

2.2 Goa State-Level Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Vasco, Goa

9 February 2023

Organizers and Resource Persons

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

Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Session 2: Collective Exercise: Mentimeter

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

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



Session 3: SSF Guidelines Based on FAO

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

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

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

Concluding Session: Next Steps

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

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

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

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