



# Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems

Regional Inception Workshop  
3–5 March 2020  
Accra, Ghana





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## Preparation of this document

This document provides a summary of the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the regional inception workshop, “Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems” held in Accra, Ghana from 3–5 March 2020. Ms Molly Ahern, Food Security and Nutrition Specialist in the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, prepared the main draft of this report, in collaboration with colleagues in FAO Headquarters and the Regional office for Africa. In addition, Jeannie Marshall provided editing services for the final text.

## Abstract

The joint project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) entitled Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods through better policies, strategies and initiatives promotes the application of the principles of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (the SSF Guidelines) in FAO member countries and regions. The project end date was originally in December 2019 but was extended for another year into 2020 to focus on the issue of empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems. Accordingly, the project will support women in small-scale fisheries, particularly in the postharvest sector, with a view to improving food security and nutrition and promoting gender equality. In 2020, related activities will begin in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The project will also support sharing lessons learned and good practices, and it will help to strengthen institutional structures at the regional and global levels.

This project extension is the first phase of a five-year commitment within the framework of the objectives of the Norwegian Government's action plan on sustainable food systems: [Food, People and the Environment](#). Norad has pledged NOK 100 million (approximately USD 10.5 million). In the coming years, the geographic coverage could be expanded to include more countries and regions.

A regional inception workshop was held in Accra, Ghana from 3–5 March 2020 to bring together the relevant stakeholders from the first five project countries that were selected, partners and the regional organizations to plan the implementation and to create awareness of the project. This report documents the proceedings of this regional inception workshop.

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# Acknowledgements

The regional inception workshop “Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems” greatly benefited from the dedicated contribution of project country representatives from government and small-scale fisheries women’s organizations, regional partners and many individuals. All of them are gratefully acknowledged for their inputs and efforts in preparing and running the workshop.

The organizers are particularly grateful to the presenters from each country and regional organization, as well as the representative from the Ghana Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development for chairing the workshop. The FAO Regional Office for Africa and the FAO Office in Ghana were generous in lending their support for and assistance with preparing the workshop and field trip. The financial contribution of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation to this project and regional inception workshop is gratefully acknowledged.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

AU	African Union
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
AWFISHNET	African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network
BVC	Beach Village Communities
CAOPA	African Confederation of Professional Organizations for Artisanal Fisheries
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMEDO	Environment Management and Economic Development Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FIRST	Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation
FTT	FAO-Thiaroye Processing Technique
GDP	Gross domestic product
IBAR	Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PAH	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PFRS	Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
RAF	Regional Office for Africa
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
TAWFA	Tanzania Women Fish Workers Association
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
WANSFAFA	West African Non-state Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture

## Executive summary

The inception workshop “Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems” was held in Accra, Ghana from 3–5 March 2020. The workshop brought together 45 participants representing the initial project countries (Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania), country teams consisting of governments, women in small-scale fisheries associations and FAO focal points, regional organizations, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) representatives, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other partners. The project aims to support the implementation of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (the SSF Guidelines) with a focus on sustainable food systems and support to women in small-scale fisheries. Funding (NOK 100 million) for this global project has been pledged by Norad for five years with an initial phase of one year (2020), when activities will be focused on selected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop was held as a means of informing all stakeholders about the project and to develop the project’s workplan for national and regional activities. A programme of activities held alongside the workshop included a field visit to two communities (Nungua and Tema) where women’s groups are involved in fish processing using traditional and new fish-smoking technologies.

The workshop confirmed the importance of fish and the small-scale fisheries sector for food security and nutrition, as well as the role of women in fisheries. Women are often marginalized and there is a strong need for their empowerment. The workshop clarified the scope of the project and it was agreed that project activities will focus on using small fish (small pelagic) value chains to increase the quantity and quality of small fish and fish products for human consumption and trade, and on empowering women in the postharvest sector as a means to those ends. Accordingly, proposed and planned activities include:

- At the national level: raising awareness of the SSF Guidelines and the importance of fish in food security and for nutrition, building capacity of individual women and family enterprises, including on business practices, market driven product development and literacy; strengthening women’s professional organizations; co-developing processing equipment/small-scale infrastructure (including FAO-Thiaroye processing technique (FTT) ovens) and related arrangements for their use and management; and promoting fish consumption among children.
- At the regional level: a review of best practices in the postharvest sector in Africa, including a handbook for small-scale fisheries infrastructure; assessment of the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition and gender roles; promoting harmonized standards for national and regional products; gender transformative training; strengthening regional women’s networks and links to global networks; and developing communication products and policy briefs.

- The project will also contribute to expanding and strengthening the knowledge base with regard to the contribution that small-scale fisheries make to food security and nutrition, as well as knowledge of the role of women and the benefits of gender equality. Lessons learned and good practices will be shared globally, also with a view to expanding the project's geographic coverage in future years.

The country teams returned from the workshop with draft national work plans that will be further refined through additional stakeholder consultations and by convening national workshops. Teams from FAO headquarters working with the Regional Office for Africa (RAF) will discuss, refine and plan regional activities, in consultation with the relevant regional organizations.



## Workshop opening

Ndiaga Gueye, of the Regional Office for Africa (RAF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Accra, Ghana, welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers at the opening session: Abebe Haile-Gabriel, the Assistant Director General of the RAF of FAO, and Francis Kingsley Ato Codjoe, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Ghana.

Mr Haile-Gabriel reminded participants of the value of small-scale fisheries for food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, equitable development and sustainable use of resources. The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) include specific sections on gender and the post-harvest sector, and Mr Haile-Gabriel highlighted the key role that women play in small-scale fisheries through post-harvest activities and in ensuring that their families and communities have access to food. Gender-specific challenges such as unequal access to productive assets, technology, finance and services and unequal power relations often result in women becoming more vulnerable or disadvantaged in small-scale fisheries (SSF) activities. He highlighted the fact that this project can contribute significantly to support women in fisheries and support them to enhance their contribution to a sustainable food system that benefits their livelihoods, as well as the food security and nutrition of their families and communities.

Mr Codjoe drew attention to how women contribute to the fisheries sector in general but also in Ghana. He said that empowering women is a sure way to create sustainable food systems. He expressed appreciation for the collaboration of the development partners and stated that these partnerships should be strengthened to ensure holistic approaches that help to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality). Mr Codjoe thanked Norad and FAO for their support throughout this project, and he formally declared the workshop opened.

The opening statements are presented in Annex 1.



Group photograph of the inception workshop participants.



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## Overview of workshop objectives, expected outputs and *modus operandi*

Dismas Mbabazi, FAO RAF, gave an overview of the workshop's objectives, expected outputs and *modus operandi*. Mr Mbabazi began by presenting background and context for the project, including the crucial role of marine and inland SSF value chains for food security, nutrition, income, development and sustainable resource use, the role that women play in the post-harvest sector, and the challenges that women face, since they rarely have the same rights and opportunities as men.

The overall objectives of the workshop were to gather the relevant stakeholders from the first project countries that were selected as well as the regional organizations and partners, to raise awareness of the project, and to plan the initial work for the project. Specific objectives include:

- improve understanding of the SSF Guidelines chapter 7 (value chains, post-harvest and trade) and chapter 8 (gender equality);
- clarify and validate project logic and proposed activities;
- formulate key elements of workplans and project approach;
- identify components of a monitoring framework including critical indicators and plans for national baseline surveys; and
- identify key priorities for communication and appropriate communication products.

The workshop used plenary presentations to share knowledge and experiences, facilitated discussions on cross-cutting issues, break-out sessions to develop country work plans, and a half-day field trip on the third day of the workshop.





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# Introductory presentations and discussion

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

A short video<sup>1</sup> presenting the SSF Guidelines, their history and contents was screened for the workshop participants. Some of the participants were unfamiliar with the SSF Guidelines, and so the screening was useful not just for introducing the existence and purpose of the SSF Guidelines, but also to raise awareness of the auxiliary role the SSF Guidelines play in progressing human-rights-based approaches. The SSF Guidelines go beyond what is traditionally dealt with by fisheries administrations and bring together social development and responsible fisheries. Furthermore, it was important to highlight the complementary position the SSF Guidelines share with other international instruments, in particular the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), which have a common grounding in human rights principles.

The SSF Guidelines are divided into three main parts:

- Part 1 sets out the objectives, nature and scope, the guiding principles, and the relationship with other international instruments. Ultimately, the SSF Guidelines should be implemented by promoting a human-rights-based approach, by empowering small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women, to participate in decision-making processes and to assume responsibility for sustainable use of fishery resources, and by emphasizing the needs of developing countries for the benefit of vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- Part 2 of the SSF Guidelines is entitled “Responsible fisheries and sustainable development” and it represents the thematic heart of the SSF Guidelines. Its chapters are: 5. Governance of Tenure in Small-Scale Fisheries and Resource Management (with sub-sections on Responsible Governance of Tenure and Sustainable Resource Management); 6. Social Development, Employment and Decent Work; 7. Value Chains, Post-Harvest and Trade; 8. Gender Equality; 9. Disaster Risks and Climate Change.
- Part 3 of the SSF Guidelines is entitled “Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation”. The small-scale fisheries sector is imbedded in a wider policy and institutional context and cannot be looked at in isolation; therefore, the SSF Guidelines call for better integration of the sector into broader development processes, policies, strategies and plans.

