallur PO Kannur District
21	Raju Kunnath	Kozhikode District Secretary, AKDS	Vadanchery, Mukkam PO, Kozhikode - 673 602

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22	V. Sudhakaran ,	Kozhikode District President	Dheevara Sabha Puthiyappa PO Kozhikode District
24	K. Vivekanandan	State Councillor, AKDS	Panikkar Road, Nadakkavu PO Kozhikode - 673 011
25	Shri. V. R. Vidyasagar	Member, Matsyafed Director Board	Near Thrikkannad Temple Bakel PO Kasaragod Dt.
26	Smt. Anandavalli	Member, Matsyafed Director Board	Thrikkarippur Kasaragod District
27	Sudhakaran V	Boat Owners Assocoation AKD	
28	Mercy Francis	Social Justice Department	
	Ushus KC	Matsyfed	
29	Shobana M	Matsyfed	
30	Usah U	Matsyfed	
31	K Seema	Matsyfed	
32	PK Ummer	Fisherman Chanadragiri	
33	PS Abdul Khadar	Fishermen Keezhoor	
34	Rajendra Kumar	Fisherman Karkodi	
35	Rameshwar P	Fisherman	
36	Mari	Fisherman	
37	Madhu Fisherman		
38	Surendran R	Fisherman Backel	
39	Muttoth Raghavan	Fisherman	
40	K. Manoharan	District Secretary, Malsyathozhilali Congress Keezhur	Kadappuram Chandragiri PO Kasaragod - 671 317
41	S. Soman	Matsyathozhilali Sangham President	Keezhur Kadappuram Chandragiri PO Kasaragod - 671 317

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42	K.V. Gangadharan	Fishermen Cooperative Society President	Valiyaparampu Thrikkaripur Kadappuram Kasaragod
43	Shri. K. Gopalan Matsyathozhilali Union	District President, CITU	Pallikkara Malsyathozhilali Vikasana Sahakarana Sangham, Pallikkara Kasaragod
44	Dennyson	Fisheries Department	
45	Leakshmi	Women from Matsyafed Cops	
46	Radha	do	
47	Shylaja	do	
48	Shyamala	do	
49	Mani	do	
50	Karthiyani	do	
51	Dr. John Kurien	Resource Team	
52	Ms. Nalini Nayak	do	
53	Mr. A.J.Vijayan	do	
54	Dr. Nanda Kumar	do	
55	Dr. Titto D'Cruz	do	

PARTICIPANTS AS THRISSUR

SI No	NAME	POSITION	ADDRESS	PHONE
1	K.V. SRINIVASAN	MEMBER B.MS. State committee	Karuthanthan house Erattapuzha Post Blangad Thrissur – 680 506	9633683196
2	N.V.SOMAN	CITU	Baby road Chavakkad post Thrissur – 680 516	9349143098 0487- 2507451
3	K.A.PAVITHRAN	Tharakan	Kallumadathil house Kundaliyoor post Thrissur - 680 616	9496124238
4	N.K. PEETHAMBARAN	District Secretary Matsya Thozhilali Congress	Unnikochan house Kundaliyoor post Thrissur - 680 616	9995543345
5	P.V. JENARTHANEN	District President Dheevera Saba	Panakkal house Nattika Beach PO Thrissur - 680 566	8086291313
6	V.V. VIJAYAN	President Matsyafed	Vikramchery house Valappad beach PO	9847829599

