

**Reports of the State-Level Capacity Development Training
Workshops
On the SSF Guidelines**

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust



Summary of Narrative Report from States

- 2.1. Andhra Pradesh State-level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines
- 2.2. Goa State Level Workshop on SSF Guidelines
- 2.3. Gujarat State-Level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines
- 2.4. Karnataka State - level workshop on SSF Guidelines
- 2.5. Kerala State level workshop on SSF Guidelines
- 2.6. Maharashtra State - level workshop on SSF Guidelines
- 2.7. Odisha State-level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines
- 2.8. Tamil Nadu State-level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines
- 2.9. West Bengal State-level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

1. APPENDICES

1.1. Andhra Pradesh State-Level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

12 November 2022

Organizers and Resource Persons

- Venkatesh Salagrama, Integrated Coastal Management
- Arjilli Dasu, District Fishermen Youth Welfare Association (DFYWA)
- Surada Rajarao, Fishcon
- Kiran Kumar, Assistant Director, Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh
- N. Venugopalan, ICSF

Introduction

The workshop for Andhra Pradesh was held in Visakhapatnam on 12 November 2022 by ICSF and DFYWA, Visakhapatnam. Over 40 people took part representing the local small-scale fishing community, grassroots organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), negotiators and development practitioners.

The purpose of this workshop was to enhance the capacity of fishworkers' organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations to negotiate issues regarding policy, legislation, lives and livelihoods of the SSF communities. This was held in Telugu and was facilitated by Venkatesh Salagrama.

SSF Guidelines: Overview, Objectives and Contextually Relevant Chapters for Andhra Pradesh

Setting the tone for the workshop, Salagrama shed light on the growing recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries worldwide as key contributors to national as well as global food security. Therefore, additional efforts are being undertaken to better understand the current situation of small-scale fisheries. In this vein, with the goal of achieving food security and poverty alleviation, the FAO developed a set of guidelines based on consultations with various fishworkers' groups and their leaders called the SSF Guidelines. ICSF, along with few other non-governmental organizations, played a pivotal role in framing the Guidelines.

Alluding to the voluntary nature of the SSF guidelines, Salagrama remarked that governments' signing this document does not imply their agreement to abide by or implement the recommendations, that there is a greater need for efforts from the small-scale fishing population to push local governments to implement them. He also highlighted that 2022 has been declared as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture and that several organizations have launched special programmes to commemorate this declaration. This programme sponsored by ICSF in Andhra Pradesh was one such initiative.

Subsequently, he highlighted the difficulty in determining the population dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods in India while it is easy to determine the volume of fish that is

being cultivated or caught from the sea annually. Given this gap in research and data, the current policies based on them are inherently flawed. He emphasized that it is important to uncover ways to collectively fight this situation.

Next, Dasu gave an overview of the Training of Trainers workshop on the SSF Guidelines that he had attended in Chennai with 50 other representatives from around India. Venugopalan presented the background of the SSF Guidelines and underlined the importance of negotiating with the state government for their implementation. He compared how, while being one of the key contributors to the overall fish production nationally, Andhra Pradesh lags in providing subsidies and assuring decent housing and sanitation for the traditional fishing population. Venugopalan also listed relevant sections of the SSF Guidelines and urged the participants to safeguard local ecosystems and avoid contaminating the ocean. Reiterating the relevance of the SSF Guidelines, Rajarao suggested that the participants make the best use of the workshop.

1. The Viability of Implementing the SSF Guidelines

Salagrama spoke about the viability of implementing the Guidelines in Andhra Pradesh. Diagnosing problems is indispensable in order to find potential solutions. To this end, the subsequent conversation was framed in such a way that the most pressing challenges in marine fish activity were outlined first, followed by a reflection on the fishing community's ability to cope with them and on the extent to which the Guidelines can assist in addressing some of the difficulties.

The overall drop in marine fish catch was the first issue raised. A few decades ago, any basic craft could help fishers catch enough fish for selling as well as household consumption. Fishworkers used to be convinced that they could provide for their daily needs by fishing. But this scenario has changed drastically; today the input costs are too high. Fishers are required to buy several kinds of fishing gear so that the appropriate gear for the kind of fish found after entering the sea could be used.

Secondly, debt is omnipresent in fishing villages. This situation will only worsen; but this factor often gets overlooked when discussing challenges in the fishing industry. Debt is a vicious cycle since, on the one hand, input costs are rising, but on the other hand, fisherfolk can only harvest as much as they used to or even less.

In the past, when fisherwomen obtained high fish yields, some of it would be dried and sold later. However, with the advent of ice, no fish remains in the source locations anymore. Furthermore, the difference in selling prices of fish between source regions and commercial markets is very large, reflecting the contemporary situation of fisherfolk, who are relegated to the margins and have lost control over the yield, to the extent that they are directed on what to catch, sell and eat.

While the concerns mentioned so far are what they have been grappling with internally, issues due to external actors have increased during the last 20 years. There are attempts to drive away the community under the pretext of establishing pharma businesses, nuclear

centres, textile hubs, industries or promoting tourism. As Salagrama put it, whenever the government introduces new schemes in coastal districts, fisherpeople are hit the hardest.

Moreover, in order to safeguard certain marine species, the government routinely emphasizes on conservation and imposes restrictions on fishing. Olive ridley turtles in Odisha, tigers in the Sunderbans and crocodiles are some of the species listed for conservation. Consequently, the survival of fishing communities during the moratorium period is an unanswered question. In the name of conservation efforts, humans are being overlooked and forgotten, which is a major issue nowadays. In addition, climate change and its implications pose a major threat to the livelihoods of the community too. All these concerns are driving fishworkers out of the sector and causing them to migrate to cities. The level of education in fishing villages is also increasing, which is a known determining factor in their transition to other occupations.

2. Discussion

Following this, participants responded with comments and questions concerning the purpose of CRZs, negotiations with governments over them, industries contaminating fishing communities and the surrounding ecosystems, unemployment and so on. Competition between local artisanal fishermen and owners of larger mechanized craft who migrate from other regions of the state and country, as well as competition between aquaculture produce and marine produce due to increasing demand for the former because of its better packaging were also mentioned.

3. Tenure Rights

Salagrama reminded the attendees of the necessity of rights for a secure living in the light of the ever-changing status and rising vulnerability of fishing communities. When rights are sought, responsibilities, which are often disregarded, come into play as well. He added that managing tenure rights is a responsibility that must be met adequately. The relevance of customary systems in ensuring harmony and social order in coastal villages was cited using examples of Pattapu/Pattinavar communities that operate in a distinct social structure.

According to him, these systems continue to be efficient as they not only determine life and livelihoods connected with the sea, but also social relations within the community. Clarifying that these practices cannot be attributed with value judgements, he noted the discriminatory nature of these practices in the case of women. Barring the discriminatory ones, the SSF Guidelines recommend that certain customary practices and rights be safeguarded.

4. Social Development

With respect to issues faced by fisherwomen in particular, sanitation is a concern that goes unaddressed. Fisherwomen frequently struggle due to a lack of access to bathrooms, both within the villages and at the markets. In general, the role played by women in fishing activity doesn't get adequate acknowledgement and therefore, their problems or their working conditions are rarely studied. Salagrama posited that there is a greater need for centring women in interventions.

Another concern is unemployment. As it is difficult to access loans or subsidies to purchase vessels, many fishermen are staying home, resulting in unemployment and underemployment. This predicament sometimes forces them to relocate to states like Gujarat and work on ships or larger craft that are devoid of any favourable working conditions. In this context, the SSF Guidelines on decent work are pertinent.

5. Disaster Management and Climate Change

Salagrama concluded his address by noting the implications of climate change on fisheries and the corresponding recommendations under the Guidelines to mitigate the said effects.

Group Discussion

Participants were divided into groups before the lunch break, and each group was assigned a theme. These groups were expected to analyze the problem critically and suggest approaches to address the issue at hand. These discussions continued till late noon, after which Kiran Kumar engaged with the participants and introduced them to the existing schemes and benefits in the fisheries sector at the state and the national level. He elaborated on various aspects of the PMSSY and its benefits.

Highlights from the Plenary Session

1. *Overall Requirements for Implementing the SSF Guidelines and Their Management*
 - a) Subsidies of 75% should be provided to small-scale fishworkers.
 - b) Fisherwomen must be issued identification cards and transportation vehicles.
 - c) Women must be included in the state relief plan Matsyakara Bharosa, which provides Rs 10,000 to fishermen in the state during ban periods.
 - d) MGNREGS must include work such as net repair, craft maintenance and beach cleaning, among other things, for fishermen during ban periods.
 - e) Fishworkers should be given livelihood support when the government restricts fishing activity due to weather-related reasons.
 - f) The existing government scheme of ex-gratia payment of Rs 10 lakh must be enhanced to Rs 20 lakh.
 - g) Currently, the government delivers assistance using ration cards. In place of this, it is recommended that assistance provisions be carried out based on Aadhar identity and age limit.
 - h) The building of fishing jetties could hinder fishermen from migrating. The government has been asked to look into this.
 - i) Toilet facilities at market locations must be provided.

2. *What Are the Major Gaps in Information, Knowledge and Communication With Respect To the Thematic Area and How Could They Be Addressed?*
 - a) Special residential schools for students from the fishing communities must be established in constituencies with significant fishing community populations.
 - b) For classes six to ten, a special course to raise awareness of the fishing business must be introduced.
 - c) Special courses at the intermediate and graduate levels must be created to diversify livelihood prospects for students from the fishing communities.