<sup>1</sup> The video was produced by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, and is available online in English – [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqC9Bef-IwE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqC9Bef-IwE); French – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQgO6RmQaiA>; Spanish – [www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=ItefaviIKa4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=ItefaviIKa4); and Portuguese – [www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3cJoeSqN-c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3cJoeSqN-c)

Implementation of the SSF Guidelines must be seen as a progressive process, its history informing the present, permitting SSF actors to access a formal space to voice their views on the future governance of small-scale fisheries. Hence, this presentation brought to the attention of the participants the three African SSF consultative workshops, which have been held in Western and Central Africa (2019), Eastern Africa (2015) and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (2016). These workshops were successful in bringing the most pressing issues to the forefront of the SSF Guideline's agenda and were considered indispensable as a catalyst for informing implementation decisions. Some of the key challenges presented included:

- better access to alternative livelihoods;
- better availability of financial services and insurance schemes for small-scale fisheries, especially gender and youth;
- investments in appropriate infrastructures and technologies;
- SSF organizations requiring capacity development for participation in decision-making processes and fisheries management structures allowing for their effective participation; and
- the need to address post-harvest losses and waste.

The final part of the presentation focused on examples of implementation activities in the context of gender equality and equity in value chains, post-harvest operations and trade. At the international level, FAO has led the authorship of the SSF Handbook on Gender Equality and Equity and continues to lead the second part of the Illuminating Hidden Harvests study, which is due to be published later in 2020, with sex-disaggregated data that promises to be an unprecedented output to inform future studies on small-scale fishing. At the regional level, FAO led the authorship of the Guidelines for Microfinancing, Credit Services and Insurance in Asia, a publication addressing subjects frequently cited as vital for the sustainability of small-scale fishing enterprises throughout Africa. Secondly, FAO has also played an ongoing role in the research, installation and management of the FAO-Thiaroye process technique (FTT) kilns, which are now commonly found throughout Africa. At the national level, FAO has numerous projects and activities in over 20 countries that are working toward implementing the SSF Guidelines. Two examples where activities have been successful in providing women with a more pronounced role in value chains are in the United Republic of Tanzania, where preparations for a National Plan of Action are explicitly focused on the formalized role women play in the sub-sector, and in Tunisia, which has created a model example of a viable and equitable value chain through a tripart relationship between the Government, the distributor and the female clam collectors.

## PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND ACTIVITIES OF THE 2020 EXTENSION

Following the introduction to the SSF Guidelines, Lena Westlund, of FAO, gave an introduction to the “Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems” project. She began by explaining the links between the SSF Guidelines, the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme, and this new project. The new project was designed within the framework of the SSF Guidelines and set in the context of sustainable food systems, in line with the Norwegian Government’s action plan on sustainable food systems: [Food, People and the Environment](#). The project will be a five-year global project, with an initial focus on five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa: Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

In her introduction to the project, Ms Westlund highlighted the importance of empowering women, since women represent around half of those working in the small-scale fisheries sector and are mostly engaged in post-harvest activities such as processing and marketing. Women play a key role in ensuring that their families and communities have access to food, but they are often disadvantaged and do not have the same opportunities as men. In addition, women often experience unequal access to productive assets, technology, finance and services such as education, water and health, and experience unequal power relations with different actors in the value chain, making them more vulnerable to exploitation.

Sustainable food systems encompass all aspects of the production, processing, distribution, sale and consumption of food, and “delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that economic, social and environmental foundations for ensuring food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised,” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, 2019). Ms Westlund emphasized the point that the post-harvest subsector is a critical link between producers and consumers and is thus a key part of sustainable food systems.

The overall goal of the project in the coming years is to contribute to sustainable, more inclusive, and efficient fish value chains and food systems through improved knowledge of fish as food, improved capacity of individuals, organizations and governments, increased fish consumption, improved post-harvest equipment and small-scale infrastructure, and improved policies as they relate to SSF, post-harvest, women’s organizations, food security and nutrition.

The project will do this through many activities, especially at the national level, but also by linking to policies and initiatives at regional and global scales. Expected activities include building the capacity of individuals and family enterprises, strengthening professional organizations and cooperatives, empowering women based on their needs, undertaking appropriate awareness-raising, and developing communication activities to encourage/promote fish consumption (nutritional value of fish for a balanced diet), for example, in school meals. Other activities include promoting public private partnerships or other suitable participatory approaches to co-develop processing equipment/small-scale infrastructure, value chains, distribution and trade of fish products, identifying and developing good practices to support learning exchanges at the national, regional and global levels, and supporting institutional structures both at government and small-scale fisheries actor levels. The project will also allow for expanding and strengthening the knowledge base as it relates to the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition as well the role of women and the benefits of gender equality.







# Summary of country presentations and discussion

Representatives from each of the target countries' relevant government ministries were identified and invited to present on the first day of the workshop. Guidance on topics for these presentations was given ahead of time, see Annex 5.

## GHANA

Ghana has a marine coastline of about 550 km, dotted with lagoons such as Keta, Songhor and Benya. Lake Volta is a major water body in Ghana, with a surface area of 8 482 km<sup>2</sup> and a shoreline of 4 800 km. Rivers in Ghana include the Ankobrah, Pra, Offin, Tano, Black Volta and White Volta.

The fisheries sector accounts for 1 percent of national gross domestic product (GDP) and 5.1 percent of agricultural GDP. Most of its production is marine (67 percent), followed by aquaculture (17 percent) and inland fisheries (16 percent). Fisheries provide economic livelihoods for many people, employing 10 percent of the population. Fishing activities are done by men, while women participate in processing and post-harvest activities.

Women play an important role in financing fishing businesses and fishing trips, as well as fishing on Lake Volta, distributing and marketing fish and processing. There are an estimated 117 000 fish processors and traders, 45 000 in the marine sector and 72 000 in the inland sector (as of 2008). The National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA) was formed in 2015, with 15 000 members. There are an estimated 120 000 fish-smoking ovens nationwide, including Ahotor, Chokor and FTT, Morrison, as well as barrels. Fewer than one percent of fish processors use improved ovens for processing. Common forms of fish processing include smoke-dried fish, salted-dried fish, fermented fish, fried fish and dried fish.

Fish accounts for 60 percent of the animal protein intake for Ghanaians, and per capita consumption is between 20–25 kg per year. Species include small pelagic fish such as sardinella, mackerel and anchovy, large pelagic fish such as tuna, sail fins, and swordfish, and demersal fish such as seabream and snappers.

SSF are socially and culturally important, as can be seen in community festivals linked to the abundance of fish, the role of traditional leaders in SSF, and generational occupation and family traditions. Status in the community is often linked to the number of canoes one owns. There are about 15 000 artisanal canoes that operate on the marine coastline, and 24 000 along the Volta River (as of the year 2000).

The fisheries sector in Ghana is guided by:

- i. The Ghana shared growth development agenda;
- ii. Fisheries Act 2002 (act 625), 2014 (act 880);
- iii. Fisheries Regulation 2010 (LI1986) and Fisheries Amendment Regulations 2015 (LI2217);
- iv. Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 20018; and
- v. The Ghana Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Development Plan 2011–2016.

Current activities in Ghana include upgrading landing sites, providing ice boxes, fish salting containers, fish drying racks, and FTT kilns, as well as building the capacity of fish processor groups.

SSF in Ghana contributes to employment as there are low barriers to entry, which provides opportunities to the poor and to low-skilled labour. It also provides livelihood options for women and contributes to food security. Risks to SSF in Ghana include the potential decline in fish stocks as a result of overexploitation, habitat destruction and pollution, changes in demand, increased imports of fish affecting the price of fish on the market, and low uptake of improved technologies such as the FTT kilns. Lastly, the future goals for SSF in Ghana include promoting the specific needs of poor and vulnerable workers in the sector, enhancing livelihoods, ensuring a stable and sustainable supply of fish, better collection of data on the post-harvest sector, improving the use of fish, reducing negative environmental impacts (for example, look at alternative fuel sources), improving food security, and promoting sound institutional support for the sector.

## **MALAWI**

Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, bordered by Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Mozambique. The total area is 118 484 km<sup>2</sup>, with Lake Malawi covering 29 600 km<sup>2</sup>. The population of Malawi was estimated to be 18 million people in 2018. Fish is the main source of animal protein in the country (over 70 percent).

The fisheries sector in Malawi is divided into three subsectors of large-scale mechanized fisheries, small-scale artisanal fisheries, and ornamental fisheries and aquaculture. The ornamental fishery is a very small sector, as there are four enterprises that collect ornamental cichlids for export. There are few large-scale mechanized enterprises – only about 50 units operate on Lake Malawi, which are owned by 40 enterprises. Among these, are eight that are owned by women. About 63 000 people are currently directly employed in the SSF industry as gear owners (19 percent) or as crew members (81 percent). There are more than 500 000 people indirectly employed in fisheries through ancillary activities. Among those who own gear, only 2.2 percent are women.

Women play a crucial role in processing and marketing fish, with a recent survey showing that 70 percent of fish traders and processors are women. Women own gear but often employ men to do the fishing, while they manage from the shore. Women take part in fishing but usually in rivers or flood plains, with hook and line, traps or small nets. There are women's SSF organizations in fishing communities, but not all of them are known and it is important to map these organizations.

Most of the fishing crafts operating in the SSF sector (70 percent) are dugout canoes, followed by boats without engines, planked canoes and boats with engines (10 percent). Aquaculture is also carried out in earthen fishponds and cages in Lake Malawi.

SSF are heavily dependent on the fishery such that they often migrate with the seasons in search of a better catch. The landed catch is bought by small-scale traders (often women) to process and transport to distant markets, while some fish are sold to the local community. More than 90 percent of landings come from SSF.

