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# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## Thirty-fourth Session

1–5 February 2021

### **DRAFT PLANNING ROADMAP FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2022**

#### **Executive Summary**

The 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) welcomed the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022 (IYAFA 2022), encouraged cooperation and support for the celebration and requested FAO to develop a planning roadmap. This paper summarizes preparations for IYAFA 2022 and presents a draft roadmap for comments by the Committee.

## I. BACKGROUND

1. In 2016, COFI endorsed a proposal for the Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture with the purpose of sensitizing public opinion and governments on these sub-sectors and on the importance of adopting specific public policies and programmes to enable them to operate in a sustainable manner. Particular attention is to be paid to the most vulnerable rural areas, constrained by poor governance and generally a low capacity to make sustainable use of natural, aquaculture and fishery resources.
2. In 2017, the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYafa 2022), with FAO serving as the lead agency, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.<sup>1</sup>
3. In 2018, COFI welcomed IYafa 2022 and encouraged cooperation and support for the celebrations and requested FAO to develop a planning roadmap.<sup>2</sup>
4. The purpose of this paper is to present a draft planning roadmap for IYafa 2022, for comments by the Committee and as basis for discussion with the International Steering Committee for the Year.

## II. PREPARATIONS FOR IYafa 2022 SO FAR

5. In 2018, FAO established an inter-departmental IYafa Task Force with representatives from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, the Office of Corporate Communications and the Partnerships Division. The Task Force convenes regularly.
6. A website<sup>3</sup>, a visual identity and dedicated email have been created, and a first information flyer is available in all FAO languages.
7. The International Steering Committee for IYafa 2022 (IYafa-ISC), with representatives from the seven FAO regions and ten partners representing IFAD, academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations, has been established and is expected to convene for the first time virtually in November 2020. A background paper on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture on key characteristics, issues and synergies to shape IYafa 2022 messages has been prepared to inform the first IYafa-ISC meeting.
8. A dedicated Trust Fund for IYafa is being established by FAO.
9. At the regional level, IYafa 2022 was tabled at the 17th plenary of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery (WECAFC) on 15-18 July 2019 in Miami, USA, and triggered high interest from members. As a follow up, the Western Central Atlantic Committee for the IYafa 2022 was established in August 2020 to coordinate regional activities and participate in global planning processes. It is entirely led by fishers and fish farmer representatives, civil society and regional partners<sup>4</sup>, while WECAFC is holding the secretariat. The Committee has been meeting periodically

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, resolution [A/RES/72/72](#)

<sup>2</sup> Report of the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries C 2019/23

<sup>3</sup> [www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/en/](http://www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/en/)

<sup>4</sup> The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO), the Confederation of Artisanal Fisherfolk of Central America (CONFEPESCA), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA), Association of Fish Producers of Honduras (APPIH), the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the University of West Indies-Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES)

and identified its specific themes, endorsed its terms of reference, roadmap/programme and communication strategy. Champion countries identified are : Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panamá.

### **III. OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS FOR IYAFA 2022**

10. The overall goal of IYAFA 2022 is to promote the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture food systems to enhance the wellbeing of producers as well as consumers.

11. The main objectives are:

Enhance global awareness about, understanding of, and action to support the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development, and more specifically in relation to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and the use of natural resources; and

Promote dialogue and collaboration between and among small-scale fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, governments and other key partners along the value chain, as well as to further strengthen their capacity to enhance sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture.

12. IYAFA 2022 will be an opportunity to showcase the potential of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture and point to the benefits which can be gained from strengthening these economic subsectors. FAO's strategy is to engage with a large number of partners, including policy makers, small-scale fisheries and aquaculture organizations, development partners, academia, the private sector, regional organizations, and the general public at large.

13. Activities should support the implementation of relevant existing normative instruments, in particular the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Reduction (SSF Guidelines) along with the various technical aquaculture guidelines prepared in support of the CCRF.

14. As IYAFA 2022 falls within the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDDFF 2019-2028), the two celebrations will certainly complement one another and provide greater visibility to all small-scale producers. Similarly, the IYAFA will stimulate actions aimed at supporting the achievement of a number of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, in particular SDG 14.b.

15. The expected outputs during IYAFA 2022 fall into four categories:

- **Raised awareness:** Sharing accessible information and key messages on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture with a broad range of audiences, including through the organization of and participation in relevant global, regional and national events. This would also include global social media campaigns.
- **Strengthened science-policy interface:** Collect evidence, including through case studies and interdisciplinary data collection, to generate additional information and knowledge on specific aspects of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Empowered stakeholders:** Enabling small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers and their organizations to engage in participatory management schemes and other decision-making processes and to access markets and services. This would also include the formulation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects to support the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- **Partnerships:** Build new and strengthen existing partnerships, both among small-scale actors' organizations as well as with other partners from government, research, NGOs, private sector, regional organizations and others, at all levels.

#### **IV. PLANNING ROADMAP FOR IYAFA 2022**

16. For the lead-up to IYAFA 2022, the following FAO-led activities are proposed:

##### **2021 – Preparatory year and launch**

- Develop and share information and campaign materials, including a communication toolkit through FAO.
- Organize IYAFA-ISC meeting to agree on global and regional key events for awareness raising/celebration, and advance IYAFA 2022 planning and related inter-sessional work.
- Awareness raising on IYAFA 2022 by FAO, IYAFA-ISC and other partners at relevant events, such as COFI, UN Ocean Conference, etc.
- Engage with the Committee of World Food Security (CFS) to propose small-scale fisheries and aquaculture as a theme for CFS 2022.
- Engagement by FAO with development partners, other UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs, private sector to contribute with ideas, activities, awareness raising and funding to IYAFA 2022.
- Mobilize resources through FAO, IYAFA-ISC and other key strategic partners.
- Possible preparation of publications on selected priority issues in relation to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.
- IYAFA 2022 launch event on World Fisheries Day on 21st November 2021.

##### **2022 – Celebration of the Year**

- Communication campaign, including social media updates throughout the Year by FAO and partners.
- Celebration activities at national, regional and global levels, involving diverse partners.
- IYAFA 2022 event at COFI.
- IYAFA 2022 possibly a theme at CFS 2022 and a side event.
- Global IYAFA 2022 closing event to mark successes and lessons learnt on World Fisheries Day 2022.

#### **V. IYAFA FOLLOW-UP**

17. Evaluation of the impact of IYAFA 2022 activities.
18. Final report for the United Nations General Assembly.