- d) Fisherpeople training institutes must be established for students from the fishing communities, and self-employment or work opportunities must be provided subsequently.
 - e) The current educational system must be restructured so that concerns affecting fishing communities can be researched and taught to students studying fisheries sciences; this will help build awareness of the challenges faced by small-scale fishing villages.
 - f) As previously mentioned, only by providing students from the fishing community with access to specialized courses, training and information will they be prepared with the necessary abilities to advance the cause of the small-scale fishing industry on knowledge, technological and cultural fronts.
3. *The Current Status and Capacity-Building Needs of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) and Other Corresponding Institutions (Governmental, Non-governmental, Research, Education-Related) to Support the Implementation of SSF Guidelines*
 - a) Compensation must be provided when the government prohibits fishing in the aftermath of cyclones or storms. Along the lines of the compensation granted by the Kerala government, everyone in Andhra Pradesh who is dependent on fishing for a living must be included in this provision.
 - b) The present compensation granted during the ban period from 15 April to 15 June shall be limited to men and women who rely only on fishing for a living.
 - c) Within the radius of coastal villages, a Navodaya Hostel facility for children from fishing communities must be provided.
 - d) Better medical facilities and value-based training facilities must also be provided.
 - e) The existing insurance programme's sum assured must be doubled.
 - f) Improved infrastructure facilities for landing craft and other vessels on the coastline are required.
 - g) Fishermen must have complete ownership of the waters and the shoreline.
 4. *Key Structural Concerns Related to the Thematic Area: What Does, What Doesn't and What Should Exist?*
 - a) *Rights and Duties*
 - The government must recognize and declare fishers' rights to coastal land up to two kilometres from the sea.
 - Traditional fishing must be allowed up to 20 kilometres from the coast, with automated vessels permitted only beyond this distance.
 - With the cooperation of the Revenue Department, the government must provide traditional fishing communities title to the land on which they have been living and assist them in registering their dwellings, burial sites, fish drying areas and other social infrastructure.
 - Fishworkers must prioritize coastal protection.
 - The government must not permit factories or other structures to be built on land owned by fishing communities.
 - b) *Social Protection and Ensuring Livelihoods*
 - The state government must keep its promise to provide livelihood assistance to the fishing community.
 - Women who rely on fish sales lose their jobs during the two-month ban.

- The aforementioned livelihood assistance strategy must include these women in order to assist them.
 - Activities like making nets and growing plants near the shore must be promoted during the ban period.
 - In the event of a cyclone, the Fisheries Department should take appropriate action and distribute accurate information.
 - In the event of a loss, the department must pay.
 - The aid provided to fishermen by the NFDB is ineffective.
 - The NFDB programme provides just 40% concession; instead, 90% concession should be provided.
- c) *Post Harvest and Marketing*
- Free ice boxes must be given.
 - Fish drying machines must be installed.
 - Both fish markets and harbours must have restrooms.
 - Women participating in fish sales must have their own marketplace.
 - Housing aid in the amount of Rs 1 lakh should be provided.
- d) *Gender Equality*
- Loans must be made available to women involved in fish sales.
 - Women's perspectives must be considered during panchayat meetings.
 - Women must be included in government programmes.
 - Outsiders bringing their products to fish markets must be prohibited.
- e) *Disasters and Climate Change*
- Chemical waste from factories should not be discharged into the water.
 - Disposal of plastic debris in the sea must be forbidden.

Closing Remarks

In conclusion, Salagrama discussed the importance of communal cohesiveness, which had been lost due to existing splits along political party lines and conflicts. Crafting organizational strength and institutional backing as well as developing their own plan should be the way forward. Vishakha Gupta's study report—*Making Small-Scale Artisanal Fishing Zones Work*—was later released by the ICSF team.

2.2 Goa State-Level Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Vasco, Goa

9 February 2023

Organizers and Resource Persons

- Agnelo, President, Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE, also Goa Rampon Fishers' Union)
- Olencio Simoes, Member, GRE
- Sarita Fernandes, Ocean Coastal and Ecological Alliance Network (O.C.E.A.N)
- Joshua Fernandes, Intern, O.C.E.A.N
- Deep Kanakia (Editing Support)

Executive Summary

On 9 February 2023, the Goa state-level workshop on the SSF Guidelines was conducted with GRE and supported by ICSF, in the Velsao village panchayat hall. Alongside, other state and national policies and schemes were also highlighted in the workshop.

The Rampon fishers also known as Ramponkars in Goa belong to Goa's SSF community.

The workshop saw an attendance of 62 fishers, about 10% of whom were fisherwomen from the GRE union. The sessions were divided into two parts and were conducted in the state regional language Konkani. The workshop was conducted by Fernandes and Simoes. Various aspects of policy, schemes, historical timelines as well current challenges were discussed during the sessions.

Key topics of interest identified from the union based on interactive activities with the fishers included:

1. Greater understanding of participatory role of fishers in state fisheries budget.
2. Demand for infrastructure, equipment and other operational needs of fishworkers (including fisherwomen).
3. Relevance of global small-scale fisher rights under the FAO and other UN agencies in local and state government schemes.

Session One: An Introduction to the Concept of Small-Scale Fishers

The interactive session began with questions to the participants to understand their perceptions of small-scale fishers. These questions included: (i) Who are small-scale fishers? (ii) Where do they live? (iii) What do they do?

The global distribution of small-scale fishers cited from a study was presented to the participants highlighting their distribution in the tropical regions and Global South and their contribution to global fisheries catch. The intent, objectives, duration, support organizations

and deliverables of the workshop were communicated with the participants. Statistics on the global and Indian per-capita consumption of fish was discussed.

Session 2: Collective Exercise: Mentimeter

Participants were asked to write down words that came to mind on the online presentation platform Mentimeter using their mobile phones. The question on Mentimeter was, ‘What are the things you have heard or been told by the industry and government about the rights of small-scale fishers?’

Several terms such as ‘trouble-makers’, ‘never informed’, ‘minority’, ‘outsiders’, ‘noisemakers’, ‘small fishermen’ were highlighted on the screen as the participants added their answers. The results of all the answers are listed in the diagram below.



Session 3: SSF Guidelines Based on FAO

The third session included an in-depth presentation of different sections of the SSF Guidelines in the context of poverty eradication and food security.

The session emphasized on FAO's role in India, tenure rights for small-scale fishers under the Guidelines; their rights for social development, employment and decent workl disaster risk reduction from climate-influenced hazards; and capacity building for housing and assets (craft, nets, tools, etc.).

A brief presentation on the rights of small-scale fishers under the CRZ and securing community-customary rights under the CRZ 2011 notification was made.

Concluding Session: Next Steps

The workshop concluded with next steps presented to the community based on their interaction in the three sessions. The following are the highlights:

- a) Greater understanding of participatory role of fishers in state and national fisheries budget.
- b) Demand for infrastructure, equipment and other operational needs of fishworkers (including fisherwomen).

- c) Relevance of the rights of global small-scale fishers under the FAO and other UN agencies in local and state government schemes.

The community was requested to provide feedback on the sessions and topics under SSF guidelines they would like to further learn.

2.3 Gujarat State-Level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Bharuch, Gujarat

12 March 2023

Organizers and Facilitators:

- Kamlesh S. Madhiwala, President, Samast Bharuch Jilla Machimaar Samaj (SBJMS)
- Hiral Dhimmarr, Vice President, SBJMS
- H. V. Mehta, Superintendent of Fisheries
- Ayub Manjaliya, President, Sagar Khedu Trust, Bhadresar
- Siddik Jasraya, Salaya Sahkari Machimaar Mandli
- Rizwan Mirza

Introduction

The Gujarat state-level training workshop on the SSF Guidelines was held in Bharuch, Gujarat on 12 March 2023. The workshop was jointly organized by ICSF and SBJMS. The 24 participants in the workshop included representatives of the SSF community, CSOs and NGOs working with fishermen, coastal communities and government officials.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of small-scale fishworkers' organizations to take forward the issues of the fisher community and to strengthen policies, legislation and livelihoods of the SSF community. The workshop was held in Gujarati and Hindi, with Mirza facilitating.

Welcome

In his welcome address, Madhiwala provided an overview of how fisheries are a part of everyone's daily life and its contribution to the national GDP as well as food security, both nationally and internationally. He added that there is an urgent need to strengthen the small-scale fishers' community.

Madhiwala remarked that government policies and legislation are not really benefitting the fishing community. Therefore, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines is necessary to strengthen the community. He also expressed his concern that every year the Government of India, as well as the Government of Gujarat, publishes data regarding fish catch quantity, but this data also includes inland and aquaculture fishing. Therefore, data from the fish catch by the marine small-scale fishing community is camouflaged. He also expressed his dissent on the various projects being implemented near the sea without proper consultation with the affected communities, which is a serious concern and threat to the fishing community.

Overview of the SSF Guidelines

Mirza presented the key highlights of the SSF Guidelines translated into Gujarati and projected as a slideshow. He also presented data regarding fish catch, fishermen population in Gujarat, small-scale fishermen in Gujarat, fish catch by small-scale fishermen and their

contribution to the national as well as state revenue. He also pointed out various problems faced by the fishing community in Gujarat, such as the Jakhau Port demolition, Navadra Port demolition, issues of subsidies on diesel, etc., insurance schemes and land rights of fishermen.

He too stressed on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. In view of the problems in Gujarat, these Guidelines will be helpful for the welfare of the fishing community. He also pointed out the crucial role of women in the entire fishing chain, from catch to sales. He stressed that the fish catch has been decreasing day by day due to the pollution caused by giant companies located at the shore of the Gujarat Coast, starting from Kutch to Valsad. Due to this, fishermen's livelihoods suffer. Due to increasing pollution, fishermen do not get enough fish catch as they did in the past and hence fall into a debt trap. He also stressed about the living conditions of small-scale fishers as well as issues regarding health and education.

Problems of Bharuch District

Dhimmar addressed the various problems of Bharuch district. He pointed out the major issue of the Bhadbhut Barrage project. In Bharuch, around 25,000 fishermen sustain their livelihood from the Narmada River. Bharuch is a significant exporter of the hilsa fish in Gujarat. However, after the Bhadbhut Barrage project is implemented, the entire fishing community of Bharuch will be affected with no alternative option of livelihood available to them. The mouth of the Narmada will be closed, shortening the fishing grounds deep inside the river. The ecological impacts of the dam are of grave concern.