The fishery sector is regulated by the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act 1997, which is currently under review. The policy that governs the sector is the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2016, which has six main priority areas; among them, four address the SSF sector (capture fisheries, fish quality and value addition, governance and social development, and decent employment). Beach Village Communities (BVC) regulate fisheries in any particular beach or landing site. The

BVC constitution provides for a minimum of three women in the committee of nine executive members. BVCs in each geographical area form a fisheries association with a management agreement signed by the Director of Fisheries.

Ongoing and planned activities include capacity building for SSF actors, strengthening existing organizations to manage their enterprises with a business focus, improving and establishing infrastructure on selected landing sites (such as storage facilities, sanitation facilities and clean water) and awareness raising and communication activities in line with the Fisheries Communication Strategy 2018–2023. Strengths of SSF include an enabling environment that emphasizes good governance, decent employment and social development, strong demand for fish that grows with the population, and the political will to recognize the role that fish play in food and nutrition security. Some challenges include influx of illegal gear, habitat degradation, climate change affecting water level in lakes, HIV and AIDS negatively affecting fishing communities, and the migratory behaviour of fishers, which makes it difficult to target interventions.

In conclusion, SSF are vital for the food security and nutrition of Malawians. Efforts to engage fishing communities to co-manage the fisheries resources are yielding positive results. There is great potential for increasing the participation of women in SSF as gear owners, as evidenced by the increased number of women owning gear (up 20 percent from 2017/2018).

## SIERRA LEONE

The fisheries sector in Sierra Leone plays a significant role in the national economy, food security and nutrition of people in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone's exclusive economic zone is gifted with abundant fish resources, with about 200 different marine fish species and 150 freshwater fish species. Of these, 100 marine fish species are commercially valuable and exploited. SSF contribute about 12 percent of GDP and SSF is the most important economic activity along the coastline of Sierra Leone.

SSF are very low-technology and labour intensive, operating mainly in the in-shore economic zone. Catch from SSF accounts for about 60 percent of total marine landings, and supplies fish at affordable prices, accounting for about 80 percent of animal protein consumption in Sierra Leone. More than 500 000 people are directly or indirectly employed in the fisheries sector.

The fishing industry has induced migration of people, especially traders, to move to the coastal region for fishing. Some Ghanaians have also migrated to Sierra Leone for fishing, reflecting a cultural mix in the fishing communities. The predominant group of fisherfolk is largely Muslim, which has an impact on commercial activity (as there are different sabbath days).

Women play a prominent role in artisanal fisheries, especially in the post-harvest value chain through processing, marketing and distribution. Women are poorly represented and seldom included in decision-making with regard to fisheries and resource management. Their roles include gutting, cleaning, fish smoking, marketing, distribution, and hand-fishing with scoop nets, pots and traps.

Sierra Leone's legal framework for fisheries management includes:

- i. the National Fisheries Policy 2016;
- ii. the Local Government Act (2004);
- iii. the Fisheries Products Act (2007);
- iv. the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2018; and
- v. the Fisheries Regulations 2019.

The Ministry supported the formation of a single fisherman’s union – the National Artisanal Fisherman’s Consortium. Women in Fisheries Groups have also formed to encourage the empowerment of women in fisheries.

The current strengths of SSF in Sierra Leone include livelihood opportunities for women, construction of 12 sheltered smoking kilns and seven units with public toilets and water, sanitation and health facilities (under Icelandic Sustainable Fisheries support), two units of Ahorto smoking kilns, and raised platforms for cleaning and processing fish. Challenges in the sector include high post-harvest loss, poor handling of fresh fish at sea and at landing sites, ill-equipped fishing vessels, lack of infrastructure (roads, cold rooms, ice facilities) and illegal fishing (using dynamite or illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing).

Future goals for the SSF sector include improving national nutrition and food security through responsible fishing and reducing post-harvest losses, constructing cold rooms at fish landing sites, improving knowledge in handling, processing and marketing, and improving the socioeconomic conditions of fisherfolk, particularly women and children.

## UGANDA

The fisheries sub-sector in Uganda is characterized by two distinct segments: capture and aquaculture. Capture fisheries are dominated by large fish species – mainly Nile perch, Tilapia and small pelagics (Mukene - *Rastreniobola*, Muziri - *Neobola* and Ragoge - *Bricynus*). Aquaculture is dominated by Tilapia, catfish and carp. The Nile perch value chain is largely focused on fillets, heads, skeletons, fish maw, oil and skin, while the small pelagic value chain is dominated by sun-dried, smoked, powdered, canned and mixed products that are traded nationally and regionally.

The SSF sector is challenged by increased fishing pressure, spoilage due to delayed landing, inadequate market information, resource use conflicts, inadequate and costly post-harvesting facilities (ice, cold storage and cooler facilities, and very limited cold storage facilities), high degree of wastage (poor handling and grading), inadequate distribution of infrastructure, limited organization of fresh produce retailing, and limited product and market diversification.

SSFs are important in Uganda with Lakes Victoria, Kyoga, Albert/A. Nile, George, Edward and over 160 minor lakes, rivers, swamps and dams forming the resource base (18 percent of Uganda). Fish is the second foreign income earner contributing **3 percent** to national GDP and **12 percent** to agriculture GDP. The subsector employs more than **1.2 million** people directly and provides a livelihood for 1.4 million people, mainly artisans, women and youth. Fish provides **50 percent** of the animal protein, and annual per capita fish consumption is 10 kg as compared with the world standard of 20.3 kg.

There is both cultural and social importance to SSF in Uganda with small pelagic fish being rich in micronutrients and health benefits. They are traditionally believed to be a treatment for measles and are also considered a food security treasure.

The relevant laws, regulations, policies, plans and strategies include:

- the Fish Act. Cap. 197 makes a provision for controlling fishing, conserving fish, purchasing, selling, marketing and processing fish;
- the Fish (Fishing) Rules 2010 regulates fishing activities;
- Council of Ministers directives on species-specific licensing and limitations on number of boats per species;
- Fish (Quality Assurance and Aquaculture) Rules 2017;
- Aquaculture rules and guidelines for cage fish farming, National Development Plan III/Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan promoting agro-industrialization and increased employment and income in line with wealth creation;

- National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2018;
- National Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, 2020 in Cabinet and Presidential directives for fisheries reforms.

The Government and fish and fish workers (i.e. fishers associations) are involved in fisheries enforcement together with the national army. They are consulted for formulating policies, laws and regulations at the cluster platform level and co-management laws, which provide for 30 percent involvement of women on fisheries management committees.

There is currently strength in SSF as fish stocks are recovering in Lake Victoria and in other lakes (Nile perch – 30 percent), fish factories are re-opening, which creates market potential, and exports have increased to 26 000 tonnes valued at USD 157 million (2019) up from 18 000 tonnes valued at USD 134 million (2017). Small pelagic fish marketing in the region has big potential for SSF, Aquaculture is growing at 6% per annum and the National Women's Fish Organisation/artisanal women groups are involved in post-harvest programs.

However, there are risks and constraints to project activities that may include over exploitation of capture fisheries, undeveloped value chains and increased water pollution, resource use conflicts between value chain actors, and climate change impacts on fisheries.

There is a need for support to alternative livelihoods in fishing communities, multi-sectoral food security initiatives in schools and hospitals, support for artisanal women processors in the capture fisheries value chains, and support to the Uganda Fisheries and Aquaculture Professionals Association. There is a need to promote non-weather based technologies, responsible fisheries business value chains, the development of the fisheries by-product value chain and the enhancement of livelihood options for fishing communities along the value chain.

In conclusion, SSF are critical to Ugandan society and national development. SSF value chains need to promote ways of ensuring sustainability and deliberate support is required for women and youth at the handling and processing level of the value chain.

## UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The United Republic of Tanzania lies south of the Equator and covers an area of about 947 300 km<sup>2</sup>. The country is rich in water resources, around 62 000 km<sup>2</sup> is covered by various water bodies including: the three major inland lakes in Africa, which are Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyasa/Malawi; other inland water bodies including minor lakes, river systems, dams, ponds and wetlands; and a coast line of 1 424 km<sup>2</sup> along the Western Indian Ocean. SSF is the most important fishing industry in the country, as SSF accounts for about 95 percent of total fish production, and is characterized by its use of canoes ranging from 3 to 11 metres long, propelled by paddle, sail and outboard engine, making short fishing trips, using multi gears, and by being seasonal.

The fisheries sector has a lot of economic and social significance in the country because it provides direct and indirect employment, provides a source of cheap protein and maintains food security. Fisheries account for 2.1 percent of GDP in foreign exchange earnings from exports of fish and fishery products, and up to 10.1 percent of national exports.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, women's roles in fisheries are exemplified in a range of activities in pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest subsectors, involved in gleaning fish, net mending and gear preparation, fishing from shore in shallow water or on boats, sorting fish catches, fish processing, marketing and trading.

The main instruments in managing fisheries resources in the United Republic of Tanzania are the Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2003, with its principal Fisheries Regulations

of 2009 and National Fisheries Policy 2015. The Act and its Regulation's objective is to provide a legal framework for managing, exploiting, using and conserving fisheries resources in the country. It is, however, applied in cross-reference with other related national and international instruments. However, the sector faces several challenges that threaten the livelihood of people employed in fishing activities, such as post-harvest losses in various fish species, illegal fishing and trade practices, inadequate human and financial resources, insufficient scientific information on fisheries, and insufficient access to finance and credit facilities.

