

1. APPENDICES

1.1. Andhra Pradesh State-Level Training Workshop on the SSF Guidelines

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

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Organizers and Resource Persons

- Venkatesh Salagrama, Integrated Coastal Management
- Arjilli Dasu, District Fishermen Youth Welfare Association (DFYWA)
- Surada Rajarao, Fishcon
- Kiran Kumar, Assistant Director, Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh
- N. Venugopalan, ICSF

Introduction

The workshop for Andhra Pradesh was held in Visakhapatnam on 12 November 2022 by ICSF and DFYWA, Visakhapatnam. Over 40 people took part representing the local small-scale fishing community, grassroots organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), negotiators and development practitioners.

The purpose of this workshop was to enhance the capacity of fishworkers' organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations to negotiate issues regarding policy, legislation, lives and livelihoods of the SSF communities. This was held in Telugu and was facilitated by Venkatesh Salagrama.

SSF Guidelines: Overview, Objectives and Contextually Relevant Chapters for Andhra Pradesh

Setting the tone for the workshop, Salagrama shed light on the growing recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries worldwide as key contributors to national as well as global food security. Therefore, additional efforts are being undertaken to better understand the current situation of small-scale fisheries. In this vein, with the goal of achieving food security and poverty alleviation, the FAO developed a set of guidelines based on consultations with various fishworkers' groups and their leaders called the SSF Guidelines. ICSF, along with few other non-governmental organizations, played a pivotal role in framing the Guidelines.

Alluding to the voluntary nature of the SSF guidelines, Salagrama remarked that governments' signing this document does not imply their agreement to abide by or implement the recommendations, that there is a greater need for efforts from the small-scale fishing population to push local governments to implement them. He also highlighted that 2022 has been declared as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture and that several organizations have launched special programmes to commemorate this declaration. This programme sponsored by ICSF in Andhra Pradesh was one such initiative.

Subsequently, he highlighted the difficulty in determining the population dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods in India while it is easy to determine the volume of fish that is

being cultivated or caught from the sea annually. Given this gap in research and data, the current policies based on them are inherently flawed. He emphasized that it is important to uncover ways to collectively fight this situation.

Next, Dasu gave an overview of the Training of Trainers workshop on the SSF Guidelines that he had attended in Chennai with 50 other representatives from around India. Venugopalan presented the background of the SSF Guidelines and underlined the importance of negotiating with the state government for their implementation. He compared how, while being one of the key contributors to the overall fish production nationally, Andhra Pradesh lags in providing subsidies and assuring decent housing and sanitation for the traditional fishing population. Venugopalan also listed relevant sections of the SSF Guidelines and urged the participants to safeguard local ecosystems and avoid contaminating the ocean. Reiterating the relevance of the SSF Guidelines, Rajarao suggested that the participants make the best use of the workshop.

1. The Viability of Implementing the SSF Guidelines

Salagrama spoke about the viability of implementing the Guidelines in Andhra Pradesh. Diagnosing problems is indispensable in order to find potential solutions. To this end, the subsequent conversation was framed in such a way that the most pressing challenges in marine fish activity were outlined first, followed by a reflection on the fishing community's ability to cope with them and on the extent to which the Guidelines can assist in addressing some of the difficulties.

The overall drop in marine fish catch was the first issue raised. A few decades ago, any basic craft could help fishers catch enough fish for selling as well as household consumption. Fishworkers used to be convinced that they could provide for their daily needs by fishing. But this scenario has changed drastically; today the input costs are too high. Fishers are required to buy several kinds of fishing gear so that the appropriate gear for the kind of fish found after entering the sea could be used.

Secondly, debt is omnipresent in fishing villages. This situation will only worsen; but this factor often gets overlooked when discussing challenges in the fishing industry. Debt is a vicious cycle since, on the one hand, input costs are rising, but on the other hand, fisherfolk can only harvest as much as they used to or even less.

In the past, when fisherwomen obtained high fish yields, some of it would be dried and sold later. However, with the advent of ice, no fish remains in the source locations anymore. Furthermore, the difference in selling prices of fish between source regions and commercial markets is very large, reflecting the contemporary situation of fisherfolk, who are relegated to the margins and have lost control over the yield, to the extent that they are directed on what to catch, sell and eat.

