**International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust**

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP:**

**SSF GUIDELINES**

**AND WOMEN IN FISHERIES, INDIA**

**ASHA NIVAS, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU**

**8 TO 10 APRIL 2022**

**WELCOME**

On behalf of ICSF Trust, I have the pleasure to welcome all of you to this workshop of women in fisheries in India as part of its programme to support fishing communities to implement the SSF Guidelines. This workshop is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

It is ICSF’s first national meeting since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and also an occasion to celebrate this International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

ICSF Trust warmly welcomes women fishworker representatives from Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, the four state groups that came together in 2019 to discuss how women fishworkers’ concerns and perspectives can be incorporated into policies, legislation and management.

In today’s meeting, we have the privilege to welcome women who are particularly under-represented in the strict categories of harvest and post-harvest activities in fisheries: Women who harvest shellfish, seaweed and other species in diverse forest, estuarine and island ecosystems

ICSF also welcomes Dr. Nikita Gopal, Dr. PS Ananthan and Aswathy Senan, resource persons for this workshop

A warm welcome to the interpreters, Shilpa Nandy, Ashwini Jog, Shanmuga Priya, AJ Vijayan

We welcome the workshop documentation team: Vishakha Gupta, the rapporteur; and Louis and Vignesh, the video team.

Finally, we welcome ICSF Trustees, Nalini Nayak and V. Vivekanandan

We wish you all a happy and fruitful workshop as you develop a working agenda for your organizations to improve the visibility of women in fisheries, to secure their rights, and to improve their participation in governance of the sector.