

Report of the National Workshop: The SSF Guidelines and Mainstreaming Gender into Fisheries Policies and Legislation, YWCA of Madras International Guest House, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, 18 to 20 August 2019



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP:
THE SSF GUIDELINES AND MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO FISHERIES POLICIES
AND LEGISLATION**

YWCA of Madras International Guest House, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

18to 20August 2019

Concept Note

I. Introduction

A national workshop was organised to mainstream gender into fisheries policies and legislation in India, towards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). Supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and organised by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the workshop was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, from 18 to 20 August, 2019. Keywomen CSO/NGO fishery stakeholders from the states of Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal attended the Workshop.

II. Gender in Fisheries in India

Marine and inland fisheries in India employ millions of women along the entire value chain, particularly in the pre- and post-harvest sub-sectors. (An estimated 70 percent of those engaged in post-harvest activities are women.) Women's contributions are crucial to the management and sustainability of the sector, which need to be supported and enhanced. Recognising this, India's 2017 National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF) and 2018 Draft National Policy on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture (NIFAP), both provide guidance for mainstreaming gender equity in inland and marine fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

The policies envision increasing participation of women in decision-making; strengthening women's associations and cooperatives; providing financial support schemes for women; improving working conditions for women along the fisheries value chain; empowering women and enhancing their leadership capacities. The workshop will develop recommendations to implement these provisions at various levels and expand the scope of the policies to empower women fishworkers as stakeholders in fisheries management, tenure rights, trade, protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change.

Towards this, the workshop will analyse budget allocations and schemes for women in fisheries at the national and state levels and raise awareness among women fishworker representatives on the socio-economic indicators of their communities, employing a gender analysis. The workshop will also share experiences on fisheries tenure arrangements; post-harvest activities and status of markets; and the vulnerabilities to climate change and environmental degradation.

The workshop will seek to build on the discussions and resolutions from the 2016 ICSF workshop on gender in fisheries, particularly on the need to develop a national platform of women fishworkers.

III. 2014 SSF Guidelines

The 2014 SSF Guidelines endorsed by the thirty-first session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014 are guided by the principle of gender equality and equity. Recognising the need for holistic development of fishing communities, especially in relation to fisheries management and development, the SSF Guidelines recommend integrating gender mainstreaming into all small-scale fisheries development strategies.

IV. Objectives of the Workshop

- Enhance the capacities of women fishworkers to mainstream gender into fisheries policy and legislation
- Conduct a gender analysis of fisheries budget allocations and schemes and the socio-economic indicators of fishing communities
- Recommendation points for the implementation of NPMF 2017 and Draft NIFAP 2018, from a gender perspective
- Facilitate exchange of knowledge between diverse women fishworker representatives and develop a national platform for women in fisheries

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NATIONAL WORKSHOP: THE SSF GUIDELINES AND MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO FISHERIES POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A national workshop was organised to mainstream gender into the fisheries policies and legislation in India, to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). The workshop was organised by International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, from 18 to 20 August, 2019. Key women CSO/NGO fishery stakeholders from the states of Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal attended the Workshop. The key objectives of the workshop were to: (a) Enhance the capacities of women fishworkers to mainstream gender into fisheries policy and legislation; (b) Conduct a gender analysis of fisheries budget allocations and schemes and the socio-economic indicators of fishing communities; (c) Recommend action points for the implementation of NPMF 2017 and Draft NIFAP 2018, from a gender perspective and (d) Facilitate exchange of knowledge between diverse women fishworker representatives and develop a national platform for women in fisheries.

This workshop was a follow-up of the 2016 workshop on Women in Fisheries to develop a national platform for women in fisheries arising from a need that was felt to address women's requirements for social development of women in the fisheries sector. The participants were restricted to four states that had a big spread of women's work.

In the first session, women from various fishworker organisations in each of the four states described the work their organisations did for women in fisheries. The organisations included Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF) from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu Women Fishworkers Union and Bharati Women's Fishworker Union from Tamil Nadu, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) from Kerala and Machimar Kruti Samiti from Maharashtra. During the session, topics such as shrimp farming and protected areas were also discussed.

Nikita Gopal, Principal Scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology ICAR-CIFT, spoke on 'Gender perspectives in the national policy on marine fisheries 2017 and the SSF Guidelines' in the second session where she highlighted the fact that the National Policy on Marine Fisheries NPMF refers to fishermen whereas fisherwomen formed half of the population and most of the workforce in the post-harvest sector. She mentioned the paragraphs where women were mentioned in the policy and the kind of opportunities they could get from it. The key points Nikita Gopal made were: to make women count as fishers as they participate in harvesting too; it could be argued that where ever there were references to tenure rights of the traditional fishermen under fisheries management, the reference was being made to areas traditionally used for drying fish or markets (land rights); fisherwomen cooperatives could take up mariculture; they could be actively involved in issues like pollution, infrastructure development, climate change management plans and could ensure their inclusion in schemes related to welfare, social security and credit.

'Women's rights to tenure and role in fisheries management' was the focus of Session 3 conducted by Nalini Nayak. The presentation and discussion was about gender equity and ecosystem approach. Nalini also emphasised that the SSF Guidelines spoke about fishing communities and fishers (men and women) as in small-scale fisheries, men and women played complementary roles; and hence women's rights and their spaces should be protected and women's work in fisheries should receive inputs in terms of investments and technology, just like their male counterparts. She made a short presentation on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of the Tenure of Land and discussed the meaning of tenure and the importance of responsibilities that go with rights.

Nikita Gopal spoke about 'Health and education levels in coastal communities' in Session 4 where she examined the state-wise figures for the four states present. In general, the literacy rate for fishing communities was lower than the state average and that of women was lower than men. The discussion included reasons for falling literacy rates even within the vicinity of cities. Concern was expressed over increasing (mis)usage of mobile phones by youth. A sample study had found that access to educational institutions played a major role in schooling levels. Health related issues appeared to be common across states for women and were largely related to their occupation: fish vending or fish processing.

Giving a historical perspective to variations of socio-economic status among coastal fishing communities, V.Vivekanandan said the socio-economic status of fishing communities started declining as one moved from Mumbai down south towards Kanyakumari and all the way up north till one reached Kolkata. Factors that affected the socio-economic status of fishing communities included factors related to resource availability, technology and scale of fishing, markets and the history of fisheries development; social factors pertained to the origin of the fishing community, its place in state politics, society and factors related to the general development trajectory of the state in which the fishing community was located.

P.S. Ananthan, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFE (Central Institute of Fisheries Education), made a presentation on gender budget concept and practices and central and state-wise schemes for fishing communities. He said all the programmes were implemented through the state Fisheries Department. There were two types of schemes – some that the Central Government funded which were implemented through the state department and schemes that each state executed independently. Some states also had specific schemes to address their own needs.

In Session 5, Nikita Gopal spoke about the work CIFT had been doing with the fisherwomen over 10-15 years, specifically related to two projects. One was clam fisheries in a small island in Vembanad. The entire process, beginning with a diagnostic study, through training and capacity building, to the final MoU to create the society that was to run the project was explained. The second related to fish dryers. In both projects, the process was to go to the stakeholder community, establish rapport, discover their needs and develop interventions with their help.

The last session was on Fisheries Management and the role of women. This session was about understanding various terms and concepts such as management, resources, co-management, stakeholders, ecosystem approach, value chain approach, fishing effort management and biodiversity conservation comprising necessary knowledge etc. In the last session, Nalini Nayak asked women participants how the move forward was to be planned. After intense discussions, a decision was taken that platforms created at state and/or central level would have members only from member-based organisations. Nobody was going to fund the platform, to ensure that its independence was maintained; and the parent organisation would have to fund the travel and stay of participants. To begin with, the platform could take up two major issues. The first, related to budgets, would monitor how much of the budget allocations would go to women's schemes. The second platform would focus on demanding increased subsidy from the government for non-fishing days (including fishing ban days and days when fishers were prohibited from fishing due to bad weather forecast) at the centre and state levels.

There were three sets of group discussions where the following topics were discussed.

- Social Development Needs of Coastal Communities: How health and education indicators of fishing families in states could be improved?
- Financial and technical support for women in fisheries: What financial and technical support women fishworkers in their states need –based on schemes available in their state?
- Fisheries Management: A set of twelve questions including those related to craft numbers, quality of fish in markets and the need for a policy on post-harvest fisheries.



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**Sunday, 18 August, 2019: Day 1
(Setting the Stage)**

INAUGURAL SESSION

Welcoming participants from fishworker organisations, research institutions, civil society organisations, ICSF trustees and others, Manas Roshan of ICSF said this was a follow-up of the 2016 workshop on Women in Fisheries. A major outcome of that workshop was a plan to develop a national platform for women in fisheries that emerged from a need that was felt to address women's requirements for their social development in the fisheries sector. Activities that were successfully completed after the 2016 workshop included: a survey of women in all fish markets in Maharashtra, the formation of the All-Women Trade Union in Maharashtra and Goa and a promise by the Tamil Nadu's Fisheries Department to issue identity cards to women fishworkers. Awareness and training on VG-SSF and NMPF is ongoing. He said perennial problems pertaining to women, especially with reference to infrastructure in landing centres, remained. There were also problems due to coastal development projects resulting in eviction of people.

NaliniNayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust, welcomed the participants. The workshop was deliberately confined to only four states as these were the states that had a big spread of women's work which needed to be taken forward. She said participants in each state may not belong to the same group or union, but it did not matter because what was being attempted was to link all the different groups. If they did not stand together, they would not be able to achieve what they wanted.

Referring to Manas Roshan's point in the introduction about a platform for women in fisheries, she said that often women's issues were discussed only at the end. It was important to discuss not just women's issues, but fisheries from a feminist perspective as well, as many major and rapid changes were going on within the country. Without knowing or realising it, many rights were being lost, hence, it was imperative to know the various policies, how they were affecting fishers and the manner in which they could formulate their responses. She said while looking ahead, it was necessary to know about policies both at the national and international level and perceive how they were related to each other and the reactions that needed to be formed from a women's perspective.

As the main focus everywhere was on development, it was necessary to understand how much that was wanted was beneficial societally and how much of it was detrimental; how much development helped food security, employment and children of fishers. Development today had to be viewed from tomorrow's perspective. Saying no to development did not mean becoming regressive; sometimes one had to change and since it was well known that men were not going to change easily, it was the women who would have to fight as it is they who had to put the food on the table. Therefore, even if some hard decisions had to be made, it was necessary to understand what those decisions were and how they could be brought into the fisheries movements and organisations, within the states. When she asked the participants if they were ready for this, they responded with a resounding yes.

She then outlined the programme. In the next session, the participants would begin by sharing their names and occupations and something about themselves as individuals; then one person from the group would talk about the main issues the group or movement was raising and the problems they saw in their area. It was necessary for

the rest to listen carefully because only then would they understand what was happening in each state and if that was understood, a plan over the next three days could be made for the future. She suggested that the participants also sit with each other during lunch and dinner and find out what the others did, what markets they went to and how much they travelled to get fish and so on.

SESSION 1: FISHWORKER ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR WORK ON GENDER IN FISHERIES

West Bengal

Jharna Acharya spoke on behalf of the Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF) and said there were 11 women members of all categories who raised all kinds of issues and demands with officials at the state Fisheries Department. They worked with both inland and marine fishers. Fish sorters and fish dryers were affected by financial issues as they had taken loans from money lenders and ended up with high debts. Fish landing centres and koti (camp) infrastructure was a major problem. Wage discrimination also existed between men and women. Women actually working in Protected Areas did not have any rights and went for fishing, collecting crabs etc. Fish vendors had difficulties with men regarding transport. They did not have proper places to sit in the markets. There were women fish farming associations which did not get any support from the government in terms of facilities or subsidies. There were several projects and schemes but not many for fisheries and even fewer for fisherwomen. An important issue related to tiger widows who had not been identified as tiger widows or crocodile widows and therefore no compensation had been given to them by the government. They had a list of 3000 women which was sent to the National Commission for Women and Commission for Human Rights, although government records mentioned no more than 300 tiger victims. Many of these women went into the Sunderbans without permission and hence could not go to the police to file an FIR in the case of a missing person. A committee must be appointed to identify such widows. There should be a women-specific policy in coastal states, at the national level.

Nalini Nayak asked participants especially from Kerala if they knew about Protected Areas and what they were for and a short discussion on these areas followed.

Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Women Fishworkers Union works with fish vendors in pre and post-harvest sectors such as seaweed harvesters of Ramanathapuram district, shell collectors and prawn pickers. An important category it works with are women street fish vendors whose problems begin right from the time they start work at 2 am when they go to buy fish and have to interact and fight with male commission agents. Many of the vendors travel from Nagapattinam to the neighbouring areas of Thanjavur, Mannargudi etc. They had no specific place or market to sit and sell fish. While there are dry fish markets in a few places like Mayavaram and Cuddalore, the facilities are poor. A major issue they face is that when there is a natural disaster like a tsunami or Gaja cyclone, there is no identity or acknowledgement of fish vendors as earning members or people who need compensation as it is given only to a family or affected fishermen. During the annual fishing ban period which has been increased from 45 to 60 days, male-headed households get some compensation while others such as women-headed households do not. They are conducting gender awareness classes for women and children in the community. No government schemes focus on women fish workers and they are spreading awareness in this regard.

Bharati Women's Fishworker Union is creating awareness to make women join the Union. They make sure that schemes for women actually reached them. Their biggest problem is posed by shrimp farms in Pudukkottai district which pollutes the environment, ground water, estuary and sea, with wastes. Most women there who depend on prawn and crab collection are affected. A pot of potable water costs INR 10 (1 USD = INR 70) and chemicals are added to improve its taste. This has resulted in a lot of diseases such as heart problems among children and uterine problems and blood cancers among women. They have been lobbying over these issues but no end seems to be in sight.

Jesu Rethinam added on behalf of the Union that they were facilitating counselling with regard to violence against women at the village level. Many women had been able to come forward and discuss issues relating to family, workspace and the panchayat. They were able to speak out and some offenders had been taken to court. There was a district-level protection officer for violence against women. They had tried to interface with them in meetings so that the officers were aware of these issues and tried to support them when they came up at the district level.

A short discussion about shrimp farms in Tamil Nadu and how they were different from those in Kerala followed. In Tamil Nadu, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram districts had a number of prawn farms. It was only the southern districts of Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari that did not. Lagoons and mangrove forest areas such as Pichavaram and Muthupettai also had shrimp farms. Vannamei (*Litopenaeusvannamei*, formerly *Penaevsvannamei*) commonly called King Prawn, an exotic species, had been introduced and had created a number of problems; there were court cases in Marakkanam and Viluppuram regarding this, said a member of the Tamil Nadu team.

NaliniNayak asked the participants whether they knew why drinking water was getting polluted because of shrimp farms. UjwalaPatil (Maharashtra) said pesticides and other chemicals used in shrimp farms polluted drinking water. In Maharashtra, the participants said, there were probably shrimp farms in places like Nagpur, Solapur and Kolhapur which belonged to political leaders and were totally controlled by men; no women were involved.

