

# **How to promote appropriate and energy saving technologies and practices in support of sustainable and equitable fisheries?**

Report of small group discussion

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# The scope of the discussion

- ↴ The group discussion focussed almost exclusively on the need to find solutions to the problem of high fuel costs and the consequent uneconomic operations that seriously threaten the fisheries sector with particular reference to the small scale sector.
- ↴ Discussions on energy use in the different parts of the value chain from inputs to markets could not be taken up
- ↴ Policy dimensions of energy use was also not discussed

# A categorisation of the suggestions for tackling high fuel costs

- ⇓ Reducing fuel consumption through changes in operations/management measures
- ⇓ Technical improvements to craft and gear
- ⇓ Changes in fishing methods
- ⇓ Alternative energy
- ⇓ Other ideas

# Operational changes

- ⇓ Timely maintenance and replacement of old engines to reduce fuel consumption
- ⇓ Stay longer at sea and use carrier boat system to reduce fuel consumed for trips to & from fishing grounds
- ⇓ Operate at speeds at which max fuel efficiency can be achieved

# Technical improvements

- ⇓ Use of GPS on artisanal boats to reach grounds and return to shore by shortest route
- ⇓ Better gear selectivity to reduce low value by-catch and achieve higher value for catch (improve margins)
- ⇓ Shifting to fuel efficient boats and motors including suiting motors/propellers to boat size and load

# Changes in fishing methods


- ⇩ Shift from active methods like trawling that involve towing of gear and high fuel consumption to passive methods of fishing like gillnets and lines

# Alternative energy

- ⇩ Shift back to sailing with possibility of using improved sails
- ⇩ Develop alternative fuels/energy sources—solar energy, wind turbines, fuel cell, hydrogen, etc.
- ⇩ Use LPG, CNG, etc.

# Other ideas

- ⇩ Collect data on fuel consumption and costs in developing countries/ssf to enable better fuel policy formulation
- ⇩ Improve health of near-shore fisheries by tackling pollution, improved habitat (including artificial habitat) to remove pressure to go farther
- ⇩ Awareness creation among small scale fishers about technology options and best practices



**“The fuel crisis is good for the fish and fishermen. Now the fisherman has to think creatively on how to fish and also conserve the fish”– A Participant**