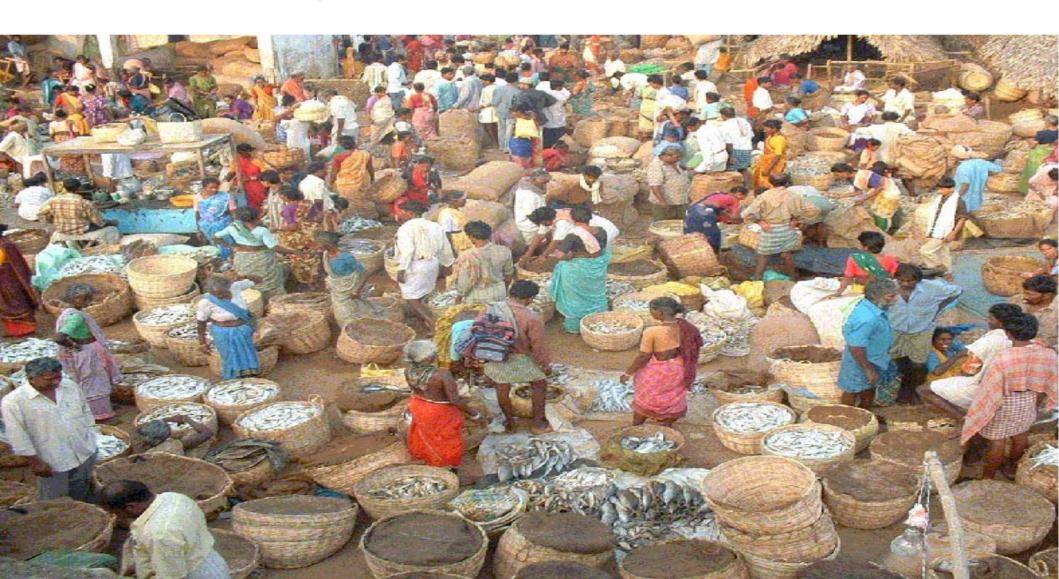
Importance of fisheries for women in developing countries - Current situation and future perspectives



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers 15th June 2016, EU Parliament, Brussels







- The fisheries sector, particularly SSF, is the largest employer of men and women in the maritime sector.
- 84% of all people employed in the fisheries and aquaculture sector were in Asia, followed by > 10% in Africa (> 32 % of all people employed in the sector were engaged in fish farming, concentrated primarily in Asia)
- The traditional, small-scale sector accounts for about 70% of fisheries production vital for food security and nutrition

Women in Fisheries – important in SSF

- Women represent half of the total working population worldwide in the seafood industry as a whole, with fisheries, aquaculture, seafood processing and all related services
- Women's role in secondary activities is 90%
- Globalisation has led to evolving roles
- Women are integral to SSF





Challenges faced by women in developing countries

- Invisibility and under-recognition of women's work
- Limited access to social security, capital and credit and services
- Difficulties in securing their rights as workers, to land
 - rights and access to fishery resources
- Difficult work conditions
- Lack of spaces for decision-making



Changes in recent years affecting women in SSF



- Mechanisation of production and centralisation of landings
- Declining access to fish for processing and marketing
- War over oceanic and coastal resources
- > Fisheries policies focus on production
- Migration for fish farming and fishing
- Aquaculture threat and opportunity
- > Globalisation, trade and competition
- Intra-household stresses and changing gender roles



The way forward



- Promote human rights-based approach - implement the Tenure Guidelines and SSF Guidelines at national levels
- Valorise and legally recognise women's work
- Question models of development that threaten vulnerable groups including women
- Involve women in decisionmaking and management of resources



The way forward (cont...)



• Enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration to address multiple needs

Strengthen women's organisations, build capacities and empower

women

 Ensure women's rights are protected and fair labour codes established

 Increase awareness of consumers in importing countries