Manjaliya, who led the session, pointed out that although there are many schemes available in the Fisheries Department for fishermen, these schemes are not implemented properly. In Kutch, various companies have taken over the shore, closing the route for fishermen to reach the sea and often do not allow fishermen to go to sea using their route. Fishers in Kutch also face the threat of eviction from fishing areas in the name of illegal encroachment by the district administration. He emphasized the importance of making the SSF Guidelines mandatory instead of voluntary.

A representative of the administration, Mehta conceded that he had heard of various problems faced by the fishing community. He also mentioned that there are many schemes available for the community—such as for cage culture and inland fishing—and provided a brief overview of the process of accessing the various welfare schemes. However, due to a lack of human resources, the Fisheries Department is unable to execute these schemes appropriately, he said. He assured the participants that he would implement the schemes to the best of his capacity and emphasized the importance of small-scale fishing and its impact on the economy.

Discussion

The group then held a general discussion on the issues faced by fisherpeople in all coastal landing centres and fishing villages. The fishers pointed out the absence of the Prime Minister Awas Yojna (PMAY) scheme for those living on the coast for fishing purposes.

They suggested that the benefits of the PMMSY could be included with PMAY and that the government should link these two schemes for fishers in Gujarat.

The fishers also discussed the increasing pollution in creeks and the sea, which is affecting fish breeding and fish stock. They emphasized the need to stop pollution from power plants, chemical estates and other industrial activities. They also highlighted the health and education-related problems affecting the children of small-scale fishing communities.

Recommendations

- Land and tenure rights, as suggested in the SSF Guidelines, should be given to fishers for habitat, fish drying places, small fishing infrastructure, fishing places on the coast and all other fishing activities.
- Proper water, sanitation and electricity facilities should be provided in the fishworkers' areas.
- The government should make proper policies and legislation to penalize big companies in Gujarat for the pollution they cause, affecting the fishers' livelihood.
- Proper arrangements for fish markets should be made so that women can sell fish at specific places.
- The subsidies provided by the government should be increased to meet the needs of the fishers.
- Schemes and subsidies should be designed for small-scale fishers and policies should be made to support them.
- The contribution of small-scale fishworkers should be highlighted at the national and state level.

The state government should take steps to reduce discrimination against the fishing community, who are poor and illiterate and heavily reliant on fishing activities as their primary livelihood, with limited alternatives available.

2.4 Karnataka State-Level Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Honnavara, Karnataka

3 March 2023

Organizers and Resource Persons

- Narasimha Hegde, Snehakunja Trust
- Ramachandra Bhatta, President, Snehakunja Trust
- Chandrakanth Kochrekar, President, National Association of Fishermen, Karnataka
- Sivaja Nair, Programme Executive, ICSF
- Ravindra Talekar, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Karawara
- V.M. Naik (Facilitator)
- Mahabaleshwar Hegde
- Vinod Patagar
- Prakash Mestha

Introduction

The Maharashtra state-level workshop on the SSF Guidelines was organized jointly by ICSF and Snehakunja Trust, Honnavara on 3 March 2023. The workshop was attended by 52 participants. The focus was on ‘Governmental Programmes for Small and Traditional Fishers, and the Access Rights to Coastal Resources Available to Them’.

Following Hegde’s welcome address, Kochrekar remarked that the country’s fisheries policymaking is in a dilemma and traditional coastal fisheries are under threat. He expressed concern over the poor governance of the sector as well as displacement of traditional fishers to make way for new ports. Even when there are programmes for small-scale fishers, they face severe limitations in budgetary allocations.

Nair, introducing the series of state-level workshops, said that there is still a lag in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in India.

Bhatta noted that though small-scale fishers form 60% of Karnataka’s coastal fishing fleet, they harvest only about 20% of the state’s marine fish harvests in a given year. This used to be the opposite in the 1980s. Besides, most of the fish catch harvested by traditional fishers is utilized for direct human consumption in local and regional markets, unlike the industrial fishing sector where much of the catch is diverted either for exports or for production of fishmeal and fish oil. Traditional fisheries, hence, make a great contribution to local and regional food security. Therefore, it is of vital importance to support the small-scale fishers of Karnataka and safeguard their interests. There are also additional challenges introduced by increasing occurrence of extreme climate events. Moreover, the Goal #14 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal is concerned with fisheries.

Session One: Governmental Programmes for Small and Traditional Fishers

Resource Person: Ravindra Talekar; Moderator: V.M. Naik

Talekar spoke about the schemes available to fishers under district-sector, state-sector and centrally sponsored (60% Centre and 40% state) programmes. He said that compared to 10–15 years ago, annual budgetary allocation for the Department of Fisheries, Karnataka (DoFK) had increased tremendously in the last 4–5 years. The department manages the rights to fish production in public freshwater bodies such as gram panchayat tanks, irrigation tanks, etc. In coastal waters, the department is tasked with issuing licence to fishing craft, their registration, and providing basic fishing requisites to them. The department has district-sector schemes promoting aquaculture and fish marketing, though there are budgetary limitations on these schemes.

He spoke about PMMSY, a centrally sponsored scheme that encompasses various programmes aimed at development of fisheries and aquaculture in the country. This is a flexible scheme in which state governments can tailor the different programmes to suit their respective fisheries. Aquaculture programmes involve facilitation of cage aquaculture, bivalve farming, seaweed farming, recirculatory aquaculture system, biofloc technology, etc. For small-scale capture fisheries, PMMSY provides subsidies on bicycles, two-wheelers, three-wheelers and insulated vehicles for fish marketing. He also said that cage aquaculture needs to be developed with utmost caution as it is likely to congest the estuaries and coastal waters if not controlled properly. A separate Mariculture Policy of Karnataka is being proposed that would define the spatial and other limits for setting up cages in open waters.

The participants of the workshop raised several concerns about the schemes being implemented by the DoFK. These included threat to livelihoods of traditional fishers due to programmes such as the Sagarmala that evict fishers from their homes, ineffective communication about the availability of governmental programmes—resulting in traditional fishers being kept out of welfare schemes, concerns about estuarine ranching, problems of inter-state fisheries, poor monetary support to small-scale fishers compared to that provided to larger fishers, especially in welfare schemes, and delays in implementation of schemes. They also expressed their concern about new craft not being permitted under PMMSY as well as the poor quality and insufficient numbers of life jackets provided, adding that saving lives should be prioritized by the government instead of issuing life insurance money to the family of dead fishers.

Naik added that these problems had been around for many years. Delay is a common feature of most governmental programmes. The problems perpetuate because fishers do not organize to seek remedies. He recommended that the CRZ No Development Zone limit should not be reduced to 50 metres from the existing 200 metres since that would further erode the space available to fishers. He briefly described the advantages of collectivizing fishers in the form of companies and said that the fishers should be educated about their rights and powers. He spoke about the programme initiated by the Karnataka Department of Forest which aims to offer alternative livelihoods to small-scale fishers and to conserve marine organisms. The Department of Forest has also proposed to buy old/damaged fishing nets directly from fishers offering better prices so that such nets do not become the cause of ghost fishing. Farming of various species is under trial in this programme. Cage aquaculture should be taken up by small-scale fishers who operate in those waters. Farming of the mud crab has immense

potential as it has a lucrative market in Singapore. However, local fishers are not benefiting much as middlemen capture much of the profit margin. Collectivization of farmers and fishers can increase their bargaining power.

Concluding the session, Bhatta noted that there are thousands of fisherwomen who are engaged in production and marketing of dried fish, but they are not considered in any governmental programmes.

Session Two: Traditional and Small-Scale Fishers and the Access Rights to Coastal Resources Available to Them

Resource Persons: Mahabaleshwar Hegde and Vinod Patagar; Moderator: Prakash Mestha

Hegde said that the Government of Karnataka uses older laws for land acquisition rather than the 2013 Land Acquisition Act mainly for two reasons: the 2013 Act stipulates that at least 70% of land owners in the area should consent when acquiring land for public-private partnership enterprises and social impact assessment is mandatory. He noted that there are three key legal issues that are of interest to small-scale fishers. These include: (i) demarcation of Exclusive Economic Zones and international waters, (ii) CRZ provisions and violations and (iii) fisheries regulations including the Marine Fisheries Regulation Act of Karnataka.

Patagar made a detailed presentation on the CRZ Notification and said that there are many beneficial provisions made for fishers and it is important that all fishers understand these. CRZ does not intend to constrain traditional fishers, but if fishers are not aware of CRZ provisions they are likely to be misguided by vested interests. Fish harvesting, docking of craft and nets, net mending, fish marketing, fish curing and drying, and other such traditionally performed fishing activities are allowed under CRZ without the need for clearance. Construction activity by fishers or those who have resided there before 1991 are allowed.

Hegde explained issues surrounding the Karnataka Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (MFRA). The MFRA was implemented in 1986 to protect traditional fishers, resolve the conflicts between traditional and mechanized fishers, control harmful fishing practices, and control fishing efforts that affect fish populations and marine environment. The MFRA stipulates that the fishing craft needs to be registered and then a license must be obtained for the fishing craft engine. Mesh size of fishing nets is regulated. Hegde also explained the various provisions under the MFRA.

Discussion

Participants spoke about the extensive violations of the CRZ notification and asked what the remedial measures were. An option is to report to the District-Level Coastal Committee headed by the district collector which would forward complaints to the Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority. To a point raised by a participant regarding creating private enclosures along the river bank by cutting mangroves, the moderator said that a similar violation was reported from Udupi which was taken up by the National Green

Tribunal (NGT). The NGT ruled that the place shall be restored back to its original condition and also levied heavy fine on the perpetrator.

Mestha added that many fishers are residing and using coastal commons without proper documentation of ownership (*patta bhoomi*). Hegde noted that such changes can be brought about through amendments to the revenue acts and survey acts, though bringing such changes is not easy as it has to be done at the central government level.

