



WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and Indian Marine Fisheries & Fishworkers

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I HAVE TWO SETS OF POINTS TO MAKE

1. WHAT IS WTO?
 2. WHAT IS SUBSIDY?
 3. HISTORY OF FISHERIES
SUBSIDIES
 4. ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
July 2022 WTO AFS
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1. WHAT IS WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION(WTO)?

- ▶ GLOBAL ORGANISATION MADE UP OF 164 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND DEALS WITH RULES OF TRADE BETWEEN COUNTRIES
 - ▶ WTO BORN IN 1995 FROM MOTHER'S NAME GATT (WHO WAS BORN IN 1947)
 - ▶ GATT IS SISTER OF IMF AND WORLD BANK
 - ▶ JOB OF WTO – IF THERE ARE DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS ABOUT TRADE, THEN WTO IS CALLED TO RESOLVE IT
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2. WHAT IS SUBSIDY?

- ▶ SUBSIDY – A TEMPORARY GIFT
 - ▶ SUBSIDY – FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION GIVEN TO HELP OR TO ENCOURAGE SOMETHING GOOD OR DESIRABLE TO HAPPEN
 - ▶ SUBSIDY – USUALLY GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT
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FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM GOVERNMENT




- ▶ GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT
- ▶ POLITICALLY DIFFICULT TO WITHDRAW
- ▶ INTENDED TO SUPPORT LIVELIHOOD OF FISHERS

THIS IS ALSO A SUBSIDY!

- ▶ GIVEN BY COMPANY
- ▶ CAN BE WITHDRAWN EASILY
- ▶ INTENDED TO INCREASE PROFIT OF COMPANY



3. HISTORY OF FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

- a. Debate of Fisheries subsidies PRE-DATES the WTO
 - b. Fisheries and fishers of developed, industrialised countries where HUGELY subsidized right from the 19th century
 - c. So talk about curbing fisheries subsidies today is hugely HYPOCRITICAL
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Frederick List, German Economist of the 19th Century once said:

- ▶ It is a very common and clever devise that when anyone has attained the summit of greatness, he kicks away the ladder by which he had climbed up, in order to deprive others of the means of climbing up after him




d. Finally, the fisheries subsidies debates have been used by countries as a bargaining chip to get other deals and benefits



4. IMPLICATIONS OF WTO –AFS


a. The WTOA on FS, even in its current form, (i.e., without the overcapacity and overfishing pillar) should/will force the Union of India to seriously consider management of the whole EEZ



b. The implications of the WTO-AFS will also have a bearing on the way the regulation and management of fisheries are currently divided between the maritime states of India and the Union Government.

c. The WTO-AFS should NOT result in the stoppage of subsidies.

INCREASE subsidies. But CHANGE THE PURPOSE for which they are being given.



SOME EXAMPLES FOR WHAT
SUBSIDIES CAN BE USED TO CREATE A
MORE ECOLOGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY
SUSTAINABLE
A MORE EQUITABLE
AND
SELF-RELIANT
MARINE FISHERY

SUBSIDIES FOR:

rebuilding fish
stocks



SUBSIDIES FOR:

buy-back
arrangements
for reduction of
capacity



SUBSIDIES FOR:

subsidies for down-scaling



SUBSIDIES FOR:

subsidies for
multiple energy
use



SUBSIDIES FOR:

better facilities
to improve
quality of fish



SUBSIDIES FOR:

Parametric
insurance measures
for compensation of
weather-related
unemployment



SUBSIDIES FOR:

Training for
improving fishery
specific human
capabilities of fisher



SUPPORT FROM BELOW MOST NEEDED INGREDIENT



Scaling Up

Subsidy (₹ million)



