



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

22, First Floor, Venkatrathinam Nagar,
Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India
Tel: 91-44-2445 1216 | 2445 1217
Fax: 91-44-2445 0216
Email: icsf@icsf.net

**KERALA INSTITUTE OF
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION
(KILA)**

Mulamkunnathukavu P O
Thrissur 680 581, India
Tel: 91-487-2207006
Fax: 91-487-2201062
Email: director@kila.ac.in



**NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PANCHAYATS (LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS)
AND THE FAO SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES GUIDELINES**

Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur, Kerala, India

5th to 6th November, 2019

Concept Note

I. Introduction

A national workshop of local self-governments (known as panchayat raj institutions in India) to raise awareness about the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* (SSF Guidelines) is being organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). The workshop is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and will be held from 5-6 November, 2019, in Thrissur, Kerala, India (*Address: KILA, Mulamkunnthukavu PO, Thrissur, Kerala-680581*).

II. The SSF Guidelines

The SSF Guidelines is a negotiated instrument dedicated to small-scale fisheries, developed in a ground-up consultative manner over a biennium and endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014.

The objectives of the SSF Guidelines, inter alia, include: to contribute to the equitable development of small-scale fishing communities and poverty eradication; to build capacities of communities for responsible and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity and natural resources; and to improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management. These Guidelines promote a human rights-based approach by empowering marine and inland fishing communities to participate in decision-making processes, especially for the benefit of women, indigenous people, and vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The SSF Guidelines promote co-management through local governance structures, especially to protect and co-manage ecosystems. The Guidelines call for sub-national actions for the social development of fishing communities through investment in health, education, housing, sanitation, digital inclusion and other essential services. Such investment, inter alia, can

contribute to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The SSF Guidelines also seek local-national-regional-global linkages and networks to promote policy coherence and cross-sectoral collaboration in relation to the management of fishery resources.

III. Panchayat institutions and the sustainable development of fishing communities

In accordance with Article 243 of the Constitution of India, Eleventh Schedule, the subject of fisheries is also entrusted to panchayats. As a result, eight coastal and 14 inland states have formally devolved the subject to the local level.¹ The national workshop of the institutions of self-government within the framework of Article 243 – with a focus on rural panchayats and community organizations – will raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines in the context of responsible local marine and inland fisheries management, and sustainable use in coastal, lacustrine and riparian areas.

The Workshop will also explore if the SSF Guidelines can indeed assist in preparing plans for economic development and social justice of the weaker sections of society comprising marine and inland fishers, fishworkers and their communities (both women and men). This is with respect to fisheries, poverty alleviation and social welfare, consistent with Schedule 11 of the Constitution of India.²

The Workshop would further look into the rights of fishing communities to housing, drinking water, education, health and sanitation, gainful and decent employment for youth, and women and child development, and how the SSF Guidelines can assist in bringing recognition to these rights.

In this context, the Workshop will review existing panchayat budgets and programmes for fisheries and fishing communities, and recommend reforms to enhance their participation in decision making; strengthen existing community associations; encourage co-management; and address environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change.

IV. Objectives of the Workshop

- Raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines and review the capacities of panchayat institutions to implement the Guidelines;
- Review existing panchayat budgets and programmes for marine and inland fisheries and fishing communities, and identify opportunities and gaps in local governance; and

¹ Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal. "[Basic Statistics of Panchayati Raj Institutions](#)". pp 63. Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Government of India. 2019

² Here it is assumed that entry 5 viz., Fisheries in Schedule 11 (Article 243G), the Constitution of India, includes all types of fisheries both in inland waters and in marine waters adjacent to the coast, and not exceeding three nautical miles from appropriate baselines.

- Highlight panchayat-level best practices on participatory decision making; delivery of welfare and social services benefiting fishing communities; women's socio-economic development and equal representation; climate change adaptation and disaster risk management; and sustainable fisheries management and resource utilization

V. Outcome

The workshop will invite the participation of selected local self-government associations, state departments of fisheries (coastal and inland), research institutions, fishworker organizations and civil society organizations. The Workshop is expected to provide a fillip to panchayats to pay greater attention to conservation and sustainable use of aquatic living resources and local aquatic and coastal ecosystems—marine and inland—and to enhance social development of fishing communities. As part of an international project supported by FAO in nine developing countries, ICSF previously organized three national workshops in India to prepare “action points” on how to implement the SSF Guidelines at various levels and involving diverse stakeholders. The results of this workshop will be presented to the Union and State governments, along with the action points developed through the previous consultations, at New Delhi in December, 2019.

Contact:

*Manas Roshan
Programme officer
ICSF Trust
22 First Floor, Venkattrathinam Nagar
Chennai 600 020
Tamil Nadu, India
Tel: +91-44-24451216 / 17
Email: icsf@icsf.net
www.icsf.net*

*Dr. J.B. Rajan
Associate Professor
Kerala Institute of Local Administration
Mulamkunnathukavu P O
Thrissur 680 581
Kerala, India
Tel: 9447817042
Email: jbrajan@kila.ac.in
www.kila.ac.in*