Participants complained that the coast guard in Karnataka does not control fishing by craft from outside the state. Hegde replied that the coast guard is not authorized legally to control such fishing activities, but that it is the duty of the DoFK. Participants also spoke about higher impacts on small-scale fishers during fish famines, conflicting directions from various government departments regarding coastal commons, and construction of roads in the CRZ.

Recommendations

1. Policymakers must stop their neglectful treatment of traditional fishers, who form the largest category of fishers in Karnataka. Their immense contribution in supporting livelihood and in contributing to food security should be recognized and reflected in governmental programmes.
2. Traditional fishing practices should be considered as ‘low-carbon fisheries’ that cause least damage to the environment.
3. The CRZ notification should be strictly adhered to when implementing any developmental programme in the coast. Safeguarding the interests of traditional fishers must come first when designing and implementing such developmental programmes. Along the same lines, the reckless depositing of rocks/boulders on the beach in the pretext of controlling seafront erosion should stop. Such activities should be preceded by detailed ex-ante ecological and socio-economic impact assessments.
4. Welfare programmes that are specially designed for the traditional fisher community need to be introduced. Budgetary allocations for these programmes must be made in accordance with the number of traditional fishers operating in each taluk. This will avoid disproportionate budgetary allocations being given to mechanized fishing at the expense of traditional fishers. Some such possible welfare schemes include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) Distribution of ice boxes/plastic crates to fishers should be resumed with sufficient budgetary allocations under PMMSY.
 - b) Fish drying should be included for promotion under the post-harvest management programmes of PMMSY. Distribution of tools required for fish salting and drying should be taken up under PMMSY. These tools include cisterns/tanks, tarpaulins, weighing machines, plastic crates, packaging materials and subsidized crystal salt.
 - c) Fish drying yards must be set up in fishing villages and landing centres where traditional fishers are given preferential lease agreements to take up fish curing and drying activities.
 - d) In the PMMSY guidelines, individual schemes must be made flexible to accommodate the needs of small-scale/traditional fishers. For example, instead of 200-box-capacity insulated vehicles, the guidelines should include 50-box- or 100-

box-capacity insulated vehicles. District-level officers must be delegated the power to modify the guidelines to suit the needs of the district's fishers.

- e) All beach landing points must be provided with necessary facilities such as sheds to keep traditional craft, mechanical winches to haul craft from the water onto the beach, sheds for fishers to take rest, drinking water facilities, sufficient lighting and washrooms.
 - f) Include traditional fishing gear such as the Rampani for support under the PMMSY.
 - g) Distribution of life jackets to all traditional fishers.
 - h) Raising the monetary assistance under the saving-cum-relief programme to Rs 10,000 per month.
5. Welfare of traditional fishers can be better achieved through forming and strengthening their collectives.
 6. Setting up new forms of collectives of traditional fishers must be encouraged, such as fisher producer organizations.
 7. Existing collectives, especially those not endowed with income-generating resources, such as diesel bunks, need to be given a fresh lease of life through a one-time grant of Rs 25 lakh.
 8. Service provision from the DoFK needs to be vastly improved (for example, through better integration of technology, upgrading the Seva Sindhu portal, etc.). Money owed to fishers under programmes such as the Savings Cum Relief Scheme should be deposited directly to the bank accounts of the fishers. Similarly, insurance claims should be settled quickly.

Feedback

- The participants expressed that traditional fishers have been ignored for long in policymaking and such workshops should be organized more often to raise awareness about the injustices meted out to such a vulnerable community.
- The participants felt that the workshop would have been more successful had there been proper representation from the DoFK and requested that the discussion points from the workshop be sent to all concerned authorities.

2.5 Kerala State-Level Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Alappuzha, Kerala

4 January 2023

Organizers and Resource Persons

- Sunil K. Mohamed, Principal Scientist (Retired) and Head of the Molluscan Fisheries Division, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
- A.J. Vijayan, Former General Secretary, Kerala Swatantra Matsya Thozhilali Foundation (KSMTF)
- Jackson Pollayil, KSMTF
- N. Venugopalan, ICSF

Introduction

The Kerala state-level workshop was conducted at Alappuzha by the Coastal Education and Development Society (CoEDS) with the support of ICSF on 4 January 2023.

There were 47 participants, including 10 female participants, from all the three zones: Trivandrum, Kollam and Alappuzha from the south zone, Ernakulam from the central zone and Kozhikkode from the north zone. A translated copy of the SSF guidelines in Malayalam was given to all participants.

Session One

Mohamed introduced the participants to sustainable use and management of fisheries by illustrating the issues and recommendations in the management of marine wild caught fisheries in India. He explained that fisheries management is the activity of protecting fishery resources so that sustainable exploitation is possible, drawing on fisheries science and the precautionary principle. The highlights of the presentation are as follows:

1. The regulatory measures in vogue are vessel registration and fishing licences, minimum legal size (MLS), closed fishing season (fishing/ trawl ban), protected species as per the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, closed fishing areas such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) mainly in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and gear specifications (size/mesh control over destructive fishing practices).
2. Indiscriminate exploitation of large amounts of juvenile fish along with low-value biota collectively called as trash fish occurs all along the coast. Earlier, this catch, which included juvenile and non-edible fish, was accidental and bottom trawlers and fishers used to discard it. But now, trash fish are landed at harbours and landing centres and are transported to fish meal factories in neighbouring states for the production of shrimp, cattle and poultry feed.
3. Article 6.3 of FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) recommends that 'states should prevent overfishing capacity and should implement management measures to ensure that fishing effort is commensurate

with the productive capacity of the fishery resources, and their sustainable utilization'. The CMFRI has studied the issue of overcapacity of fishing fleets on an all-India basis and revealed that there is considerable amount of overcapitalization in the fishing fleets.

4. There is a global shift in the governance of fisheries to a broader approach that recognizes fishers' participation, local stewardship and shared decision-making in the management of fisheries. It is becoming increasingly clear that governments, with their finite resources, cannot solve all fishery problems. This approach is called co-management or participatory management. Fishers are empowered to become active members of the fisheries management team, balancing rights and responsibilities, and working in partnership, rather than antagonistically, with the government.
5. In order to be competitive in the global seafood trade (currently India's share of global seafood exports is 4% and growing), India needs to be proactive on seafood ecolabelling and, in future, aim for certification of its major globally traded fisheries. Since 2010, CMFRI and the World Wildlife Fund have been working together to get Indian fisheries certified. In 2014, the short-neck clam (*Paphia malabarica*) fishery of Ashtamudi Lake in Kerala became India's first to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Currently it has not been re-certified due to lack of funds.
6. Accepting that maintaining fisheries in a sustainable manner is a necessity for steady and ongoing yields and employment from wild-caught fisheries in India, Fishery Improvement Projects are commonly used in many parts of the world to help fisheries meet the requirements of MSC certification.
7. The international challenges of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing occur in virtually all fisheries, causing problems for people who are trying to manage fisheries properly and for people who depend on fisheries for food and jobs. IUU fishing can cause an entire fishery to collapse. To tackle these issues, it is necessary to earmark the entire 12 nautical mile territorial waters zone as reserved for SSF.

Session Two

Vijayan set the context by outlining CRZ and Coastal Tenure Rights based on the SSF Guidelines. He emphasized the importance of bringing pressure to legislate the Guidelines, all aspects of which are a necessity. There was also a discussion on Kerala's coastline, local coastal constructions, coastal erosion and local coastal phenomena related to the construction of the Arthunkal Chethy Harbour, which the participants were very interested in, given the local aspects of the session. The highlights of the presentation were as follows.

1. The CRZ regulations, which practically ban all construction activities within a specified distance from the high-tide line, were framed during the early 90s with the aim to preserve the seafront and prevent pollution in the coastal regions.
2. The coastal area has always been a bone of contention between the powerful lobby of builders and the local people. In some cases, the tensions have run high

between the local community and the industrial units. This has led to a lot of acrimony and ill feeling. The local people are often left feeling that rich developers can bulldoze their way through the CRZ guidelines. It is a fact that people belonging to traditional coastal communities and living in the coastal regions demarcated under the CRZ were not allowed by the state governments to construct new houses and other civic amenities. Yet, the very same agencies are approving new plans and proposals to construct hotels and tourist resorts on beaches in clear violation of CRZ regulations.

3. The SSF Guidelines recommend that small-scale fishing communities have secure tenure rights to the resources that form the basis for their social and cultural well-being, their livelihood and their sustainable development. The Guidelines call on states to grant, where appropriate, preferential access to small-scale fisheries to fish in waters under national jurisdiction, with a view to achieving equitable outcomes for different groups of people, in particular vulnerable groups. Where appropriate, specific measures such as creating and enforcing exclusive zones for small-scale fishers should be considered.
4. It also calls on states to ensure that small-scale fishers, fishworkers and their communities have secure, equitable and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to the resources, with special attention paid to women.

Discussion

To a question on why there's a disparity in how the small-scale fishing sector and mechanized sector respond to restrictions (with the former largely following them and the latter ignoring them), the response from the resource people was that the traditional sector tries to conserve fish resources. Moreover, it is the government which should implement regulations.

Answering a question on eco labelling, it was highlighted that the first eco labelling of mussels at Ashtamudi Lake has been a huge success. Eco labelling will help to protect and maintain the sustainability of the traditional fishing sector.

Participants also sought to understand the various scientific and biological reasons behind the variations in fish sources. For instance, they wondered why sardine production, despite known to have decreased, saw an increase this season. The resource people clarified that production depends not only on climate change but also on over-exploitation and lack of nutrients for growth. The main food of the juveniles of sardines is a single-celled plant species. The growth of this organism depends on the availability of nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (NPK) nutrients. It is abundantly present in the rain water from the mountain. It may be a reason for the increase in sardine production.

Feedback

Governments are bringing many legislations and plans to manage the fisheries sector which is currently going through a crisis. The participants shared that this programme had created awareness to understand how these rules, regulations and plans are suitable or not suitable for the fisheries sector. They insisted that it is necessary to conduct matsya sabhas like gram

sabhas at regular intervals. Traditional fishworkers are losing their work, tools and livelihoods due to adverse socio-ecological reasons. Fishers currently do not even have the right to fix the price of the fish they catch. They have reached the path of progress only through their hard work and the educational upliftment of their children.

