

SAMUDRA

for Accra

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



RECAP

- Field Trip to Tsokomey
- Experience sharing with DOPA
- Women in SSF

Catch of the Day

Aliou Sawe, The Gambia

The real catch of the day was the field visit to the Densu Oyster Pickers Association at Tsokomey. Great Thanks to the organisers for arranging the visit. We could see the way the community has mobilized itself to protect their resources, ensuring their access rights and livelihood. The view of women collectivising themselves to safeguard and sustainably co-manage their resources was quite motivating. It was reassuring to note that women were involved in harvesting, processing and marketing the product therev=by claiming their space in the whole fisheries value chain. The exchange was quite educative and the field trip thereafter to the riverside gave a first hand experience of gaps and challenges faced in such endeavours. I am going to take back this message to my country to mobilise the oyster farmers and to revist their governance structure and marketing strategies.



Africa Workshop 2023

The four day Africa regional workshop was inaugurated on 15 February 2022, at Harajuku Hall, Erata Hotel.



The African regional workshop celebrating sustainable and equitable fisheries had a vibrant start at Accra. Peter Adjei welcomed the participants to the workshop. The welcome address by the delegates stressed on the need for collectivization, long term view on sustainability, social development and the need to prioritize implementation of SSF guidelines with a focus on gender equity. The address by the guest of honour: Hon Moses Anim, The deputy minister of Fisheries and aquaculture development discussed SSF within the framework of sustainability, food security and nutrition.

ICE BREAKERS IN GHANA

- Good afternoon- Me ma mo ahä (me-ma mö ahä)
- Good evening- Me ma mo agyo (Me-ma mö ajo)
- Good night- Da yie (Da yi-ay)
- Thank You- Medaase (Me daa say)

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Discussions
- Opinion
- SSF Watch
- Voices of Women
- Resources

Access rights for Marine and Inland fishworkers to resources and spaces

The first day of the workshop ignited discussion on tenure rights with a focus on both inland and marine fisheries. The session started with inputs from Prof. Francis Nunoo who talked about access rights in marine fisheries. He offered a historical perspective on tenure rights in terms of national, bilateral and international agreements starting with a discussion on UNCLOS. While reiterating the need to preserve the commons, he stated the importance of protection of artisanal fishing zones and pollution control in ensuring the access right of small scale fishworkers.

The second input session on inland Fisheries by Margaret Nakato used a gender lens to discuss the issues pertaining to access rights in inland fisheries. She viewed the advent of tourism, pollution and unregulated development strategies as impacting the access rights of inland fishers.

The ensuing group discussions divulged on issues like decriminalization of fishers association, need for information sharing platform, need for consultative and participatory approaches and mapping of SSF zones as strategies that need to be adapted to ensure the access right of SSF to their resources.

The Cultural Forum

A Twi popular song, sang by fishers to demonstrate the energy and skill required to paddle a canoe

*"TSisi mbom, tabon mbom
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom
Eyi yɔ adɛea nɛyɔ a aa
Eyi yɔ adɛea nɛyɔ a aa
Ɛfarnyi kwan tabon Ɛnnfa nko nekyir
oo
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom
Sisi mbom, tabon mbom"*



Nana Kweigyah Isaac, Ghana

What the song means:

This is what we do, a fisher paddles the canoe to go forward and not backwards



Fisherwomen from korkorbite community weaving a mat using sari leaf during her past time. Fisherwomen from these communities engaged in oyster harvesting indulge in a second income generation activity like mat weaving during the closed season of five months from November- April

Opinion



An area that need to be strengthened in fisheries within the 3 A approach framework (Awareness, Alliance and Action). A lot has been done for

awareness creation and alliance building and we built a lot of alliances in the local, national and regional level. Now what we need is strong action, and we need to discuss a lot more on tangible actions that has to be undertaken

Margaret Nakato, Uganda



The presentations were interesting and shared new ideas and experiences, it was an educative experience. What I liked most in the previous day were

the questions that were shared to guide the discussion. It truly ignited fruitful discussions and we could also listen to different perspective from other groups. I believe that the most important thing for fishers to do now is to organize at their local contexts and build alliances with like minded organizations to make strong demands for their benefits.

