

ICSF Trust: Report of Activities: 01 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

**INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS
(ICSF) TRUST**

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
01 APRIL 2009 TO 31 MARCH 2010**



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BOBP-IGO	Bay of Bengal Inter-governmental Organization
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	community conserved areas
CIFE	Central Institute of Fisheries Education
CIFRI	Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute
DC	Documentation Centre
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
IAMSLIC	International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IFSI	Inland Fisheries Society of India
ILO	International Labour Organization
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MPA	marine protected area
MPEDA	Marine Products Export Development Authority
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NGOs	non governmental organizations
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
SHG	self-help group
SIFFS	small indigenous freshwater fish species
UN	United Nations
WTO	World Trade Organization

**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
APRIL 2009 TO MARCH 2010**

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust, with its office in Chennai, was set up as an “initiative to further the welfare of coastal and fishing communities through education, research, documentation, training and philanthropic programmes, by conserving and managing fisheries resources, protecting the marine and coastal ecosystem, improving working and living conditions in fisheries, and by ensuring fair access to resources and markets”.

During the reporting period ICSF undertook programmes to support small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk in India from a perspective of decent work, equity, gender-justice, self-reliance and sustainability, through education, research, documentation and training. In general, the focus was on:

- Monitoring issues that relate to the life, livelihood and living conditions of fishworkers, mainly through the activities of the Documentation Centre and disseminating information in appropriate languages to organizations of fishing communities, policy makers, researchers and the general public, through the website and through reports, newsletters, dossiers and other publications;
- Promoting safe working conditions for fishworkers within the framework of instruments under the International Labour Organization;
- Providing greater visibility to women’s roles in fisheries
- Organizing training programmes and workshops on issues of relevance to small-scale fishing communities with the aim of promoting participation of fishing communities in decision-making and management processes;
- Highlighting the importance of small indigenous species in freshwater capture and cultures fisheries, from the perspective of food security, poverty alleviation and biodiversity.
- Collaborating/ exchanging experiences with other institutions working on similar issues both in India and abroad.

A brief report of ICSF Trust programmes from 01 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 follows:

1. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

In follow-up of the workshop organized in India in January 2009 titled “Social Dimensions of Marine Protected Area Implementation in India: Do Fishing Communities Benefit?”, ICSF continued to highlight the issues identified during the workshop. ICSF also supported the efforts of fishworkers organizations to draw attention to the socioeconomic impacts of implementation of current protected areas in coastal and marine ecosystems, and the need to ensure participatory and equitable forms of conservation and management. This issue was also covered by several media articles.

ICSF also participated in the Asia-Pacific Workshop on the Review of Progress and Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), New Delhi, India, 12-15 Oct 2009. Participation was to highlight the need to implement a range of governance types for management of marine protected areas (MPAs), recognizing the

rights and responsibilities of indigenous and local communities; to incorporate governance assessments into the management effectiveness evaluation; and to include representatives of indigenous and local communities in multi-stakeholder committees, in consultations for national reporting on PoWPA and national reviews of PA systems

2. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FISHERMAN ORGANIZATIONS

Based on requests from fisherman organizations, ICSF provided inputs on issues related to coastal area management, marine protected areas and fisheries management. These were provided during various workshops and training programmes over the year. Several training programmes and workshops were organized to discuss the implications of the *Marine Fisheries (Draft) (Regulation and Management) Act, 2009* and the draft *Coastal Management Zone Notification 2008* for fishermen. ICSF also provided inputs towards documenting the efforts of fishermen, among other things, to manage their resources and to draw attention to the need for greater protection of the coastal zone, while recognizing the traditional rights of fishing communities to coastal resources. Inputs given during training sessions were useful in providing information on key issues, enabling fishermen to determine their strategies and positions on issues that included coastal zone management, fisheries management and marine and coastal protected areas, and to gain support for their positions.