In November 2017, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries entered into an agreement with FAO for provision of capacity support towards the "Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in Mainland Tanzania". The project had two main objectives: i) to develop a National Plan of Action (NPOA) to implement the SSF Guidelines (NPOA-SSF Guidelines); and ii) to form a women's organization for networking in small-scale fisheries and related support activities.

Currently, activities that have been implemented are i) forming the National Task Team, ii) reviewing supporting documents (Fisheries Policy and Legal Frameworks), iii) holding an inception workshop, iv) holding a VGGT Workshop, v) raising awareness, vi) mapping women's organizations, vii) making a characterization study of SSF, viii) forming and launching Tanzania Women Fish Workers Association (TAWFA), and ix) producing promotional materials and translating the SSF Guidelines into Swahili.

The current strengths of SSF and women's organizations are the inclusion of a section on Gender Objectives in the Fisheries Policy, political will of the government to support fisheries activities, enabling policy environment to work with partners (private sectors = investors, non-governmental organizations (NGO), developing partners), support provided from NGOs (Environment Management and Economic Development Organisation (EMEDO), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), Sea Sense, Mwambao, The Nature Conservancy) on gender equality and women's empowerment, formation of TAWFA, and support on fisheries research and capacity building from research institutions, training and academia. Our future goals and vision for the SSF sector include implementing NPOA to ensure SSF sustainability, establishing a Fisheries Gender Desk at the Ministry that will support TAWFA activities, and designating 2020 as the Year of SSF Guidelines Visibility.

In spite of the fact that the fisheries sector in the United Republic of Tanzania is very important to the economy, it faces challenges. Therefore, the Government and other partners are trying to make the industry more sustainable.



# Summary of regional organizations presentations and discussion






## THE AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY – NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT


The African Union Development Agency/New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) was established as a Secretariat in 2001, then adopted as a programme of the African Union (AU) in the following year. In 2011, it was integrated into the AU as a specialized implementation agency, and in 2017 was transformed into AUDA. AUDA-NEPAD's mandate is to coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realization of Agenda 2063, and to strengthen the capacity of AU Member States and regional bodies. The following slide is from Bernice McLean's presentation for further details.

FIGURE 1  
Slide from AUDA-NEPAD presentation of Bernice McLean

MANDATE


# AUDA / NEPAD

-  To coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of **Agenda 2063**
-  To strengthen capacity of African Union Member States and regional bodies;
-  Advance knowledge-based advisory support;
-  Undertake the full range of resource mobilisation; and
-  Serve as the continent's technical interface with all Africa's development stakeholders and development partners



## AUDA-NEPAD

AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



AUDA-NEPAD recognizes the importance of SSF in Africa, where it accounts for more than 60 percent of Africa's fisheries production and contributes significantly to livelihoods, food security and nutrition. SSF contributes 0.43 percent to the GDP of African countries and 1.82 percent to agriculture GDP. Ten million Africans rely on SSF (inland and marine) for their primary livelihood, with a further 90 million people depending on fisheries as part of a diversified livelihood strategy. Half of those

employed are fishers, while 42.4 percent are processors (of which 42 percent are marine SSF, 30 percent are inland SSF and 28 percent are in industrial fisheries processing) and 7.2 percent are involved in fish farming. More than half (55 percent) are employed in inland fisheries.

Per capita fish consumption in Africa is 9.9 kg per capita per annum, approximately half that of the global average of 20.2 kg per capita per annum. Challenges to African fisheries include non-optimal utilization or management of aquatic resources, over exploitation and open access in capture fisheries, low level of organization of small-scale fisherfolk, which limits participation in fisheries governance, insecure land tenure and displacement of fisherfolk, women marginalized within the SSF sector, and insufficient data collection.

AUDA-NEPAD's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) includes seven pillars, one of which is development of small-scale fisheries. This pillar includes strategic actions, such as enhancing cooperation for managing shared resources, supporting sustainable pro-poor development, improving fisheries governance through participatory management, and building on traditional fisheries management systems. NEPAD and AU-Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) are currently implementing a fisheries governance project with the overall objective of enhancing the contribution of fisheries resources to food security and economic growth in Africa and have developed a 10-year action plan for small-scale fisheries development in Africa (2016). Lastly, Ms McLean presented AUDA-NEPAD's priority intervention areas:

- 1) The importance of fisheries for improved livelihoods, food and income of SSF communities and related operators are recognized and secured by member states.
- 2) Bilateral and regional cooperation for effective management of shared fishery resources and ecosystems is strengthened by strengthening good governance and institutional arrangements and partnerships.
- 3) Fishers are organized to foster good fisheries governance, sustainable development and responsible use of natural resources.

## **ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES**

Aboubacar Sidibé gave a presentation on the EU-FAO Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) programme's policy assistance facility to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member states, starting with some background information on fisheries and aquaculture in West Africa. Annual fish production in West African countries is an estimated 3 million tonnes, with very large differences in production between countries within the region. More than 70 percent of the total production of fish is from the SSF subsector, and more than 7 million people are directly and indirectly employed in SSF. Fish is the main source of animal protein and micronutrients available, and it is accessible to more than 60 percent of households in West Africa.

One of the challenges in the region is that fish is processed into fishmeal for animal feed instead of used to enhance human food security and nutrition. Since 2010, 300 000 tonnes of small pelagic fish (sardinella and ethmalosa) previously destined for human consumption in West Africa, have been diverted to the fishmeal factories every year. More than 200 000 tonnes of sardinella processed into fishmeal deprive 40 million West Africans of 5 kg of quality fish per person per year.

FIRST (an EU-FAO partnership programme) is working to improve the contribution of fish to food security and nutrition in West Africa through creating an enabling environment for the development and implementation of the ECOWAS



Integrated and Coordinated Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy. This is being done through:

- Support for the ongoing development and implementation of the ECOWAS Comprehensive Strategic Framework for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to improve the contribution of the sector to the food and nutrition security of these populations.
- Enhance the weak coordination and lack of effective cooperation in the programmes and projects for food and nutrition security and fisheries and aquaculture development, and enhance the weak human and institutional capacities at the national and regional level.

At the time of the presentation, analytic reviews of the contribution of national fisheries and aquaculture policies and strategies to food and nutrition security had been conducted in 14 ECOWAS member states, with clear priority actions identified to improve the availability, accessibility, use and sustainability of fish and fisheries products for populations. In addition, the mandate and composition of the Regional Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture of ECOWAS was adopted and the West African Non-state Actor Platform for Fisheries and Aquaculture (WANSFA) in West Africa and Mauritania was officially established to improve and enable the environment to increase the contribution of fish to food and nutrition security.

In conclusion, the FIRST programme in ECOWAS highlighted the need to modernize and protect artisanal and coastal fisheries with a strong focus on food and nutrition security and the fight against poverty, mobilizing public and private investment in SSF, and improving collection of information on fish consumption in food and nutrition security studies in ECOWAS member states and Mauritania. Lastly, collaboration and coordination must be strengthened at the regional and national levels to integrate food and nutrition security concerns into the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture (and vice versa).

## **AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF ARTISANAL FISHING PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The African Confederation of Professional Organizations for Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA) is a regional organization of professionals, which includes women and men, in the SSF marine and inland fisheries of Africa. Since its creation, its main focus has been to promote sustainable small-scale fishing through programmes promoting the role of women in SSF, and through policies to develop their activities such as post-harvest facilities, fish value chains, women's organizations and food security and nutrition activities.

Past activities include World Oceans Day in 2019, where actors from the African SSF sector met on 14 and 15 May in Dakar, Senegal to share experiences of fisheries subsidies and sustainable development. Issues and challenges for improving women's working conditions in SSF were stressed. In addition, CAOPA was involved in the 2018 International Women's Day in the Gambia. Currently, CAOPA is involved in ongoing activities to support women in Guinea from being illegally transferred from their usual fish processing sites. CAOPA also leads the ongoing sensitization and implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Senegal through translations into local languages and by establishing a multi-stakeholder committee. Recent activities include training women on the SSF Guidelines in Liberia in March 2020.

CAOPA has seen many successes, including the facilitation of access for fish from EU fishing vessels by women in Côte d'Ivoire, identification and improvement of indecent working conditions for women in Côte d'Ivoire. Some of the challenges include insufficient water, sanitation and hygiene, no kindergartens and no electricity at

fish processing and landing sites. In addition, there are health hazards associated with fish processing; for example, women and children are spending many hours inhaling smoke from kilns while fish smoking.

In conclusion, there is need for more information on the socio-economic role of fisheries, particularly on the role women play in fisheries. The effective participation of women in planning and decision-making processes is paramount.

## **AFRICAN WOMEN FISH PROCESSORS AND TRADERS NETWORK**

Fish and fishery products provide food and nutrition security, as well as generating livelihoods and economic development in much of Africa. Women make up more than one-quarter of the workforce in African fisheries and do more than 90 percent of the post-harvest activities. Women remain marginalized in terms of fishing activities as well as decision-making processes.

In 2014, the African Heads of State and Government endorsed the Malabo declaration, committing to boost intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services and harness markets and trade opportunities. The PFRS for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa served as a blueprint for the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture in Africa. The PFRS included expected outcomes in both SSF and gender and in youth development, including recognition of the critical role of women and the need to improve access for women to fish and fish markets, especially by providing credit.

