



INITIATIVES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE : ICSF'S WORK

Shuddhawati Peke

Program Associate

**International Collective in Support of
Fishworkers, Chennai**

ICSF: INTRODUCTION

- The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) is an international non-governmental organization that works towards the establishment of equitable, gender-just, self-reliant and sustainable fisheries, particularly in the small-scale, artisanal sector.
- ICSF draws its mandate from the historic International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters (ICFWS), held in Rome in 1984, parallel to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- In past 29 years, ICSF has grown into an international organisation with a small but committed base, and a large reach, with fisher-people and their organisations, governments, and international policy makers
- ICSF's offices are located in India and Belgium. The General Body of ICSF Members takes all policy decisions, which are implemented by an elected Animation Team that steers the programmes with the help of Secretariat based in Chennai.



Priorities for the year 2011-2015	Activities	Cross cutting themes
Right to resources: Improve the overall sustainability of fisheries management by promoting responsible small-scale fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and research • Training and capacity building • Advocacy • Information dissemination 	Gender
Women in fisheries: Seek better recognition of the role of women in fisheries and fishing communities, ensuring their fair access to decision-taking and management processes, to resources and to markets		Social and cultural issues
<u>Climate Change: Draw attention to the impact of climate change on fisheries resources and on fishing communities</u>		Sustainable small-scale fisheries
Trade: Promote trade that is compatible with food and livelihood security; monitor international decision-making processes		Sustainable resource management
Labour: Promote safe working conditions for fishworkers (men and women), including a fair return to their labour		Class and social justice
Aquaculture: Promote family-based, equitable and sustainable aquaculture practices while challenging socially unjust		

ICSF'S WORK

Activities	Outcomes
Monitoring and research	(2015) Tamil Nadu Ten years after Tsunami : Learning's from interventions in fisheries shelters and Livelihoods
	(2012) Study on "Climate change and fisheries: Perspectives from small-scale fishing communities in India on measures to protect life and livelihood"
	(2011) Review of Literature for ICSF Study on "Climate Change and Fisheries: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities in India on Measures to Protect Life and Livelihood”
Advocacy	Played an instrumental role in adoption of “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (VG SSF)” by FAO and member countries. This instruments dedicates section 9 for disaster risk and climate change
Information dissemination	Documentary : Sea of Change
	Translated summary of SSF Guidelines in Burmese, Bengali, Odiya, Malayalam Thai, Swahili, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu
	Translated executive summary of climate change study in Marathi, Bengali, Telugu and Malayalam

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION

- VGSSF is a special instrument marking the victory of struggle of small scale fishers world over and though they are quite late lets hope this is the new beginning
- The SSF Guidelines are an effort to bring small-scale fisheries back to the focal point of fisheries development and management.
- The SSF Guidelines were developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. They address small-scale fisheries and encompass all the activities along the whole value chain undertaken by both men and women.
- These Guidelines have over 100 paragraphs which are distributed across 13 sections. These section charts out guiding principles to implement for respective countries and states. They speaks about Governance of Tenure in Small scale fisheries and Resource management, Social development, employment and descent work, Value Chains, Post Harvest and trade, Gender equality, Disaster risks and climate change, Policy coherence, institutional coordination and collaboration, Information research and communication, capacity development and Implementation support and Monitoring.

SECTION 9 OF VGSSF: DISASTER RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Article 9.2. All parties should recognize and take into account the differential impact of natural and human induced disasters and climate change on small-scale fisheries. States should develop policies and plans to address climate change in fisheries, in particular strategies for adaptation and mitigation, where applicable, as well as for building resilience, in full and effective consultation with fishing communities including indigenous peoples, men and women, paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Special support should be given to small-scale fishing communities living on small islands where climate change may have particular implications for food security, nutrition, housing and livelihoods.
- Article 9.3. All parties should recognize the need for integrated and holistic approaches, including cross sectoral collaboration, in order to address disaster risks and climate change in small-scale fisheries. States and other relevant parties should take steps to address issues such as pollution, coastal erosion and destruction of coastal habitats due to human-induced non-fisheries-related factors. Such concerns seriously undermine the livelihoods of fishing communities as well as their ability to adapt to possible impacts of climate change.

WAY FORWARD

- Efforts to implement VGSSF guidelines from local to National level by fisheries and non fisheries actors (state and Non state).
- Implementation of provisions in section 9 of VGSS with fishers participation at all levels
- Adopting learning's from previous examples of intervention after disasters like Tsunami in Tamil Nadu
- Capacity building of small scale fishers to adapt to disaster And climate change risks and strong policy coherence to minimize such risks





THANK YOU

Promoting Small scale fisheries is a good strategy to combat climate change and disaster risks in fisheries.