

National TOT Workshop on the SSF Guidelines, Kolkata 22 to 24 December 2022:

Welcome

ICSF has been engaging with the SSF Guidelines implementation ever since these were endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries of FAO in 2014.

The Guidelines recognizes the ecosystem approach to fisheries and a human rights-based approach, and deal with issues such as who can access fishing grounds and resources, under what conditions and for how long.

The scope of the SSF Guidelines includes both marine and inland waters, especially men and women working in the range of activities along the value chain, and pre- and post-harvest activities.

Inland fisheries are of particular focus in the SSF Guidelines since most of the fish from inland fisheries are for direct human consumption. Inland fisheries sector employs more than one million fishers and fishworkers in India. Inland fish production, both capture and culture, contributes to over three-quarters of the total fish production of India.

In addition to tenure rights and inland fisheries, the impact of destructive fishing practices on inland ecosystems, occupational safety and health issues in inland fisheries, inland spatial planning, harmonization of policies affecting the health of inland water bodies and ecosystems, and how fisheries, agriculture and other natural resource policies collectively enhance the inter-related livelihoods derived from these sectors are of particular focus in the SSF Guidelines.

Several workshops have since been organized both in the marine and inland sector. TOT Workshop: Marine Chennai October 2022, Now inland

Objectives of the TOT Workshop Inland Fisheries are to:

- Understand issues related to access to inland fisheries resources and adjacent land
- Comprehend various national and state-level schemes relevant to SSF in light of the SSF Guidelines
- Understand the significance of national and state level policies and legislation for inland fishers and fishworkers

The training programme is expected to strengthen fishing communities to engage in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of implementing the SSF Guidelines. These are in the realms of recognizing their tenure rights, their participation in resource management, the recognition of their rights to development, to develop social safety nets such as social protection, including social security.

First of all we would like to welcome Dr. BK Das, Director, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal; Dr. Dilip Kumar, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Planning and Policy Adviser, formerly with the FAO; Dr. VV Sugunan, the former ADG of Fisheries at ICAR, Dr. Ananthan PS, Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Education; Dr. Nachiket Kelkar, the Programme Lead, Wildlife Conservation Trust; Dr. Santanu Chacraverti, President, DISHA; and Mr. Pradip Chatterjee, National Convenor, National Platform for Small-scale Fishworkers.

We welcome trainees from the states of Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Manipur Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal. We also welcome interpreters and audio and video documentation, as well as the social media.