

SAMUDRA

for Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



WHAT'S ON TODAY

- Social development for SSF
- Group discussions

Side note

SAMUDRA for IYafa 2022, published daily during the ICSF Regional Workshops for the international year, brings you programme updates, interviews with participants and short articles on SSF in the region.

For more information, write to icsf@icsf.net

A Vibrant Start

The IYafa 2022 Asia Workshop is off to an exciting start, with lively discussions between the 11 countries and a celebration of local cultures with song, dance and storytelling.

The Asia Workshop, organized by ICSF and SDF, was inaugurated by Dr Tawom Thunaji, Deputy Director General, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand. Also present at the inaugural session were: Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Director, SDF and Member, ICSF; Me Piya Yamthet, Chairperson, Thailand Association of the Federation of Fisherfolk; and Panitnard Weerawat, Senior Instructor, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

Mr. Thunaji said that Thailand recognizes the importance of marine resources, and fair access of artisanal fishers and aquaculture producers to resources. The SEAFDEC representative also discussed the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region, both in domestic and foreign trade.

Mr. Yamthet said that in Thailand fishers are facing similar issues to those confronted by fishers around the world. He welcomed the occasion to discuss and solve these problems together. In her welcome address, Ms. Prasertcharoensuk

said that the participants should use this opportunity to build networks and alliances, and strengthen the fishers' movement.

Sebastian Mathew, Executive Director of ICSF, provided an overview of the Workshop, reiterating its objectives to enhance the engagement of fishworker organizations in food security, tenure rights, social development; deepen cooperation between fishworker and like-minded organizations; and to amplify the voices of women in the inclusive development of small-scale fisheries.

He said that IYafa 2022 is a chance to celebrate the knowledge and skills of fishers and fishworkers utilizing traditional, small-scale fishing and processing methods. "The small-scale sector is not vanishing," he said, "but is a sector to be preserved and protected."

INSIDE

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- Trawling in Indonesia

Tenure—the cornerstone of small-scale fishing

by **Maarten Bavinck**

Many small-scale fishers in Asia do not want their children or grandchildren to become a small-scale fishworker. Could it be that ‘problems of tenure’ are the main reason our fishworker friends want to leave fisheries? This question guided the Workshop’s first session and my presentation to the participants.

What is tenure? The FAO Tenure Guidelines provide a description of what tenure does, rather than what it is: “Tenure systems determine who can use which resources, for how long, and under what conditions.” “Tenure” describes a relationship between a fishing family or community and their resources. As these ‘resources’ are not free-floating but tied to specific land and water spaces, a fisher family or community always requires access to these spaces too. A tenure system defines the access of fishworkers to the resources and the coastal spaces that they depend on.

Tenure is a form of property; it provides control over who is allowed to fish there and in which way. It provides rights and responsibilities. It provides the foundations of their livelihood and thereby ensures food security. A coherent and just tenure system for fishworkers is a human right.

But what is the situation of tenure of fishworkers today? Generally speaking, a clear tenure system is lacking: There are multiple conflicts, many intruders, and a mix of rules and regulations. What we see is not only a decline but a

fragmentation of tenure systems. While customary tenure systems are under pressure, governmental systems are expanding their presence.

Threats to systems of tenure in fisheries come from the outside too. The term ‘blue economy’ or ‘blue growth’ is often used to describe the many new activities that governments are promoting in coastal regions. Marine pollution and climate change also threaten small-scale fishworkers and their tenure systems. If fishworkers must move, they will have to be provided with rights to other coastal land and to changing fishing grounds.

There are no quick fixes for the flawed situation of tenure in fisheries. The underlying problem is that small-scale fishworkers lack power.

In the ensuing plenary discussion, the large-scale encroachment of fisher resources and the displacement of fishworkers in the region were emphasized. This highlighted the fragility of contemporary tenure systems and the challenges of resolving them.

***Maarten Bavinck** is the Chair of the ICSF Board. He was a professor of coastal resource governance at the University of Amsterdam and UiT, The Arctic University of Norway.*

A slice of life of SSF!

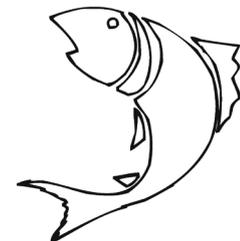
Watch the introductory video to the IYafa 2022 Asia Workshop, celebrating small-scale fisheries in the region. Visit the ICSF YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXQsOuvqY8M>

Workshop webpage!

For each IYafa 2022 regional workshop, ICSF has launched a dedicated page on its new website, with resources, publications and useful information on SSF in the region. Visit the Asia Workshop page here:

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/asia-workshop-iyafa-2022-celebrating-sustainable-and-equitable-small-scale-fisheries/>



IYAFA recipes

Pla Tod Kamin (Turmeric Fried Fish)

Turmeric fried fish is a popular southern Thai dish, both at home and in restaurants.

