

3rd Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF3)



**Recasting the Net:
Defining a gender
agenda
for sustaining life
and livelihoods
in fishing communities**



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers - ICSF

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Thanks



- > For Asian Fisheries Society, and specially for Dr Meryl Williams for invite me to participate in this symposium;**
- > For International Collective in Support of Fishworkers – ICSF, for the confidence to represent it here;**
- > For Nalini Nayak (Member, ICSF) for the presentation that was base of this one;**
- > For all of you, for your attention.**

Objective and Contents



Objective: inform about the Gender Agenda elaborated on the Workshop “Recasting the Net”, organized by ICSF, on July/2010, India.

Contents:

- ICSF
- ICSF’s Programme on Women in Fisheries
- Workshop “Recasting the Net”
- Process to elaborate the Gender Agenda
- Our dreams (selection)
- The Gender Agenda (selection)

International Collective on Support of Fishworkers- ICSF (1986-2011)



- **The ICSF is an international NGO that works towards the establishment of equitable, gender-just, self-reliant, and sustainable fisheries, particularly in the small scale, artisanal sector.**
- **It was created in 1986.**

International Collective on Support of Fishworkers- ICSF (1986-2011)



- **ICSF mission is: to support fishing communities and fishworker organizations, and empower them to participate in fisheries from a perspective of decent work, equity, gender-justice, self-reliance and sustainability.**
- **ICSF's offices are located in India and Belgium.**
- **Website: www.icsf.net**

ICSF's Programme on Women in Fisheries



- Since 1986, the ICSF highlighted the fact that the resilience of the artisanal fishery depends on the role that women play in the fishery and the community and develops a special programme to support and strengthen them in different aspects.



Workshop “Recasting the net”

July/2010



ICSF organized the international workshop “Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities”. Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India, 7-10 July 2010

- **39 participants from 18 countries, including women fishworkers, representatives of fishworker organizations and NGOs, activists and researchers**
- **Preparatory workshops in India, Thailand, the Philippines, South Africa, Brazil, Europe and Canada in order to inform about the fisherwomen situations and the strategies being adopted by them to assert their rights and defend their interests.**
- **Experiences also from Guinea Conakry, Chile and Tanzania**

Workshop “Recasting the net”

July/2010. The process



- 1. Presentation of the regional and national reports and experiences related by fisherwomen;**
- 2. Presentation, based on a review of literature, analyzed the main shifts that have taken place over the last three decades in the dominant discourse on women in the small-scale fisheries;**
- 3. Presentation and discussion of international legal instruments of relevance to women in fisheries, with focus on CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (UN).**

Workshop “Recasting the net”

July/2010. The process



- 3. Presentation on the Programme on Fisheries and Aquaculture for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security of the FAO and the proposal for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries.**
- 4. Afterwards, participants worked in groups**
 - to consolidate their “dreams” about fisheries that would sustain life and livelihoods in fishing communities, and**
 - to define an agenda for action to realize these dreams.**
- 5. We define 17 dreams and agreed on the shared agenda detailed below.**





Our dreams (1)

We dream of a future in which:

- **aquatic ecosystems retain their ability to regenerate living resources, sustain livelihoods and meet food security;**
- **fishing communities, including women and children, are able to live their lives in peace and dignity, free of violence, and to enjoy decent living and working conditions;**



Our dreams (2)

We dream of a future in which:

- **the rights of fishing communities to their coastal lands and inland fisheries resources, are recognized;**
- **women have central roles in decision making process of fishing communities organizations, including producer organizations;**



Our dreams (3)

We dream of a future in which:

- **women engaged in fisheries activities have the first right to access the fish that is landed, and the marketing chain is restructured in equitable ways to privilege and valorise small-scale and artisanal fisheries and fishworkers; and**
- **power to manage coastal and fishery resources is devolved to local and indigenous communities, and their capacity to do so is strengthened.**



Shared Agenda for Action

Based on these dreams, we proposed an action agenda for different sections of society:

- **Households and communities;**
- **Fishworker organizations;**
- **Civil society organizations (including NGOs, media, consumers and environmental organizations)**
- **Research organizations;**
- **The State; and**
- **International organizations.**

Shared Agenda:

Households and communities



- **Strengthen the capacity of women to participate in fishworker movements and organizations;**
- **Challenge men's resistance to women's participation in organizations, where it exists, and ensure the sharing of household work;**
- **Secure an environment of safety and freedom from violence and sexual abuse within the household and community.**

Shared Agenda: Fishworker organizations



- **Develop a culture in which all forms of discrimination are eliminated;**
- **Guarantee space and support for women to participate in decision-making processes, including those related to conservation and fisheries management;**
- **Create separate spaces for women to organize autonomously at local, regional, national and international levels.**

Shared Agenda: Civil society organizations



- **Promote awareness of the socioeconomic conditions and basic needs of fishing communities, especially of women and other marginalized groups;**
- **Respect and value traditional and local knowledge, and support efforts of fishing communities towards sustainable and equitable fisheries.**

Shared Agenda: Research organizations



Undertake research and analysis on:

- **The conditions and contributions of women in small-scale and artisanal fisheries and fishing communities; and make the findings widely accessible;**
- **The impact of development and conservation projects on the lives of men, women and children in fishing communities;**
- **The impact of fisheries conservation and management measures on the lives and livelihoods of fishing communities.**

Shared Agenda: The State (1)



- **Guarantee access and control over resources by small-scale and artisanal fishers and their communities, with particular attention to women;**
- **Recognize and protect collective rights to the resources on which fishing communities, including indigenous communities, have traditionally depended on for their food security and livelihood;**
- **Guarantee universal health and social security and the socialization of housework, and protect existing systems of social security that have proven to be adequate;**
- **Guarantee safety, and assure freedom from violence and sexual abuse.**

Shared Agenda: The State (2)



- **Ratify and fully implement human-rights instruments, in particular CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action;**
- **Support and protect coastal and island communities, with particular attention to women, in relation to natural disasters and pandemics, such as HIV/AIDS;**
- **Recognize workers in the informal sector, in particular, women, and guarantee their labour rights and their rights to decent work;**
- **Generate sex-disaggregated data in all aspects of fisheries, through census operations.**

Shared Agenda:

International organizations



- **Integrate an understanding of gender that shapes fisheries policies at various levels towards sustaining life and livelihoods in fishing communities;**
- **Desist from funding projects that are environmentally destructive and socially unjust, and that impose structural adjustment conditionalities (poverty reduction and growth facilities) on recipient States.**

Priorities



- **We resolve to work together to ensure that this agenda is widely disseminated, incorporated and implemented at all levels,**
- **including it in an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that may be considered by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the FAO (is being elaborated).**

Final Ceremony

- All participants sang a Ghanaian fishing song while holding a net, symbolizing the solidarity among participants in taking forward their common concerns and the “Shared Agenda” from the workshop.







 Workshop on
Recasting the Net
Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining
Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities
7-10 July 2010
Chennai, India



Thank you !