While the concerns mentioned so far are what they have been grappling with internally, issues due to external actors have increased during the last 20 years. There are attempts to drive away the community under the pretext of establishing pharma businesses, nuclear

centres, textile hubs, industries or promoting tourism. As Salagrama put it, whenever the government introduces new schemes in coastal districts, fisherpeople are hit the hardest.

Moreover, in order to safeguard certain marine species, the government routinely emphasizes on conservation and imposes restrictions on fishing. Olive ridley turtles in Odisha, tigers in the Sunderbans and crocodiles are some of the species listed for conservation. Consequently, the survival of fishing communities during the moratorium period is an unanswered question. In the name of conservation efforts, humans are being overlooked and forgotten, which is a major issue nowadays. In addition, climate change and its implications pose a major threat to the livelihoods of the community too. All these concerns are driving fishworkers out of the sector and causing them to migrate to cities. The level of education in fishing villages is also increasing, which is a known determining factor in their transition to other occupations.

2. Discussion

Following this, participants responded with comments and questions concerning the purpose of CRZs, negotiations with governments over them, industries contaminating fishing communities and the surrounding ecosystems, unemployment and so on. Competition between local artisanal fishermen and owners of larger mechanized craft who migrate from other regions of the state and country, as well as competition between aquaculture produce and marine produce due to increasing demand for the former because of its better packaging were also mentioned.

3. Tenure Rights

Salagrama reminded the attendees of the necessity of rights for a secure living in the light of the ever-changing status and rising vulnerability of fishing communities. When rights are sought, responsibilities, which are often disregarded, come into play as well. He added that managing tenure rights is a responsibility that must be met adequately. The relevance of customary systems in ensuring harmony and social order in coastal villages was cited using examples of Pattapu/Pattinavar communities that operate in a distinct social structure.

According to him, these systems continue to be efficient as they not only determine life and livelihoods connected with the sea, but also social relations within the community. Clarifying that these practices cannot be attributed with value judgements, he noted the discriminatory nature of these practices in the case of women. Barring the discriminatory ones, the SSF Guidelines recommend that certain customary practices and rights be safeguarded.

4. Social Development

With respect to issues faced by fisherwomen in particular, sanitation is a concern that goes unaddressed. Fisherwomen frequently struggle due to a lack of access to bathrooms, both within the villages and at the markets. In general, the role played by women in fishing activity doesn't get adequate acknowledgement and therefore, their problems or their working conditions are rarely studied. Salagrama posited that there is a greater need for centring women in interventions.

Another concern is unemployment. As it is difficult to access loans or subsidies to purchase vessels, many fishermen are staying home, resulting in unemployment and underemployment. This predicament sometimes forces them to relocate to states like Gujarat and work on ships or larger craft that are devoid of any favourable working conditions. In this context, the SSF Guidelines on decent work are pertinent.

5. Disaster Management and Climate Change

Salagrama concluded his address by noting the implications of climate change on fisheries and the corresponding recommendations under the Guidelines to mitigate the said effects.

Group Discussion

Participants were divided into groups before the lunch break, and each group was assigned a theme. These groups were expected to analyze the problem critically and suggest approaches to address the issue at hand. These discussions continued till late noon, after which Kiran Kumar engaged with the participants and introduced them to the existing schemes and benefits in the fisheries sector at the state and the national level. He elaborated on various aspects of the PMSSY and its benefits.

Highlights from the Plenary Session

1. *Overall Requirements for Implementing the SSF Guidelines and Their Management*
 - a) Subsidies of 75% should be provided to small-scale fishworkers.
 - b) Fisherwomen must be issued identification cards and transportation vehicles.
 - c) Women must be included in the state relief plan Matsyakara Bharosa, which provides Rs 10,000 to fishermen in the state during ban periods.
 - d) MGNREGS must include work such as net repair, craft maintenance and beach cleaning, among other things, for fishermen during ban periods.
 - e) Fishworkers should be given livelihood support when the government restricts fishing activity due to weather-related reasons.
 - f) The existing government scheme of ex-gratia payment of Rs 10 lakh must be enhanced to Rs 20 lakh.
 - g) Currently, the government delivers assistance using ration cards. In place of this, it is recommended that assistance provisions be carried out based on Aadhar identity and age limit.
 - h) The building of fishing jetties could hinder fishermen from migrating. The government has been asked to look into this.
 - i) Toilet facilities at market locations must be provided.