Ramzi Hamrit, Tunisia



The discussions were very intense and interesting. I am looking forward to the field visit and expect that it will be interesting, since its all about brining women to

the forefront. In Seychelles we are not grappled by the challenge of gender inequities as discussed by the other countries, so it would be interesting to note how these differences work in the local contexts. The fishers need to come together and work together on a united front for reassuring their own benefits.

Nancy Marchia Onginjo, Seychelles

Voices of Women



Lucyphine Julius Kilanga, Tanzania

Its interesting to note that we have representation from the government representatives here, because, they are the final decision makers and one of the biggest challenge we face in our work is to get to the government representatives. What I see as a major challenge for women is their lack of access to technology inputs in relation to fisheries. Its not just about technology for processing fish or trading it, but also of information technology that limits their access to available resources. For example, there are many loans available for women, but they can't access it because of technological process involved in accessing these, like digitization of application forms and requirement of internet connectivity. There are economic and social factors that limits women's access to these technologies. What we require is a need assessment on technology adoption that is gender sensitive and gender responsive. Technology adoption shouldnt tranform itself as another tool for marginalising women. On the workshop, my suggestion is that it would have been better, if we could get some media attention.

THE SSF WATCH

Tunisia: In 2018, the SSF contributed to 7% of the total fish production, which is about 6200 Tonnes. The sector employs about 6000 fishers who mainly use wooden boats, including feluccas and skiffs for fishing. Traditional gear includes traps, such as the nasse and the karfes, as well as gillnets and longlines. More modern gear includes handlines and small-mesh trawls. Many small-scale fishers in Tunisia also use beach seines.

Togo: The SSF in Togo is mainly characterized fishers using traditional gear such as canoes, traps, and nets. Around 22,000 people, including fishers, processors, and traders are employed in this sector. Despite its importance, the small-scale fisheries sector in Togo faces a challenges, including overfishing, weak regulatory frameworks, and limited access to credit and markets.

Senegal: SSF accounts for about 3% of the country's GDP and provides employment for over 600,000 people. The fishers use traditional techniques and small boats, such as pirogues, canoes, or dugouts and uses nets, lines, hooks, and traps to target a variety of species including sardines, mackerel, octopus, shrimp, and other demersal and pelagic fish

Seychelles: There are approximately 1,500 small-scale fishers, who contribute to about 10% of the country's total fish production. The government has implemented a licensing system for small-scale fishers to manage fishing effort, and supports scientific research to better understand fish populations and to inform sustainable management practices



Densu Oyster Picking Association (DOPA) shares their experiences with the workshop participants

THE EXPERIENCE !

The warm welcome offered by the members of the DOPA helped the participants to beat the heat and break a leg on their way to the meeting ground. The photo exhibition on the group's activities detailed the activities of DOPA in relation to oyster farming. In the exchanges thereafter, the women detailed the way how organizing themselves ensured their livelihood, economic advancement and sustainable management of their resources.

The major challenges shared were the need for alternate income generation during closed season and the need for technical assistance to use the byproducts like oyster shells

When theory met Practice !

The sessions on gender was a true amalgamation of theory and practice when the resource persons made an effort to embed challenges faced by women in fisheries within the realms of feminist theories on gender realities. The effect of this was further reflected in the presentations that ensued that had deeper reflections on issues pertaining to women.

The Photo sharing

The photo sharing celebrating women in fisheries portrayed women's roles in various processes along the fisheries value chain. The participants then discuss various challenges faced by women all through these processes in their national context.

For more information on the photos shared, please visit the ICSF webpage on Africa workshop

FIED VISIT TO TSOKOMEY



The participants interacting with the DOPA representatives and local community members during their visit to the Densu riverside.

Workshop webpage!

Please checkout the ICSF Africa Workshop page here for regular updates:

<https://www.icsf.net/resources/africa-workshop-iyafa-2023/>

Follow us on Instagram:

https://instagram.com/icsf_fish?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

WHAT IS FOR TODAY

- Gender-Panel Discussion
- Photo sharing
- Action plan for gender equity
- Group discussions
- Social Development, employment and decent work