ICSF also brought out a booklet on fish vendors in India titled *Women Fish Vendors in India: An Information Booklet*. The booklet contains information on some government policies and other initiatives that have been undertaken, or are being undertaken, which have a bearing on the livelihoods and conditions of work of women fishermen. It compiles some of the fisheries-specific schemes and initiatives undertaken by central and State departments, as well as by central research institutions and intergovernmental organizations. It also examines, from the perspective of women fishermen, the provisions of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors and its implications for fish vendors, as well as the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act 2008. The booklet is online at: http://dc.icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/resources/usefulDocs/docs/english/%3C1264217021617%3Evendor-final_220110.pdf

3. WOMEN IN FISHERIES

A workshop titled *Enhancing Women's Roles in Fisheries in India* was held in Mumbai from 1 to 3 February 2010. The workshop was organized to reflect on issues facing women of fishing communities, as workers and as members of fishing communities and organizations; share local agendas and strategies of women organizing in fisheries, taking stock of achievements and obstacles; discuss and create awareness about key policies and interventions of relevance to women in fishing communities; and enhance the capacity of women fishermen to participate in, and influence, decision-making processes affecting their lives and livelihoods. The three-day residential workshop had a total of 59 participants, representing about 20 organizations and unions, from all nine coastal States/Union Territories in India. The participants were mainly women who were directly engaged in processing, vending and trading fish organized as part of associations, unions, cooperatives, societies, self-help groups (SHGs) and representatives of support non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The report of the workshop has been published and has been widely disseminated to fisherman organizations, fisheries departments of all coastal states of

India, research organizations, independent researchers, policy makers etc. It has also been web published and is accessible at <http://www.icsf.net/SU/Pro/EN/105>

In preparation to the workshop, a background study was undertaken, involving field visits to fish markets, women's cooperative societies and other organizational initiatives involving women in fisheries. The case studies put together have been made available online. This study helped in identifying participants for the workshop, and in grounding the workshop discussions in concrete contexts.

Apart from the above workshop, ICSF commissioned a background study in preparation for an international workshop to be organized in Chennai, titled *Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities*. The study reviews relevant literature on the eight themes that will be the focus of the Chennai workshop. A draft version is available, and will be made online prior to the Chennai workshop, after incorporating comments. The study will also be presented at the workshop. The study offers a framework, based on existing literature, to analyse developments in the fisheries sector, from a gender perspective.

4. MONITORING OF AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

ICSF organized a workshop titled *Small Indigenous Freshwater Fish Species: Their Role in Poverty Alleviation, Food Security and Conservation of Biodiversity* in collaboration with Inland Fisheries Society of India (IFSI), at the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Kolkata, India from 23 to 25 February 2010. This was a forum for people working in freshwater fisheries and aquaculture to exchange views on the role of small indigenous freshwater fish species (SIFFS) in enhancing rural food and livelihood security and in conserving biodiversity. It also discussed the socioeconomic and cultural context for culture and capture of SIFFS with a view to enhancing access, especially of women, to better income, livelihood and nutritional security, and to propose policy spaces for sustainable SIFFS. The workshop was attended by 58 participants, including scientists, researchers, policymakers, fish farmers, members of civil society and representatives of multilateral agencies. The workshop report is ready and is to be made available online. The statement from the workshop was web published and a brief report of the workshop report was carried in *SAMUDRA* Report 55.

The workshop received financial and other support from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB); the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF); the Government of West Bengal; Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); IFSI; CIFRI; and the Government of Orissa. The workshop has helped create awareness amongst NGOs, scientists, aquaculture farmers and policy makers about the food security, poverty alleviation and biodiversity benefits of protecting small indigenous freshwater fish species for capture and integrating them into culture systems.

Webpage on aquaculture: Work on setting up a sub site to provide information on various aspects of aquaculture (aquaculture.icsf.net) is underway. The site is to provide relevant articles from *SAMUDRA* Report, *Yemaya*, and from *SAMUDRA* News Alerts, as well as links to other papers and articles, including papers presented at the SIFFS workshop in Kolkata, India. The site is to be made available to users in June 2010.

5. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

ICSF participated in the *National Consultation on India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)* held in New Delhi, India during 31 August and 1 September 2009. The consultation was to share views and analysis on India's FTAs and their implications for diverse peoples—farmers, farm workers, fishing communities, labour unions, unorganized sector, and other marginalized communities (including women, dalits, adivasis, migrants).

