

AGENDA ITEM 3

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF) Trust

Report of Activities 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

Organization: International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust
Visiting Address: 27, College Road, Chennai 600 006, India, shifted in February 2017 to Old No 77, New No. 22, First floor, Venkatratnam Nagar, Adyar, Chennai 600 020
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Activities in Priority Areas

I. FISHERIES

ICSF's focus in the reporting period has been towards implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), through undertaking research activities, conducting capacity-building workshops and visits, and developing resource and training material towards the implementation of the Guidelines. ICSF also focused on areas that have received inadequate attention earlier, viz. Inland fisheries and migration.

Small-scale fisheries guidelines (SSF Guidelines)

I.6. Studies to document the conditions of work and living conditions of migrants in the fisheries sector, and the impact of migrant labour on local fishing communities, and workshop to disseminate the study in India.

1.6.i. A study was conducted in India which documented the living and working conditions of Andhra Pradesh migrants from Srikakulam district to the Veraval fishing industry in Gujarat, to understand their fishing practices, the specific circumstances motivating them to travel and their status vis-à-vis the industry and the government. These sites were chosen due to the high incidence of migration specifically to the fishing industry in Gujarat. The study highlights the challenges the migrant fishermen face, the lack of legal frameworks and weak implementation of laws that do exist and the lack of opportunities for the next generation. The report of the study is available at <http://www.icsf.net/en/occasional-papers/article/EN/160-a-study-of-migr.html?limitstart=0>

Specific recommendations made through the study were disseminated in Telugu and Gujarati and discussed at a workshop conducted on 14th September in the source area, viz. Srikakulam in AP. This workshop brought together representatives from the local district administration as well as

from the fishing community, both migrants as well as local fishworkers who chose not to migrate. Women fishworkers and the wives of migrants also shared their concerns and challenges in the context of migration. The lack of credible information on migration, including numbers and the modalities of recruitment, work and remuneration for migrating fishermen were highlighted. Based on the recommendations from the workshop and the study, the Fisheries Department aims to initiate a plan for migrant welfare along with the district administration and their counterparts in Veraval and look into the possibilities for further action. They plan to launch the migration information and facilitation centre under the collectorate, which had been announced in 2015. The report of the workshop is available online at <http://www.icsf.net/en/occasional-papers/article/EN/160-a-study-of-migr.html?limitstart=0>

I.8. Regular monitoring of issues of importance to small-scale fisheries (including international policies, national laws, fishery privatization, and climate change) and developments that have an impact on the small-scale fishing communities especially women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, through news alerts, articles in SAMUDRA Report, Yemaya, bibliographies in sub-sites.

SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya have been focusing on implementation of the SSF Guidelines, with articles in Issue 74 and 75 of SAMUDRA Report focusing on implementation of the SSF Guidelines, inland fisheries, migration, labour, human rights based approach besides the COFI meeting in June 2016 and the COP of the CBD in December 2016.

I.9. Elaboration, simplification and translation of the SSF guidelines for fishing communities and policy makers and development of resource and training material for SSF Guidelines workshops

Much was done to ensure that capacity building workshops had resource material and the summary SSF Guidelines available in local languages for the participants.

The summary of the Guidelines and the complete Guidelines was also done in Kannada (Indian language). These are available online at <https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/materials-on-ssf-guidelines>. The summary of the Guidelines has also been translated into Marathi and Gujarati.

I.10. Capacity building and awareness-raising workshops on the implementation of the SSF guidelines in different countries (or at regional level), including on gender dimensions (gender justice and women's rights) of the guidelines, with participation of women and vulnerable and marginalized groups

I.10. In India, a state-level workshop was organised in Malpe in Karnataka State in November 2016 as part of ICSF's programme to disseminate and develop capacities on the SSF Guidelines. The main objectives of the workshop were on how to take forward different aspects of the SSF Guidelines that were priorities in the State, including how to minimise the negative impacts of fisheries policies minimize its on small scale fishers, how to improve self-empowerment mechanisms for women fishworkers, how to protect fisheries spaces, how to improve data information and monitoring systems and ensure that these inform policies and how to strengthen community-based management systems. After sessions explaining the components of the SSF Guidelines, groups discussed how

they could take the issues forward in their context, and prepared action plans towards this. Of the 83 participants that attended, only 8 were women. However, these women were vocal and very engaged with the discussions; some of them therefore, later participated in the national level Gender training workshop for women fishworker leaders organised by ICSF in Chennai in November.