NaliniNayak explained that shrimp farms in Tamil Nadu were slightly different from those in Kerala. Tamil Nadu has an extensive coastline. Along the creeks, mangroves and such areas, big ponds were dug out and converted into shrimp farms. In the farms, the salinity level of water had to be controlled. When salinity increased, they used freshwater to correct it. The saline water was drained into the sea through canals that were originally used for agriculture and so the land and water had turned saline pushing them into shrimp cultivation – this was also seen in Andhra Pradesh, especially in the Krishna delta. The extensive farms prevented people from going from the coast to interior places to sell fish. On the other hand, in Kerala, shrimp farming took place near the backwaters. Earlier, it was done traditionally and now it was taking place through modern means. Pokkali is a kind of paddy that grows in semi-saline areas. In Kerala, traditionally after the monsoon, they used to grow a variety of paddy which was tall. After the harvest, they used to grow shrimp or fish when the water became saline. Where they have such traditional methods, they also have traditional management systems – padusekharams – committees – formed around these areas where they manage the paddy, fish and shrimp. While paddy belonged to private owners, shrimp or fish was for the community because water was a shared commodity.

Kerala

SEWA, a central trade union, consists of women in the informal sector. In Kerala it works with six trades – domestic workers, fishworkers, street vendors, tailors, reed workers and home-based workers. Fishworkers form one of the main categories of SEWA membership. The union's work is mainly concentrated in villages in which a majority of the fisherwomen are members, numbering more than 3000. In villages where there are mixed groups, women from other trades are also involved. In many of the villages, they have market-based groups such as those going to a particular market. Such women may also be from a single village. They discuss issues based on markets and landing centres at the village level. There is a trade committee comprising representatives of different markets and village-level unions who discuss the main issues. A strategy for action is decided in these committees and protests, lobbying and other activities are thereafter carried out. Lack of basic facilities and infrastructure in markets is one of the main issues that is being raised at the state level.

The representative from Kerala said while the government has started responding to issues, it does not consider the real issues impacting women such as occupational and health issues. For example, in one place, a market had to be completely reconstructed after their repeated involvement over the issue. Slowly women's opinions are

being taken into account while building or maintaining markets. In the auction hall, in markets and other places, women have to depend on men headload workers, who demand hefty sums to unload fish. This is one of the issues in which they had been able to intervene step by step.

Since SEWA is a central trade union, union-level discussions are going on with the labour office/ board etc. They are asking for market management committees to handle problems at landing centres. Another big issue is the lack of capital and high dependence on money lenders. While interest-free loans are supposed to be available, these are not being distributed through cooperatives but through the local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) where women are not members. They are now demanding that the money should be distributed through the market. In the last budget they were told that women would get interest free loans in the market itself. There is also an urge from other unions to organise 'allied workers', and in this process, women are being forced to join those unions.

Tensions also existed between fresh fish sellers and those who sold iced fish in the market. Fresh fish prices were higher than iced fish. Customers were unable to differentiate between the two. Campaigns were being carried out, explaining the difference; they had called for a spatial separation between iced fish and fresh fish vendors.

In the name of development, the coast has been destroyed completely. For example, almost 40 percent of the Vizhinjam harbour construction has been completed, resulting in coastal erosion affecting the entire fishing community. Demonstrations were held and candidates were asked about their stance regarding the problem during the recent Lok Sabha election. These campaigns are continuing in trade union meetings. Unfortunately, mainstream political unions are not taking a stance against the harbour; only independent unions are taking it up. The other issue is related to early warning. While no timely warning was given during Cyclone Ockhi, now every small event is declared unsafe and people are not allowed to go fishing – this has impacted livelihoods. Many fishworkers have been forced to leave their homes and stay in camps. They have been raising this issue from a women's perspective in the joint trade union sessions.

Nalini Nayak made a clarification about infrastructure requirements. When the West Bengal group talked about lack of infrastructure, it referred to the poor infrastructure in the kotis (camps) where fisher families go and stay during the season. It is literally a new village that has been set up. They use big boats for fishing and the fish are then dried. In these areas, the water and sanitation arrangement is different. In Kerala and other places, infrastructure concerns relate to problems inside the market.

Elizabeth from Kerala said counselling sessions for women and children who lost their family in Ockhi were required and mentioned that the welfare board was giving more to men than women. The union was also working on gender-based sanitation designs such as provisions of hooks to hang bags inside toilets.

Maharashtra

Ujwala Patil of Maharashtra Machimar Kruti Samiti said the committee had been working since 2009. It had been operating in Mumbai since 2010, following the oil spill in the harbour after two ships had collided, resulting in a 15 day ban on fish sales. At the time fisherwomen had asked, 'if we don't sell fish for two weeks, what will we eat?' Subsequently, a market study had been carried out by ICSF and it had learnt about the issues related to market spaces, the rights to these spaces and the places where women fishworkers sat and sold fish. The ICSF study on markets argued that there were 106 markets of which 61 were formal and the rest were private or street markets. The findings were discussed with the women. Women from the pre-harvest sector also joined in and began fighting for their land rights. They looked at the Mumbai regional plan, 2013 and demanded to know where their spaces were. Their rights were secure in pre-independence times and were lost steadily after independence. In 1961, there was a takeover of land as Mumbai expanded. But the koliwadis remained with their drying spaces. After the CRZ (Coastal Regulation Zones) Notification came into effect, access to drying land was increasingly encroached upon. During development plan consultation meetings for road expansion projects, land was to be taken over and street vendors moved. They called for mapping of street vendors so that

even during road expansion, space was provided for them in the development plan. The wholesale market spaces and fishing villages also needed to be mapped and included in the CZMP (Coastal Zone Management Plan) and registered in the name of the community trust. Consultations were now going on in all districts. It was found that over time, koliwadadas had expanded into government property but the Revenue Minister had assured them that their status would not be disturbed. They had completed the mapping of 41 koliwadadas in two districts. UjwalaPatil said the women sitting alongside her had been very active in the committees and it was their continuous follow-up that had helped. She said the next step was to rope in the youth to take over their work. Since the ban on plastics and thermocol, insulated fish-boxes were in great demand. She pointed out that many social security schemes could not be implemented in Maharashtra because of the norms related to BPL (below poverty line) and called for redefining categories.

SESSION 2: GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN THE NATIONAL POLICY ON MARINE FISHERIES 2017 AND THE SSF GUIDELINES

Chairperson: V.Vivekanandan

Presentation: Nikita Gopal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFT

The afternoon session began with a short video on the SSF Guidelines.

Nikita Gopal started her presentation, stating that the National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF), 2017 covers the entire marine sector. In the preamble, it says that the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is 2.02 million sq. km, the annual harvestable potential is 4.412 million metric tonnes, marine fishermen are 4.0 million (as per National Marine Fisheries Census 2010); so where are the women? Women do not even figure in the preamble. Marine fisheries are a source of food, nutrition, employment and income – not just for men but women too. Fisheries are highly diverse, but predominantly consist of small-scale and artisanal fishers as indicated in the video just seen. Marine fisheries are not inexhaustible – they are subject to over-exploitation. The policy aims at a healthy and vibrant marine fisheries sector, for present as well as future generations. Thus the policy is community-centric. This policy is going to guide the management of the marine fisheries sector for at least the next ten years.

Where are the women in marine fisheries? It is known that they are present in post-harvest and pre-harvest activities. When she asked if women were involved in harvesting, there was a loud assent from the audience. She wanted to know if they also participated in auctioning and management and pointed out that they had community and family roles as well.

Nikita Gopal then looked at portions where women were mentioned in the policy and the opportunities they could get from it. Many points were given in the strategy. With 62 clauses, it was a big policy broken down into many paragraphs. Point number 48 in the policy dealt with gender equity. Rather than going through each clause, she said she would discuss those points where gender mainstreaming could be done. In the whole policy, women were not mentioned and with so many fisherwomen, gender mainstreaming had to be ensured.

Under fisheries management, there was a reference to tenure rights of traditional fishermen; a demand to secure tenure rights for fisherwomen could also be made. There was a mention of areas reserved for traditional fishers: for fisherwomen, it could be argued that this referred to areas traditionally used for drying fish. While territorial use rights were mainly related to water, this point could be used to demand women's rights over certain land areas. The policy also stated that the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management would be promoted – in the film, three men were shown; by right there should be three women too.

With regards to mariculture, the policy said small fishing communities, fishermen groups and fishery cooperatives would be encouraged. Here, fisherwomen could take it up, either through their own groups or cooperatives. Availability of safe finance was something that everybody agreed on and the policy had suggested that marketing through fishermen-run and/or state-run harbour-based cooperatives must be strengthened. Marine

environmental pollution was another issue that affected the entire community. She referred to the Kerala group which had discussed how port development had affected the community, their homes and livelihoods. This was, therefore, an important point: development of ports sometimes led to erosion and adequate safeguards had to be put in place.

With respect to welfare measures, she said the policy stated that the current welfare measures should be continued. Since the policy also talked about support for restoring livelihoods after calamities and strengthening ban period compensation, this could be demanded. It was known that some fishery cooperatives were good while others were not, but could be strengthened through skill development, technical and financial support. The Government was also poised to promote public finance to fishermen so that they could get credit on easy terms and conditions.

Nikita said the policy recognised only post-harvest activities by women and did not take other activities into account. Women could be encouraged to take up small-scale fishing as was already being done by some women. Gender justice was mentioned as one of the pillars that the overall strategy was based upon. In post-harvest activities, retailing and drying/ curing were mentioned. While SHGs were explicitly mentioned, there were other organisations such as cooperatives and unions which should also be included. Opportunities in other provisions could be explored to mainstream gender. For example, since many women were involved in net making, they could be involved in mesh size management.

Women harvesters should be counted as fishers and should also be involved in co-management, as resources were common such as drying areas on beaches and other spaces like vending areas in markets etc. There were some issues that impacted the whole community such as pollution and hence, women could be actively involved in all aspects of community development such as infrastructure development and development of climate change management plans. There was a need to ensure women's inclusion in all schemes such as those related to social welfare, credit etc. She concluded by asking women to ascertain where they saw themselves in the policy.

A participant from Kerala wanted to know what to do about vending on the highway as it was a dangerous activity. Nikita said there was only one sentence in the policy stating that post-harvest facilities should be provided. She said a new policy on post-harvest processing and marketing was coming up. Such concerns could be reflected in it as they were important and since she was a member of the team, she would try to take it forward. Another participant from Kerala said they were unhappy to be categorised as 'allied' fishworkers and wanted the term 'allied' to be removed.

From Maharashtra, a participant said the ban period was for 140 days and they needed income generation methods for that period. Nikita said since the ban period compensation was mentioned clearly in the policy, they could put forward their demand. However, the primary push should be for recognition as fishers.

Nalini Nayak pointed out that ten years ago, Maharashtra and Gujarat did not know about ban period compensation as this was not a BPL scheme and required registration. V. Vivekanandan said in many states, mechanised boats did not get compensation during the ban period, and the criteria appeared to differ from state to state. He felt there was an institutional gap in Maharashtra. The agencies responsible for collecting compensation and distributing it were cooperatives. Since they were managed mostly by big boat owners who were not eligible for compensation, they were not interested in passing it on or finding out who was eligible and obtaining it for them. While migrant fishers from fishing communities managed to get it through their societies, those from non-fishing communities did not manage to obtain compensation.

Jesu Rethinam said in some districts of Tamil Nadu, women were included but in others, they were not, as ban period compensation was based on the ration card. Widows getting old age pension were also excluded from such compensation.

There was also confusion over terminology – the Malayalam word – *matsyathozhilali* referred to all those in the fish chain. Fishermen were largely into harvesting. The gender neutral term is fisher, explained V. Vivekanandan.

In Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam district, after the post-tsunami survey, women fish workers in the value chain are to be issued identity cards. For now, their details have been taken.

A participant from Kerala said women should get first rights to buy fish at the landing centre and that only fishworkers should get identity cards to avail welfare schemes. When women from Maharashtra asked what they should do if fishery cooperatives did not take in women members, Nalinisaid since they were members of women's unions, they could go through this channel to access schemes.

SESSION 3: WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO TENURE AND ROLE IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Presentation: NaliniNayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust

NaliniNayak began by asking the meaning of gender equity.

“Equal respect and equal pay”, said the West Bengal group while representatives from Maharashtra said, “Equal rights of representation in front of authorities, government etc. Women from Tamil Nadu said, “wherever people are vulnerable, where ever it is needed, they should be given an added advantage. The Kerala group said women should have an equal voice as men in the decision-making process and in expressing opinions.

Nalinisaid if all of the above points were present, it could be described as gender equity. This was not stated in the NPMF although they were strongly mentioned in the SSF Guidelines and hence should be used when needed to pressurise the Indian government, as it had accepted these guidelines. The SSF Guidelines always talked about fishing communities and fishers (men and women). In small-scale fisheries, men and women played complementary roles, therefore, women's rights and their spaces should be protected and women's work in fisheries should receive inputs in terms of investments and technology, just like men. When one participant said that actually they get nothing, Nalini said these statements should be used for lobbying.

The SSF Guidelines specifically mention marginal and vulnerable groups and the ecosystem approach. A discussion on the ecosystem approach followed where different participants defined it as conserving and protecting natural resources, the connection between life on land and sea and the inter-dependency of life – the flora and the fauna – in the ecosystem. Naliniemphasised it was very important to understand and be involved in the ecosystem approach. One participant pointed out that even if men went fishing, women had to do all the preparatory work. Another said it was the women in the family who understood the changes required for the family while a third said that as women, they knew the importance of the womb for 'life' when it was equated to the ecosystem or habitat. Participants from West Bengal said the community needs to control its greed.

The discussion then moved to changes associated with greed – the demands for dowry which were becoming stronger in some places in Tamil Nadu with demands being made during death ceremonies as well and the increasing violence against women. Nalinithen said CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) must be put into practice – where there was no discrimination on the grounds of sex, and no violence in the workplace or mobility or education. She concluded that small-scale fisheries would only be sustainable if all these issues were properly implemented.

She then made a short presentation on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and discussed the meaning of tenure. Citing Sundarbans as an example, she said that if one had rights to an area, one needed to manage it. But fishers were not the only ones using the area, others such as woodcutters and honey collectors were also using it. So, many people have a right to the resource and the question, therefore, was how to sit together and manage it.

Milan from West Bengal said in Sundarbans there was the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Committee but this comprised people who were not dependent on the resources of the Sundarbans and had become informers against fishers. He felt such a committee should have fishers as members. Nalini pointed out that they were so busy with their daily lives that they did not have the time to read large documents to be part of committees. They had to become aware, understand and speak up, everywhere. The solution was to be there and negotiate, to know and defend their rights.

Monday, 19 August 2019: Day 2

(Present Scenario in Coastal Communities)

SESSION 4: HEALTH AND EDUCATION LEVELS IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Chair: NaliniNayak

Presentation: Nikita Gopal,Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFT

Nikita Gopal's presentation began by showing how education and health were important indicators of the overall development of any community. While indicators in education could include numbers opting for primary, secondary or higher education, health indicators included the birth weight of children, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, vaccination rate and so on. While numbers were available, it was more important to look at percentages. In the case of the four states present, it could be seen that the literacy rate (primary education) had gone up from 67% in 2005 to 72.5% in 2010. In Kerala, it had fallen very slightly from 72.8% to 72.6%. In Tamil Nadu, it had fallen from 66% to 63% while in West Bengal it had increased from 45% to 62%. Looking at the figures between men and women in the fishing community, it was seen that more men than women were educated in primary, secondary and above secondary education. The number of unschooled men was only slightly lower than women. Many men were going to school but not many went beyond higher secondary levels of education.