6. ILO WORK IN FISHING CONVENTION

Engaging with the ILO process related to the recently-adopted Work in Fishing Convention has been an important part of ICSF's work from 1998. ICSF saw engagement with the ILO process as an opportunity to focus greater attention on issues related to the conditions of work in the small-scale fisheries sector, including aspects such as safety at sea, social security, remuneration and recognition of women in shore-based fishing activities. Following the adoption of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, ICSF brought out a "Guidebook on Understanding the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007" in English and three other foreign languages. In response to requests from fishworker organizations in India, the Guidebook was also been translated into four Indian regional languages that is, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu and Malayalam. In this reporting year the Guidebook was also translated into Portuguese. All language versions are available online. ICSF has also provided information on the Convention during training programmes in India in response to requests from fishworker organizations. ICSF has been able to draw attention to the need to ratify and implement the Convention, towards improving conditions of work and social security for those in the sector, including the small-scale sector and shore-based fishers. Fishworkers in India and elsewhere are demanding the ratification of the Convention, as a way to ensure decent conditions of work, including social security, for those engaged in fishing.

7. PUBLICATION OF SAMUDRA REPORT

The SAMUDRA Report, brought out three times a year, carries articles, from India and elsewhere, on issues of relevance to small-scale and artisanal fisheries in the developing world. Issues covered have included fisheries management, labour issues in fisheries, fisheries trade, gender in fisheries, coastal and marine biodiversity, rights issue in fisheries, etc. SAMUDRA Report is distributed to about 250 subscribers in India, apart from those in other parts of the world. It is also translated and printed in French and Spanish, and sent to subscribers in French and Spanish speaking countries, with the objective of raising awareness widely about issues facing small-scale and artisanal fishworkers, in India and elsewhere. SAMUDRA Report is also made available online, for wider dissemination.

The following issues of SAMUDRA Report were published during the year 2009-10: English: 53, 54 and 55; French: 52, 53 and 54; and Spanish: 52, 53 and 54. All the above issues of SAMUDRA Report are available on ICSF's website.

8. PUBLICATION OF YEMAYA NEWSLETTER

Yemaya, a newsletter on gender and fisheries, carries news, views and articles from organizations and individuals working on gender issues in fisheries, from India and elsewhere. The newsletter helps in creating awareness on women in fisheries issues,

initiatives being taken to support them, and helps in the exchange of information. *Yemaya* provides greater support and visibility to the organizational efforts of women of fishing communities, the issues facing them, and the need to protect their interests in the face of changes in the larger economic, technological and social context. *Yemaya* goes to over 50 subscribers in India, and also to those in other parts of the world. It is also translated and printed in French and Spanish, and sent to subscribers in French and Spanish speaking countries, with the objective of raising awareness about the role and perspectives of women in the fisheries sector, from India and elsewhere. *Yemaya* is also made available online, for wider dissemination. During this period, the following issues of *Yemaya* were produced and disseminated: English (31, 32 and 33); French (30, 31 and 32); and Spanish (30, 31 and 32).

9. RIGHTS WORKSHOP

ICSF, using the resources available in the Documentation Centre, compiled information on traditional knowledge and customary institutions in fisheries in India and elsewhere, as a follow up to the FAO conference on small-scale fisheries in October 2008. This was also used as an input for the workshop on 'Customary institutions in Indonesia: Do they have a role in fisheries and coastal area management', held in Lombok, Indonesia, during 2 to 5 August 2010. ICSF also compiled, published and disseminated the report of the above workshop.

10. DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (DC)

With the primary objectives of increasing awareness about developments of relevance to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers, identifying and establishing relations with other resource centres and information sources, meeting information needs of fishworker organizations and other users, raising the visibility of the small-scale sector, and providing support to ICSF programmes and membership, the DC undertook activities in the following broad areas:

- Information identification, collection and documentation
- Information dissemination

(i) Information identification, collection and documentation

Collection and organization of information

During this period, DC sourced information from fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, and other documentation centres on issues such as MPAs, women in fisheries, trade, fishing rights, and small-scale fisheries. The DC currently holds 53,166 records in its document database: 2,546 books, 8617 Documents, 24,003 articles indexed from journals, and 17,838 news clippings with index. Moreover selected article database has 713 articles. The audiovisual collection has 129 DVDs/VCDs. During this period the process of ranking documents was continued, to help categorize documents according to their relevance, and the document database on ICSF's website was updated with selected records.

Linking with other documentation and resource centres

The DC, as part of its continuing efforts to link with other resource centres, has also maintained links with the FAO library and the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSLIC) Network of libraries. The ICSF Documentation Centre has contributed to the aquatic commons initiative of IAMSLIC, uploading all recently published ICSF documents in the aquatic commons repository.