Preparatory meetings were conducted with representatives of village level fisher groups by holding pre-workshop meetings in all the three coastal districts of Karnataka. The report of the workshop is available at: <http://www.icsf.net/en/reports.html>

Paper on strategies for developing inland fisheries in India and translation into 4 Indian languages

A paper has been developed on “Governance of water and freshwater fish production systems in India: Is there need for a national policy to protect fishers and fishworkers?” (available online at: <http://www.icsf.net/en/paper-presentation.html>) In the backdrop of the human right to water and its consumptive and non-consumptive uses, the paper explores the governance framework for freshwater and fisheries in India. Rather than adopting a narrow approach focusing exclusively on inland fisheries conservation and management in India, ICSF has proposed integrating freshwater fisheries and aquaculture into the larger legal and policy regime for governance of water at various levels. The paper looks at the various Acts and articles under the Constitution that are relevant to freshwater and fisheries. The paper examines freshwater fish production and their systems in India. It also explores the livelihood issues in freshwater fish production systems. The paper suggests the need for a governance policy for Indian freshwater fish production systems.

A summary of this paper has been translated into 4 Indian languages, viz. Bengali, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu. The paper was shared as a draft for discussion at a workshop on inland fisheries on 21st-22nd September organised by an NGO, DISHA, in which ICSF was a key participant. ICSF has encouraged small-scale inland fishers groups and their supporting actors to take up this issue, especially in light of a Framework Water Bill that is currently being discussed at the national level. Citing the Indus Water Treaty, 1960, as a precedent, ICSF has proposed the need to look at non-consumptive use of water, along with its consumptive use. While the former includes fisheries, the latter includes agriculture, for example. Currently, freshwater allocation regimes are biased more in favour of consumptive use over non-consumptive use. ICSF has sought for greater fairness in allocation.

In light of a United Nations comment on broadening the scope of the right to water to include livelihood rights, ICSF has also argued for broadening the definition of human rights to water also to include right to fishing along with right to personal and domestic use of water. ICSF has recently brought to the attention of key personnel working on water governance both in India and globally, about the need to look at fairness of allocation and the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach in water governance. ICSF is also hoping to draw greater attention to the recently-ratified United Nations International Water Courses Convention to deal with issues related to fairness of allocation across different user regimes other than navigation. The work is in its preliminary stage. It will take some time before stakeholders representing the non-consumptive use of water, such as fisheries, are able to influence water governance. Even if the Water Act does not fully recognize non-consumptive use of freshwater now, it is hoped that the framework law can be influenced to broaden its scope to cover both consumptive and non-consumptive use of water.

Gender training workshop for women fishworker leaders

A 3-day workshop “Enhancing capacities of women fishworkers in India for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines” was conducted in Chennai, India from November 21-23 for 60 women fishworker leaders from nine coastal states of India. This was a follow-up to the 2010 workshop where women fishworkers from different parts of the world developed a ‘shared agenda for action’ which later contributed to the gender equity and equality components of the SSF Guidelines. Participants were informed about the situation and role of women in fisheries in India, the relevance of the SSF Guidelines to women in small-scale fisheries and the opportunities to improve their situations. Discussions highlighted the lack of facilities available to women in markets, their increasing inability to access resources, the lack of visibility of their roles, policies that did not account for women in small-scale fisheries, the threats to their livelihoods due to pressures on land and coastal resources, climate change, and increasing inequalities. Social issues that were discussed related to health, education, violence against women, housing, water and sanitation, social security, and human rights. Apart from participants sharing their experiences on all the issues, the challenges they faced, and their struggles and successes to overcome these, resource persons provided information on the legal frameworks and schemes at the national and state level and the mechanisms to access these which could help women in small-scale fisheries to promote their interests and protect their rights. All issues were located within a human rights-based framework in keeping with the SSF Guidelines and the history and perspectives on human rights were also highlighted. The future plans shared by the groups at the end of the workshop defined their priority areas for future action and were testimony to what they had learnt and absorbed over the three days. The need was expressed by several groups for a national platform for women in small-scale fisheries. The presentations, and resource material prepared for the training programme are available at: <https://sites.google.com/view/trainingwomenicsf/home>

E. Women in Fisheries Round Table

Following the workshop in India (Point. D above), the women representatives from Goa decided to mobilise women fishworkers in Goa to organise themselves and take up the issues confronting them with the authorities. Accordingly, preparatory work was done, with the questionnaires used for the group discussions in Chennai modified and translated into the local language, Konkani and given to local women in small-scale fisheries in the State to discuss with their communities. Representatives from different parts of Goa were then invited to a Round Table where they discussed their issues which focused on lack of facilities in markets, issues with sales and competition from other sources, lack of government response to their local needs. The women were exposed to the SSF Guidelines and its relevance to their context. The round table provided the women with an opportunity to interact with Department of Fisheries representative on the schemes available and the issues they are facing. A report of the round table is available online at <https://www.icsf.net/en/reports.html>