Nikita then examined the state-wise figures for the four states present.

Kerala: The maximum numbers of educated people in fishing communities were from Alleppey and Ernakulam districts and the percentage had gone up between 2005 and 2010. In Malappuram, it was falling. In the capital, Thiruvananthapuram, it was just 60% and has fallen from 65% in 2005. Nikita suggested the group from Thiruvananthapuram should introspect to find out why more men were educated than women. In Ernakulam and Alleppey it was almost the same but it was markedly different in the other districts.

Maharashtra: There was an increase in literacy in all districts though it was very small in Sindhudurg. Nikita said the very high percentage in Greater Mumbai was probably due to some error in the data collected and would have to be checked. Looking at the difference between educated men and women, a huge gap could be seen and there were a large number that were uneducated.

West Bengal: Literacy had increased in three coastal districts but seemed to have fallen slightly in Howrah in 2010 compared with 2005. Nikita commented that one expected higher literacy levels in areas closer to the city. The figures for PurbaMedinipur were not available for 2005 and it was 61 percent in 2010. As far as educated men and women were concerned, the pattern was similar to other states. The percentage of uneducated men and women was much more in West Bengal, the highest among the four states here.

Tamil Nadu: Chennai had seen a significant fall in literacy and so had some other districts and there was a need to check the data and the reasons for this. As in other states, male literacy levels were higher than female.

Looking at the absolute numbers across the four states, the number of unschooled males were highest in Tamil Nadu but looking at percentages, West Bengal had the highest percentage of males with primary education and the second highest, just a point below Tamil Nadu, of unschooled males. In case of women, the absolute numbers of women in all four categories, achieving primary, secondary, higher secondary education and the unschooled was highest in Tamil Nadu. Looking at the percentages, more women in West Bengal dropped out after primary school whereas women in Kerala opted for secondary and higher secondary. In case of unschooled women, the percentage is highest was in West Bengal, followed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Kerala.

Nikita asked participants what they understood about the situation on the ground regarding their communities.

In West Bengal, the general observation was that women's education was regressing from the higher secondary to primary level. Overall the women were less educated. In Tamil Nadu, many men died early and so boys had to take up the profession from the time they were in the 8th or 10th standard. Girls were often stopped from going to school when they reached higher secondary school for cultural reasons, related to travel distances etc. While bicycles were given, girls had to travel in groups. Boys sat in groups on culverts, resorting to eve-teasing and abusive language. Using buses meant only for girls to travel was tried out in some locations, but even that did not work out. Parents were scared of sending their girls for long distances to study. The same problem seemed to exist in all states. In Maharashtra, higher secondary education was free. In rural areas they studied up to higher secondary but in urban areas they went beyond that. Participants felt the numbers in the data shown regarding Maharashtra, appeared to be a little low as they were much higher now. A point mentioned by participants from Kerala was that when both parents went to work: the father to sea and mother to vend fish, the eldest daughter stayed at home to take care of the household and her siblings. Sebastian Mathew wanted to know whether the younger siblings are getting a chance to go to higher studies? A participant from Kerala agreed that earlier, this had been the case and the younger ones had got an opportunity to go to school. But boys did not go beyond secondary education as they went to Gulf countries as labour; girls were getting more educated and becoming nurses, doctors etc. Eve-teasing had not been experienced earlier but was increasing now in villages and could be linked to mobile and internet usage. When marriages occurred, usually boys were less educated than girls, and did not allow the latter to work because of the difference in their status.

A comparison between the state-level figures with all-India numbers indicated that the total was 94% in Kerala whereas it was 72% in the case of fishing communities. For Tamil Nadu, it was 81% and 63%, for Maharashtra it was 82% and 72% and for West Bengal it was 76% and 63%. There was clearly a long way to go to catch up with the national figures that were based on the 2011 census. Based on a small study, the general observation was that there were more unschooled women than men. The reasons were many. Access to educational institutions was a problem. If the schools/ educational institutions were near, more children would study. Primary schools were less than 1.5 km away whereas professional colleges could be 20 km away. Other reasons included family difficulties and economic reasons.

Nikita said a small study on health which looked at life expectancy, administration of vaccines, birth weight of infants, incidence of common diseases and special ailments among adults and children etc., found that the average life expectancy of fishers was 65.5 years ranging from 62.8 years and 68.2 years for males and females, respectively.

She said while there were plenty of government initiatives for child vaccinations, the study discovered that vaccination schedules were often not followed and the age and duration, was not properly recorded. Reasons for discontinuation of vaccinations varied from traditional beliefs, lack of awareness about the availability of vaccines, lack of time to access vaccinations, lack of sufficient dosage of vaccines at the locality and poor reliability of vaccines provided by government agencies. The birth weight of infants on an average was found to be around 2.72 kg for males and 2.67 kg for females. The most common diseases among the respondent families were fever and body ache. Major diseases among the children included fever/flu, body ache, diarrhoea, gastro-enteric disease, skin disorder etc. Incidence of diarrhoea was also high among them.

In case of fish vendors, the study found several issues such as backache and head ache mainly associated with posture. The same problems were seen in processing, especially those related to hands because of constant use of cold water. Urinary problems were also seen because of not passing urine for many hours due to lack of sanitary facilities.

In case of access to healthcare, it was often found that distance led to non-treatment or delayed treatment of diseases. Distance to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) ranged from 1.67 km to 8.31 km in different states while the distance to hospitals ranged from 4.32 km to 21.3 km. Even in the PHC or hospital, the paramedic or doctor could be missing; PHCs were also afflicted by lack of medicines, poor cleanliness, lack of access to drinking water and sanitation.

Naliniconcluded by stating that health and education were being discussed due to their importance to the women, children and communities and as could be seen from national averages, fishing communities were very backward. It was essential for women to know about these things so that they could take them up in their movements as well.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FISHERFOLK: A HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE VARIATIONS ACROSS STATES AND FISHERY ZONE

Presentation: V.Vivekanandan

Looking at fishing communities from a different angle, V.Vivekanandan said broadly, the socio-economic status of fishing communities started declining as one moved from Mumbai down south towards Kanyakumari and all the way up north till one reached Kolkata. While this could sound provocative and controversial, an explanation was possible. Pointing out that in this session, the discussion was about fisher women's status, socio-economics, health and education, he said, women's status was directly related to the community status. There could also be gender-specific factors at play in each area.

Factors that affect the socio-economic status of fishing communities could be classified into three. The first group included fishery factors that were related to resource availability, technology and scale of fishing, markets and the history of fisheries development. The next group included social factors such as the origin of the fishing community and its place in state politics and society – these two were connected. The last class related to the general development trajectory of the state in which the fishing community was located.

Showing four pictures, he asked participants to identify where the boats were from. The Maharashtra group identified their large boats. The Kerala group pointed out the long traditional canoes (kattumaram) of central Kerala, south of the Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes. Vivekanandan said the kattumaram was from Vizhinjam but was also seen in Kanyakumari. There were different types of kattumaram such as the Visakhapatnam, Kanyakumari and Chennai models. The last one, claimed by West Bengal, was actually a picture from Chittagong, Bangladesh. Vivekanandan pointed out that the marine fishermen from West Bengal were originally from Chittagong. These were the four major traditional boats in the marine sector from India, he said.

He asked the Tamil Nadu and Kerala groups if they knew why fishermen used small kattumaram and did not go in big boats. The fisherwomen from Tamil Nadu and Kerala said it was a good sailing craft, more suited for sailing near the shore though some said that even with sails they could go upto Sri Lanka and return, as the sea was also deeper. They gave a number of reasons including natural feature and fishing area differences. Vivekanandan pointed out that till the 1950s, even the big boats did not have engines and were only sailing boats, something that the kattumaram people might not realize. Bombay sail boats used to go fishing for 7-10 days.

He asked the Bombay group if they knew why their grandfathers did not go in kattumarams for fishing. They said with the growth of Bombay, fish that used to be plentiful near the shore, reduced, especially due to pollution and so they had to go further away to fish. Vivekanandan pointed out that this was true for the last few decades, but what was the situation before that? Participants pointed out that since fish were not available nearby, they had to go further and use bigger boats. In West Bengal, participants said they used small boats and the larger boats came to Bengal only after the 1970s but these boats went long distances, they were not for near shore fisheries. A participant from Tamil Nadu said earlier, they used to go in kattumarams and catch flying fish, and the catch would determine marriages and dowries. In Maharashtra, in Raigad and Palghar, the emergence of refineries and power plants had caused the stoppage of fishing.

Looking at natural factors that affected fishing and choice of boats, Vivekanandan showed an image that showed the distance from the village to continental shelf. Whatever existed beyond the 500m depth was referred to as deep sea. Though it was the husband or brother or father of the women present who caught the fish, they would have heard from them about the sea. He asked if they knew where the maximum fish were obtained.

The Kerala group said the maximum fish were available at 50 to 200m. Vanitha from Tamil Nadu talked about 200m where there was a reef and good fishing grounds while Valarmathi said there were small fish nearby, while one had to go deeper for the bigger fish; for big fish they went deep, for small fish they fished close to the shore. Maharashtra representatives said in Sindhudurg, the sea was naturally deep, 50-200m depth, and so even with non-mechanised craft, they got plenty of fish. Participants from Bengal also said maximum fish was obtained at 50-200 m depth, but in the Sundarbans, they got fish very close to the shore. Vivekanandan proceeded to explain that sunlight for photosynthesis could penetrate the sea only upto a certain depth and hence, maximum marine life existed in the continental shelf. The small fish were mostly found close to the shore. The bigger fish could be a little away. And the biggest fish that ate other fish were deep in the sea. Some of the large fish ate huge amounts of fish. Weight-wise, maximum fish were available in the continental shelf area.

Vivekanandan then explained how the continental shelf varied from state to state. Visually, it was easy to see that the continental shelf was wider in the west coast and narrower in the east coast. Generally, both, along the east and west coasts, the shelf was narrow in the south and became wider towards the north. In Gujarat and Maharashtra, the shelf was wide as it was in northern Odisha and West Bengal. The reason was that the formation of the shelf had taken place over millions of years with rivers such as the Indus on the west coast and the Ganges on the east depositing sand and silt into the sea. He said according to the CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Institute), India's fish resources stood at about 3.8 mn tonnes upto 100 m depth equivalent to 86% of its total resources. 90% of its resources were available in the shelf area upto 500 m depth. The EEZ had 5 % of the resources. The ocean was common to the whole world but coastal countries had been given powers upto a certain distance from their shore. Territorial waters which extended to 12 nautical miles (nm) from the shore fell under the responsibility of the state government while from thereon to 200 nm, the responsibility fell on the Central government and was referred to as the EEZ. In this area, each coastal country could exploit economically in terms of fishing, mining and other natural resources. Ships of any country could pass through this area without permission but they could not undertake any fishing, mining or energy extraction without the permission of the coastal country, India. Thus, while the 500 m depth line is a natural line, the EEZ is a legal line.

Next he discussed how the socio-economic development was related to the issue of resources in the continental shelf. Since the shelf has 95% of the fishery resources, people with more shelf area will have more fish in the sea. Showing a map specially prepared by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) marked with the distances from the shore to the edge of shelf, he said in Mumbai, for example, where Rajashri was from, her family members could go upto 268 km to set their dolnets and other nets to fish. Vanitha's family from Chennai, having a small motorboat, on the other hand could go only upto 50 km to get good fish. This showed the difference in the nature of fishing. If Milan Das from West Bengal wanted to go fishing, he could go upto 150 km. Technically, Valsad in Gujarat was 372 km from the shelf.

In agriculture, Vivekanandan said it was known how many people could live off an acre of land, so it could be calculated if they had enough land to have a good life. Similarly, a detailed calculation was made by dividing the total shelf area with the number of fishermen. When mechanisation began, this area (north) had the maximum shelf area per fisherman. In Kerala and Tamil Nadu, though the shelf area was less, the fishermen population was much higher. In Kerala (and south Karnataka) the upwelling phenomenon and the Chakara (mud banks) phenomenon exist and therefore, productivity was very high in the southwest coast, compensating for a relatively narrow continental shelf. Another significant natural factor explained why the kattumaram was used down south and big boats up north. In Kanyakumari the sea was very rough whereas in Mumbai and Bengal it was controlled by tides. The sea level went up and down in Mumbai and Bengal while in Kanyakumari waves came and crashed on the shore.

The kattumaram is the best fishing boat to cross waves; it gets thrown up but does not capsize; it always floats. The net is tied to the kattumaram; the fisherman jumps out, sets it and goes fishing. Because of this, in southern India, open beach fishery has kattumarams or small boats that can cross waves. The combination of natural open

beaches and strong waves makes the kattumaram or small boat most suitable here. In the north of the coast, there are tides, instead of waves, and hence, creeks. Fishermen fish during high tide and also return during high tide. One more natural factor is the number of commercially exploited species. In the south towards the equator, the diversity increases. In Kanyakumari, fishermen commercially exploit at least a hundred different species. The maximum species are in the south and as one moves northwards, the number of species actually decreases. So kattumaram fishing is also good because large quantities of any one species are not caught; just small quantities of many species. This is how there is the nature-technology connection. In Mumbai, with the dolnet (with just one type of net), four or five important species are caught and they are able to live on it for the whole year. In Kanyakumari, for every fish there is a different type of hook and net. Fishing methods are also highly diversified here. In Kerala, kattumarams exist from Thiruvananthapuram till Kollam and after Neendakara, it is the big boats. Historically, they depend only on three species: oil sardine, mackerel and shrimp. The traditional fishing scale is much higher.

Coming to the main point and ignoring Gujarat, Vivekanandan said his thumb rule starts from Mumbai which has a long history of fishing. The resource availability per fisherman is very high. Hence, when mechanisation of fisheries began in 1950, Maharashtra had fewer fishermen and more resources. Northern Maharashtra – Thane, Palgar, Greater Bombay, Raigad – districts have historically depended on the Bombay Duck and dolnets because the Gulf of Khambat acts like a funnel. The tidal current is strongest in the northern part of Maharashtra. The Bombay Duck catch and associated fish catch are very high in that area and traditional fishing productivity is also very high. Mumbai also has one of the best fish markets in India. So, a combination of high resource availability per head, very good price for fish, and fishing method so finely suited for their catches result in the fishermen of this area being the most prosperous along the entire coast, at least fifty years ago, though today they may not be able to get as much fish due to pollution. Another point with regard to Maharashtra is that because of the initial conditions, almost every household in many of the villages owns boats, meaning that the crew is coming from somewhere else. This, he pointed out, was also the basis for migration. Because the resource was there, everybody could become a boat owner. There is, therefore, not enough labour. Labour first came from south Maharashtra and now it is coming from Andhra and the rest of India. That is the historical basis of fisheries development. Vivekanandan said, fishery-wise, looking at the resource availability and the number of people dependent on that resource historically, at least parts of Karnataka are historically doing well, particularly South Kanara and now Udipi. Mechanisation has helped and most fishermen have become boat-owners.