The dish is commonly cooked using the *pla bed kone* (sillago), a beloved local sand fish that school along beaches, sandbars, mangrove creeks and estuaries. Adults bury themselves in the sand when disturbed

Ingredients:

- 4 cloves garlic
- 2-3 Sillago, red snapper or mullets
- 1/2 tablespoon salt
- 4-inch piece turmeric
- 1/2 cup cooking oil

Prep and cooking:

Make slits at an angle across the body of the cleaned fish. Grind the turmeric, garlic and salt together. Rub the mixture into the fish and let it marinate for a few minutes or even overnight.

Heat 1/2 cup of oil in a wok or pan and when it shimmers, gently add the fish to the wok. Fry one side for 6 minutes, then the other for 5 minutes. The fish should be yellowish brown on the outside. Set aside the fish and fry the leftover marinade for 2 minutes. Add on top of the fish. Serve hot.



Delegates at the inaugural session of the IYAFA 2022 Asia Workshop organized by ICSF and SDF

A saga drags on

An interview with Dani Setiawan, Chief Executive of Indonesia Traditional Fisherfolk Union (KNTI) on why trawl fishing needs to be regulated

SAMUDRA: Tell us about the history and characteristics of the trawl fishery in Indonesia.

Dani: Trawling was introduced in Indonesia, particularly in the Java Sea, in the 1960s and became very attractive to fishers. Its popularity continued to increase till 1980.

A lot of the bottom trawling activity for shrimp is around North Kalimantan. And also in Sumatra, Sulawesi and other areas. Looking at fish production in the Indonesia, a large share of the catch is from this group. At the time there was no surveillance or regulation of trawl fisheries. There was also no estimation of marine fish stocks in Indonesia.

The first government regulation to ban trawling was in 1980. This was further enhanced by ministerial decree in 2017 to ban particular types of trawling operations. But, following the national election in 2020, the government once again allowed trawling in Indonesian waters. This, too, was not effective,

because the minister of fisheries changed again in 2021, reimposing the ban. This shows how dynamic the situation is with regards to trawl fisheries. This is because on the ground, trawling is still very active. And regulations are not implemented.

SAMUDRA: What are the impacts of unregulated trawling on small-scale fisheries and fishing communities?

Dani: The implications for small-scale fishing communities is huge. The share of catch of small-scale fishers has continued to decline. The 1980 ban on trawling was for the same reason. Also, this gear causes a lot of conflict between communities on the ground. Stopping this conflict was one of the main reasons behind that regulation...

The full video interview will be uploaded on the ICSF's Asia Workshop webpage and YouTube channel in a few days: <https://www.icsf.net/resources/asia-workshop-iyafa-2022-celebrating-sustainable-and-equitable-small-scale-fisheries/>

Legislate for fisheries tenure!

'Tenure Rights' for small scale fishing communities mean the right to access fish, land and water resources for fishing, fish farming, fish vending and related ancillary works in a sustainable way. Tenure rights are the cornerstone of the livelihood of small-scale fishing communities. For small scale fishers and fish farmers, the right to protect water and fish resources is integral to tenure rights.

It is distressing to observe that the land, water and fish resources used by the small-scale fishing communities are under severe threats of encroachments, diversions and degradations that result in their loss of livelihood and eviction. The land and water resources used by small-scale fishing communities are encroached by non-fishery activities, including port construction, inland waterways and tourism. Water resources from large inland water bodies are diverted for non-fishery uses so much so that they lose their biodiversity and fish resources. Destructive fishing practices in both marine and inland waters decimate fish stock. Inequitable fishing by mechanized boats robs the small-scale fishers of the share of their catch. Pollution from industries and agriculture, and waste from urban settlements degrade the water bodies and fishery resources.

Small-scale fishing communities have been striving for their rights to access and protect the land, water and fish resources. But their efforts are challenged by the absence or the failure to implement



legally recognized rights on the one hand, and by governments' support to competing interests on the other.

It is further observed that, among the 11 countries represented in the IYafa Asia Workshop, tenure rights for small-scale fishing communities are not formally recognized, except in the Philippines and partially in a few other countries. This has led to fishing communities not being recognized in legal or administrative mechanisms, with reference to the use and protection of land, water and fish resources.

The survival of small-scale fisheries with its contributions to sustainable fishing, food security, employment with gender balance and equitable income distribution calls for legally binding tenure rights for small-scale fishing communities.

Pradip Chatterjee is the Convener of National Platform for Small-scale Fish Workers (NPSSF), India

FAO IYafa Newsletter

Subscribe to the FAO SSF Guidelines/IYafa 2022 newsletter for monthly updates on events, publications and celebrations for the international year:

http://newsletters.fao.org/k/Fao/ssf_guidelines_implementation_subscription_form



WHAT'S ON TOMORROW

- Women and gender in SSF
- Photo sharing
- Action plan on gender
- Concluding remarks