II. BIODIVERSITY

II.3. Monitor and document the impacts/ implications of:

1. Different conservation initiatives including marine spatial planning; EBSA processes undertaken in different countries; legal and institutional frameworks that recognize traditional knowledge of men and women from small-scale fishing communities (including vulnerable and marginalized groups, indigenous peoples and local communities).
2. conservation activities undertaken by World Bank, and other multilateral financial institutions
3. community conservation and management initiatives and other good governance practices initiated by communities.
 - ICSF has been regularly following up on these issues through SAMUDRA News Alerts as well as DC News Alerts and is in constant touch with the United Nations University on traditional knowledge, besides following up information on the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park in India.

III. CLIMATE CHANGE

Specific activities

III. 2. Monitor

- international and national strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially those that relate to fishing communities
- impacts of technology driven solutions for climate change on fishing communities
- community perceptions and measures for disaster and climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - SAMUDRA News Alerts and DC News Alerts have been regularly following up on these issues. Besides this the DC has also been active in distributing the film on climate change in India.

III.4 Advocate for States to address issues such as pollution, coastal erosion and destruction of coastal habitats due to human-induced non-fisheries-related factors.

Climate change and disaster management issues were highlighted in the workshops on the SSF Guidelines, with resource persons from relevant government departments specifically called to deliberate on these sections of the Guidelines.

ICSF's video on climate change was also presented at a number of forums in India, such as the meeting organized by PondyCAN, INTACH and Freemasons society, on "Securing coastal assets and communities for a sustainable future" in Chennai, India

IV. AQUACULTURE

IV. 1 Document and analyse systems of tenure rights in aquaculture and their implications for men and women from neighbouring communities, for fishing communities and vulnerable and marginalized groups

ICSF Trust has undertaken a study to document the tenure rights of socially and educationally backward fishing communities to inland waters biodiversity in India. Inland waters biodiversity

provides employment, income food security and nutrition in many parts of India. Small water bodies/reservoirs in rural India particularly provide women and men from socially and educationally backward fishing communities with livelihood support along the inland waters living resources value chain. The study examined formal (including laws supported by policies and programmes) and informal systems of tenure (including customary, traditional arrangements) as well as management systems for the sustainable utilization of living resources of ponds and reservoirs. The areas included in the study were Bundelkhand, Madhya Pradesh; Vidarbha, Maharashtra; and Bihar and Jharkhand.

V. TRADE

Specific activities

V.3. Monitor and analyse negotiations at WTO and other forums on issues of relevance to fisheries, multilateral environmental agreements, biodiversity and climate change and their impacts on fishing communities

In the backdrop of Doha Development Agenda, which includes developing language at WTO to deal with disciplining fisheries subsidies, ICSF has been engaging with the national process in India to study fisheries subsidies proposals made by various WTO Members and to make recommendations regarding how to protect the livelihood interests of small-scale fishers and fishworkers in the context of sustainable fisheries. Towards effective subsidies disciplines, ICSF has underscored transparency and the importance of notifying fisheries subsidies.

Since market access issues cannot be separated from international obligations towards conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, ICSF has highlighted the need to comply with multilateral environmental agreements such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

VI. COMMUNICATION

VI.1. SAMUDRA Report

Specific Activities

VI.1.1. To publish SAMUDRA Report in English, French and Spanish

VI.1.2. To bring out web editions of SAMUDRA Report, with search functions;

- Two issues of SAMUDRA Report have been produced in English (Issue No. 74 and 75), and specific articles have been translated in French and Spanish. From SAMUDRA Report No. 71, only online version has been published. SAMUDRA Report has 2050 subscribers. SAMUDRA Report is now widely disseminated through social media (facebook and twitter), besides various group mails and networks such as Andaman Nicobar Network, Coastal Protection Network, ICCA Consortium network, IAMSLIC network and Gender Aqua Fish Network. During the year (upto 22 Feb), SAMUDRA Report has received over 209133 downloads and 354163 views.

VI.2. Yemaya

Specific activities

VI.2.1. Bring out *Yemaya* twice a year, in English, Spanish and French¹

VI.2.2. Provide online accessibility to all issues of *Yemaya*.

- Two issues of *Yemaya* have been produced in English (Issue No. 52 and 53), with specific articles translated in French and Spanish. From *Yemaya* issue No. 49, only online version has been published. *Yemaya* has 1260 subscribers. Similar to SAMUDRA Report, *Yemaya* is also disseminated through social media and different networks. During the year (upto 22 Feb), *Yemaya* received 1189846 views and 6627 downloads.