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		Co-operative Society	Thrissur - 680 567	
7	V.V. ANITHA	Vice President CITU Matsy Thozhilali Union	Valappil house Valappad beach PO Thrissur - 680 567	9605361974
8	S. SIVA DAS	Co-operative Society Secretary	Puliyannar parambil Kazhimbram PO Thrissur - 680 568	9544133483
9	P.T. LOHITHAKSHAN	Co-operative Society Ex President	Pallathu house Kazhimbram PO Thrissur - 680 568	9747729283
10	K.V.BABU	Fisherman	Kovil thekkeparambil house Kazhimbram PO Thrissur - 680 568	9844100561
11	N.M. NAKULAN	President Matsyafed Co-Operative Society	Nediyirippil house Kazhimbram PO Thrissur - 680 568	9567205740
12	P.G.ARAVINDHAKS HAN	President Matsyafed Co-Operative Society	Ponath house Kulimuttom PO Thrissur - 680 691	9446873721
13	E.V.RAMESHAN	Ex-Panchayat President	Edamuttathu house Eriyad PO Thrissur	9846061402
14	ISMAYIL	STU District Vice President & Fishermen Leader	Marathanthara Azhikod Jetty PO Thrissur - 680 666	9846726731
15	venu GOPALAN	Fisherman, Chadrapini		9846407825
16	K.V.VIAJYAN	Ex-Cop President		
17	SABU	Fisherman	Gurudhakshina Ring seiner Nattika	
18	Freddy	Fisherman	Nattika	
19	K.V. SRINIVASAN	MEMBER B.MS. State committee	Karuthanthan house Erattapuzha Post Blangad Thrissur – 680 506	9633683196
20	K.PURUSHOTHAMA N	PRESIDENT CITU District committee	Ayinippilli bus stop, Thiruvathra, Thiruvathra PO, Chavakkad, Thrissur – 680 516	9995178117
21	C.SIVADAS	KSSP Regional President	Chemban veedu Thiruvathra po, Thiruvathra, Chavakkad,	9446537370

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			Thrissur – 680 516	
	OFFICIALS			
22	P.GEETHA	Matsyafed District Manager	Matsyafed District Office Mini Civil Station Thiprayar PO Nattika Thrissur	9526041050
23	SUJA	Matsyafed Assistant Manager Kazhimbram	Matsyafed District Office Mini Civil Station Thiprayar PO Nattika Thrissur	9526041111
24	VALSAN	Matsyafed Assistant Manager Nattika	Matsyafed District Office Mini Civil Station Thiprayar PO Nattika Thrissur	
25	DR.ABDUL SAMAD	Principal Scientist Pelagic Division CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Kochi	9496180535
26	DR.RAMACHANDRAN	Principal Scientist Socio-Economic Division CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Kochi	9847250043
27	N.S. SREELU	Deputy Director Thrissur	Need to get details from Sri. Nanadan	9496007030
		Engineer	Need to get details from Sri. Nanadan	
28	Santhosh	Keraleeyam	Media Person	
29	Stephen kx	Fisherman, Alappuzha & Cochin		9847367052
30	Wilsonkutty	do		9656757077
31	Stephen kanyan prambil	do		9562044111
32	Thankachan	do		9388506620
33	Pappachan	do		9539686460
34	Antony	do		9142234903
35	Micheal pj	do		9895678889
36	Peter pd	do		9526684482
37	Seban	do		9544333325
38	Varghese	do		9847316841
39	Thackachan	do		9656646814

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40	Farisha	SEWA Union Cochin		
41	Suja	F. Women		
42	Ahamed	Fish Merchant		
48	Fathima	SEWA Union, Thanur		
49	Shylaja	Ward Member, Thanur		
50	Amina	Fish drier, Thanur		
51	Muahmed	PRI Rep, Thanur		
52	Sherif	Social Worker, Thanur		
53	Ahmed kutty	Fisherman, Thanur		
43	Dr. John Kurien	Resource Team		
44	Ms. Nalini Nayak	do		
45	Mr. A.J.Vijayan	do		
46	Dr. Nanda Kumar	do		
47	Dr. Titto D'Cruz	do		