The African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) was conceptualized in October 2016 in Uganda during a training of trainers workshop on fish handling along the post-harvest value chain. An outcome of this workshop was a strong recommendation to AU-IBAR to facilitate establishing a continental network. Following this, AWFISHNET was launched in April 2017 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. AWFISHNET's overall objective is to raise awareness of the role of African women in SSF, particularly in the post-harvest sector, and to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between women fish processors and associations in Africa to:

- Share best practices, experiences and technologies
- Lobby and Advocate for women in fisheries
- Strengthen roles in small and medium enterprises
- Nutrition and food security
- Strengthen capacity of women in business
- Enhance positive developments in the areas of nutrition and food security, food safety, poverty alleviation and economic growth.

There are currently 28 AU member countries and they held their first general assembly in April 2019, where members were trained on the SSF Guidelines. As a network, they are working to develop and implement awareness campaigns, organize capacity building trainings, facilitate multi-stakeholder activities, and improve and broaden networks with relevant like-minded organizations (among many other activities). Currently, AWFISHNET is implementing a project supported by Swedbio in five countries to strengthen the organizational capacities of women fish workers organizations and to strengthen the capacities of AWFISHNET members. Future activities include:

- 1) Formalize AWFISHNET's registration.
- 2) Develop a strategic plan, policies and procedures for the network.
- 3) Continued capacity building support to the national networks.

- 4) Support national networks during their workshops with expertise and experience.
- 5) Work to increase the networks membership from the current 28 countries to, possibly, all 54 countries on the continent within five years.
- 6) With partner support, help put in place effective frameworks for securing and disseminating information about best practices with respect to governance, post-harvest, cost effective and climate adapted technologies.
- 7) Support and create awareness and disseminate issues related to improving post-harvest safety and handling, standards, market conditions, market practices, packaging, trade protocols, etc.
- 8) Strengthen the capacity of member countries in order to foster sustainable fisheries in Africa as a means to fight poverty, ensure safe food and nutritional security, provide employment, create incomes and generate wealth.
- 9) Seek partners and mobilize resources to support at least three bureau meetings (2020/2021) and the general assembly in 2021.
- 10) Seek out and mobilize resources to map women's organizations at the national level in member countries.

## SMALLFISHFOOD

LEAP-Agri Small Fish and Food Security: Towards Innovative Integration of Fish in African Food Systems to Improve Nutrition (nicknamed SmallFishFood), led by Jeppe Kolding (Principal Investigator and Professor at University of Bergen, Norway), is an interdisciplinary project that specifically aims to:

- identify, quantify and map current patterns of production and distribution of small fish for food and feed, with particular reference to Ghana, Kenya and Uganda;
- identify and describe the harvesting, marketing and utilization patterns of small fish and how they contribute to food and nutritional security in these countries;
- improve the production processes to achieve better quality and longer shelf life; and
- disseminate information about the nutritious value of small fish to stakeholders and governance agencies and analyse how barriers to sustainable utilization can be resolved.

The project activities are grouped under four main work packages:

- 1) Fish harvesting
- 2) Processing and marketing
- 3) Nutrition and food security
- 4) Governance.

The partners are from:

- Norway (The University of Bergen, Institute of Marine Research)
- The Netherlands (Wageningen University and University of Amsterdam)
- Germany (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR))
- Uganda (Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), National Agricultural Laboratories (NARL))
- Kenya (Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI))
- Ghana (University of Ghana (UG), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Food Research Institute (FRI)).

The small fish industry in Ghana, though undervalued, provides food security, nutrition, employment, income and maintenance of livelihoods for fishers and fish processors. The traditional practice with sun dried fish all over Africa involves drying the fish on the ground. This practice has led to concerns about the safety and quality of these small fish, and in adverse weather conditions it leads to huge revenue losses to the fish processors, who are mostly women.

The CSIR-Food Research Institute component of the project, which is under work package 1 and 2, has provided an alternative means for processing fish by sun drying with improved, user-friendly, off the ground drying platforms and racks. The platforms come in two styles. One is fully constructed with concrete and the other is made with a high-quality treated wood frame embedded in the ground with concrete support. Easy to use drying racks with a mesh and net covering to prevent contamination of the fish by flies have also been designed. The design of the racks allows them to be easily flipped over to dry the opposite side of the fish on the bottom side of the rack. A locking mechanism on the sides of the racks prevents the fish from falling onto the bare ground when the rack is being flipped over. Drying trials have been conducted, some microbial and chemical analysis carried out, and the development of value-added products using the fish powder milled with a hammer mill has also been carried out. Two women's fish drying processing groups in Tema New Town in the greater Accra region and Moree in the central region have already benefited from the project with prototypes of the drying platforms and racks. They were also trained in hygienic handling and processing of small pelagics, how to prepare various food products, including shito, ready-to-eat cereal mix, waffle mix and fish nuggets from milled fish powder. They were also encouraged to use the powder in weaning foods and as thickeners for soups and stews. The processing groups were supported with a 7.5 Hp hammer mill and electric sealer each to facilitate their activities. Going forward, two more platforms, 40 racks, two hammer mills and two sealing machines will be provided in two other communities before the end of the project in 2022. These activities are funded by the German Federal Institute for Risk (BLE). The core team at FRI consists of Amy Atter, Margaret Owusu, Jonathan Ampah, Anthonia Andoh-Odoom, Papa Toah Akonor with support from Marian Kjellefeldt, Ragnhild Overå, Johannes Pucher and Jeppe Kolding.

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## Working group sessions

At the beginning of day two, a presentation on work planning for the project was given. It was drawn from the project activities presented on day one and expanded upon work plan objectives. The objectives of this session were for each project country to identify priority outcomes that align with the project framework, select activities that align with national priorities and selected outcomes, and define the key steps for each activity and how they build to overall outcomes for the five-year project.

Breakout groups were formed for each of the five initially selected project countries – Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda – to convene relevant national and regional stakeholders and discuss. For each country, the core team was made up of a FAO country coordinator, a government representative from the Ministry of Fisheries or relevant ministry, and a woman from a SSF organization. In addition, representatives from regional organizations were asked to join country breakout groups where they have the most relevant work – for example, if the regional organization representative had much experience in the United Republic of Tanzania, they spent the majority of the session with the Tanzania breakout group.

Breakout groups worked together for the morning, and after lunch were asked to present initial workplans in plenary for comments and questions. After presentations, participants returned to working groups to further refine their work plans, with guidance from FAO headquarters and regional office staff. At the end of the workshop, each country breakout group shared their draft work plan for follow-up discussions and for refining work plans after the workshop. National work plans will be further refined and validated through national inception workshops.







# Thematic presentations and discussion

## RISK AND RISK MITIGATION IN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

When starting interventions in women's economic empowerment in the fisheries sector in one specific value chain, there should be information available on where women are working in the value chain (formal, informal) and how important (numbers) they are in each of the functions. Very often they will be visible in the post-harvest sector, but they can have hidden functions in the capture sector and can be present as boat owners or in financing for fishing activities.

As important as visualizing where women are placed in the value chain, it is also necessary to understand the gender-based constraints in each of the functions. The guide on gender-sensitive value chain analysis (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6462e.pdf>) provides practical guidance on how to undertake this analysis.

Major domains of gender-based constraints are (i) limited access to knowledge, information and training; (ii) un-equal participation, leadership and decision making; (iii) limited access to financial services; (iv) limited access to inputs and technologies; and (v) work burden and time poverty. For each of the gender-based constraints that are identified there should be actions taken to overcome them.

Apart from the value chain functions and its cartography, there should also be an analysis of how gender-sensitive service providers are working in order to: (i) verify how service providers and their products may be a source of gender discrimination; (ii) verify if social norms and culture, regulations and laws are a basis of forms of discrimination; and (iii) verify if there are gender-based constraints in access to services.

When developing strategies for value chain upgrading you can focus on products, functions, systems, processes and sectors. In each of the value chain upgrading proposals, the components of economic empowerment should be analysed in terms of (i) social discrimination and gender norms; (ii) labour and market characteristics that can be disadvantageous to women; (iii) legal, regulatory and policy framework; and (iv) fiscal policy.

The elements constituting the enabling environment for economic empowerment are:

- access to property, assets, finance
- access to education, skills and training
- collective action and leadership
- access to quality and decent paid work
- addressing unpaid work and work burden
- social protection.

The presentation went into the details of gender-based risks in each of the above elements as well as disadvantages for youth and how gender transformative processes are connected to the risks identified.