2. *What Are the Major Gaps in Information, Knowledge and Communication With Respect To the Thematic Area and How Could They Be Addressed?*
 - a) Special residential schools for students from the fishing communities must be established in constituencies with significant fishing community populations.
 - b) For classes six to ten, a special course to raise awareness of the fishing business must be introduced.
 - c) Special courses at the intermediate and graduate levels must be created to diversify livelihood prospects for students from the fishing communities.

- d) Fisherpeople training institutes must be established for students from the fishing communities, and self-employment or work opportunities must be provided subsequently.
 - e) The current educational system must be restructured so that concerns affecting fishing communities can be researched and taught to students studying fisheries sciences; this will help build awareness of the challenges faced by small-scale fishing villages.
 - f) As previously mentioned, only by providing students from the fishing community with access to specialized courses, training and information will they be prepared with the necessary abilities to advance the cause of the small-scale fishing industry on knowledge, technological and cultural fronts.
3. *The Current Status and Capacity-Building Needs of Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) and Other Corresponding Institutions (Governmental, Non-governmental, Research, Education-Related) to Support the Implementation of SSF Guidelines*
 - a) Compensation must be provided when the government prohibits fishing in the aftermath of cyclones or storms. Along the lines of the compensation granted by the Kerala government, everyone in Andhra Pradesh who is dependent on fishing for a living must be included in this provision.
 - b) The present compensation granted during the ban period from 15 April to 15 June shall be limited to men and women who rely only on fishing for a living.
 - c) Within the radius of coastal villages, a Navodaya Hostel facility for children from fishing communities must be provided.
 - d) Better medical facilities and value-based training facilities must also be provided.
 - e) The existing insurance programme's sum assured must be doubled.
 - f) Improved infrastructure facilities for landing craft and other vessels on the coastline are required.
 - g) Fishermen must have complete ownership of the waters and the shoreline.
 4. *Key Structural Concerns Related to the Thematic Area: What Does, What Doesn't and What Should Exist?*
 - a) *Rights and Duties*
 - The government must recognize and declare fishers' rights to coastal land up to two kilometres from the sea.
 - Traditional fishing must be allowed up to 20 kilometres from the coast, with automated vessels permitted only beyond this distance.
 - With the cooperation of the Revenue Department, the government must provide traditional fishing communities title to the land on which they have been living and assist them in registering their dwellings, burial sites, fish drying areas and other social infrastructure.
 - Fishworkers must prioritize coastal protection.
 - The government must not permit factories or other structures to be built on land owned by fishing communities.
 - b) *Social Protection and Ensuring Livelihoods*
 - The state government must keep its promise to provide livelihood assistance to the fishing community.
 - Women who rely on fish sales lose their jobs during the two-month ban.

- The aforementioned livelihood assistance strategy must include these women in order to assist them.
 - Activities like making nets and growing plants near the shore must be promoted during the ban period.
 - In the event of a cyclone, the Fisheries Department should take appropriate action and distribute accurate information.
 - In the event of a loss, the department must pay.
 - The aid provided to fishermen by the NFDB is ineffective.
 - The NFDB programme provides just 40% concession; instead, 90% concession should be provided.
- c) *Post Harvest and Marketing*
- Free ice boxes must be given.
 - Fish drying machines must be installed.
 - Both fish markets and harbours must have restrooms.
 - Women participating in fish sales must have their own marketplace.
 - Housing aid in the amount of Rs 1 lakh should be provided.
- d) *Gender Equality*
- Loans must be made available to women involved in fish sales.
 - Women's perspectives must be considered during panchayat meetings.
 - Women must be included in government programmes.
 - Outsiders bringing their products to fish markets must be prohibited.
- e) *Disasters and Climate Change*
- Chemical waste from factories should not be discharged into the water.
 - Disposal of plastic debris in the sea must be forbidden.

Closing Remarks

In conclusion, Salagrama discussed the importance of communal cohesiveness, which had been lost due to existing splits along political party lines and conflicts. Crafting organizational strength and institutional backing as well as developing their own plan should be the way forward. Vishakha Gupta's study report—*Making Small-Scale Artisanal Fishing Zones Work*—was later released by the ICSF team.