



Towards Socially Just and Sustainable Fisheries: Workshop on Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines in the context of food security and poverty eradication ICSF 21-24 July, Pondicherry India



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

- ICSF is an independent international collective established in 1984.
- It draws its mandate from the historic International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters held in Rome, 1984 and attended by over 100 fishworkers and their supporters from 34 countries. At the time there were no other global organisations representing fishworkers.
- Initially ICSF was comprised entirely of voluntary members however it is now also a registered international NGO working in support of fishers and fishing communities.

Objectives of the workshop - 'work in progress'

- Exchange views and experiences regarding how SSF Guidelines could benefit small-scale fishing communities, worldwide, identifying constraints and opportunities for their adoption;
- Identify and prioritise elements of SSF Guidelines for implementation, propose a relevant strategy, taking into account the diversity of small-scale fisheries, and discuss approaches to implementation for effectiveness at different levels;
- Discuss respective roles and responsibilities of different organizations at national, regional and international level.

Workshop participants

70 participants from 20 countries representing Africa, Asia, the Americas (North, Central and South), the Caribbean and Europe participated in the Workshop.

These included

ICSF Members and representatives of CSOs with whom ICSF members engage, international fisher organisations including WFFP, WFF, and IPC, FAO, activists, researchers and academics

Approach to the workshop

- Giving meaning to and interpreting the Guidelines from our CSO perspective and maintaining the spirit of the CSO consultative workshops and the synthesis document
- What does ‘multi-stakeholder’ and ‘multisectoral’ really mean?
- How can we ensure that we ourselves adopt an ‘equitable and socially just, sustainable’ approach?
- What does a transformative, human-rights based agenda really mean in practice?



***The Road to Pondicherry:
Milestones on the way to the VG SSF Guidelines***

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

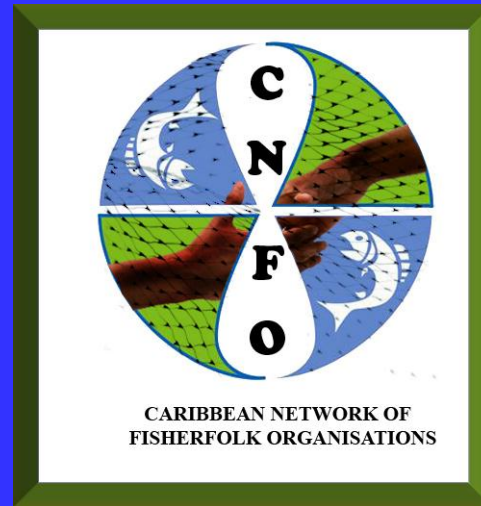
“Towards Socially Just and Sustainable Fisheries: Workshop on Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication” (SSF Guidelines)

What is a Transformative Agenda?

- A **Transformative Agenda** is guided by a vision of **social justice and human rights**.
- It is based on the fundamental understanding of **social inequality** as **root cause** of poverty and unsustainable development and the importance of **social change**.
- It supports **the Human Rights' approach to development**, which incorporates **the acceptance of equal and inalienable rights of all men and women** to be able to make strategic life choices for their own well being.
- It acknowledges **people as agents of social change**.

Presentations from coastal communities around the world

- Caribbean (CNFO)
- Costa Rica and Honduras
- Netherlands
- India
- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Senegal and Ivory Coast (CAOPA)
- Brazil



Developing the road map for implementation...

- The approach must be bottom up, participatory and one of promoting community organisation.
- The methodology must fit the local context but should start with the community. It must follow the consultation process by going back to communities at local level. It must organise and build capacity of the communities and civil society and build legitimate, democratically accountable and credible fishworker organisations that can gain recognition from their governments as legitimate representative bodies that will work with government to implement the guidelines

- **Information sharing**, translating VG SSF into accessible materials using **a range of media**, training and capacity building including strategies such as train the trainer
- Policies and legislation must be reviewed to compliance
- The VG SSF should not be considered as a solely fisheries department issue but should be integrated across sectors and departments, including those that deal with women's affairs, social welfare, rural development, labour, health, education and trade. **Prioritise the inter and cross sectoral nature of the guidelines.**
- The role of women should be recognized, they should be encouraged to participate in organisations and **unequal gender relations must be addressed**

- Each country needs to do an **analysis of its policies and legislation**
- The CSOs in each country need to **engage their own governments at national level** and assert their meaning and interpretation that fits their context – the Guidelines are the minimum requirements
- **Sharing information** and raising awareness of fishing communities, civil society at large and government at all levels

- Conduct analysis of actors and map who they are who, where and what they are doing, their strengths and weaknesses
- Establish **new partnerships** but must not be hijacked by bigger fish with other interests
- **CSO co-ordinating platform** should continue
- Must focus on indigenous groups and the most marginalised and vulnerable groups
- Undertake a gendered analysis of national development (including poverty) policies and to analyse and **understand** the drivers of poverty
- Must analyse, understand and **address underlying inequities and social relations**

- A participatory monitoring system with key indicators, needs to be developed and adapted and modified as understanding and implementation evolves
- Consider legal strategies such as human rights litigation to set precedent

FAO's (Nicole's) challenge to CSOs:

- Recognise the POWER that the collective action of CSOs holds – OWN the Guidelines
- Give direction and leadership, claim human rights and assert responsibilities

Taking the struggle forward....honouring Chandrika and drawing inspiration from her and working towards *“equitable and sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication’.....*

ICSF's Website on Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines

igssf.icsf.net/

CSO Website on Small-scale Fisheries

Guidelinessites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/