He said there were mostly small-scale fisheries in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Even in Alleppey and Ernakulam, historically, the long boat was labour intensive. Where resource was high and population density was low, there was great benefit to mechanisation. But in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the population density was very high and hence the per capita fish catch was low. Tamil Nadu fishermen coped with this reality by migrating as labour and also by going everywhere with their boats. Tamil Nadu fishermen on the east coast went upto Bengal, Sri Lanka and other places. For Andhra fishermen too, the catch was low and they were migrating to Gujarat and Maharashtra. Thus, by and large, starting from Bombay, the status of fishermen tended to decrease, and as one went up the east coast, it actually worsened.

Coming to Odisha, Vivekanandan said the coastal fishing community was a linguistic minority. While the southern part was Telugu speaking, the northern part spoke Bengali. Therefore, they did not have local importance and were marginal to local society. They came in different waves and settled there. In Andhra, West Bengal and Odisha, marine fish markets were poor as they mainly had inland fish. Marine fish demand was low. This means the market is not favourable for them – they have to send it to Chennai, Bombay etc.

The development of Gujarat and West Bengal was quite different with not much of a market for marine fish in either state, until the advent of the all-India market and mechanisation of fishing. Their fishing has developed in the last two or three decades. This has become a capitalist development with one family having many boats. There is, thus, a very different development in these two states with the domination of rich owners. But the labour is not rich. Even in Bengal, it is people who have come in different waves of migration from East Bengal,

East Pakistan and Bangladesh. So they are also a sort of a minority and at a disadvantage. The composition of the fishing community of the north-east coast of India is also the reason why their socio-economic status is very poor, he concluded.

Nalini thanked Vivekanandan, observing that the points he had raised were extremely important. At least now there was a better understanding of how fishery was related to the economic level of the community. She pointed out that when everyone was working together, it was necessary to understand how each state was different.

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN FISHERIES: BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR WOMEN IN FISHERIES

Presentation: P.S. Ananthan, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFE

Nalini Nayak introduced the subject stating that while Nikita Gopal had spoken about education and health and V. Vivekanandan had explained the reasons for socio-economic differences, Ananthan was going to expound on the available schemes, the central budgeting for fisheries and how much of it went for the welfare of women etc.

Ananthan began by saying that gender budget was a new concept in India. Its practice had come into existence in the last ten or fifteen years, at the central and state level. This would be looked at first while after that some of the central and state government schemes implemented in the four states would be examined to see how many of them were women-specific and the provisions that were available.

Ananthan explained some of the terms: Budget referred to a financial statement. Every year the central and state governments allocated money for different expenditures. Gender budget was a budget from a gender point of view pertaining to how much money was spent on women beneficiaries. In India, like elsewhere, the concept had also evolved. From 2005-06, the Government of India introduced gender budget statements as part of the annual budget. It was important to note that the gender budget was not separate.

The rural employment scheme was a good example to gain an understanding of the gender budget. The Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme (MEGS) was the first to ensure that every adult willing to do unskilled manual work provided he/she were above 18 years of age had the right to work. Based on its success story, India implemented MGNREGA across all states. The difference was that while in Maharashtra, the scheme was open to all adults, both men and women, in the case of MGNREGA it was for one person per household and was not gender-specific, at the time it was introduced. After the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and others put pressure, now the rule is that at least one-third of the beneficiaries under NREGA must be women. This is an example of, how in a scheme or programme, gender sensitivity or budgeting or benefitting women or involving them, is done. It can be applied at the central, state, panchayat or department level, like the fisheries department, or even to a single programme such as MGNREGA; or to an existing or new programme; or to a legislation or law. This is because, as a concept, it looks at anything through a gender perspective or from women's perspective.

Wherever financial allocation is involved, it is referred to as a budget. In India, at the central government level, there are about sixty departments. In each department, it is compulsory to constitute a gender budget cell which is headed by a Joint Secretary level officer. Six people from the plan, policy, account and budget divisions of the department form an internal committee, the gender budget cell, which looks at all the programmes of that division and examine how much money is going to women-oriented schemes or women beneficiaries and prepares a statement every year. This has also been implemented at the state level by many states. In India's central budget, during the last ten years, a gender budget statement called statement 20 is also presented. It has two parts: Part A includes Schemes with 100% allocation for women and Part B includes Schemes/Programmes with 30-99% allocation for women. Programmes where less than 30 percent of the money is allocated to women are not included in it. In about thirty departments like Rural Development and Ministry of Fisheries, it is given separately. Some Ministries such as Information Technology and Power do not have gender-related programmes

and so a gender budget is hardly prepared. The Outcome Budget is a progress card on how Ministries have used the outlays or funds announced and explanations for the various bits of information.

Ananthan explained the budget allocations in the fisheries department. The central Fisheries Department was earlier the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. In the last five or six years, there have been no separate women-oriented programmes or components in central government schemes. After the budget statement, only about 5-6% of the total allocation is spent on women-oriented beneficiaries. An instruction from the Central Government to all the States is that in all state programmes, at least 30% or one third of the money should go to women beneficiaries or women-oriented programmes.

There is now a major change in central government schemes. Till 2017-18, there were more than a dozen schemes in the Central Government; in the last year they have combined many programmes and clubbed several under one umbrella programme called the blue revolution scheme. There are seven components in the scheme: (a) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and its activities, (b) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, (c) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations (from earlier three schemes), (d) Strengthening of Database and Geographical Information System of the Fisheries Sector, (e) Institutional Arrangement for Fisheries Sector, (f) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and other need-based interventions and (g) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishers. INR 3,000 crores has been allotted for 5 years from 2016-17 to 2021-22, but the year-wise breakup is not available.

For all components, there is a ceiling. Thus, for any proposal, the total admissible Government subsidy (Central and State) will be limited to 40% of the project cost for general category beneficiaries and 60% of the project cost for weaker sections like Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women and their cooperatives. Earlier they had subsidies that varied from 25% or 75%. Women and women cooperatives may receive upto 60% subsidy. In the case of the Blue Revolution, the allocation for each scheme or component has been increased, mostly in aquaculture but also in marine sector: for e.g. if one is buying a boat, the per boat cost has been increased but for each state the total allocation has been reduced which means that the number of beneficiaries have been reduced to half. They have increased the per-unit allocation, but the total allocation is the same or has been reduced. The fund utilisation in Maharashtra is usually less.

In the recent 2019-20 Budget, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has been introduced. It is not clear how it is different from the earlier welfare scheme and whether the allocation to this scheme will continue or change. Ananthan said it would probably take some time to get clarity as the new ministry was settling down. Reportedly, this programme is expected to address almost all aspects of the fishery sector. This year, about INR 800 Crores of the INR 2800 Crores was allotted to the new ministry for the fisheries department.

Ananthan then took up a few schemes for discussion. He said Blue Revolution scheme of the Central Government, has a provision of 75 % grant-in-aid to women's SHGs for the creation of modern hygienic fish marketing infrastructure. This is available for retail fish markets and transportation infrastructure; and interest subsidy is available even for a loan that is taken for the remaining part. He felt that this was something which the women/ SHG/ cooperatives should utilise in post-harvest activities.

All the programmes are implemented through the state Fisheries Department. There are two types of schemes – some that the Central Government funds which are implemented through the state department while there are other schemes that each state runs independently. Some states have specific schemes to address their own needs. In Maharashtra, there is hardly any scheme specific to the state and the government is implementing only centrally-sponsored schemes. But in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, there are dozens of schemes with or without central government funding.

Ananthan examined state-wise schemes beginning with Maharashtra. This state has the centrally-sponsored Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD Oil scheme. The criteria state that the fishing boat owner should

belong to the BPL category. But they certify all boat owners under the BPL category. Similarly, the VAT on diesel is also reimbursed. It is available for all boats but there is a ceiling. There is a district-level scheme for training fisher youth but implementation is poor with hardly 15-20 youths being trained. Another scheme is 'Concession in electricity bill for ice factories and cold storages of fisheries co-operatives'; some cooperatives are running ice factories and in some cases women are involved. Another scheme has a provision for a token amount if fisheries cooperative societies are set up by men or women. With regard to registration of women's cooperatives, it is done by the Registrar of Cooperatives since the Department of Fisheries is not a registering body. There is no bar on a group of people registering a cooperative. Another scheme is assistance on the purchase of fishery requisites which exists throughout India; now individual allocation has been increased but total allocation has been reduced. Other schemes related to infrastructure are also in existence but none of them are currently women-oriented in the marine fisheries sector.

In Kerala, there are many programmes. These include the Group Accident Insurance Scheme, Old Age Pension Scheme (also there in Tamil Nadu, is not restricted only to fisherwomen and is available to all women), Pension for wives of deceased fish workers (unique to Kerala) and Saving-cum-Relief Scheme. NBCFDC and NMDFC Self-Employment Schemes are unique to Kerala. These are term and microfinance loans provided to eligible members of primary societies by channelising funds from National Backward Classes Development & Finance Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC). Self-Help Groups, Women Empowerment and Micro Credit through credit linkages with NBCFDC and NMDFC with interest rates of about 6% are also available. Matsyafed Input Security Scheme is meant for boat owners. Other schemes of interest include death of allied workers, fatal disease, marriage assistance and SSLC cash award assistance implemented by Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Fund Board. Ananthan requested participant feedback on budget allocations for these schemes, the demands made and whether they were being met.

A participant from Kerala explained the practical difficulties they faced when they approached officials for a scheme. They were hustled around for signatures and made to run from pillar to post. As fisherwomen, they had limited knowledge and access and would soon get frustrated with the process before reaching their objective. The accident insurance scheme was beneficial but they were not getting it. They were not aware of the scheme regarding compensation on the death of allied workers.

Overall, lack of awareness was a strong issue. Jesu Rethinam wanted to know about a previous scheme in Tamil Nadu connected to insurance where the death of a woman ensured payment of INR 20,000. She wanted to know if the current scheme mentioned was linked to insurance. Ananthan clarified that all schemes related to death or disability were linked to insurance and they were looking to ensure 100% insurance in the fisheries sector.

Another participant from Kerala said as allied workers, many of them were not part of the welfare scheme, and therefore could not avail it. With regard to marriage assistance, some had applied, but when they made enquiries, they were told that documents were lost or some such reason was provided by the welfare board.

Ananthan said there were also many other programmes but few beneficiaries and so it was necessary to know how many people had asked for assistance, how much was spent etc.

A unique scheme in Kerala was the Theeranaipunya scheme which sought to equip women fishworkers below the age of 30 for the future at the rate of INR 12,000 per head. Nikita added that this scheme was implemented through SAF (Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen) which had tied up with CIFT to train women from coastal villages for about three months in different areas; during the training they were given a stipend. Assistance for acquiring their own building for business was also a scheme not found in any other state. This was a duplication of earlier self-employment programmes and some other microfinance loans, part of which were being carried out by NBFC or Matsyafed, and were being given through SHGs or other groups.

The amount allocated in Tamil Nadu for the National Saving-cum-Relief Scheme (NFSRS) for Marine Fishermen, is higher because the State's contribution is higher. About two lakh fishermen have

received assistance under this scheme during the last year. The group accident scheme is also available across the states, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojana (PMSBY) is providing insurance coverage for accidental death, missing, permanent / partial disability of fishers and is being implemented through FISHCOPFED (National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Limited). Motorisation of traditional craft, Issuance of Biometric Identity Cards to marine fisherwomen is present in all states for fishermen but is probably unique to Tamil Nadu for fisherwomen. Online Registration of Fishing Vessels is also a centrally-sponsored scheme but the progress of each state is different. In Tamil Nadu, it appears to be complete but in Maharashtra it has not been done. State-Sponsored schemes include Financial assistance of INR 5000/- to Marine Fishermen Families during Fishing ban period, Special Allowance of INR 5000/- to Marine Fishermen Families during Lean Fishing Season, Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for Marine Fisherwomen, Tax Exemption on Sale of High Speed Diesel to Fishermen and Subsidised and Tax Exempted Industrial Kerosene to Traditional Crafts. Daily Relief to Marine Fishermen apprehended in other countries is a scheme unique to southern states – particularly deep sea fishing boats – like a one off scheme – because of the Sri Lankan conflict. It is upto the state government to formulate schemes as per demand – that is a take-home lesson. The Corpus Fund, extending financial assistance to pursue higher education to the Children of Missing / Deceased Fishermen due to Shooting during fishing is unique to Tamil Nadu. Even though Gujarat has a similar kind of problem, they don't have such schemes.

Schemes with reference to West Bengal were not available except in Bangla and therefore Ananthan could not add them to the list. He requested the Bengal group to talk about unique schemes in their state. Milan from West Bengal said they had an insurance scheme and a saving-cum-relief scheme.

Ujwala Patil wanted to know why the centrally-sponsored schemes were not being implemented uniformly throughout the country. Another participant from Maharashtra said because of the implementation of the BPL criteria, many schemes could not be availed in Maharashtra. Ananthan asked how schemes like diesel subsidy, also meant for BPL persons, were being availed. It meant that someone was taking the interest and certifying them as BPL families so that they could obtain the subsidy.

Vivekanandan pointed out that the diesel subsidy mechanism differed from other schemes. Diesel subsidy was taxes forgone by the state. There was no account. The state government just absorbed the loss and did not take the tax. So there were no cash transfers. But if funds had to be allocated for a scheme taken from the Centre, then the BPL criteria became a block. He said the BPL Criteria and how it affected different schemes needed to be examined.

Ananthan explained that if the total income in the family was less than INR 10,000 to 12,000 per month (INR 300-350 per family per day), the family was considered BPL. In north Maharashtra, maybe trawl boat owners and purse seiners were not eligible but there were also small boat owners, fish vendors who should have been getting benefits from this scheme, but were not. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, these schemes were being routed through fisheries cooperatives, so the fund was channelled through these cooperatives. In Maharashtra, if a hundred of the 200 people in a cooperative were from the BPL category, those eligible under the BPL category should get benefits. For this, the cooperative federation should put in a demand through the state, which evidently they have not.

Nalini brought the session to a close stating that it was necessary to know more about the situation in each state with regard to schemes. Sitting in the groups in the afternoon, she said more could be found out so that more demands could be made.

Group Discussion 1 (Concurrent state-wise): Social development needs of coastal communities

Question: How can health and education indicators of fishing families in your state be improved? - Suggestions to Government

Group a: Maharashtra

Group b: Kerala

Group c: Tamil Nadu

Group d: West Bengal

The reports of the group discussions are available in the Appendix.