(ii) Information Dissemination

The DC also responded to information requests and disseminated information actively, as follows:

Responding to requests for information

The DC received about 80 requests for information from various users—fishworker organizations, NGOs, governments, multilateral organizations, researchers, individual scholars, and ICSF members. Requests for information for print and audio-visual resources were on various issues such as community conserved areas (CCAs), impact of globalization on fisheries livelihoods, Indian fisheries, fisheries legislation, MPAs, demographic information on fishing communities and statistics for preparing National Fisheries Sector Overview for FAO, coastal zone management, climate change and its impact on fisheries livelihoods and coastal fishing communities, shrimp aquaculture and its impact, safety at sea, women in fisheries, trade agreements and its impact on fisheries, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and audiovisual materials on small-scale fisheries.

ICSF Website

The DC was involved in updating the ICSF website on a regular basis with information on various ICSF publications, statements made by ICSF at UN meetings, statements from ICSF-organized workshops, papers and presentations made by ICSF, important fisheries events, online resources and documentation database updates. The DC also contributed significantly to the development of the following three subsites during the year: EU-SSF, Fisheries and Fishing Communities of India, and social dimensions of aquaculture.

Webpage on Indian Fisheries: The new ICSF website provides an overview of the marine and freshwater fisheries sector in India. It furnishes information on coastal fishing communities and their traditional governance systems, on fisheries development and management, and on coastal and community issues. To explore these in greater depth, the site focuses on five specific themes, namely (1) women in fisheries; (2) labour; (3) trade; (4) aquaculture, and (5) legal instruments. The information supplied is supplemented with exhaustive bibliographic references and links to online resources.

11. LOBBYING AND RESPONSES

During this period ICSF followed various United Nations processes, such as those related to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation as they related to small-scale fishworkers in India and other developing countries.

12. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Participation in Other Meetings

- ICSF participated in the *Policy Workshop Sustainable Governance in South Asian Fisheries* organized by the Institute of Ocean Management, Anna University, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India on 7 April 2009. This workshop was to explore the integration of a wellbeing approach in the context of poverty, ecosystem services and fisheries governance.

- ICSF was invited to participate in the inaugural session of the *Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization*, 15 June 2009, Chennai, India.
- ICSF participated as resource person in the *Regional Training Course on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RTC-CCRF)* for officials of the Departments of Fisheries of countries in South Asia, organized by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-governmental Organization (BOBP IGO) in collaboration with Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) in Chennai, India on 23 June 2009. ICSF made a presentation titled *Taking CCRF to the Grassroots - Adaptation and Dissemination*.
- ICSF participated in the *National Consultation on India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)* held in New Delhi, India during 31 August and 1 September 2009. The consultation was to share views and analysis on India's FTAs and their implications for diverse peoples—farmers, farm workers, fishing communities, labour unions, unorganized sector, and other marginalized communities (including women, dalits, adivasis, migrants).
- ICSF participated in the *Stakeholders Meeting* organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in Kochi, India on 5 September 2009. The objective of the meeting was to apprise the visiting Uruguayan Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the ground realities of India's fisheries and the way the artisanal/small-scale fisheries are organized, in the context of the negotiations on fisheries subsidies.
- ICSF attended the *National Seminar on Conservation and Sustainability of Coastal Living Resources of India (ConserveFish 2009)*, organized by Central Institute of Fish Technology and India Society of Fisheries Technologists (India) in Kochi, India from 1-3 December 2009. The seminar was organized to deliberate on the status, conservation and sustainability of coastal living resources, and bring together information in a form which is useful for the planners, fishery managers, industrialists, scientists and students. ICSF contributed an invited paper on *Market Driven Conservation in Fisheries: Social issues in certification schemes for capture fisheries*.
- ICSF participated in the meeting titled *Actors or Villains? Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Tourism* organized by Kabani, an NGO working on issues of tourism, from 15-16 December 2009 in Chennai, India.
- ICSF participated in the two *Consultations on the Marine Fisheries (Draft) (Regulation and Management) Act, 2009*, organized by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture in New Delhi, India on 28 January and 03 February 2010. ICSF stressed that the proposed Act should recognize and protect the livelihood interests of small-scale fishers.
- ICSF participated in the workshop of the turtle action group (TAG) held in Bhubaneswar, Orissa during 12 to 13 February 2010. ICSF made a presentation on its work on fisheries livelihoods and marine resources conservation.