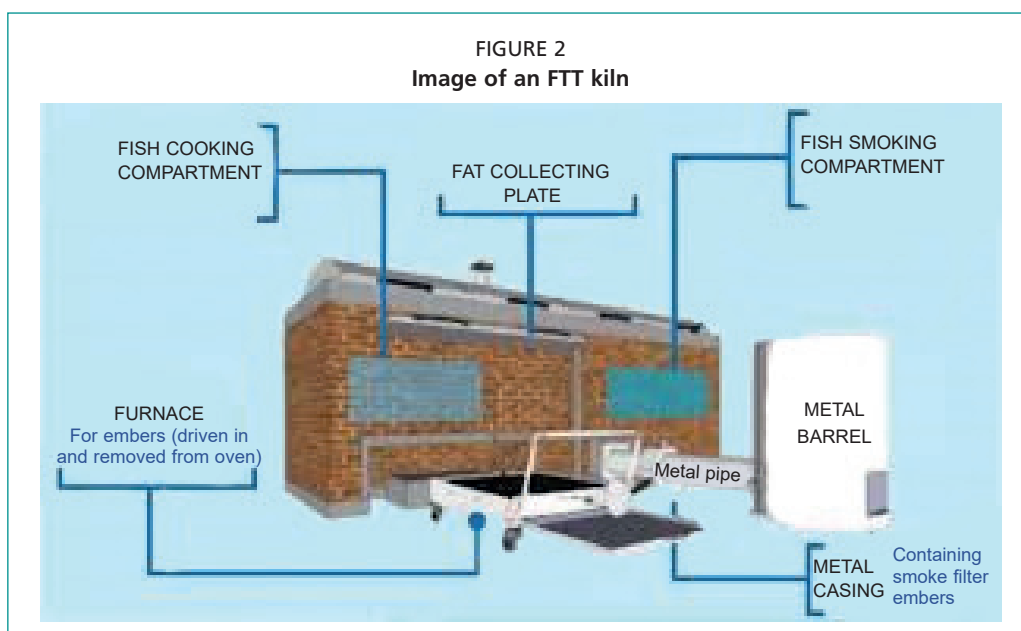
## DISSEMINATION AND ADAPTATION OF THE FAO-THIAROYE PROCESSING TECHNIQUE TECHNOLOGY

FAO-Thiaroye Processing Technique (FTT) is an innovative concept that can be adapted to improve the functioning of most existing ovens. The FTT kiln was designed to improve existing ovens based on their positive and negative characteristics. It has proven to be energy efficient, and to improve the food safety of the fish, which is shown especially in the low levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). FAO has made strides in making this technology available in many areas of the world. FAO Ghana has disseminated the technology in some communities nationwide. However, dissemination and adaptation have been slow for many reasons. There is need for a strategy to come up with the best approach to making the technology affordable and accessible.

Fish smoking ovens, or kilns, range from traditional (round mud ovens, barrel ovens) to improved (multi-rack chorkor, altona, FTT). Traditional ovens present certain challenges such as their low capacity, inefficient use of fuel, certain health risks (e.g., smoke inhalation), time-consuming to use, and short life span of the technology (especially mud kilns). This has led to the first generations of improved kilns being developed. However, there are still issues related to food safety and to the health of processors.

The innovative FTT kiln can be built by modifying any of the existing improved ovens (banda, chorkor or altona) and adding specific components to the structure:

- dual compartments;
- fat collection tray;
- ember furnace;
- indirect smoke generator.



Source: from Ms Kanyi's presentation.

Research conducted by FAO in collaboration with the University of Ghana and the University of Ghent (Belgium) looked at the use of charcoal and fat collection trays and their impacts on PAH levels of fish, as well as whether or not a filter affects PAH levels. The conclusions show that the “FTT can solve the longstanding problems posed by hot-smoking that prevail in traditional fish production systems,



thus addressing FSN issues, fish processors' health and environmental concern if challenges such as; inappropriate planning, design, installation and the business environment are addressed." (Mindjimba *et al.*, 2019)

At a regional meeting on FTT held in September 2019 in Elmina, Ghana, some findings were presented to show that introducing indirect smoke at a 50 percent moisture level improves absorption and flavour. This suggests that the FTT dual compartment should be modified to allow for simultaneous cooking and smoking.

This is an advantage for the technology because using the dual chambers simultaneously increases the oven's capacity by 100 percent, making it unnecessary to transfer trays from the cooking to the smoking compartment. Therefore, there is less effort and processing time in terms of volume.

Ms Kanyi presented some important considerations for project design, such as the finding that many processors in Ghana do not like to work as a group and prefer to work individually. Therefore, FTT kilns must be sized accordingly for an individual. Some of the other challenges faced by fabricators and processors include insufficient information and technical drawings for replication, the high cost of ovens and shelters for them, heavy accessories (trays and metal parts), high cost of charcoal vs. fuel wood, and a lack of differentiated market products. Ms Kanyi presented drawings for FTT modifications and for retro-fitting other kilns to have FTT components, which she and her team have been working on in Ghana, in order to provide incremental improvements to fish smoking kilns.

FTT has the potential to transform and modernize fish processing and create youth employment. It is energy efficient, and it can reduce post-harvest losses and produce high-quality fish products for improved livelihoods and for the well-being of fish processors and consumers. It has the potential to unlock market opportunities that were previously inaccessible to traditional processors, as food safety issues are improved for the sale of FTT-smoked fish in supermarkets or for export. However, there is still more work to be done to make this technology affordable and accessible, and to improve fish for local markets and local consumption as well as for export and supermarkets.



## Field trip

On the morning of the last day of the workshop, participants made a field trip to two SSF sites close to Accra: Nungua and Tema. Both these sites provided insight into small-scale fishing operations, processing, trading and into the involvement of women's organizations.

### NUNGUA

The first stop was in Nungua, a town within the greater Accra region with an important SSF community. Canoe fishers here typically use ring nets to target small pelagics and hook and line to catch high value demersal species. Women processors within the community smoke dry the small pelagics for sale within greater Accra. Demersal species are sold fresh to consumers. Some may end up on the export market. As well as smoking seasonal, locally caught fish, the women also smoke imported frozen fish that has been purchased from suppliers in Tema. The frozen fish originates from within the region as well as from Europe, including Norway. Ghana is one of several West African countries that has been a long-time net importer of fish. The Government has a controlled import policy that aims to meet the strong local demand for fish. Much of the imports are block frozen (cartons) of small pelagic species such as sardinella, mackerel and herring.



Photographs from the field visit to Nungua.



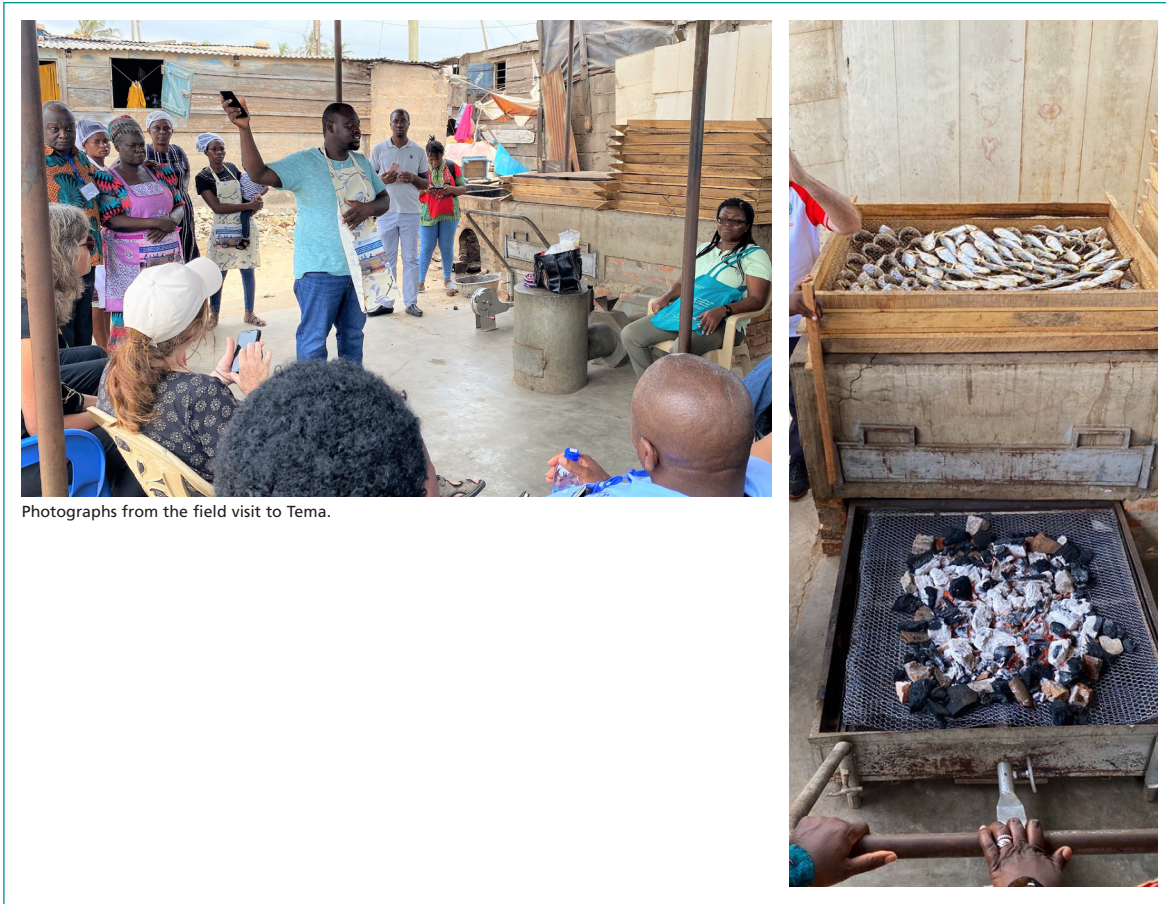
The participants met with representatives from two women’s groups. Information was provided on how the groups are organized, the challenges they face, and on the fish smoking equipment process and business.

The challenges the women face include poor access to locally caught fish, the requirement to pay for imported fish up-front in cash as opposed to on credit and the lack of alternative income generating activities. The women were observed using traditional round drum smoking ovens and chorkor ovens. Ahortor kilns had been built but appeared not to have been used. One reason for this was said to be that the fire entrance was too small and processing took too long.

## TEMA

The second site, Tema, is a large town to the west of Accra. It is Ghana’s main commercial port and is an industrial and semi-industrial centre. It is also an important small-scale fishery landing beach and market. Participants visited the Hen Mpoano group, which is a women’s organization that has benefited from an FTT kiln and capacity building activities associated with organizational management. The women’s group (and the son of one of the leaders) gave a presentation on the kiln’s functions and benefits (see details in section VII). At the time of the visit, the FTT was demonstrated using a small batch of fish. This FTT was said to be used on an ad hoc basis to smoke fish on order for people wishing to export the product to Europe and elsewhere.