The participants, who are state-level leaders working in the fisheries sector, suggested that studies alone are not enough and that the field also needs the support of authentic thinkers. These types of seminars will provide knowledge but special efforts are needed to bring it into practice. It will be more useful if the workshops are conducted at district and taluk levels. It will help reach more people and ensure representation.

It would also be, said the participants, if a simple book could be published on how the existing marine and coastal laws related to the fisheries sector will affect the future of sustainable fisheries. As there are different fishing methods used in different districts, it would be appropriate to prepare a detailed note with examples of how these fishing methods can be brought into traditional style. Instructions should include which fishing methods can be used, gear size, length, ownership, how much fish can be caught, which fish and when, etc. It would be great if the booklet could be published as a general awareness after district-, taluk- and state-level workshops.

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Venugopalan suggested that a symposium be organized involving the representatives of all the traditional fishworkers' organizations and a priority-wise charter of demands be prepared to legislate the SSF Guidelines.

2.6 Maharashtra State-Level Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Mumbai, Maharashtra

15 March 2023

Organizers and Resource Persons

- Arpita Sharma, Principal Scientist and Head, FEES Division, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE)
- Kiran Koli, Secretary, Maharashtra Macchimar Kruti Samittee (MMKS), Mumbai
- P.S. Ananthan, Principal Scientist, FEES Division, ICAR-CIFE
- Ashok Jawale, Fisheries Development Officer, Department of Fisheries, Maharashtra
- Akilandeshwari, PhD student, FEES Division, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai
- Priyanka Nakhwa, PhD Student, FEES Division, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai
- N. Venugopalan, Programme Officer, ICSF

Introduction

The Maharashtra state-level workshop on the SSF Guidelines was organized jointly by ICSF, ICAR-CIFE and MMKS in Mumbai on 15 March 2023.

Following the welcome address by Sharma, Koli gave an overview of the workshop. He highlighted the importance of government schemes' delivery to small-scale fishers.

Jawale, as a government representative, gave detailed information on the 'Maharashtra Government Support Schemes for Marine Fisheries and Fishers'. This information included marine sector schemes under the PMMSY such as mariculture and seaweed cultivation; refrigerated and insulated vehicles; live fish-vending centres; motorcycle/cycle/three-wheeler for fish vending; installation of cold storage of ten-ton capacity; modernization of cold storage/ice plant; construction of fish retail markets; construction of fish kiosks; development of deep sea fishing through support for acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels for traditional fishermen; upgradation of existing fishing vessels for export competency; establishment of bio-toilets in mechanized fishing vessels; insurance of fishing vessels and fishers; support for demolition of old craft and construction of new ones; repairing of craft; installation of fish tracking system; upgradation of closed cooperative societies; marine hatcheries; crash programme scheme by the Department of Fisheries, Maharashtra for harbour development; and e-shram for registration of fishworkers. He also shared that around 12–15 awareness programmes regarding PMMSY had been organized in Mumbai and suburban districts, despite which only 20 to 25 proposals were received till date by the department for availing the benefits under the scheme.

This was followed by a presentation on 'Fisheries Development Programmes and Schemes in India and Maharashtra' by Akilandeshwari. She explained the terms used in fisheries budget, like budget, demand for grants, budget estimate, revised estimate, etc. Fisheries budget

estimate of Maharashtra for 2022–23 was also presented by her which is around Rs 392 crore and is divided into:

- Rs 174 crore for state level schemes for development of fishing ports (study groups), development of fishing ports under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development scheme, modernization of fishing ports (Sassoon Dock), small fishing port construction (Karanja, Mirkarwada, Anandwadi), subsidiary constructions through voluntary grants, mechanization of fishing craft and improvements in craft.
- Around Rs 64 crore for district-level schemes such as assistance to fisherworkers' cooperative societies, establishment of fish seed production centre, survey, improvement for development of fishing port, mechanization of fishing craft and improvement in craft (assisted), development of small fishery ports (Dhadak programme), aquaculture in impounded waters, concession in electricity tariff to fishworkers' cooperative societies, financial assistance on purchase of fishing equipment, and the preservation, transportation and sale of fish (assisted).
- Around Rs 153 crore for the PMMSY schemes including central-sector scheme, centrally sponsored scheme and state scheme/state-sector schemes.

She highlighted that in PMMSY's estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crore for 5 years (2020–21 to 2024–25), the Centre's share was only Rs 9,407 crore, with the remaining divided between state (Rs 4,880 crore) and beneficiary contribution (Rs 5,763 crore). The Centre's share is relatively less compared to the state and beneficiary share. Expenditure in Maharashtra for PMMSY beneficiary-oriented schemes for 2020–21 and 2021–22 showed an actual total expenditure of Rs 63.74 crore and Rs 216.54 crore respectively with major contribution from women beneficiaries. The expenditure was very less compared to other states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as per research done by FEES division, ICAR-CIFE. District-wise expenditure under PMMSY 2021–22 for marine fisheries scheme components showed the highest contribution from Ratnagiri district and the lowest from Mumbai city.

Group Discussion

Issues discussed by the participants are as follows:

1. Age limit of fisherwomen for registration of e-shram card should be increased from present 60 years as many aged fisherwomen are engaged in fish vending activities.
2. Members of the Varali fishermen cooperative society reported that fishers are facing problems in getting bank loans under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme as banks are asking for mortgage against the loan and also different banks are following different documentation rules. Fisherwomen are facing more problems in opening accounts under KCC as they have hardly anything in their name to show for mortgage.
 - a) One solution offered was that they could pay CENT interest to the government, and the government will take care of mortgage of the beneficiaries.
 - b) To address the fishers' demand to club bank loan facility for fisheries entrepreneurs under PMMSY schemes, it was proposed that a meeting with the assistant commissioner of Fisheries be organized.

3. The fishers asked for allocating sites for crab culture in mangrove areas along the Palghar Coast.
4. In case of KCC, the participants pointed out that if regular transactions are not present in the beneficiary's bank account, then they will not get the 3% interest remit to total interest. Jawale suggested drafting a letter to the district magistrate and routing it through the cooperative society to the assistant commissioner of Fisheries.
5. To get certified training on value added fish products from research institutes like CIFT or CIFE, fishers' cooperative societies should come forward to bear the training costs for the non-SC/ST beneficiaries as well.
6. Small-scale fishers asked that the problem of estuarine and marine pollution due to effluents coming from different coastal plants be addressed. Jawale informed the fishers about the five effluent treatment plants inaugurated by the prime minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai, which can be replicated in other districts too. Active monitoring of pollution control by the government was highlighted by all participants. Correspondence and follow-up need to be initiated with the government to formulate policy for regulating the pollution in the creek of Mumbai and adjoining districts.
7. Participants expressed the need to change or modify the existing fishing policy for sustainable fishing.
8. Discussion was held on the regulation of purse seine and LED fishing in Maharashtra. The participants strongly demanded strict implementation and monitoring of ban on hydraulic boom used in purse seine as well as on operation of illegal purse seiners beyond 12 nautical miles. Jawale explained that most of the purse seine craft are operational within 40–80 nautical miles from the coast and cannot be monitored by the coast guard as the jurisdiction of the Maharashtra Department of Fisheries is only upto 12 nautical miles and the Marine Fisheries Regulation Act is not applicable beyond 12 nautical miles. The participants also suggested the option of monitoring through helicopter/drone, but this is not practical due to security reasons and also coast guard helicopters can monitor from not less than 100 meters from the sea surface from where it is difficult to locate the craft. Jawale said that despite shortage of technological advancements and manpower, action have been taken against illegal purse seine and LED fishing in Maharashtra.
9. Koli did not agree with the findings that the expenditure of Maharashtra in PMMSY beneficiary-oriented schemes was less compared to other states. If so, the reason is due to lack of representation from the fishworkers' community in parliament to speak on behalf of them, like in other states, and also because of the non-inclusion of fisherfolk in the planning of development projects.
10. Fishers raised concern about infrastructure development projects like renovation and construction of fishing harbours despite the decline in fish catch. They also cited the example of the proposed port in Satpati village of Palghar district, at a cost of Rs 256 crore, despite decline in fishing in the area. Fishers complained that in developmental activities, authorities give priority to public interest rather than the social security of local fishing communities.
11. All fisher representatives insisted on relaxing the BPL criteria mentioned in beneficiary-oriented schemes as it is likely that the cost of living is high in Maharashtra compared to other states, and hence so will be the income.