SESSION 5: WOMEN IN FISHERIES

Presentation: Nikita Gopal

Nikita Gopal spoke about the work CIFT has been doing with the fisherwomen over 10-15 years, specifically regarding two projects she has worked with. One was funded by the Department of Science and Technology(DST) and the other by NFDB. Both were action research projects entailing interaction with the community with something they thought would be useful for them. In the project funded by DST, work started in 2009, well before the project began formally in 2016, with a group of fishers who harvested clam. In the Alappuzha district, in the Vembanad Lake, there is a small island called Perumbalam, which is not connected by bridge and is only accessible by boat or ferry. Along the island, about 250 fisher families depend on clam fishery. Ten years ago, they did a diagnostics study there on the request of an NGO working in Perumbalam to see whether it was possible to cluster the clam fishers. This was how they first came to the village. In the village, fishers used scoop nets to collect the clam and bring them to the shore. Women sorted them in front of their houses, boiled the clam for about two hours and then used sieves to separate the shell and meat. Then, they went to the market in the mainland and sold them to retailers or wholesalers. This fishery was mainly for the shell and not the meat. The shell went to the lime industry. It was a traditional activity, unhygienic because it was done in front of their houses; there was no safety and women spent hours doing it. The question was if some intervention was possible to improve the clam processing process, and if clusters could be made to do the processing collectively.

In 2016, they got funds from DST based on their project proposals. The arrangement was such that they had to work with local collaborators. They took on board the local panchayat which became fully involved and a local NGO - Harita Farmers Club – comprising a group of young men and women working in the village – tried to see what could be done to actually improve the process. After collecting the clam, it was kept in flowing water (in the backwaters, in tanks) for about 18 hours (overnight) without any feed in a process called depuration.

During this period, since the clams take in only water and no feed, they get cleaned. Depuration can also be done in tanks and each can hold fresh clam up to 100 kg. The water is taken from the backwater as the water for depuration has to be the same as the water the clam lives in; filters are used. The water is filtered, pumped into a small overhead tank and then let into the tank with clams and allowed to flow out. Next, the clams are steam cooked without using water for about 10 minutes. Local firewood is currently available and Liquid petroleum Gas(LPG) may be used in future. An improved model was fabricated using food grade stainless steel to separate the shell and meat. During this process, the clams open and instead of using hands, a small machine was introduced which could separate the meat from the shell and store it. A chill room from CIFT is used. Along with the process, some value-added products such as clam cutlet, clam roll, samosa, mixture etc were introduced based on the demand from women.

Nikita pointed out that all this was not done straight away and showed a series of photographs documenting the process. A number of meetings were held, and after one and a half years of discussions with different groups of people, an old unused building was given to the group for use. The training programmes were organised in CIFT, the clusters were shown how it would look in their village as the whole thing was set up there. The building was modified using civil engineers from the institute. The front portion of the building where depuration took place was to be re-roofed, and the building extended to the back. A lot of help was made available through NREGA. The boiler was kept outside and the cooking unit was installed inside. A small write-up in an MPEDA newsletter brought buyers from Japan. Nikita said the unit had not yet been officially

inaugurated but was working. Using local people, market surveys were carried out on whether the product was marketable. The product was being sent to Qatar; it was not sold domestically as both the shelled and unshelled clam fetched the same price. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the unit was to be handed over to the local society which was registered. There would be a process of handholding but ultimately it would belong to the local community. Members of the society were cluster members. Initially there would be two members from each cluster who would register as a society. The panchayat, CIFT and Harita Farmers Club would play an advisory role for any major decision that was taken. The equipment in the building officially belonged to the DST and was being used on its behalf; the equipment cannot be sold. The MoU will spell out these points. But all day-to-day activities are carried out by the members.

A participant from West Bengal said these clams were available in West Bengal also, and wanted to know if there was a possibility for this project to be introduced there as well. Nikita asked if there were many families involved and was told that there were about a hundred families in the same location. She wanted to know if they were organised and was told they were not. She suggested that the group discuss this later.

The second project supported by NFDB was related to fish dryers. This was being carried out in south Chertala where fish drying was done on beaches. This was a network project that was being carried out simultaneously in Odisha, Andhra, Tamil Nadu and other places. It was a capacity building programme where training was more important than actual interventions. The project focused more on improving drying and training was imparted to this end. Here too, racks were made and given to people, using locally available material. The beneficiaries comprised small groups of women who used to dry and sell their products to wholesalers. The methods used for drying were not capital intensive. In 2011, a small unit was set up with a building for packaging and behind it racks were installed for drying. The process was the same and went to the stakeholder community, establishing rapport, finding out their needs, and then with their help, trying to develop interventions.

Nikita said more important than mere training was ensuring markets for products, and ensuring their standardisation. Women learn how to make products but if they cannot sell them, training is useless. For example, women of Perumbalam first made small batches of clam products and distributed to bakeries. Then they obtained feedback regarding the product. Only then did they increase the sales to each shop. This was how markets were caught. Standardised product, pucca process, branding, maintaining sanitation and hygiene and proper storage – if all these things can be done, then product sale can be ensured. She pointed out that today's customers were picky; they knew many things about food safety and this should be taken into account. She requested women not to ask for training in value added products if they were not sure about where to sell them because women were capable of making much better products than any training could provide.

Group Discussion 2 (Concurrent session-state-wise): Financial and technical support for women in fisheries, from the perspective of the SSF Guidelines and NPMF 2017

Question: What financial and technical support do the women fishworkers in our state need based on schemes available in our state?

Group a: Maharashtra

Group b: Kerala

Group c: Tamil Nadu

Group d: West Bengal

Tuesday, 20 August 2019: Day 3

(Way Forward)

NaliniNayak said in the first session, they would present the reports of the group discussions held on the previous day. In the second session, they would focus on policy and fisheries management. A group discussion on fisheries management would follow. The afternoon session would discuss the way forward.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF GROUP DISCUSSION 1 & 2

Chairperson: V. Vivekanandan

The presentations on behalf of each of the four states were made by the rapporteurs. The group reports are available in the Appendix.

V. Vivekanandan said he had thought there would be a few demands and it appeared that there were quite a few after all. Some demands were location-specific; others could be seen as part of a wish-list for any community: English education was one such example. Some demands were national in nature, some state-specific and others district-specific.

SESSION 6: WOMEN IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Presentation: NaliniNayak

NaliniNayak started the proceedings by referring to earlier presentations by Nikita Gopal and V. Vivekanandan on various fisheries of the coast. She said the government plans for welfare depend on the needs of the people. Demands of the people should also be according to needs. It was incorrect to say that Maharashtra should be like Kerala, or Kerala should be like West Bengal, because the fishery and context were different. The Government cannot be expected to provide everything. The community has to safeguard its own interests. Many things can emerge from collective action. Therefore, it is necessary to first look at collective action, and how it can be supported by the government. For example, in Kerala, there is a demand for hostels for school-going girls. In Kerala, every village has a government school. If teachers or principals were not available and the people were organised, was it not possible to put pressure to ensure that the school functioned properly? Why were hostels required? Many women were probably going early to the market and coming back late and there was some harassment and it was increasing. But these were local boys from the fishing village. Could the government stop this? It was the community's responsibility to act.

She said this meeting included only four states because women in these states were organised. The organisations in the state should take action; the government was not going to act. India had some of the best laws regarding harassment and violence which must be used by people and organisations to protect women. Women in the meeting had come as representatives of organisations and it was time they thought of the strength of their organisations, their responsibilities as organisations and how the government could be made to listen to them. As organisations, they could work differently with the state.

The next session was important because of the need to think as organisations. Nalini said in that in the first session, Nikita had explained some aspects of the NPMF from women's perspective. Today, the aim was to look at the larger aspects in the policy, especially regarding fisheries management. According to the government, the national policy was for sustainable development, upliftment of fishers and gender justice. This was done with the perspective that fisheries should last in the present and future, and should be achieved through fisheries management.

She asked participants what they understood about management. The Tamil Nadu group said it was administration of something and taking decisions on how to administer it. Kerala participants referred to the Malayalam word '*paripalanam*' which meant safeguarding, protecting. Seeta from Kerala said depending on the

area, it was the methods used for catching fish and controlling them. The Tamil Nadu group said in Tamil, the word *melanmai* was its equivalent and it meant looking down and taking care. Nalini pointed out that in each language there were different words and terms for management. Referring to Seeta's point regarding management of fisheries, she said if fishery was to be sustained for the future, there was a need to understand how to relate to the resource. Resource did not refer only to the fish but everything related to them such as life in the sea, the mangroves and habitat.

The policy specifically refers to co-management. Milan from West Bengal said it refers to people and government coming together to manage a resource. Nalini asked who these 'people' were. Seeta from Kerala said on the one hand, there was the government and on the other, there were people who included actual fishermen, trade unions, NGOs etc. Nalini wanted to know why NGOs or trade unions should be part of the 'people'. Milan from West Bengal said if trade unions were made part of fishers, then they could represent them, but not NGOs, as they worked on projects. The Kerala group said the reference was to fishing trade unions and NGOs related to fishery conservation. West Bengal participants felt that 'people' referred to those who depended on resources and were dependent on them for their livelihoods. Tamil Nadu said people referred to men, women, youth, old people, children and disabled. The West Bengal group said they were referring only to primary stakeholders. There could be varied stakeholders. Thus, if there was water, then transporters were also stakeholders. Milan went on to explain that stakeholders were defined as those who depended on the resource for primary livelihood. Others were secondary stakeholders. Nalini said it was necessary to be clear while referring to 'people'. Some had direct use of a resource, others had secondary use. The importance of each group varied. So there was a need to understand who depended primarily on a resource, who depended secondarily on it and their relationship with the resource.

Milan from West Bengal pointed out that the government tended to use this term politically as well. Thus they even termed Tatas as stakeholders. Hence, there was a need to think of fishers as primary stakeholders.

Nalini explained that co-management was the coming together of all primary stakeholders to sit together for a discussion. After discussions, rules were made and applied. A monitoring process helped to ensure that rules were followed. Next was communication with each other. The whole process was co-management. Sometimes it might not be what one wants, not what one thinks is the best, but one has to see what is best for all. She said if they could not reach this level collectively, it was incorrect to make any demands on the government. It was necessary to decide first what they wanted, what could be done in the village and then ask the government to meet their demands.

After community consultations, it was necessary to go to those who worked politically in the community as it was well known that unless local politicians were involved their demands were not likely to reach the government. This was especially true in states like Kerala and West Bengal where there were so many political parties, trade unions etc. So first there must be an agreement amongst the unions and all of them must agree to work together.

The next point of importance, Nalini said, was the ecosystem approach. Maharashtra representatives explained it as the approach through which the habitat and biodiversity was protected while they carry out their activities and occupations. Habitat referred to natural resources such as vegetation, forests etc.

Amala from Kerala said there was a habitat for life in the sea which was made of plants, different types of organisms, small and big: they need to protect the whole cycle. Nalini said it meant that if they were looking at the ecosystem approach, they must consider all these aspects related to the sea while fishing, otherwise fisheries would not be sustained. She recalled the image shown by Vivekanandan about the continental shelf in a previous session. Farisha from Kerala explained that sunlight permeated only to a certain extent, in the shallow areas upto 50m, which was where most fish were found.

Nalini wanted to know if most fish were available at this depth, should they all be caught. Should trawlers be placed there? The answer was a resounding no. Participants from Maharashtra said in the 50 m depth area where most fish were found, the mesh size needed to be controlled so that small fish were not caught. Vivekanandan pointed out that the Ecosystem Approach, according to the FAO, also included human beings; this was missing in the image shown on screen. Nalini said there was also a need to think of the Protected Areas where human beings were not allowed to enter or fish.

Another important concept Nalini introduced was the Value Chain approach. She showed a picture of different workers – fishermen, women vendors, headload workers, some fish plant workers with aprons, processing people, delivery people who went in their big trucks to cities and people who carried fish to the market. She explained that from the moment fish were caught to the time they reached the consumer, all the steps in-between were called the value chain. The fish were caught, women sold them, fish plants processed them, delivery people took them to consumers; at each step the fish becomes more and more valuable which was why it was called the value chain. These words must be understood by all so that they could be used in the proper context in discussions with the government.

Nalini said in the policy it was stated that as part of management, fishing effort must be managed and asked the participants what they knew about it.

Vasuki from Tamil Nadu said ‘effort’ included the number of boats, where they were going, net-sizes, diesel consumed, engine power used: all of which are used in catching fish. Nalini agreed that effort management meant number of boats, size, number of nets, mesh-size, how much was caught – all had to be managed. She showed pictures of boats in congested fishing harbours and said they were too many and had to be controlled. This was difficult but this was fisheries management.

The next point from the policy related to biodiversity conservation. Biodiversity refers to all living organisms that exist. Taking care of these organisms is biodiversity conservation. Area-specific management is the method where the place and resources are to be protected as a whole. Thus, in the Sunderbans, the mangroves should be preserved; in Odisha, the turtles should be preserved – for that area there should be specific management, to preserve and conserve resources available explained a West Bengal participant.

Agreeing with examples and extending them to fisheries, Nalini explained that the management practiced in Gujarat or Maharashtra could not be applied in Kerala and Kanyakumari, for example, as they each had their unique continental shelf, habitat etc. which meant that each area required a different management plan.

A participant from Tamil Nadu said ‘area-specific’ did not mean only state level or even district level; the habitat changed from village to village and hence management had to be location-specific.

Showing a picture of a chaotic landing centre, Nalini said the national policy stated that such landing centres need to be managed. Women could play a major role in managing landing centres and the markets they frequented and were familiar with.

She concluded the session stating that the purpose of the session was to understand some of the terms used in the policy so that when the women went back home, they would be able to use this knowledge.

Group Discussion 3 (Concurrent state-wise): Fisheries Management

1. Has your government announced any fisheries management measures? If yes, Please name them.
2. Do we have too many fishing vessels in our waters? If yes, what do we need to do?
3. Why are fishers getting arrested in neighbouring countries?
4. Are there any agreements to fish with neighbouring countries?
5. Do you think women should have a role in fisheries management? If yes, why?
6. Is the fish in the market hygienic? Good for consumption? If not why?

7. Are there any committees in your state to discuss post-harvest issues and if so is your organisation a member of such a committee? (Harbour management committees/co-management committees / market committees)
8. Who are the members of the committee?
9. Are women the main players in the fish trade? If no, why and what support do they need ?
10. What kind of trade associations do women in your area have? Or how is your organisation participating in trade issues?
11. Do you know the price of fish at various markets in your district? Do you feel this is necessary? Why?
12. Is there a need for the policy for post-harvest fisheries in India? If yes, why?

Presentations of Group Discussion

After an hour's discussion, the rapporteurs of the four state groups made presentations on behalf of the groups. The reports are available in the Appendix.

PLENARY: STRATEGIES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Chair: Nalini Nayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust

In the last session, Nalini asked the women participants how the move forward was to be planned.

West Bengal

The West Bengal group said their organisation was already active in the state and was already raising various demands at the block, district and even state level. They had earlier been demanding 20 percent of the budget allocation, but now that they discovered that the allocation was actually 30 percent, they will go back and make a fresh demand for the requisite percentage. At the National Level, they had two specific demands: i) that the BPL criteria associated with all the schemes should be removed and ii) that a special women's budget should be prepared at the national level.

Nalini wanted to know which forum they planned to use at the national level. Milan, speaking on behalf of West Bengal said three years ago, they had proposed a national platform for women and were now renewing their proposal again as a national platform was required so that demands could be raised at the national level. Nalini wanted to know if there were any other organisations in the state, apart from their own for women in fisheries. Milan clarified that theirs was the only organisation at the state level in the coastal areas of Bengal since 2015.

Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu Women's Fishworkers Union engages with fisherwomen, understands their needs and raises demands on their behalf. After attending this workshop, participants felt they needed to enhance their knowledge before they raised their demands. They wanted to return to their towns and villages to adopt a greater in-depth method of examining issues, hold regular meetings and look at action-based plans. They wanted regular communications with other state groups to learn more about their history and culture. A platform at the national level would serve not only to raise demands but also for cultural exchange where women from Tamil Nadu could fish, sell fish with women from Kerala, go to the kotis in the season; and in turn, invite other fisherwomen to Tamil Nadu to be part of their culture and help promote understanding with their counterparts from other states. Media communication was required between different communities through publications, radio and other media where they could interact with each other and learn the important news from each other's communities.

The Tamil Nadu team also clarified that there was only a single state-level organisation whereas all the others were at district or local levels. Jesu Rethinam said participants suggested taking up one or two issues along with other states to try and exert their influence collectively.

Nalini asked the Tamil Nadu team if, at the state level, there were other organisations that needed to get together. Jesu Rethinam replied that there were member organisations of the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) and other federations. As part of any meetings or discussions, they were called and there was interaction and interfacing, though it needed strengthening.

Nalini asked if they had come up with any issues that they wanted to highlight between the four states as they had said that a national platform was necessary for raising issues collectively. The Tamil Nadu team said issues had not been shortlisted but any issue could be decided upon and taken up for discussions. For example, there was a need to lobby for women's quota in harbour committees, panchayats etc. If there was a quota, it should be implemented and if there wasn't, there should be lobbying for women's space with regard to decision-making in fisheries management. This should be taken up, if possible, with other states.

Kerala

They felt that first of all, there should be a state level platform. In Kerala, it was a tricky question as there were state level and women's organisations; almost all of them had trade unions. So, the first step was to form a state level platform, followed by district and panchayat level platforms. The Kerala team said once they returned home, they would try to discuss these issues with other members of their community and spread awareness and sensitise them so that they could also put forth their demands. The Kerala group strongly supported the formation of a national platform, and the Tamil Nadu team's demand for representation in harbour and market management committees. They suggested that a beginning should be made by raising some common demands regarding women's issues and participation. As the fishing community was found to be educationally backward in almost all the four states present at the workshop, it could be taken up as a common demand.

Maharashtra

In Maharashtra too there are various federations and unions. At the national level, there should be a gender-specific forum – a forum for women so that their demands can be placed for the purpose of gender justice. Each state should have a union which is affiliated with the national union. From state to district to taluka to village, there should be a connection. This way, all grassroots level issues can be taken up at higher levels for policy making.

Nalini asked for a clarification from the Maharashtra group. She wanted to know if they wanted a union from bottom to top. The Maharashtra team said that there should be an organisation like NFF which has a national platform for policy making. Nalini clarified that NFF is a national union, not a platform. There is a difference between a platform and an organisation at the national level. She explained they were not creating any national unions. NFF, SEWA and others were national unions. Participants from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala say that they wanted a space where they could interact and lobby on women's issues. The platform suggested was not structured or registered. The Maharashtra team then said they were clear that they needed a platform to raise their issues, but were not clear how they could build it.

Nalini said it was necessary to clarify the term 'platform'. Platform referred to a number of groups which came together because they had a clear common agenda. When they came together, they needed to decide the kind of organisations that would sit together. She pointed out that several participants belonged to different kinds of organisations such as cooperatives, unions, NGOs etc. A platform only meant that they had agreed to come together and would decide who else would join, how often they would meet and what their agenda would be. The coming together was for two or three major points which could be pushed for various reasons at state and national levels. The decision regarding expansion could be made later but the first question was to decide the kind of groups that would be admitted to such a platform.

The West Bengal group said at the state level there were different unions, cooperatives, SHGs and all of them should come under one umbrella and there should be one representative from the state and national level.

Participants from Tamil Nadu said at the national level there should be representations for SHGs, unions, cooperatives, federations and NGOs that work on women's issues.

The Kerala team said there were women's and religious organisations working in the fishery sector, trade unions, both independent and those from political organisations, NGOs and SHGs of women fishworkers which should also be included in the platform. Maharashtra participants said district level representatives from every federation, association and union should get a chance for representation at the state and national levels.

Nalini asked if the various groups had clarity regarding the organisations that needed representation. Jesu Rethinam said it was not clear how they could come together. Nalini referred to the presence of a wide variety of organisations: religious organisations, NGOs and others and said there was a need for clarity. She emphasised that there should be clarity regarding the issues they wished to raise, how they would take them forward and which organisations should be part of the group. The West Bengal participants said they were clear as there was only one organisation in their state. The Tamil Nadu group wanted only member-based organisations comprising only women fishworkers which would include women fishworkers, SHGs, cooperatives and federations. Nalini then asked them the meaning of 'member-based organisation'. Jesu said organisations that had a subscription and also took up women's issues.

Kerala participants had an intense discussion on whether to include religious organisations or not and concluded that for the present they would not be included. Like the group from Tamil Nadu, they were in favour of member-based organisations which generally worked for the welfare and rights of women fishworkers such as trade unions based in Kerala. Representatives from Maharashtra said a state level forum should be created by taking representatives from member-based organisations who were working for fishworkers so that they could have a clear forum and get the national level platform from the state forum.

Nalini felt it was important to speak about member-based organisations as it provided clarity. It could be any kind of member-based organisation: a cooperative, SHG, women's union. Only member-based organisations would be clearly representing workers. Since they were taking up women workers issues, they should be very clear that the platform would comprise only such organisations. Her conclusion at this point was: Whether they should create a platform at the state level, or build one slowly at the national level; the membership of this platform should be only from member-based organisations.

Nalini suggested that since discussions were at an initial stage and rules had not yet been formulated regarding the functioning of the platform, for the moment each state should decide how many people they would send for future meetings. She also pointed out that nobody was going to fund the platform to ensure that it remained independent. This meant that the parent organisation would have to fund the travel and stay of participants.

Kerala representatives said as they were from two organisations and one representative from each would participate. The Tamil Nadu group also said they would send two participants but a decision would be taken once they returned home. West Bengal representatives also said two participants would represent them. The Maharashtra group said it would like to have one from each district but would decide after returning home and discussing the issue with others. Till things are settled, Nalini said she would serve as convener. She also cautioned them that all issues could not be taken up. Many issues would have to be raised at state level. The session ended with Nalini suggesting that two major issues that could be taken up: i) budgets – how much of the budget allocation that went to women's schemes could be monitored by this platform and ii) compensation for the increasing number of ban days – could the platform work towards demanding more subsidy from governments for non-fishing days, at the centre and state levels?

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Group Discussion 1 (Concurrent state-wise): Social development needs of coastal communities

Question: How can health and education indicators of fishing families in your state be improved? - Suggestions to Government

1a) Maharashtra

1. Health

- a. Proper gender sensitive toilet facilities to be built in landing centres and markets.
- b. Proper water drainage system in fish markets to be installed (Currently there is unhygienic working condition for fishers)

2. First Aid

- a. First aid and medical facilities should be made available at landing centres and fish markets
- b. Every fishing village should have a PHC facility; specifically free treatment for fatal diseases like cancer, and others

3. Infrastructure

- a. Landing centres should have shady platforms for segregating fish
- b. Fish workers should get proper tap water connections with tax benefits in landing centres and markets (for drinking and cleaning)
- c. Subsidised electricity at landing centres and markets

4. Health Hazards

- a. Nuclear plants, thermal plants (E.g. Tarapur Nuclear Power plant at Palghar, Thermal Plant at Dahanu) and chemical industries at Tarapur, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Boisar
- b. Skin diseases, cancer, etc.
- c. Free medical facilities should be provided for victims
- d. Medical insurance for follow-up visits should be arranged as well

5. Medical Camps

- a. Quarterly medical camps to be organised for the fishing community

6. Education

- a. Children of fishing community should be provided financial support for higher education.
- b. Awareness programmes to encourage the fishing community youth to get into allied fishing industries

1b) Kerala

1.1 Education infrastructure

- While government schools have many provisions, quality of education in government schools is not at par with private schools. However, we can't afford private schools. Thus, there is a need to improve the quality of government schools. However, there was also an opinion in the group that government schools in Kerala were of fairly decent quality and this was a perception issue.
- There is a need for coaching centres for medical / engineering entrance exams and other competitive exams. Some members of the group clarified that the fisheries department has started this scheme in 2018-19. However, there is less awareness regarding it.
- There is a need to increase the seats available in the reservation quota. Currently, not all the students from the community get admission on merit. Thus they are forced to take admission in management quota where they do not receive any welfare benefits and are also forced to pay hefty fees and donations.
- The students from fishing community should get the grant owed to them irrespective of whether they are studying in merit / management quota and government / private institutions.
- Currently one of the obstacles for higher education is the high interest rate for education loans. There should be interest free education loans for the fishing community.
- There should be life skill training and job-oriented skill training for fishing community

1.2 Environmental education

- The syllabus should also include knowledge about coastal ecosystem, its conservation and basic information regarding the fishers sector.

1.3 Promoting women's education

- The group strongly raised the need for residential schools for girls in all the districts. Parents do not feel safe sending girls far away especially after 10th. Eve teasing and other harassment adds to it.
- Girl-friendly infrastructure in educational institutions: pad vending machines, pad disposal mechanisms, clean restrooms with functional water supply. School Management Committee should ensure that facilities are well maintained.
- Need for awareness creation among parents for supporting girl child's education. Gender equality starts from home.
- There is a need for menstrual and sexual health education.

1.4 Continuing Education

- In schools, students who are poor performers should get supplementary / additional training / support before exams.
- The group also emphasised the need for a bridge course for coaching drop out children and youth. There should be no age limit for admission. Also, this bridge course should prepare children and youth for SAY exam (Save a Year).

2. Employment

- There should be reservation for fishing community in the jobs in fisheries board and welfare fund.
- There is a need to ensure placement for the youth who complete education, to minimise migration to Gulf countries.
- Widows of Ockhi victims should be given employment suitable for their educational qualifications.
- Women's upper age limit should be increased for (Public Service Commission) PSC examinations by five years.

- Community members must be trained and recruited into coast guard and coastal police. This will also ensure better responsiveness in the system.

3. Health

3.1 Health Infrastructure

- Scanning facilities should be made available at nearby places and at affordable rates. Results should be delivered without much delay either.
- All CHCs (Community Health Centres) must be upgraded to include facilities for beds. Availability of doctors should be ensured 24x7.
- Staff vacancies should be filled and there must be replacements in case of absenteeism.

3.2 Water

- All fishing hamlets should be supplied with clean and safe drinking water. Currently most people purchase drinking water.
- The construction of bore wells should be strictly regulated by the panchayat. Uncontrolled spread of bore wells is leading to ground water depletion and salinity intrusion.

3.3 Sanitation

- In fishing hamlets, houses are very close to each other. When septic tanks get full, foul odour spreads and ground water gets contaminated. However, corporations ignore complaints and only clean tanks of the rich. There should be mechanics to clean tanks at least twice a year.
- There are no proper waste disposal mechanisms in coastal areas. Subsequently everyone disposes the waste in sea / lake / beach. Outsiders also dump their waste here. Plastic disposal should be monitored as well.
- The government should consult the community and include them in the waste management processing including monitoring.
- To prevent ground water contamination in high population dense coastal areas, dry toilets should be popularised. There must be appropriate housing policy for coastal areas.
- There is a need for better drainage systems.

3.4 Substance abuse

- Pan Parag (betel quid/chewing tobacco) and psychotropic substances are sold in shops near coastal areas. These should be raided and stopped. These raids should be conducted with women's participation.
- 90% of the men suffer from alcoholism. There should be holistic rehabilitation for them including counselling support.

3.5. Occupational health issues

- Markets should be updated to have women-friendly infrastructure with facilities.
- There should be free monthly medical camps in coastal areas.

3.6. Violence against women

- Domestic violence is prevalent in coastal areas. This has severe physical and mental health impacts. Psycho-social help desks that offer legal support and counselling should be set up in coastal villages.
- Police should also be sensitised as they tend to brush away these incidents even when a complainant is in immediate danger.
- There should be emergency shelter for women vulnerable to domestic violence.

3.7. Mental health

- Non-institutionalised care and rehabilitation for children with mental health issues.
- BUDs school in coastal areas are adequate to serve the affected populations.
- Frequent / almost daily warningspost-Ockhi and floods are causing panic attacks, inducing fear among fishers. They should be given psychological support.

3.8. Care for the elderly

- Establishment of day homes in the community where elderly could be cared for.

1c) Tamil Nadu

1. EDUCATION

1.0 DROPOUT RATES

- Boys drop out if the male head of the family goes missing or passes away or if the family has to deal with debt payments.
- Boys who take up purse seine fishing in holidays get disillusioned regarding continuing their studies.
- Boys are also highly susceptible to alcohol and gutka (betel quid/tobacco chewing) addiction.
- Girls dropout after puberty or marriage/no safety from eve-teasing and abuse on the way to school. Parents fear sending girls to schools far away from the village.
- In Pudukottai, girls only study until the ninth or tenth standard. Boys too study till the same level and are usually roped into fishwork by then. Girls do net mending, sorting fish. Boys go to fish.
- The 2010 survey is too dated to understand the ratio of education, but experience indicates more girls are being educated in the recent years.
- In Chennai, schools and colleges are nearby. Girls and boys go to school, and many graduate from college. In many villages, like Neelankarai, college boys studying engineering go to college in the morning and then set out to sea in the evening to fish.

1.1 PROXIMITY

- Most villages have primary schools within a comfortable vicinity of 1.5 to 5 km. However, pursuing quality higher education is a problem.
- In places like Cuddalore and Chidambaram, the women from the village travel and live in towns to provide children better education. They travel every morning from their villages to drop their children at town schools, return to their village to care for their husbands and homes and then travel back in the evening to take care of the child. Those with relatives in towns, send their children to towns for a better education.
- Lack of safe transport to access these educational institutions.

1.2 GENERAL ISSUES

Government already has many laws, policies and subsidies in place with regard to education. However, there is a lack of awareness about such laws like Sarva SikshyaAbhiyan (SSA) is a Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86th amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right).

- Social perspective exists that private schools are better than government schools, as English tutoring is of better quality. This mindset pushes parents to take heavy loans to put their children in private schools.
- Even if a girl finishes her college education, often after marriage and children, she is not encouraged to pursue her studies or work.

1.3 WAY FORWARD

- Best Case Scenario - In Keechankuppam, Nagapattinam, there were around 450 students in the government school. Many children became victims of the 2004 tsunami. There were only 150 students left in the school. The government was planning to shut it down. A teacher who worked in Akkarapettai was transferred to the village. He went on a house-to-house awareness campaign about education and the community came together. Today, 650 students study in the school. The school has smart classes and facilities equal to a private facility. Community has also pressurised the government to provide a bus for students to travel safe to the higher secondary school. Schoolteachers also take immediate action against boys who harass girls. Warnings are often announced. Boys are suspended or expelled if there are behaviour repeats after warning.