State	FY16	FY17	FY18
Andhra	421.75	528.68	546.21
Goa	274.19	100.98	108.53
Gujarat	1061.7	991.16	2114.21
Karnataka	861.58	1381.53	1485.74
Kerala	144.9	329	187
Maharashtra	250.68	263.56	299.7
Odisha	121.85	221	125.8
Tamil Nadu		1959.1	2285.3
Union Territories			
Andaman & Nicobar		6.27	9.93
Daman & Diu		269.15	296.57
Puducherry	4.88	3.33	6.68
Lakshadweep		7.5	12.5
MPEDA		157.51	227.06
TOTAL	3141.53	6053.76	7465.67

Informing global trade watchdog

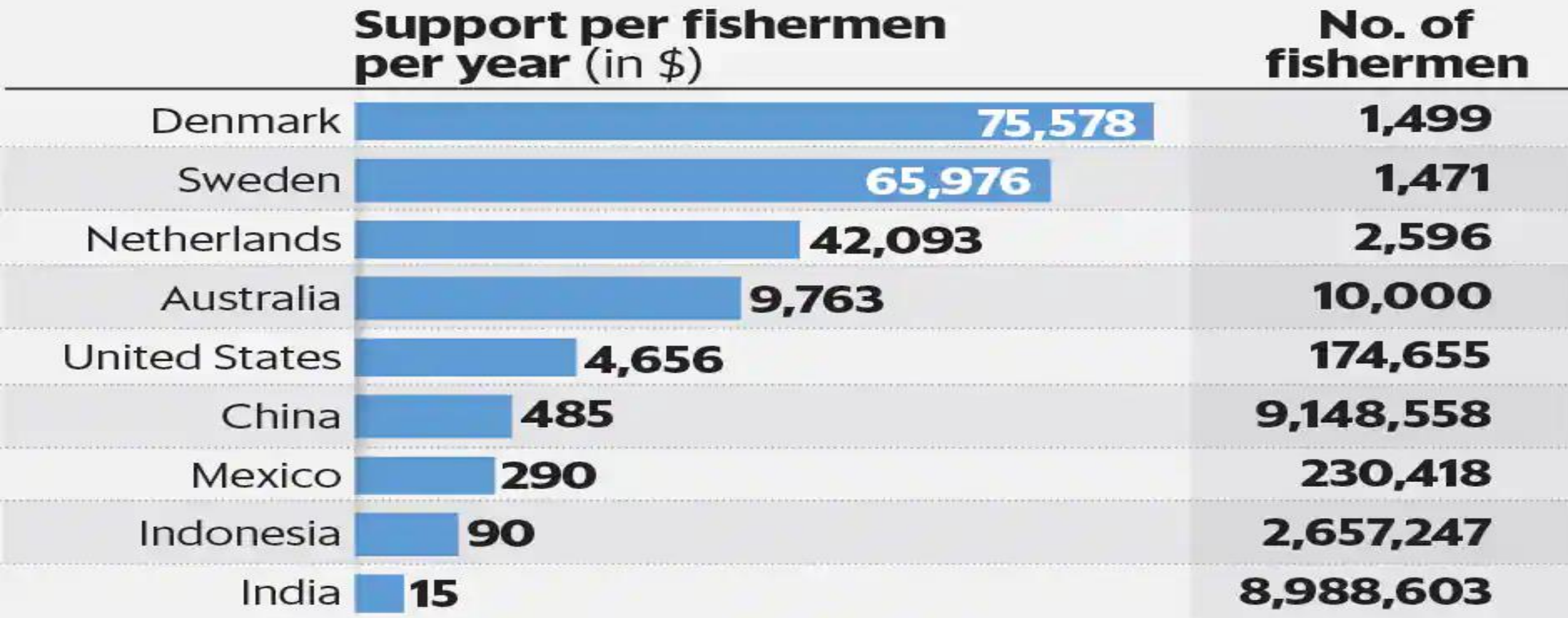
- ▶ India updates WTO on subsidies
- ▶ TN doles out most grants
- ▶ States assist fisherfolk buy HSD oil
- ▶ New schemes on automation, packaging
- ▶ Ongoing schemes to develop marine infra included



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Lopsided deal

India only gives a fishing subsidy of \$15 per fisher annually.



Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation

THANK YOU