12. It has been suggested that fisheries investment of the state should be decided based on its contribution to the overall export. Presently in Maharashtra investment is very low compared to the export contribution.
13. It has been observed that in Maharashtra, fishers are interested in cage culture activities but due to strong currents and winds along the coast and pollution in the backwaters, success in the same is low. There is need for more research and development in this area to increase the beneficiaries under the PMMSY scheme.
14. Madhuri Patil of MMKS discussed how development schemes under the Bombay Improvement Trust affect the land rights of the local community, as in Sion and Mahul Koliwadadas (fishing villages) in Mumbai. Developmental activities pollute nearshore waters and subsequently affect fish breeding in these areas. Presently, due to reduced fishing activities there, authorities do not consider them as Koliwadadas and are demanding that the local people prove their land rights.
15. Fishing communities never gave importance to documentation, but these days, documents are important to prove their rights on their habitats as well as on their resources. Also, some women fish vendors do not readily get licenses because of this. Creating awareness regarding documentation is important.
16. There was a common demand to demarcate all Koliwadadas in Maharashtra, including residential areas as well as common extended areas used for allied activities (not included in the earlier demarcations), based on CRZ 2011. The proposals should go through all panchayats to initiate the movement. It was suggested that the fishers pay minimal tax to local gram panchayats for the areas in use to claim their rights over the long term.
17. Drone mapping surveys have been almost completed in Mumbai and suburban areas but are still pending in Raigad, Palghar and other districts. But fishers demanded that manual demarcation be done rather than using drones.
18. In coastal zone mapping, many fishing villages are missing.
19. There is a need to formulate comprehensive marine fisheries policy based on amendments made in the fisheries policy.
20. Ananthan, spoke on 'Access Rights of Fishing Communities' on behalf of Gayathri Singh, Advocate, Mumbai High Court, based on their telephonic conversation, which included four ways of customary rights protection:
 - a) **Article 13, Clause 8 of Constitution:** Through this, traditional rights can be protected.
 - b) **The Indian Easements Act, 1882:** This too can be used for the protection of traditional rights.
 - c) **The Mahul Creek Act, 1922/Land Acquisition Act:** If developmental activities affect the livelihoods of local communities, compensation shall be calculated based on the extent of effect (adequate compensation).
 - d) **Forest Rights Act, 2006/Forest Dwellers Rights Act:** This can be used to propose a 'Fishery Dwellers Act'.
21. On 9 March 2023, a new Government Order (GO) was released in Mumbai in relation to the impact of the Thane-Vashi Bridge. In this regard, the Bombay High Court ordered the authorities to form a compensation policy committee which was to include all the bureaucrats, but no representation from the fishing community. In this GO, the definition

of fisherfolk includes 'those who fish for survival', which is not inclusive of all fishworkers, like women fish vendors and others. The GO also defined the 'influence zone' as an area within 500 meters affected by the bridge, which is incorrect as the influence zone is larger. In case of Valvan Port, authorities are not ready to give compensation for new projects as compensation has been claimed for earlier projects and this is also the case in Nava Sheva and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust projects. Considering all these, Ananthan and Singh concluded that the GO is not very supportive to fishing communities and alerted fishing communities to negotiate it further.

Concluding Remarks

In her concluding remarks, Ujjwala Tai urged all the fisher leaders to create awareness among the local community in their areas with the information from the workshop and to come together and start a common movement to protect their access rights.

1.1. Odisha State-Level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Bhubaneswar, Odisha

29 November 2022

Organizers and Resource Persons

- Babula Prasad, Prasad Foundation
- K. Alleya, Odisha Traditional Fishworkers' Union (OTFWU)
- Abhijit Dutta, Dakshin Foundation
- Sudhansu Kumar Malik, Additional District Fisheries Officer (Marine), Puri
- Biswa Bhusan Jena, Assistant Fisheries Officer (Marine), Ganjam
- N. Venugopalan, ICSF

Introduction

The Odisha state-level training workshop on the SSF Guidelines was held in Bhubaneswar on 29 November 2022. Nearly 40 participants from four coastal districts of Odisha attended this event, representing a diverse mix of people from small-scale fishing communities, grassroots NGOs and the Fisheries Department of the Government of Odisha. About one-third of the attendees were women, who voiced their specific concerns.

Welcome Address and Introduction

Alleya, in his introductory speech, underlined the purpose of the workshop. In his welcome address, Prasad stated the importance of small-scale fisheries and the necessity to conserve this resource in order to safeguard the livelihood and food and nutritional security of the SSF communities. Today, small-scale fisheries are getting recognition in the global stage. Venugopalan drew the attention of the participants towards the current scenario of marine fisheries in Odisha and presented a few facts to showcase the status of the state in terms of fish exports, achievement of SDG targets, disaster management and so on. He also expressed his expectations and hope that the state government would act effectively to tackle issues such as extraction of sand dunes and groundwater.

SSF Guidelines: Objectives, Scope and Guiding Principles

Resource People: Abhijit Dutta and Biswa Bhusen Jena

The significance of the SSF Guidelines was highlighted by Dutta and Jena. They stated that the primary objective of the Guidelines was to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to global food security and nutrition. They also said that gender equality, safeguarding the human rights of SSF communities, and providing a decent working environment to migrant fishers and ensuring their social security are also pivotal factors to be taken into consideration while implementing the Guidelines.

They underlined the following threats to SSF communities: (i) environmental degradation, (ii) severe climate change impacts and (iii) natural and human-induced disaster risks

Introduction to Secure Fishing App, Weather Warning and Government Schemes for Marine Fishers

Resource Person: Sudhanshu Kumar Malik

As a government representative, Malik talked about the various provisions under the Odisha Marine Fishing Regulation Act and discussed the following points to deal with overfishing in the sea:

- Strict imposition of bans on trawlers, who are supposed to be fishing in deep sea, beyond 10 kilometres from the coast, while for motorized craft it is 2 kilometres from the coast.
- Stop using zero mesh size fishing nets and follow the complete ban on ring seine nets that indiscriminately destroy the marine habitat and harm the marine ecosystem.
- Avoid juvenile catch to get instant short-term monetary benefits and follow eco-sensitive sustainable fishing practices to allow the fish stocks to recover naturally.
- In the four coastal zones of the six coastal districts, only limited number of trawlers are allowed to register in each zone (e.g., 98 trawlers are registered for the Puri zone) to stop overfishing.

He also mentioned that in order to aid fishers in deep sea fishing, the state government has plans to provide four specialized deep sea fishing vessels to fishers at subsidized rates to catch tuna. He discussed the following initiatives taken by the state government:

- Fifty artificial reefs will be constructed to enhance the marine resources and biodiversity.
- Infrastructural developments such as construction of fish landing centres, one model hygienic fish market at Talabania, Puri, and installation of solar dryers for drying fish will be undertaken.

He presented a live demonstration of the Secure Fishing App, which can be used by fishers to identify potential fishing zones with accurate GPS locations, real-time market status, weather advisories, and access to central and state government schemes. Currently, it is only in English, but it will soon come up in Odia and Telugu. Sagar Mitra are assisting the fishers in using this app. He also talked about the Fisher Friend Mobile App, which is aimed at alerting fishers regarding the No Fishing Zones declared for olive ridley turtles conservation.

Description of Schemes and Subsidies in the context of Odisha

Resource Persons: Biswa Bhusan Jena

- Registration in the Government of Odisha—Single Window Unified Gateway for Agrarian Management (GO-SUGAM) Portal to avail all the central and state government schemes.
- Support to marine fishing communities for obtaining new craft, fishing net and engine.
- Motorization of traditional craft (1,105 fishing crafts are to be motorized this year) and replacement of craft and nets for traditional fisherfolk, who can avail subsidies on this.

- Assistance for fish transport infrastructure, such as insulated vehicles, auto-rickshaws with ice boxes and motorcycles with ice boxes are provided to facilitate market linkage.
- Installation of bio toilets in mechanized fishing vessels (trawlers) to promote the Swachh Sagar programme, but this year only eight applications have been submitted in Odisha.
- Saving-cum-relief under the Blue Revolution scheme aims to provide livelihood and nutritional support to socio-economically backward 'active traditional fisher' families.
- Livelihood support to marine fisherfolk during the seven months of the fishing ban period (1 November to 31 May) for the conservation of olive ridley turtles is to be increased.
- Group Accident Insurance Scheme for the fishers between the ages of 18 and 70. NFDB has been designated as the nodal agency to implement this scheme via cooperatives.
- A modern fishing harbour is coming up in Ganjam, which is the first of its kind in India.
- A total of 327 Sagar Mitra (who are science graduates) have been recruited thus far in six coastal districts.
- Under the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme, SHGs can make and sell dried fish.
- Value addition of fish products is encouraged to get better price and hence, processed foods, such as fish fillets, chips, pickles, etc. can be produced and sold abroad.
- Promotion of intensive aquaculture through biofloc fish farming technology, which can act as an alternative income generating livelihood for fisherfolk.
- Development of brackish water fisheries through construction of new ponds for the production of fingerlings and shrimp farming within two kilometres from the coastline.

He also discussed the following challenges faced by all the concerned stakeholders:

- Banks are sometimes not willing to provide credit to the women SHGs due to lack of trust.
- Failure to establish the right kind of marketing channels for dried fish, though they had tried to collaborate with the retail giant Amazon.
- Lack of better packaging and branding for dried fish is fetching the SHGs poor price.
- Lack of collective bargaining power due to weakening unity in the cooperatives.

Presentation on Coastal Rights and Land Rights for Fishers: Brief Explanation about Coastal Commons

Resource Persons: Abhijit Dutta and Biswa Bhusen Jena

Dutta and Jena kept the session interactive by asking questions to the participants and gave practical examples for better understanding. The key points of discussion are as follows:

- Legal recognition and status of coastal commons and benefits to fishing communities.

- Types of coastal commons, which are traditionally accessed and used by all members of the marine fishing village, such as estuary, mangroves and sand dunes.
- Various purposes of coastal commons, such as for drying fishes, making of fishing nets, used as a gathering place and marketplace and other community activities.
- Significance of coastal commons (socio-cultural, economic and ecological).
- Threats to coastal commons, e.g., encroachment, sea erosion, land degradation, etc.

They also shed light on the significance of the CRZ Notification, 2019 and discussed the case study of Purnabandha village in Ganjam district. They stated that the CRZ Notification is primarily protecting the vulnerable areas from encroachment near the coastlines and, hence, acts as a safeguard measure for the fishing communities.

Common Experience of Purnabandha Village

Resource Persons: Surendra and Gouri (Fishing Community Representatives from Ganjam)

Surendra highlighted the need for the identification of commons land and the ways to fight back against encroachment of this land. He said that the villagers realized the importance of the commons and decided to include an initiative for the preservation and sustainable use of this land in their Village Development Plan. He also added that Dakshin Foundation had helped them in this exercise of identification of commons by using GPS and GIS Software as well as in the preparation and presentation of the coastal commons map (see figure).

He spoke of how fishing communities are facing difficulty in 25 villages, spanning 57 kilometres in Ganjam district, as they are being forced to keep their fishing craft and nets in others' lands. He cited three reasons for this: climate change, instability of estuary and stone sea walls constructed near the Gopalpur Port.