- The Panchayat and fishworkers' organisations need to organise awareness campaigns about laws and policies regarding education. There are still many first generation students in many families. Teachers need to be made aware regarding issues specific to fishing villages and convene regular PTA (Parents Teachers Association) meetings to increase awareness among parents regarding school activities.
- Most children dropout after middle school because of societal pressure, family issues, transitioning to work, and/or lack of support to continue post-puberty. Specific measures have to be taken to encourage children to continue higher education.
- Communities have to be strengthened to take moral ownership of available institutions and encouraged to demand better facilities.
- Each Panchayat has to have a District Child Protection Committee. This is only for namesake. They are not functional. They need to be trained.
- Counselling services must be available for children in schools to deal with issues like abuse, sexual harassment, stress and dropout rates.
- Training children about puberty, sexual health, and life skills.
- While villages collect high funds for festivals, there has to be fundraising within the community to provide scholarships or transport facilities to students.

2. HEALTH ISSUES

2.0 COMMON ISSUES

- Women - urinary infection, headaches, sore eyes, skin irritation and diseases, back-ache, neck-ache, weakening bones, low haemoglobin, uterine diseases
- Men - boat accidents, cancer, heart problems, alcohol and gutka/tobacco and drug addiction (younger generation, especially)
- Children - diarrhoea, malaria, dengue
- Old age/disabled - General lack of facilities and access
- General issues - lack of health centres, absent nurses or vacancies, proximity to healthcare, lack of awareness about the body/vaccine routines

2.1 WAY FORWARD

- Panchayat and NGO awareness campaigns on biology, health, vaccine routines
- Training one or few women as health and sanitation ambassadors of a village. In the model of training midwives.
- Providing first aid kits to each house
- Providing free sanitary pads or creating awareness about schemes that provide this already
- Filling vacancies in health centres and instituting more health centres
- Removing shrimp farms and similar polluting industries from the vicinity
- Provide free clean drinking water
- Clear stagnant water and garbage in the work and living areas
- Specific schemes to recharging groundwater and reviving waterbodies, canals
- Removing encroachment in canals and drain channels

3.0 SURVEY INDICATORS

- When surveys depend upon sample groups, it can identify common issues. However, house-to-house surveys will help to identify issues specific to each village. The surveys need to indicate issues like addiction, number of women-headed households and debt affliction as key reasons for dropout rates. Surveys need to indicate polluting industries in the vicinity of the villages as a key reason for health issues.
- Data has to be released regularly to the public, especially directly to those people who are surveyed. This will help the community understand what is happening in their village and take measures accordingly.

1d) West Bengal

Tried to analyse the health and education indicators from three aspects:

- What we have
- What are the problems associated
- What are we demanding for improvement based on availability of schemes specially for women fish workers

EDUCATION

In Education

- As per rule there should be a school (Primary/secondary or higher secondary) within 1 – 2 km in every village
- If there are 40 or more children in a village, there should an Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)Centre in that village.
- The Midday Meal provided to children in schools upto class VIII should be healthy and nutritious

What we have:

- Schools exist but are located very far from fishing villages and landing centres and have very poor infrastructure
- There are two seasons in the fishing villages found: i) Khoti season (from October to February) and ii)non- khoti season
- The female dropout rate in schools is higher than the male.
- Midday meals provided are very low in nutrition

What are the problems? :

- Due to far distance, parents do not send their children regularly to schools in spite of the midday meals
- During Khoti season both men and women of the family stay in landing centres, so the elder daughter has to take care of households/elderly at home/ younger siblings resulting in her dropping out of school.
- There is a tendency of early marriage of girls in fishing communities, more specifically at 13/14 years age.
- Since schools are far , parents do not send their girls due to misbehaviour, eve –teasing and such kinds of problems

What we are demanding betterment of the community? :

- During Khoti season, transport facility like pickup and drop should be given to the children of fishing communities.
- Infrastructure of existing schools should be improved with adequate teaching and other staffs, toilets, safe drinking water facilities and the like.
- Day Boarding/Crèche should be created for the children of women fishworkers.
- A special hostel is demanded for girls of fishing communities who are studying from primary to higher secondary level, free of cost from government so that they can avoid the abovesaid problems.
- For meeting the extra educational expenses a monthly stipend should be given to the children of fishing communities.

HEALTH

What we have:

- Hospitals/Primary Health Centres are located at very far distance with very poor infrastructural facilities like inadequate doctors, nurses and other medical staff, inadequate beds, lack of primary medicines etc.
- Toilets exist in fish landing centres but they are not hygienic
- Very few fishing families (only one or two) have toilets at home

What are the problems?

- Lack of government support specially the role of the local government is very poor in spreading community awareness regarding health and hygiene issues
- Lack of information among fishing communities regarding available government medical facilities like supply of free medicines, vaccines and sanitary napkins for women.
- Due to low literacy rate and poverty fishing communities are compromising their daily lives with no or very less medical treatment
- Fishing communities, mainly those who go for fishing in rivers suffer from skin diseases

What we are demanding for betterment of the community

- Every landing centre should be supported with primary medical centres with a trained nurse, primary medical kits etc.
- The Khoti committees should play an active supervisory role in maintaining toilets and keeping them clean and hygienic
- Every family in a fishing villages must have a toilet under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) scheme
- In Sundarbans, mobile health centres cum ambulances are required with trained nurses and other medical amenities
- We also need to introduce eco-friendly ways of maintaining sanitation process as over usage of bleaching powder, phenyl might destroy the environment

APPENDIX 2

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

2a) Maharashtra

1. Employment for Youth

- a. Coastal projects and coastal administration (ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Corporation], Coast guard, navy, thermal power plant, nuclear power plant, etc.) should have 50% employment reservation for young boys and girls from the fishing community. Youth from the community should be given employability skills (free of cost) to become eligible for employment.

2. Solar Lamps

- a. Solar lamps (or any other lighting facilities) to be provided to small-scale fishing women (Rock fishing).
- b. Under which scheme?

In comparison with Kerala schemes.

3. Fisheries development projects

- a. Modern Hygienic fish markets:
 - i. Every landing centre should have auction markets
 - ii. Wholesale markets should be available at district level
 - iii. All fishing villages should have at least one retail market

4. Consultancy Projects

- a. Every district should have fisheries institute for fisheries administration and management
- b. Society for assistance to fisher women should be made at village/district level

5. Fisher's welfare fund board

- a. Maharashtra Fisher's Welfare Fund Board should be established.

6. Old age Pension scheme

- a. Eligibility age for Old age pension scheme should be 55 years

7. Pension for wives of deceased fish workers

- a. Special provision should be made in pension scheme for wives of deceased fish workers.
- b. Single women: Financial support for single women should be made available

8. Saving-cum-Relief scheme

- a. BPL criteria should be removed from saving-cum-relief scheme

9. NBCFDC and NMDFC Self-Employment Schemes

- a. Term loans and microfinance loans should be provided for eligible members of primary societies by channelising funds from National Backward Classes Development & Finance Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)
- b. 85% of the project cost to be financed by NBCFDC in case of Fishers belonging to backward classes or NMDFC in case of fisher belonging to minority communities
- c. 10% of project cost should be met by the state

10. Interest-Free Loans

- a. Interest-free loan for fisher women should be available in Maharashtra

11. Fatal diseases

- a. Fatal disease scheme to be implemented through Maharashtra Fishers Welfare Fund Board

12. Other schemes

- a. Capacity building for new beneficiaries
- b. Awareness campaigns for fisherwomen
- c. Scheme to equip women fishworkers for the future below the age of 30
- d. Technology improvement schemes
- e. Assistance for acquiring own building for business
- f. Branding and marketing support and state-wide exhibition – beneficiary meet

2b) Kerala

1. Schemes, financial and technical support

- There is lack of awareness regarding available schemes. These should be addressed.

1.1 Verification of eligibility

- Currently eligible women are not getting loan available for fish vendors; the gaps in implementation should be addressed
- Strict verification to be done to prevent elite capture through co-operative societies
- Need for formation of separate SHGs for women fish workers , preferably market- centred for fish vendors
- Genuine fish workers - who dry, salt , port, sell or catch fish should be identified through panchayat-based survey
- They should be counted as fish workers and not just allied workers
- They must be supplied with ID cards as well

1.2. Financial support

- Loans should be made interest free to prevent predation by private money lenders
- Loan month compensation should be increased to at least Rs 10,000 from the existing Rs 4,500
- Amount for all categories of pension for fish workers should be increased
- Maternity compensation (post-delivery Rs 650) amount is inadequate; should be increased and process of obtaining should be simplified
- Financial support for marriages should be increased and benefit-delivery should be speed tracked
- During disasters, reasonable and proportionate compensation should be given for property, for coastal erosion rather than fixing compensation at Rs 10 lakhs; compensation should be proportionate to property loss
- Continuous warnings disrupt livelihood; daily allowances of a minimum Rs 600 should be given
- Elderly women fish workers are not eligible for any loans / schemes now. However, they continue to sell fish till 80-90; all active women fish workers should be supported irrespective of age
- Loan amounts for women fishing vendors should be given decided on the basis of whether they are involved in wholesale or retail as the former requires greater financial support
- Matsyafed should deliver pensions directly to fishing hamlets to avoid diversion via cooperative society or post office and also to avoid mistreatment by banks
- Diesel and Kerosene rate and quantity ceiling should be updated to reflect actual needs

1.3 Technical support

- Women experience back pain from carrying loads for long duration; low cost technical alternative for manual carrying should be considered
- To reduce the high cost of transport - Matsya Fed should introduce special buses suitable for women's timings, convenience and routes; buses should have facilities for storing load; women driver policy should be relaxed if qualified candidates are not available and corruption in purchasing buses should be checked
- Online fishing and fishing kiosks displacing traditional fish vendors; women should be given capacity development and must be made part of these new initiatives
- Traditional markets should be upgraded to better facilities to compete with these new initiatives
- Strict quality control of fish imported to Kerala should be undertaken especially those marketed in plastic boxes from Oman
- Women should be consulted and included in coastal and marine conservation schemes
- Inland women fishers and their SHGs should be included in new schemes for inland fisheries and must be given capacity development, equipments, technical and financial support to make use of the new opportunities

1.4. Miscellaneous

- Authorities do not show due diligence in investigating missing persons; process should be made more responsive.
- Housing schemes for the fishing community were well implemented but the recent lifemission schemes clubbing fisheries housing schemes with panchayat schemes has led to a decrease in houses allotted to the fishing community
- Upto 100 metres of CRZ area should be reserved for the fishing community for usage including dwelling construction.
- Overall, there was a pressing demand for inclusion and participation of the community in decision-making, formulation and implementation of the schemes

2c) Tamil Nadu

What financial and technical support do women fishworkers in your state need – based on schemes available in your state?

1.0 KEY ISSUES

- High interest debt due to middle-men agents, marriages, and such functions
- Wasting resources in village festivals instead of using money for village development, providing scholarships for children, developing market space etc.
- Unhygienic and unhealthy methods of sorting, cleaning and selling fish
- Red-tape and corruption at State and Panchayat levels
- Lack of knowledge regarding financial management at work increasing dependency
- Lack of awareness about available schemes and how to procure benefits
- Round-about prolonged processes that cause mental and physical fatigue/trauma
- Schemes that do not meet the needs; e.g. INR 5000 for one family for sixty days ban is definitely not enough to take care of their needs

2.0 FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL NEEDS

- Recognising fisherwomen as fishworkers with ID cards at community level
- Provide compensation for women fishworkers during ban and lean periods
- Provide accident insurance for women fishworkers
- Provide special bus transport from landing centres to markets
- Provide vocational training to start small home-based businesses
- Panchayat and NGO awareness campaigns regarding financial schemes and technical enhancements in fishwork.
- Sheds/Umbrellas for street markets
- Aluminium baskets with lids for street sellers
- Regulate price of fish at landing centres; provide information about prices in other districts and states.
- Provide fibre ice boxes, weighing machines
- Build toilet facilities in markets, on the route of business, in villages
- Training in - financial and business management, marketing, economics, law, cooperative businesses like Amul

3.0 CONCLUSION

Fisherwomen need to be provided training at panchayat levels through NGOs and other organisations regarding steps to take community level action such as:

- Training as health and sanitation ambassadors
- Coming together to divert funds from village festivals to community development
- Pressurising existing committees at harbours and markets for women representation
- Encouraging beach and village cleaning drives and tree-planting initiatives, terrace garden initiatives

Along with the awareness to take community level action, more empowerment will be felt to make demand from government institutions and ensure available schemes are first properly implemented.

2d) West Bengal

What financial and technical support do the women fish workers in our state need –based on schemes available in our state?

Financial and technical support required for women fishworkers based on the schemes available

- Like the centre, the state should also allocate 30 %of the total budget for the development of the fisherwomen community
- Low interest rate should be provided to women to run fish cooperatives besides SHGs to protect them from exploitation by money lenders
- To employ a professional manager with business and managerial skills to strengthen cooperatives
- Infrastructural development needs to primarily focuson special preservation of fish
- To develop and upgrade existing markets for women and the government should also promote marketing of value-added fish products
- Special units should be created in the general auction markets for women fishworkers which can be run by cooperatives

REGARDING SCHEMES AVAILABLE

- Widow schemes and specially Tiger Widow schemes need to be mandatorily ensured by the government
- Old age allowance is provided but number of beneficiaries needs to be increased
- In availing saving-cum-relief scheme the BPL Criteria should be removed for women and this scheme should be made available to all women fishworkers
- Rivers covered with algae need to be re-excavated or cleaned scientifically for fishing
- Preferential access to government waterbodies for women fish farmers; should be provided with all financial and technical support.

Concluding Remarks

- If a nation wants to develop, it has to develop the status of the women
- Literacy rate of the fishing community needs to be increased especially among women
- Eco-friendly and sustainable fishing community and villages should be developed with regard to health, hygiene and hazards
- Besides farming, fishing is the second largest occupation in India, so their development should be given priority by the policymakers and framers of our country
- They should be given respect and recognition from all segments of society
- Women are the marginalised segment of society and fisher women are the most vulnerable. So if it is a question of their development then the policymakers should deal with more generosity and sensitively.

APPENDIX 3

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

3a) Maharashtra

1. Has your government announced any fisheries management measures? If yes, Please name them.

Yes.

Fisheries Survey of India has appointed the Somvanshi Committee: Fishermen represent the committee which has laid down the guidelines for fisheries management. A Government Resolution passed these guidelines on 5th February 2016. A code of conduct for fisheries management has been mentioned in the report and 25 recommendations have been made in these guidelines.

Government institutions like CMFRI, CIFE, CIFT, State Government of Fisheries and MPEDA are imparting training for international export, net training for fish quality and sustainable fishing.

2. Do we have too many fishing vessels in our waters? If yes, what do we need to do?

- Yes, we have too many fishing vessels in our waters.
- The number of vessels should be reduced through awareness programmes.
- One family should own only one vessel.
- New registration should only be allowed following proof of old scrap boards.