PARTICIPANTS AT TRIVANDRUM

Sl no	Name	Position	Address	Phone
1	Dinakaran	Chairman	Matsyafed	
2	V.V.Saseendran	General Secretary	CITU Fishermen Union	
3	T.Peter	General Secretary	NFF	
4	Kutty Ahmed Kutty	(League) – Ex-MLA,	Thanoor, 676302	9447140257
5	Lal Koilparambil	President KSMTF Centre	Arthungal, Via Cherthala Alappuzha District	9847121049
6	Sita Dasan	SEWA Trivandrum		
7	Sheela Quilon	SEWA Quilon		
8	Stancy Quilon	SEWA Quilon		
9	Marina Quilon	SEWA Quilon		
10	Anna Mary Poonthura	Fisher woman		
11	Treesa Kannanthura	Fisher woman		
12	Vimala Pulluvila	Fisher woman		
13	Silvamma Adimalathura	Fisher woman		
14	Maiagratty Pulluvila	Fisher woman		

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15	Amala Pullivila	Fisher woman		
16	Shreeja Maryanad	Fisher woman		
17	Philomy Pulluvila	Fisher woman		
18	Mercy Alexander		Sakhi Resource Centre Convent Road, Trivandrum 695035	9446041397
19	Fr. James Culas			9496102251
20	Fr. Mathias	Director	(C.F.S) Centre for Fisheries Studies Spencer Jn., Trivandrum	8089997360
21	Fr. Antonito Paul		St.Xavier's Church Kandakadavu, Cochin 682008	9605593623
22	Fr. Jose Kaleekal			
23	Fr.Yesudas	Bishop's house		
24	Fr.Santappan	Bishop's house		
25	Robert Panipilla		(Friends of Marine Life) TC 34/1780 (A) Kochuthope, Vallakkadavu PO Trivandrum 695008	9447240402
26	Aneesha	(Friends of Marine Life)	C/O TC 34/1780 (A) Kochuthope, Vallakkadavu PO Trivandrum 695008	9746081239
27	Harilal V	KSSP	Lal Nivas Pravachambalam Junction Trivandrum 695020	9446411203
28	Sanjeev Ghosh		Sanjayam, Krishna Nagar Lane 5, House No.180 Peroorkada PO Trivandru 695005	09447957408
29	S.Raveendran Nair		Rohita, Pangapara PO, Trivandrum 695581	9447974903
30	Mr.Joseph Manual	selfmanagementservices@	General Manager (Rtd)	09746819995

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		gamil.com	Matsyafed	
31	Dr.K V Thomas	CESS(Rtd.)	Kachappally, A56, SreeNagar, Venchavod, Sreekaryam, Trivandrum 695017	9400333128
32	Venugopal	ICSF	Chennai	
33	Shaji	Commissioner	Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Fund Board Poonkunnam Trissure 680002	9446430888
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40	Rekha V	Deputy General Manager (Aquaculture)	Matsyafed Head Office, Kamaleswaram, Trivandrum eMail:dgmaqua@ gmail.com	9526041029
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45	Jackson Thumbakaran		Thumba Pallithura PO Trivandrum 695586	8606803196
46	Latha PK	Manager	Matsyafed Matsyafed Head Office, Kamaleswaram, Trivandrum	
47	K Harshan	Assistant Manager	Matsyafed Matsyafed Head Office, Kamaleswaram, Trivandrum	
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49	Balachandran	(Poet)	TC 17/1318 (3), Cherukara Rd., Tirumala PO Trivandrum 695006	9746810382
50	Richard	Fisherman Anjengo		
51	G Alphonse	Fisherman Anjengo		
52	J Thobias	Fisherman Anjengo		
53	Stephen	Fisherman Valiathura		
54	Rajan	Fisherman Valiathura		

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56	Biju Joseph	KSMTF		
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59	Renjan Mathew WWF			
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61	Jannet Victor Maryanad			
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64	Mr. A.J.Vijayan	Resource Team		
65	Dr. Nanda Kumar	Resource Team		
66	Dr. Titto Dcruz	Resource Team		