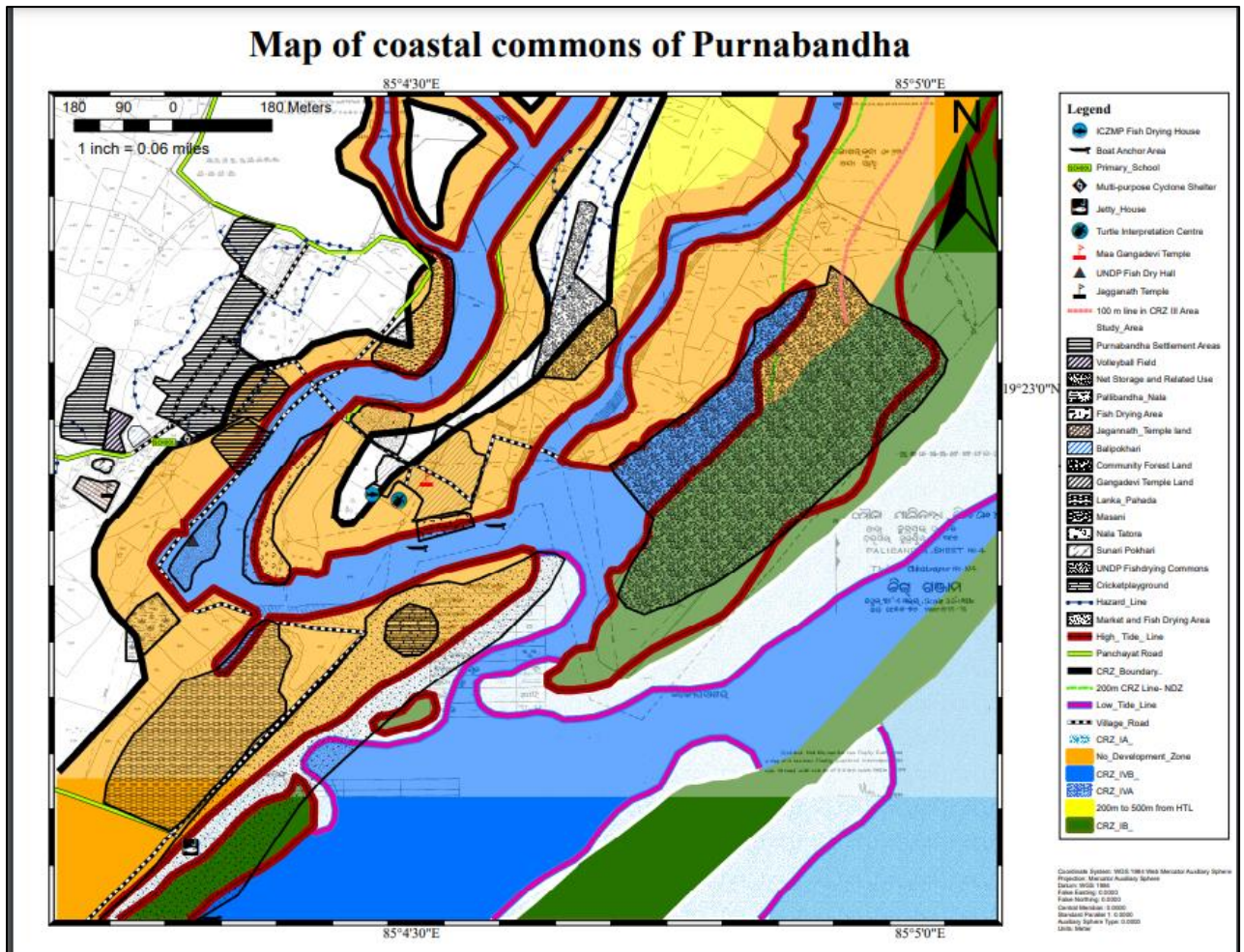


Figure: Map of Coastal Commons of Purnabandha

Gouri, who was a part of the Coastal Grassroots Fellowship of Dakshin Foundation, highlighted the benefits of recognizing commons lands, in order to save the livelihoods of fishers. She also shared her experience on how her community was able to fight against a decision of the local administration with the help of the coastal commons map.

Group Discussions on Issues Related to Coastal Commons from Each District

The following were the issues that the participants highlighted from their own regions and experience:

Ganjam: Local Authorities, without the consent of the villagers, have turned a commons into a dumping yard. That land was being used by the women of the fishing community to dry their fish and fishers were keeping their fishing craft in that higher land during floods.

Jagatsinghpur: Land acquisition in the coastal commons by the Jindal Steel plant has led to the loss of mangrove plantations.

Puri: One connecting road between a marine fishing village and river mouth has been encroached by a private player, due to which the community members are facing a lot of hardship.

Group Activity on Listing Roadblocks for Access to Schemes and Subsidies and Identifying Solutions to the Challenges

- Women are not included in the saving-cum-relief scheme.
- Not even a single fisher has received the KCC in Odisha.
- Eligible beneficiaries are deprived of getting compensatory allowance under the turtle conservation programme.
- Scholarship is not being provided on time to meritorious students of fishing communities.
- Insulated vehicles are not made available to the actual beneficiaries (active fishers).
- Availing loans from banks is not easy for the women SHGs; hence they are being left out.
- Dried fish business by women is getting hindered due to the tough procedure of detailed project report preparation and lack of official support from the Fisheries Department.
- The government does not provide any financial assistance or resources support (e.g., land) to the cooperatives for their development.
- The amount of revolving funds to the cooperatives is insufficient; hence the government should extend greater support towards them.

Concluding Remarks

In his closing remarks, Prasad expressed hope that the takeaways from the sessions would be translated into action in the grassroots level and create positive impacts in fishing communities.

Feedback

- a. They found the SSF Guidelines to be useful and to cater to the demands of small-scale fishers, based on which, they urged, the Fisheries Department should frame its policies.
- b. They also found the information on schemes and subsidies with context to Odisha useful and appreciated the department officials for giving them important information on various e-portals and apps on which they could find relevant information.
- c. They discussed issues of coastal encroachment in the context of development and threats from non-fishing communities. Some of the issues also highlighted industrialization, projects for coastal highways, etc.
- d. Based on the group activity, they were able to represent their issues in terms of what kinds of schemes and subsidies of the department could be improved.
- e. Going forward they also wished that similar programmes would cover SHG groups, their roadblocks and ways to improve their functioning.

1.1. Tamil Nadu State-Level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

FishMarc Office, Chennai

6 March 2023

Organizers and Resource Persons

- H. Najeebul, Head of Field Operations, NAAV Company Limited
- S. Ephrem, FishMarc
- Ahana Lakshmi, Independent Researcher, Chennai
- S. Ganga Devi, Accounts Manager, ICSF
- Nivedita Shridhar, Programme Officer, ICSF

A one-day training workshop on mapping and GIS was held in Chennai for fishworker participants from Tamil Nadu as a sequel to the National Workshop held here in October 2022. The workshop was held at the FishMarc office and included theory and practical sessions.

Introduction

In her introductory remarks, Shridhar referred to the Training of Trainers Workshop held in October 2022 in Chennai where each state had listed priorities for training, and for Tamil Nadu, the priority requirement for training was in mapping. Hence, this one-day training programme focussed on the theoretical and practical aspects of mapping.

Mapping Theory

Najeebul, who had done extensive fieldwork in mapping coffee plantations, demonstrated using a hand-held GPS device that could be used to take the readings. This device could not only show latitude-longitude of a place but altitude as well. Similarly, depth readings could be taken and the terrain underwater could be mapped (bathymetry).

As for maps, he said that starting from a base map, layers could be added and be used for answering various questions. For example, in the case of fisheries, a base map could have the following layers: location of fish landing centres and fish markets, population of various localities, the fish-eating populations in various areas and so on. Multiple layers could be added and a layer could be selected to answer specific questions.

Ephrem pointed to the importance of such maps in participatory rural appraisal exercises, where hand-drawn maps are the norm but these digital maps would be more accurate.

Najeebul explained that the first step in creating maps should be to define the purpose of the map, that is, what are the questions sought to be answered by creating a map. This is important to ensure that the appropriate data is collected. The complexity of any map would depend both on the data available and the data required to build the map. It is important for the map to be clear so that they can be understood by the user. The trainer also explained

some of the features of Google Earth, such as historical imagery that can be used to see what a place was like in the past.

He said that the hand-held unit would enable collecting point data which would then be transferred to Google Earth (or ArcGIS) to develop the map. The hand-held device would work only in the open where it could receive satellite signals. Hence the demonstration of the unit could be done only outdoors. For the field visit, he said that while taking readings, it is necessary to write down a description of the point where the reading is taken because it would be impossible to remember where which point is clicked, as the unit is recorded only in a sequence of numbers.

Field Visit

The participants went to Foreshore Estate, an extension of the Marina Beach. This area has a number of fishing hamlets. The participants went to Nambikkai Nagar to learn how to map the hamlet.

The participants were divided into two groups with each group equipped with a hand-held unit. Since it was the first time the participants were using such a unit, it was agreed that they would initially walk together and later do short exercises separately.

Nambikkai Nagar is a rectangular area west of the road along the seashore. Hence the participants started from a point on the road, walked west, turned south, walked east and then north and then came back to the starting point. The two groups used the hand-held GPS units to register the coordinates. It was explained that the unit had to be held in position for 10 to 15 seconds for the GPS to stabilize after satellite triangulation and only then clicked to mark location. Otherwise, small errors would creep into the readings.

After completing the outline of the hamlet, the teams went on to register the coordinates of buildings such as the church and the community centre. They also took point data to register the metro water pipe, a handpump and a flagpost located within the community. The teams then crossed the road and marked shops, shoreline, net mending sheds and other spaces on the beach.

Exercises Based on the Field Visit

The GPS coordinates registered in the two hand-held units were transferred to the computer and copied into Google Earth on the participants' laptops. Najeebul showed how the points had to be chosen for various locations. For example, to draw the outline of the hamlet, the first set of coordinates was chosen. There was slight discrepancy between the data from the two units due to the slight locational discrepancy while taking the reading, the fact that one of the two hand-held devices was an older model and also because Google Earth coordinates may not be as accurate, resulting in offset errors. Najeebul showed how corrections would need to be applied. He also explained that this is why a total station survey is required for ensuring accurate locational measurements.