3. Why are fishers getting arrested in neighbouring countries?

When fishers cross the line of control/ boundary, the coast guard arrests them. Some fishers cross the boundary unintentionally due to water current while fishing.

4. Are there any agreements to fish with neighboring countries?

We are not aware of any agreement.

5. Do you think women should have a role in fisheries management? If yes, why?

Yes, there is big role for women in fisheries management as they carry out the major work in the preparatory process of fishing vessels; providing water and food for the crewmembers. Women are also involved in the post-harvesting process like loading fish from vessels, sorting, cleaning and preserving them in good condition to maintain fish quality till it reaches the market or the end consumer.

6. Is the fish in the market hygienic? Good for consumption? If not why?

Fish in the market are hygienic, but not up to the mark. They are good for consumption but need to be preserved in better quality ice boxes.

7. Are there any committees in your state to discuss post-harvest issues and if so is your organisation a member of such a committee? (Harbour management committees/co-management committees / market committees)

We are aware of one such committee: The Harbour management committee under Bombay Port Trust represented by fish vendors and boat owners association.

There are awareness programs carried out by central government institutes like CIFT.

8. Who are the members of this committee?

Harbour management committee is under Bombay Port Trust. There are representatives from women fish vendors and boat owners association.

9. Are women the main players in the fish trade? If no, why and what support do they need to be there?

Yes. 80% are women workers.

10. What kind of trade associations do women in your area have? Or how is your organisation participating in trade issues?

- Fisher Women Cooperatives – Women participate in trading issues
- Fisher women unions – All fish vending issues, market issues are addressed
- Maharashtra MachimarKrutiSamiti. It is a trade union where in women represent at the district/state level on all trading issues
- District/State federations

11. Do you know the price of fish at various markets in your district? Do you feel this is necessary? Why?

- We do not know always.
- Yes it is important to know.
- To earn better profits and to run the sale without loss.

12. Is there a need for the policy for post-harvest fisheries in India? If yes, why?

- Yes, absolutely.
- To maintain good quality of fish and better the profits and livelihood of fish workers.

3b) Kerala

1. Has your government announced any fisheries management measures? If yes, please name them

- Mesh size regulation
- Ban on catching juvenile fish
- No new boats for next 10 years
- Control of engine power - limit 10 Horse Power (HP)
- 52 day ban during breeding season
- Ban on light fishing

2. Do we have too many fishing vessels in our waters? If yes, what do we need to do?

Yes, there are too many fishing vessels and there should be restrictions on the licenses issued. The recommendations by the group are as follows:

- Only traditional and genuine fishermen be given license
- Only residents or traditional users be given license (currently rich outsiders are given license and this is leading to congestion)
- Fishermen's groups be given license

3. Why are fishers getting arrested in neighbouring countries?

For crossing borders illegally; the group described two types of crossings: unplanned due to rough weather; conscious due to good catch over there.

4. Are there any agreements to fish with neighbouring countries?

Some in the group opined that foreign vessels are allowed to fish in Indian waters as per agreements made under UPA rule, while others had no knowledge regarding the issue.

5. Do you think women should have a role in fisheries management? If yes, why?

Yes, women should have a role.

Reasons stated:

- Women contribute to a majority of the revenue from fisheries.
- They are part of the entire value chain - including making equipments.

6. Is the fish in the market hygienic? Good for consumption? If not, why?

The overall perception was that fish imported to Kerala from outside (other states, abroad etc.) was often unhygienic. The group attributed this to ammonia being used along with ice to preserve fish. Group members also opined that formaldehyde was being used in preserving imported fish. They specifically mentioned that fish from Oman marketed in plastic boxes was adulterated.

7. Are there any committees in your state to discuss post-harvest issues and if so is your organisation a member of such committee?

The Kerala government has proposed the constitution of a harbour management committee and has initiated discussions in this regard. SEWA is involved in the discussions.

Only a few markets in Kerala have market committees. SEWA is part of some committees. Currently, most market committees are dysfunctional.

Trade unions are called for consultation while various policies are discussed.

8. Who are the members of the committee?

Market management committee: Representatives of various trade unions, municipal corporation officials and ward members

Women representatives are also members but they are not able to attend meetings as they are busy selling during meeting hours. The group highlighted the need to have meeting timings that are convenient to women fish vendors.

9. Are women the main players in the fish trade? If no, why and what support do they need to be there?

Yes. Women engage in wholesale and retail fish trade. However they are not involved in the export process except as labourers.

10. What kind of trade associations do women in your area have? Or how is your organisation participating in trade issues?

Kerala has mostly different types of trade unions - independent trade unions like SEWA; and those affiliated to various political parties. Some religious organisations also have women trade associations.

SEWA convenes a meeting once in three months where problems of women fish workers are discussed. SEWA intervened when porters were demanding a 'bonus' in addition to their regular wage and put a stop to it. The unloading charge of one load was INR 100. SEWA negotiated and reduced it as well. They also raised the demand for a resting place and toilets and managed to get them in some markets. They also campaigned against the rumour that all fish sold in the market was contaminated with formaldehyde. This rumour was hurting the sales.

AITUC facilitates access to benefits through SHGs. They also facilitate access to subsidies and interest-free loans. They have campaigned to fix the floor price and have also conducted awareness sessions for women regarding their rights and the schemes available to them.

11. Do you know the price of fish at various markets in your district? Do you feel this is necessary? Why?

They only have a general idea that the price differs at different markets.

They do not think it is necessary to know as they would not be able to sell at other markets anyway due to high transport cost.

12. Is there a need for a policy for post-harvest fishers in India? If yes, why?

Yes, there is a need. They opined that such a policy would lead to the following outcomes:

- Standardisation of processes all over India
- Create awareness regarding best practices
- Floor price fixing
- Better quality control including prevention of sale of contaminated fish
- Better transport facilities for women fish vendors

They hoped that the policy would include provisions for this.

3c)Tamil Nadu

1. **Has your government announced any fisheries management measures? If yes, Please name them.**
 - There are bans on purse seine and double nets in Cuddalore and monitoring of nets being used
 - Ban on Chinese high-speed engines
 - Stay fishing bans for trawlers in Thoothukudi harbour
 - Protected Area in Gulf of Mannar and a committee to oversee it
 - Precautionary measures in case of natural disasters
 - Trawlers can fish only beyond 12 nautical miles.
 - Protection and ban on hunting sea turtles
 - Protection and ban on hunting dolphins and ban on certain species of farmed fishing
 - Ban on sea urchin and sea cucumber fishing
 - Fishing ban period of 60 days to allow species to grow back
 - In contrast to this, the government encourages fisheries subsidies for mariculture and aquaculture.
 - Seaweed culture, crab culture with subsidies
2. **Do we have too many fishing vessels in our waters? If yes, what do we need to do?**
 - Yes there are too many fishing vessels but exact number is not known.(Participants were shown the number of fishing vessels of different kinds in the state and also the optimal fleet size; the current fleet size was about three times the optimal fleet size)
 - In Akkarapettai and Nagapattinam, there is a rule made by the panchayat that no one can buy a new boat
 - The entire mindset has to change in terms of what can be spend and how much can be got back
3. **Why are fishers getting arrested in neighbouring countries?**
 - There is a general national agreement on not crossing the boundary and staying within the nation's sea area but there are problems when fishers go into the Gulf of Mannar as there is a confusion regarding where the Indian boundary ends and Sri Lankan boundary begins; there is a lot of shooting.
4. **Are there any agreements to fish with neighbouring countries?**
 - In 2018, there was an agreement between Sri Lanka and India, that in case of an arrest by Sri Lanka, the Indian government will not intervene.
5. **Do you think women should have a role in fisheries management? If yes, why?**
 - Yes, because women are the largest part of the value chain.
6. **Is the fish in the market hygienic? Good for consumption? If not why?**
 - No. Not hygienic at all. There are no proper drainage facilities, the design does not account for it.
 - There are no sheds, because of the high heat, fish perish quickly.
 - Lack of protective wear like gloves, aprons.
 - No water.
 - Ice boxes have old ice.
 - Corporation does not clear the garbage.
 - The salt is not clean.
 - Dry fish is not dried in proper clean places.
 - Overall, the product is not really fit for consumption.
7. **Are there any committees in your state to discuss post-harvest issues and if so is your organisation a member of such a committee? (Harbour management committees/co-management committees / market committees)**
 - Women are not allowed into committees and are present only on paper
 - In market committees which are primarily women's work spaces, women are not part of the decision making process
8. **Who are the members of the committee?**

- Only men

9. Are women the main players in the fish trade? If no, why and what support do they need to be there?

- Yes, we have support to be in the local retail space. But in the larger market and business, there are only men
- We are vulnerable to taking our own initiative and investing in a business to start it
- We are not trained towards a business mindset
- Even to attend this workshop, we had to take permission from men in our homes
- Whatever decision is made regarding our business, is not independent

10. What kind of trade associations do women in your area have? Or how is your organisation participating in trade issues?

- SHGs have strengthened them to take economic initiatives on their own
- They are federations
- Women's Union is not taking any specific trade initiatives on women in trade
- The Tamil Nadu Women Fishworkers Union deal with market issues and raise demands regarding market needs

11. Do you know the price of fish at various markets in your district? Do you feel this is necessary? Why?

- We don't know but need to know how economic differences and trade work

3d) West Bengal

1. Has your government announced any fisheries management measures? If yes, please name them.

Yes.

- Use of mosquito net has been banned,
- Mesh size of the net has been fixed
- 61 days of fishing has been banned
- Few species fishing has been banned like shark, Hilsa by government

2. Do we have too many fishing vessels in our waters? If yes, what do we need to do?

Yes.

- Already Government has stopped giving new registration to all fishing crafts. Also we are demanding small kinds of crafts.

3. Why are fishers getting arrested in neighbouring countries?

- They cross the international maritime zone to get more fish like in Bangladesh.
- Also during natural calamities some boats are stuck and take shelter and during that period they get arrested.

4. Are there any agreements to fish with neighbouring countries?

No.

5. Do you think that women should have a role in fisheries management? If Yes, Why?

Yes

- Women should actively participate in management of fisheries. They should stop the use of restricted gears organisationally.
- Women should be more aware in protecting resources. They should look at the resources like a mother.

6. Is the fish in the market hygienic? Good for consumption? If Not, Why?

Not always.

- They get contaminated in the way they are packed and stored in the shore.
- The fish are often sold besides drains and in the street in an unhygienic manner.
- Also due to the use of colour and formalin fish are not good, healthy and hygienic for consumption.

7. Are there any committees in your state to discuss post-harvest issues and if so is your organisation a member of such a committee?(Harbour management committees/co-management committees/ market committees)

- Khoti committee, Co-management committee in harbour

7. a) Who are the members of the committee?

- Both men and women are members.

8. Are women the main players in the fish trade? If no, why and what support do they need to be there.

No.

- Lack of proper infrastructural facilities.
- Problem of financial support.

9. What kind of trade associations do women in your area have? Or how is your organisation participating in trade issues?

Cooperatives and SHGs

10. Do you know the price of fish at various markets in your district? Do you feel this is necessary? Why?

No.

- Yes, it is necessary to have knowledge about the market prices of different areas to get a good price.

11. Is there a need for a policy for post-harvest fisheries in India? If yes why?

Yes, in the last marine fisheries policy it is clearly evident that the policy is in favour of fisher who fish in the sea. So there should be a policy for Post-harvest fisheries also.



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

**NATIONAL WORKSHOP:
THE SSF GUIDELINES AND MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO FISHERIES POLICIES
AND LEGISLATION**

YWCA of Madras International Guest House, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

18 to 20 August 2019

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Sunday, 18 August, 2019: Day 1 (Setting the Stage)	
9:00 – 09:30	REGISTRATION
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Inaugural Session</p> <p><i>Welcome: Shri. Manas Roshan, Programme Officer, ICSF Trust</i></p> <p><i>Introductions for participants and their organisations</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Chair: Smt. NaliniNayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p>GROUP PHOTO</p> <p>TEA-COFFEE BREAK</p>
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 1: Fishworker organisations and their work on gender in fisheries</p> <p><i>Short address by one member from each state</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Chair: Smt. NaliniNayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust</i></p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 2: Gender perspectives in the National Policy on Marine Fisheries 2017 and the SSF Guidelines</p> <p><i>Presentation: Smt. Nikita Gopal and Smt. NaliniNayak</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Chair: Shri. Sebastian Mathew, Executive Trustee, ICSF Trust</i></p>
15:30 – 16:00	TEA-COFFEE BREAK

16:00 – 17:30	<p>Session 3: Women's rights to tenure and role in fisheries management</p> <p><i>Presentation:</i> Smt. NaliniNayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Shri. V. Vivekanandan, Trustee, ICSF Trust</p>
<p>Monday, 19 August 2019: Day 2 (Present Scenario in Coastal Communities)</p>	
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session 4: Health and education levels in coastal communities</p> <p><i>Presentation:</i> Smt. Nikita Gopal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFT</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Shri. P.S. Ananthan, Senior Scientist, Fisheries Extension, Economics and Statistics Division, Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE)</p>
10:30 – 11:00	TEA-COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Group Discussion 1 (Concurrent state-wise): Social development needs of coastal communities</p> <p>Group a: Maharashtra Group b: Kerala Group c: Tamil Nadu Group d: West Bengal</p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 5: Financial and technical support for women in fisheries</p> <p><i>Presentation – Budget allocations for women in fisheries:</i> Shri. P.S. Ananthan, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIFE</p> <p><i>Presentation – Fisheries Departmental interventions for women in fisheries:</i> Smt. Nikita Gopal and Shri. P.S. Ananthan</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Shri. Sebastian Mathew, Executive Trustee, ICSF Trust</p>
15:00 – 15:30	TEA-COFFEE BREAK
15:30 – 17:30	<p>Group Discussion 2 (Concurrent): Financial and technical support for women in fisheries, from the perspective of the SSF Guidelines and NPMF 2017</p> <p>Group a: Maharashtra Group b: Kerala Group c: Tamil Nadu Group d: West Bengal</p>
<p>Tuesday, 20 August 2019: Day 3</p>	

(Way Forward)	
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session 6: Presentation of Group Reports</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Shri. V. Vivekanandan, Trustee, ICSF Trust</p>
10:30 – 11:00	TEA-COFFEE BREAK
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 7: Linking group issues to the current policy and management context</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Smt. Nikita Gopal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFT</p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Plenary: Strategies for collective action</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Shri. Nalini Nayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Smt. Ujwala Jaykishan Patil, Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti (MMKS), Maharashtra Smt. Seeta Dasan, SEWA, Kerala Smt. Jesu Rethinam, SNEHA, Tamil Nadu Smt. Jharna Acharya, Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum (DMF) Smt. Vanitha, Fishmarc, Tamil Nadu Smt. Pooja Kumar, Coordinator, Coastal Resource Centre, Chennai</p> <p>Discussion</p>
16:00 – 16:15	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Shri. N. Venugopalan, Programme Manager, ICSF Trust</p>
16:15 – 16:30	TEA-COFFEE

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS (ICSF)

National Workshop:

The SSF Guidelines and Mainstreaming Gender into Fisheries Policies and Legislation

YWCA, Chennai, India

18 to 20 August, 2019

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