



Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries:

Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development
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Theme 1: Securing Sustainable Resource Use and Access Rights

“Sustaining Livelihoods and Creating Wealth”

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Outline

- People and Fisheries
- Fisheries and Livelihoods
- SSF and Sustainable Development
- Areas for Consideration
- Concluding Notes

People and Fisheries

- Fisheries, especially in developing countries, contribute to a range of ways: resource conservation, food and livelihood security, poverty alleviation, and wealth creation.
- Fishery-related livelihoods are complex, dynamic and adaptive.
- Some fishers engage full-time. More commonly, they fish part-time. This leaves time to engage in other activities such as farming and rearing livestock.

People and Fisheries

- Fisheries activities are often very gender-specific with men and women taking on different roles.
- Fishing often shows this high degree of integration with other economic activities at the local level, such as agriculture, trading and the provision of labour.
- While fishers are often poor, the cash income generated by the sale of fish can give them access to basic goods and services such as education, health, food and other assets.

People and Fisheries

- Fisheries can reduce economic and food vulnerability, but they are themselves vulnerable to internal and external influences such as among fisheries activities, multiple water resource use, environmental degradation and climate change.

Fisheries and Livelihoods

A livelihood is made up of the capabilities, activities and assets (including both material and social resources) that contribute to a means of living.

- Household food security – Fish provides important nutritional benefits to consumers.
- Cash income – The money received from selling fish provides access to other goods and services such as health, clothing, education and the purchase of other assets.

Fisheries and Livelihoods

- Employment benefits –millions of people around the world are involved, either full-time or part-time, in fisheries activities as well as other related sectors
- Social benefits – Community managed fisheries can provide income to improve community infrastructure
- Cultural benefits – Fishing is often a very social activity that strengthen community cohesion.
- Reduced vulnerability – Fisheries often forms part of a diverse livelihood strategy, which reduce vulnerability to poverty and food insecurity.

SSF and Sustainable Development

- SSF and MDGs
 - MDG 1 – Eradicate poverty and hunger
 - MDG 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women
 - MDG 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases
 - MDG 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability
 - MDG 8 – Develop a global partnership in development
- SSF – target beneficiaries vs. partner in sustainable development

Areas for Consideration

- Increasing understanding of the different roles of fisheries in the livelihoods of the poor in different contexts, and the issues that threaten their contribution.
- Identifying management arrangements and actions that support livelihood strategies and contribute to reducing the vulnerability to risks of poor people dependent on fisheries.
- Promoting the inclusion of fisheries in poverty reduction strategies through recognition of their importance to the livelihoods of the poor.

Areas for Consideration

- A global network of SSF and contribution from the Southeast Asia
 - Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariat Network (RSN)
 - SSF and responsible fisheries
 - Strengthening community resilience through community organisations for better adaptation as well as better representation and participation in local development planning
 - Right-base fisheries and co-management using group user rights
 - Livelihood strengthening and diversification i.e. supplementary and alternative livelihoods, Fisheries One Village, One Product (FOVOP)
 - Adaptive learning and management in multiple water resource use

Concluding Notes

- To promote sustainable development of fisheries, decision-makers have to recognise the roles and importance of fisheries to livelihoods, the diverse and complex nature of fishery-related livelihoods, and ensure fisheries are sustainable.
- Initiatives and experiences in sustaining fisheries livelihoods and creating wealth developed and implemented worldwide can shape and reinforce future efforts in small-scale fisheries development.

Concluding Notes

- Understanding interrelationship between fisheries, livelihoods and their underlying factors as well as identify available options for better recognition, value and support of such linkages can ensure that small-scale fisheries – *as resource users and the guardian of the sea* - could form strong partnership in the sustainable development.

“ SSF deserves a better recognition and a place to stand in the global partnership in sustainable development.

Better livelihood is an important ingredient of such partnership. It is certainly not a matter of choice.

What it needs is the action. The action that we need to act fast”.