The next key point made was the importance of symbology. Consistent use of colours and icons for indicating anything (e.g., fish vending stall, fishing craft, water pump) is essential so that different members of a team use the same symbols to avoid confusion while preparing maps. He also showed the various facilities within Google Earth that could be used for creating layouts. Pins are to be used for points, polygons for buildings and other spaces and path for roads.

The participants then put the theory they learnt into practice. They paired themselves and worked on four laptops. They mapped the site visited using Google Earth. Following this, Najeebul showed how once the points are plotted on Google Earth they could then be exported into a software called ArcGIS—a geospatial tool to view, edit, manage and analyze geographic data. The software enables users to create maps based on the data available/collected. However, ArcGIS being a paid software, Najeebul said he would look into other free software available to carry out similar analysis. He stated that GIS as a subject is vast and would require the user to be clear about why they would want to use it. To demonstrate this, Najeebul gave an assignment to the participants: each of them had to come up with three questions they would like to address for which GIS could give the solution. Once the questions were ready, Najeebul offered to do an online session as a follow-up to the training workshop to teach the participants on how to go address their questions using GIS.

Feedback

Most participants shared that the GIS was very new to them, however they found it relevant to the work they did and were keen to learn in depth about its applications. Ephrem added that with the extensive data that he and his team had collected over the years, GIS could help in creating maps that could be helpful to the community, administrators and others.

1.1. West Bengal State-Level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Kolkata, West Bengal

2nd December 2022

Organizers and Resource Persons

- Sasanka Dev, Secretary, DISHA
- Pradip Chatterjee, National Convener, National Platform for Small-Scale Fishworkers
- Milan Das, General Secretary, Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF)

Opening Session

Dev briefly described how small-scale fishworker communities, as the largest primary non-consumptive stakeholders and custodians of the water bodies, try to take care of them as they know from their own experience that good water yields good fish.

Chatterjee gave a brief introduction to the FAO, whose mandate is to ensure food and agricultural security throughout the world. FAO has been entrusted with the formulation of global management policies in food and agriculture in general and with providing assistance to the member states in implementation of such policies.

Chatterjee further discussed the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the SSF Guidelines. He said that the main purpose of CCRF is to establish an ecosystem approach in fisheries management with a focus on the role of small-scale fisheries, while the SSF Guidelines is from a human rights perspective. In order to implement the SSF guidelines, it is necessary to make the fishing communities aware of the same and link those with the need and implementation areas at the ground level. In this regard, various capacity-building and training workshops are being conducted with the SSF communities in different states of India on issues most important and relevant to them. The present workshop would deal with Marine Fisheries in West Bengal.

Preferential Access of Small-Scale Fishers to Marine Fish Resources

Das spoke about the need for preferential access for small-scale fishers. He said that the primary function of a state is to ensure basic livelihood for all the people. In the current situation, large-scale fishers are getting most of the fish (80%) by using different types of technology that are efficient in terms of catching of fish but are unsustainable because of associated overfishing, destructive fishing and inequitable distribution of income. Usage of bottom trawlers, purse seiners, LED lights or fish finders may ensure profit for their large owners in the short term, but they are detrimental to the upkeep of our great fish resources and thousands of small-scale fishworkers. He pointed out the rampant malpractice of large-scale fishing craft in West Bengal that illegally use trawl nets in place of gill nets. Hence, small-scale fishworkers need preferential access to marine fish resources to protect sustainable fisheries.

A number of measures were suggested to ensure this preferential access:

1. Matching Effort to Available Stock

- a) In view of the situation that our near-shore areas are overfished, there should be a moratorium on registration and/or licensing of new large-scale fishing vessels.
- b) If needed, first reduce the number, capacity and effort of large-scale fishing vessels.
- c) Then, if there is a need to restrict small-scale fishing, then preference should be given to owner operators for continuation of registration and/or licensing.

2. Principle of Scale Subsidiarity Regarding Fishing Ban Period (Stock Regeneration)

- a) Four months fishing ban for large-scale fishing vessels (motorized and mechanized).
- b) Three months fishing ban for small-scale fishing vessels (motorized and non-mechanized).
- c) No fishing ban for small-scale fishing vessels (manual).

3. Extension of Area of Exclusive Fishing Zone for Small-Scale Fishers

In view of depletion of resources in near-shore areas and increase in the capacity of small-scale fishing craft to venture further into marine waters, the exclusive fishing zones for small-scale fisheries indicated in the marine fishing regulation statutes of various maritime states should be extended.

4. Ban on Destructive Fishing Gear

Complete or partial bans should be imposed on fishing gear having potential for destructive fishing, like (i) trawling, especially bottom trawling, (ii) purse seining and (iii) fishing with fish finders, LED light, etc.

5. Small-Scale Fishers Should Get the First Right to Catch

- a) Large-scale sector's catch should be limited to the quantity of sustainable yield minus the potential optimum catch of the small-scale sector.
- b) Controlling the effort of the large-scale sector may be done by controlling the number of vessels, fishing time and the maximum catch per fishing vessel.

6. Strengthening Monitoring, Surveillance and Enforcement (MSE)

- a) All the above prescriptions will come to a naught if there is no adequate MSE.
- b) To be robust and effective, MSE should be made participatory with mandatory presence of small-scale fishing communities.

In this context, Chatterjee, added that in the fisheries sector, priority should be given to small-scale fishworkers with respect to government schemes and benefits to facilitate their access to

fish resources. These include finance, infrastructure, market facilities, social security, information and training.

Group Discussion

The participants highlighted the following issues and recommendations to address them:

- Large-scale mechanized fishing craft violate fisheries regulation by not only using unlicensed trawl nets, but also by indulging in trawl fishing within the 12 nautical mile restricted area.
- After the 61-day fishing ban, small-scale fishers get relatively good catch for one or two weeks at the most, but after that, the catch goes down due to overfishing by mechanized craft. They demanded extended ban period for mechanized craft.
- The workers involved in fish drying and net repairing also stated that their livelihood suffers if the small-scale fishers do not get fish since they mostly work around traditional fish landing centres.
- They face many irregularities and corruption in accessing government schemes and benefits. Some of them mentioned the positive results of interventions by the organization in these matters.
- Participants emphasized the need for the strengthening of MSE and strict implementation of restrictions on large-scale mechanized fishing.
- They also underlined the necessity to make impress upon small-scale fishing communities the importance of coming together against the loot of fish resources by large-scale mechanized sector.

2. Climate Crisis and Climate Justice

Chatterjee, in his presentation on climate crisis, mentioned that the adverse impacts of climate change are increasing and affecting huge numbers of communities in more vulnerable geographies. The marine ecosystem and the coast are among the most impacted. Eventually, the coastal communities, especially the fishworkers, are severely impacted by both extreme climate events as well as comparatively slow long-term impacts like change in species composition, decline in fish stock, etc. Recurrent cyclones and inclement weather drastically reduce fishing time and wreak havoc on dry fish business of small-scale fishing communities. Inclement weather also increases the risk of accidents at sea. This has increased the need for effective early warning systems, efficient rescue mechanisms and adequate provisions for relief and rehabilitation, including access to various insurance schemes for life, accident, gear and habitat.

He further pointed out that these multiple climate change impacts are made worse by the combined effects of pollution, encroachment, overfishing and destructive fishing. Overfishing and destructive fishing are also making the climate impact on fisheries more severe and are telling on community resilience. The changes in the species composition of fish stock and in the weather conditions due to climate change are going beyond the capacity of traditional knowledge to anticipate or cope with.

He also presented some of the changes observed in fish species composition and behaviour due to climate change.

The main responsibility for climate change lies with the rich nations and big companies who are the main users and traders in fossil fuels. But the labouring poor like small-scale fishing communities, who are the least responsible for climate crisis, are the most impacted by it. This raises the issue of climate justice. Rich countries or large companies are also now profiting most from the relief, rehabilitation and climate resilience building work either by direct proprietorship or by being the main suppliers of materials. These works are subsidized from the public exchequer and/or paid for by the common beneficiaries.

Chatterjee concluded the presentation with suggested climate actions that the community needs to undertake:

- Demand for climate justice in funding for relief, rehabilitation and climate resilience build-up.
- Promotion of climate resilient livelihood practices and habitat reconstruction.
- Address climate change impacts by informed actions of small-scale fishworkers.
- Take up the challenges related to climate crisis with all urgency and seriousness, and build community capacities through better understanding, stronger policy positions and more effective interventions.
- Build national and international alliances for broader coalitions, with a view to focus the issue of small-scale fisheries in climate negotiations.

Discussion

The presentation was followed by group work regarding the perceptions and needs of the small-scale marine fishing communities in the context of climate change. The outcomes are as follows:

- The climate crisis management initiatives of the government are generally very inadequate and non-participatory.
- There is a need to have climate resilient fish drying systems and houses.
- A climate fund by imposing climate taxes on the companies using major quantities of fossil fuels or trading in the same needs to be created and used in the small-scale fisheries sector for mitigation and adaptation purposes.
- Subsidies on fuel oil used by large-scale fishing craft should be cut off.

Feedback

1. The participants appreciated that the PowerPoint presentations were in Bengali.
2. The participants expressed that the issues and concepts discussed in the workshop need to be taken to the fishing communities at the ground level through more such workshops.

3. The participants acknowledged that small-scale fishers need preferential access to fish resources but it is not possible without restricting large-scale fishing, which in turn is not possible without active government initiative.
4. The participants wished for more time for interactions in order to fully understand the significance of the information shared and how they relate to their realities.
5. Climate resilient livelihood practices are becoming more and more necessary, but the government is not doing anything. The participants agreed on the importance of arriving on a strategy of action.
6. They also pointed out that they should raise their issues through demands and campaigns.