From here the group visited the Tema Canoe Harbour/Basin and retail fish market. Fish observed on sale had originated from both the semi-industrial and local SSF fleets. One of the major tuna canneries was seen *en route* and cartons of frozen fish emanating from the many cold stores in the area were seen in the market and being transported on carts.



Photographs from the field visit to Tema.

# Summary, conclusions, recommendations and next steps

## SUMMARY

The workshop confirmed the importance of fish and the small-scale fisheries sector for food security and nutrition, as well as the role of women in fisheries. Women are often marginalized and there is a strong need for their empowerment. The workshop clarified the scope of the project and it was agreed that project activities will consider a strong focus on small fish (small pelagic) value chains in order to increase the quantity and quality of small fish and fish products for human consumption and trade by empowering women in the postharvest sector.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Other key general considerations for project implementation discussed include:
- Women are not a homogenous group and there is a need to ensure that marginalized groups are not left out. Elite capture and other risks related to women's economic empowerment need to be addressed. The project should ensure that it has the required capacity and skills regarding applying gender equality and human rights-based approaches.
- Many women in the postharvest sector seem to have increasing difficulties in accessing raw materials, both because of declining local landings (due to decreasing resources) and because fish is being diverted from direct human consumption to animal feed production, in particular to fishmeal plants, which seem to be growing. In Ghana, it was noted that processors still use/rely on frozen imported fish, particularly in seasons when local landings are less/insufficient. It was suggested that the project would investigate the effects of the increasing fishmeal production on the availability of fish in local markets and on women postharvest workers. However, while over-exploitation of resources and IUU fishing were recognized as critical issues, it was agreed that these are beyond the scope of the project, which should focus on the postharvest sector of the value chain.
- When promoting value-added products, it is important to ensure that this is market driven and linked with a demand for improved, new, or more convenient products. It was suggested that interventions first identify the market and demand and then, by working backwards through the value chain, identify the most effective project interventions with regard to upgrading women's activities, capacities and operating environments in line with prevailing national certification and standards.
- There is a lack of awareness and application of existing quality and sanitary standards for small-scale fisheries products that are destined for local, national or regional markets. It was suggested that the project investigate whether promoting the use or adaptation, if needed, of such standards would be useful, also in the context of facilitating regional trade, especially in view of future regional free trade agreements.



- In some countries (e.g., Tanzania), there are women's groups that are relatively well organized, but in other countries they are less organized. There is a general need to support institutional development. The recent creation of AWFISHNET is an encouraging development. The project should work on strengthening organizations both at the national and regional level, in parallel with more individual support for business development.
- Sharing good practices and lessons learned is important for the project to have broad impact. It was suggested that the project should have a strategy for communications and develop information and communication products.
- There is a general need for improved coordination among small-scale fisheries projects, also in relation to other initiatives. The project will provide national coordinators, who can contribute to better coordination at the country level and whose work should also be seen as capacity development and recognize that the coordination responsibility ultimately lies with the government.

The success of the project must be monitored, and a practical monitoring system should be developed with a limited number of key indicators relating to fish consumption, nutrition and gender equality.

## **NEXT STEPS**

With regard to the national workplans, the country teams worked on the basis of the proposed activities for 2020 in the project amendment document, developing draft plans both for the short term (one year) and the longer term (five years). When the workshop closed, these plans were still a work-in-progress. But examples of activities proposed include: raising awareness of the SSF Guidelines and the importance of fish in food security and for nutrition, building the capacity of individual women and family enterprises, including on business practices, market driven product development and literacy; strengthening women's professional organizations; co-developing processing equipment/small-scale infrastructure (including improved fish processing technology) and related arrangements for their use and management, and promoting fish consumption among children.

At the regional level, a number of activities were proposed and discussed, such as a review of best practices in the postharvest sector in Africa, developing a handbook for small-scale fisheries infrastructure, assessing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition and gender roles (linking also to the fishmeal study mentioned above), promoting harmonized standards for national and regional products, offering gender transformative training, strengthening regional women's networks and establishing links to global networks, developing communication products and policy briefs, and establishing a project progress and impact monitoring system.

# Annex 1. Opening statements

## FAO – Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director General / Regional Representative for Africa

*Honourable Deputy Minister,*

It is a great pleasure to address you all today and to welcome you on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and of its Regional Office for Africa, here in Ghana, to this inception workshop of the new extension of the project “*Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods through better policies, strategies and initiatives*”. We call this project extension “*Empowering women for sustainable food systems*” as it will focus on the important role of women in the small-scale fisheries sector.

First, I would like to express the great satisfaction that our organization derives from holding this regional workshop in Accra. Sincere thanks to the Government of Ghana for its hospitality and for its interest in the development of the fisheries sector and in international cooperation.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As I am sure you are aware, small-scale fisheries, encompassing all activities along the value chain in both marine and inland waters, play an important role in food security and nutrition and provide an opportunity for poverty alleviation, equitable development and sustainable use of resources.

FAO facilitated the development and agreement on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, also known as the SSF Guidelines. These Guidelines provide guidance and advice – not only to us in FAO but also to our members, development partners, and all others concerned with small-scale fisheries – on how to secure the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the sector.

The SSF Guidelines include specific sections on gender and the postharvest sector recognizing that in many countries, in particular low-income countries, women dominate the postharvest sector and play a key role in ensuring that their families and consumers more broadly have access to food. However, they face many obstacles and frequently do not have the same rights and opportunities as men. They often have unequal access to usable assets, technology, finance and services such as education, water and health. Unequal power relations often exist between different actors along the value chain, and, as a result, women can be vulnerable to disadvantageous contracts, and unfair conditions and practices with regard to fish sales and markets. The compound effect is that women have limited influence over decisions that are critical to their livelihoods and to the way they contribute to food security, nutrition and sustainable food systems.

With this project, we want to contribute significantly to change this. We want to work with women in fisheries and support them to enhance their contribution to sustainable food systems for the benefit of their livelihoods, the lives of their families and of all those who are malnourished and in need of better food security and nutrition.

*Dear Colleagues,*

As you know, food security and nutrition are at the heart of FAO's mandate and we are very pleased that our partner Norad is joining us in our efforts to make a difference in Sub-Saharan Africa, a part of the world where a quarter of the population is malnourished. The project will focus its work in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda but we hope the effects will be larger for the region, and for the world as a whole, as lessons learned will be shared broadly.

This workshop marks the beginning of this important work and its outcomes will be critical in guiding the activities to come.

While wishing the workshop every success, before I end, I should like to reiterate FAO's readiness to support governments in their efforts to strengthen the rational management of their fisheries heritage and to make the sector a real driving force for sustainable economic and social development for the benefit of your respective countries.

Thank you all for your attention.

**Ghana Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development – Francis Kingsley  
Ato Codjoe, Deputy Minister**

*The Representative Of The Food And Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

*The Executive Director of Fisheries Commission*

*Directors and Heads of Agencies*

*Partners in Development*

*The Media*

*Invited Guests*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my utmost pleasure to be part of this inception workshop for the FAO project entitled: "Empowering women for sustainable food systems". The Government of Ghana, and for that matter, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, wishes to commend FAO for its important contribution to nutrition, food security, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation, through its technical assistance to Ghana. As we are all aware, fisheries and aquaculture play a major role in the national economic development. For the effective management of Ghana's fisheries resources, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development has an objective of reducing high post-harvest losses, promoting value addition, increasing returns on investment, and ensuring safety and sanitation standards in the industry. The areas of post-harvest and value addition are driven by fish processors and traders who are mostly women and constitute about 70 percent of the total workforce.

The Ministry and our development partners have been supporting small-scale fisheries, which involves a lot of women. To ensure safe, hygienic, and a sustainable food system, improved and modified technologies (ovens) have been introduced to help reduce contaminants and improve upon the taste and quality of the end product.

Also, to safeguard the fishing industry, a closed season for all fleets was implemented in 2019 to rejuvenate marine fish stocks. This, and the eradication of illegal fishing methods, such as pair trawling etc., are predicted to increase the stock from 19 608 tonnes recorded in 2016 to 90 000 tonnes per year by 2030 with an estimated value of GHS 270 million. This means the activities of small-scale fisheries would also improve tremendously. To ensure the sustainability of food systems from the source through to processing, especially in the area of fish, the Ministry is leaving no stone unturned by educating the fisher folk to accept this new management practice.

In spite of the many efforts to support women in small-scale fisheries and to create an enabling environment that could, in turn, help achieve food security, improved nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation, Ghana continues to have more women in small-scale fisheries facing a lot of challenges. These women are supposed to provide food for their homes but unfortunately have low income and this consequently takes a toll on their families in the areas of nutrition and food security. Also, most women in the small-scale fisheries participate in illegal fishing for lack of a better alternative that could provide them with income to support their households.

Empowering women is a sure way to sustainable food systems. The roles these women play in the value chain of small-scale fisheries should be recognized. They should be actively involved in decision making processes regarding the industry. Since most women in the small-scale fisheries have many dependents to cater for, there is the need to encourage them to opt for better technologies, which could improve their health as well as increase their incomes to support their households. The United Nations (UN), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other organizations have supported the Ministry over the years with its mandate. We need to strengthen such ties to ensure a more holistic approach to empowering women in small-scale fisheries to positively impact nutrition, food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods.

I wish to reiterate that the Ministry is glad that the Norad-FAO project has been extended to support the Government's effort to empower all women and girls in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 5.