VI.3. Documentation Centre

Specific activities planned during the period

VI.3.3. Monitor information on issues relating to the five priority areas identified by ICSF (Fisheries, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Aquaculture and Trade)

During this period, DC sourced information from FWOs, NGOs, research institutions, governments, multilateral agencies, and other documentation centres on issues such as tenure rights in freshwater ecosystems, human rights in fisheries, on various aspects related to gender in fisheries, on sustainable development goals related to fisheries, migrant labour management in fisheries, support of government schemes in fisheries sector and small-scale fisheries. The main work of DC during the period was to develop the SSF Guidelines implementation website with country-wise information for workshops on SSF Guidelines implementation, compilation of fisheries sector schemes of nine coastal states, union government departments, and agencies, translation of SSF Guidelines and Summary of Guidelines to different languages and to support ICSF programmes and publications.

DC has received on gratis/exchange/from conferences/workshops attended by ICSF staff/members 10 books and documents from various organizations and downloaded more than 25 documents from emails and links sent by others. The DC currently holds 61638 records in its document database: 3218 books, 11399 documents, 234 CD-Roms, and 26157 articles indexed from journals. The selected article database has 1075 articles. The audio-visual collection has 321 VCDs. Of the 11399 documents we have attached 948 documents in winISIS database as soft copy. The DC has catered to 65 users during this period. .

DC has contributed extensively to the programmes of ICSF, as well as to presentations made by ICSF staff in different meetings. DC staff has made presentation during the *Policy Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Fisheries Sector* which was held at the *National Biodiversity Authority conference in Chennai, India on 25th November, 2016* and *Human Rights Based Approach workshop at Jaipur, India*. The participation in these meetings has helped DC to get access to new sources of information.

The DC has collected information on governance of tenure, sustainable resource management, social development and decent work, value chains, post-harvest fisheries and trade, gender equality, disaster risks and climate change, policy coherence, institutional co-ordination and collaboration, information, research and communication and capacity development aspects of SSF guidelines and disseminated through website: <https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/home> The website has information on 28 countries. The website also has information on human rights related issues in fisheries of these countries. DC has been actively involved in translating SSF Guidelines and the summary of the SSF Guidelines into various languages. The website has the summary of the SSF Guidelines translated into 18

languages and the complete SSF Guidelines into 10 languages for free download. The information collected and disseminated was very useful for the workshop organizers and participants.

During the period, DC has collected and compiled a dossier on information about Government support schemes to fisheries sector in India and distributed to fishworkers organizations in India. The Dossier is available at: <https://sites.google.com/view/trainingwomenicsf/schemes>

VI.3.4. Disseminate information through news alerts DC News Alerts (focusing on issues in South Asia).

The DC disseminates news related to South Asian fisheries through both daily and weekly digests to FWOs, NGOs, researchers, fisheries colleges, Government departments and multilateral agencies. The news alerts cover subject areas like environmental impact on fisheries, aquaculture developments, climate change and its impact on fisheries, trade related measures, new developments and initiatives from UN and other multilateral agencies. The news alerts have increased the visibility of recent developments related to small-scale fisheries particularly in the developing world. The DC News Alerts has 2091 subscribers and it has provided a platform for fishworker organizations to disseminate their press releases and demands to larger audiences, as well as to receive information on various governmental schemes and programmes. These Alerts are also further circulated amongst various email groups.

Through Publications and Films Alert, DC has been able to disseminate ICSF Publications and Films among large number of readers. The Alerts has 3635 subscribers. These Alerts are also further circulated among email groups such as Gender Aquafish, National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC) etc. The responses received are very encouraging.

The dissemination of video documentaries of ICSF at different film festivals and presentation screenings has increased the visibility on issues facing small-scale fisheries in different parts of the world. The You Tube links of ICSF Films have been widely circulated through Publications and Films Alerts and sending of film copies to institutions and organizations.

The DC has contributed to the Aquatic Commons initiative of IAMSLIC, uploading 254 items in the Aquatic Commons repository (<http://aquaticcommons.org/view>). The DC, as part of its continuing efforts to link with other resource centres, has maintained links with FAO library, ILO, and other UN agencies.

VI.3.6. Update, maintain and add information to ICSF website, with a view to improving its content, design and usability, as an important vehicle for dissemination of information on small-scale fisheries.

The website has been regularly updated and for the current year (till 22 Feb) had a total of 2717781 views for ICSF main site and 64928 downloads.