I would like to thank all workers who masterminded this project, and it is my fervent hope that it will be successfully implemented for the desired impact to be realized.

Thank you.

### **Norad – Bodil Gudrun Maal, Senior Advisor, Environment and Food Security**

Good morning. It is a pleasure for us to attend this inception workshop for Empowering women for sustainable food systems.

In October 2019, Norway pledged NOK 100 million to “Food from the Oceans” in connection with the international OUR OCEAN conference which was arranged in Oslo.

The guideline for the grant was that it should be aligned with the objectives of the Norwegian Action Plan on Sustainable Food Systems. This action plan was signed by five Norwegian ministries in 2019.

Food systems include all aspects of, and activities related to, the food production, processing and distribution and sale and consumption of food. Fish is part of this action plan.

FAO, with Lena managed to produce a programme document based on Norway's support to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

We look forward to this workshop where the key elements of the workplan for the five countries participating in the programme will be developed.

The NOK 100 million must be used by the end of 2023, i.e. NOK 20 million per year. But we need to see that the funds are used on the post-harvest sector supporting women in processing and trade. We are especially concerned with the women processing the small fish (omena, daga, kapenta). Such small fish are extremely nutritious. At present, the post-harvest loss is 40 percent on small fish. In East Africa we see that 30 to 40 percent of children below age five are stunted. At present, 70 percent of small fish from the lakes are processed for fishmeal for feeding fish, chicken and pigs. More factories are being built along the lakes. This fish should have been used to feed

children, not chicken and fish. At present, fish-consumption is low in East -Africa at 5 to 8 kg per person. Poor people eat less fish.

Could this programme do something with this issue?

Other issues include:

- a lack of hygiene on landing sites for fish;
- water and sanitation;
- environmental issues, for example, using mangrove instead of gas for frying fish; and
- sun drying fish on the ground that often result in poor quality.

I have visited many landing sites for fish where women are working and trading – in most places there have been few investments in order to improve quality.

I know that there are many difficult issues such as land rights, the composition of members in beach management units, a lack of women’s voices in these committees. In trading you have all the governance issues, the access to fish for villagers. So, we have the issues of fish consumption: is it possible to increase the consumption? Is the fish too expensive? How do we get children to eat more fish? Is it possible to get fish into school feeding programmes?

It is also of vital importance that the women in the postharvest-sector organize themselves in cooperatives, interest-organizations in order to raise their voices against illegal fishing and other threats to food-security/nutrition.

We need to see actions in the countries in order to secure the funding for four more years.

It is a great opportunity to use this fund in a way that can serve both women in the postharvest sector, food-security and nutrition.

Good luck with the workshop. We think we will learn a lot from all of you about the obstacles and the opportunities in the postharvest sector and how this programme can be implemented.



## Annex 2. Workshop agenda

### DAY 1: TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2020

TIME	
08.30	Registration
09.00	Welcome speeches and opening statements Assistant Director General, FAO Regional Office for Africa Deputy Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Ghana Self-introductions
09.30	Introduction, objectives, context and modus operandi of the workshop
10.00	Tea/coffee break & group photo
10.30	Presentation and videos: the SSF Guidelines, related guidance and relevant previous and ongoing initiatives
11.00	Presentation of project and activities of the 2020 extension
11.30	Project country statements/presentations
13.00	Lunch break
14.00	Break-out groups – playing the card game Go Small-scale Fishing!
15.00	Statements/presentations by regional and other organizations AUDA-NEPAD ECOWAS
15.30	Tea/coffee break
16.00	Statements/presentations by regional and other organizations – continued AWFISHNET CAOPA SmallFishFood
16.45	Q&A and discussion on possible gaps and expectations of the project
17.30	End of day 1
18.30	Cocktail reception

### DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2020

TIME	
08.30	Recap of Day 1 and plan for Day 2
08.45	Norad Statement
09.00	Introduction to work planning and Q&A
09.30	Break-out groups by countries – work planning part 1: Priority activities and indicators/targets
10.00	Tea/coffee break
10.30	Break-out groups by countries – continued
12.00	Reporting back by break-out groups and discussion
13.00	Lunch break
14.00	Break-out groups by countries – work planning part 2: How to implement activities/ key steps, stakeholders and budget
15.30	Tea/coffee break
15.45	Reporting back by break-out groups and discussion including on regional priority activities
17.00	Discussion on risks and risk mitigation
17.30	End of day 2

**DAY 3: THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020**

TIME	
07.30	Field trip – depart from hotel lobby
13.00	Lunch break
14.00	Project operational modalities and communications
15.30	Tea/coffee break
15.45	Next steps
16.45	Wrap-up and closure
17.00	End of workshop

## Annex 3. Participant list

### PROJECT COUNTRY REPRESENTATION

#### **GHANA**

**SASU, Lydia**

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*Development Action Association (DAA)*

*Fish Processing Unit*

*Darkuman, Accra*

**QUAYE, Grace**

*Development Action Association*

*Fish Processing Unit*

*Darkuman, Accra*

**SOLOMONS, Regina**

*President*

*NAFPTA*

*Accra*

**SENAYA, Tasha Mimi**

*National Coordinator*

*NAFPTA*

*Accra*

**MANU, Samuel**

*Fisheries Commission*

*Post-Harvest Unit*

*Accra*

**AMOAH, Yaa Tiwaah**

*Fisheries Commission*

*Post-Harvest Unit*

*Accra*

#### **MALAWI**

**UNYOLO, Sabstone**

*Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and*

*Water*

*Lilongwe*

**MULWAFU BANDA, Amenye**

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**MANSARY, Hawa**

*Women's Leader in Fisheries*

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*Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist*

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#### **UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

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### **AUDA-NEPAD**

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## Annex 4. Country presentation outline/guidance

*All government (fisheries administration) representatives are kindly requested to:*

- Make a 10- to 15-minute presentation during the first day of the workshop. These presentations should be focused on providing an overview of the existing conditions of small-scale fisheries, SSF women's organizations and the post-harvest sector/fish value chains in the context of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (the SSF Guidelines), together with a perspective on goals and plans. The following Power Point presentation outline is proposed:

Slide no	Proposed contents
0	Title
1	Overview of the fisheries sector (including the value chain, post-harvest and trade subsectors)
2	Definition and importance of small-scale fisheries, if available (formal and/or informal): catch, employment, contribution to GDP, food security and nutrition, etc.
3	Cultural and social importance of small-scale fisheries
4	Role of women in small-scale fisheries
5	Laws, regulations, policies, plans or strategies specifically targeting or addressing the small-scale fisheries sector (if existing) including description of tenure rights and resource access rights for small-scale fisheries
6	Fishers' and fish workers' participation in decision-making: institutional structures, mechanisms and processes (including role of women)
7	Ongoing or planned initiatives related to project activities <sup>2</sup> (if existing)
8	Current strengths of SSF, post-harvest sector/fish value chains, women's organizations, food security and nutrition
9	Main risks and constraints to project activities
10	Future goals and vision for the SSF sector, post-harvest sector/fish value chains, women's organizations, food security and nutrition
11	Concluding remarks

<sup>2</sup> Possible project activities include: building capacity of individuals and family enterprises, strengthening professional organizations and cooperatives, empowering women/women's organizations based on their needs, undertaking appropriate awareness-raising and communication activities to encourage/promote fish consumption, strategies to incorporate fish into school feeding, promoting public private partnerships or other suitable participatory approaches to co-develop processing equipment/small-scale infrastructure, value chains, distribution and trade of fish products.

## Annex 5. Regional organization presentation outline/guidance

- Make a 10- to 15-minute presentation during the first day of the workshop. These presentations should be focused on providing an overview of the existing conditions of small-scale fisheries, SSF women's organizations and the post-harvest sector/fish value chains in the context of the [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#) (the SSF Guidelines), together with a perspective on goals and plans. The following Power Point presentation outline is proposed:

Slide no	Proposed contents
0	Title
1	Overview of regional organization/partner's work
2	Overview of regional organization/partner's work related to SSF, post-harvest sector/fish value chains, women's organizations, food security and nutrition
3	Past, ongoing, or planned initiatives related to project activities <sup>1</sup> (if existing)
5	Successes in implementing past or ongoing initiatives related to project activities
6	Challenges in implementing past or ongoing initiatives related to project activities
7	Lessons learned from implementing past or ongoing initiatives related to project activities
8	Opportunities for project activities to partner with current initiatives
9	Concluding remarks

<sup>1</sup> Possible project activities include: building capacity of individuals and family enterprises, strengthening professional organizations and cooperatives, empowering women/women's organizations based on their needs, undertaking appropriate awareness-raising and communication activities to encourage/promote fish consumption, strategies to incorporate fish into school feeding, promoting public private partnerships or other suitable participatory approaches to co-develop processing equipment/small-scale infrastructure, value chains, distribution and trade of fish products.

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## Empowering women in small-scale fisheries for sustainable food systems

Regional Inception Workshop

3–5 March 2020

Accra, Ghana

The joint project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) entitled Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods through better policies, strategies and initiatives promotes the application of the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) in FAO member countries and regions. The project end date was originally in December 2019 but was extended for another year into 2020 to focus on the issue of empowering women in fisheries for sustainable food systems. Accordingly, the project will support women in small-scale fisheries, particularly in the postharvest sector, with a view to improving food security and nutrition and promoting gender equality. In 2020, related activities will begin in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The project will also support sharing lessons learned and good practices, and it will help to strengthen institutional structures at the regional and global levels.

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