VI.3.8. Regularly update, and maintain the ICSF website, and its sub-sites, including on bibliographies, and other useful information.

- DC has been active in collecting and uploading information on specific websites dedicated to the SSF Guidelines workshops being conducted by the consortium under the IFAD project.

Annex I:

List of Other Meetings Attended 2016-17

Date	Meeting	Remark
28 - 29 April 2016	Workshop on 'Valuing, Managing and Investing in Ecosystem Services in South Asia – organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in New Delhi	ICSF participated in the workshop
30 - 01 May 2016	Workshop on "Securing Small Scale Fisheries in Mekong region: SSF Guideline in Actions" from April 30 - May 1, 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand." organized by Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) Bangkok, Thailand	ICSF participated in the workshop and made a presentation
15 June 2016	The European Parliament Fisheries Committee organized a public hearing on “The importance of fisheries for women in third countries” in Brussels	ICSF made a presentation on the “Importance of fisheries for women in developing countries - Current situation and future perspectives”
27-28 June 2016	National Workshop on “ Dissemination of Results of Valuation Studies on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems under the TEEB India Initiative” in Chennai	ICSF Participated in the workshop
11 – 12 Aug 2016	A two days training programme on ‘Enhancing Women for Sustainable Fisheries Development’ conducted by NFF in Pondicherry	ICSF Participated in the training programme
17 Sep 2016	A seminar on ‘Securing our Coastal assets and communities for a sustainable future’ was organized PondyCAN on 17 th September in Chennai	ICSF participated in the seminar
19 – 21 Sep 2016	DISHA organized National Workshop on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Towards FAO Guidelines on Marine and Inland Small-scale Fisheries Seva Kendra in Kolkata	ICSF participated in the workshop and developed a paper for discussion
06 – 08 October 2016	The Indo – German Center for Sustainability organized a ‘Workshop at Chennai Water Forum’ during 06 – 08 October in Chennai. This event is concerned with the interface of urban development and flooding.	ICSF participated in the workshop
06 November 2016	ICSF organized a State Level workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), on 6 November 2016, at Malpe	ICSF Organized the workshop
21 – 23 November 2016	ICSF organized a training programme titled “Enhancing capacities of women fishworkers in India for the implementation of the SSF	ICSF Organized the training programme

	Guidelines”, to be held in Chennai, 21-23 November 2016	
25 November 2016	NBA organized ‘Policy Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Fisheries Sector’ on 25 th November 2016 in Chennai	ICSF participated and made a presentation
09 – 10 December 2016	NFF Annual General Body meeting was held in Tuticorin	ICSF participated in the meeting

Agenda Item 5

WFFP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

From: **T Peter** <peter.ksmtf@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Feb 16, 2017 at 7:19 AM

Subject: WFFP General Assembly in India - Request Letter

To: Ramya Rajagopalan<ramya.rajagopalan@gmail.com>, Sony Celine <sony.scb@gmail.com>

Cc: NARENDRA R PATIL <rpatilnarendra@gmail.com>, Vijayan MJ <vijayan@psa-india.net>

Dear Friends,

Greeting from NFF

As you know the National Fish workers Forum (NFF) and the Canadian Fishermen Association had jointly organized a world fishers meet on 1997 at New Delhi. Fisher people's organizations from around 32 countries had participated and formed an International forum for Fishers. A historical declaration was taken in the meeting that November 21st will be the world fisheries day every year.

Once again after 20 years, the international fishers meet will be held at New Delhi. The World Forum of Fisher People's (WFFP) Central Committee has decided that WFFP General Assembly will be on 15th to 21st November 2017 in India (New Delhi). The fish workers movements like NFF and many other fisher peoples associations from 50 countries will participate. This will be another historical event in India.

The National Fish workers Forum (NFF) is hosting this meet. NFF executive committee meeting has decided to form sub committees with supporting groups for organizing the fishers meet.

A coordination committee comprising of NarendraPatil(NFF chairperson), T. Peter(NFF General Secretary), VeljibhaiMasani, Leo Colaco and Vijayan M.J. will be in constant communication with the WFFP organising team.

Sub Committees:

- Liaison with the Government departments -
- Food and Accommodation -
- Travel -
- Cultural programs -
- Exhibitions at the GA venue -
- Rally and preparation for rally -
- Media -
- Publicity -
- Programme -
- Fundraising -

We are requesting you to join with anyone of the sub committees as you like.

We hope you will be with us. Let us know your conformation.

With regards,

NarendraPatil, Chairperson, NFF, Mobile:09923241641

T.Peter, General Secretary, NFF, Mobile : 08289905239

<http://www.nffindia.org>