

# "Info-Flash" the SFLP ... on the move ...



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## Welcome to the SFLP Info-Flash

This means of communication is forwarded monthly through Internet to the National Coordinating Units, FAO Representations, DFID, FAO Fisheries Department and any person interested in the work of SFLP

The overriding objective of this **SFLP Info-Flash** is to provide the 25 member countries with the most up to date information on the Programme.

Please feel free to contact SFLP at any time you have any information on events in your country.

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## Workshop on the Problems and Prospects for Developing Artisanal Fish Trade in West Africa

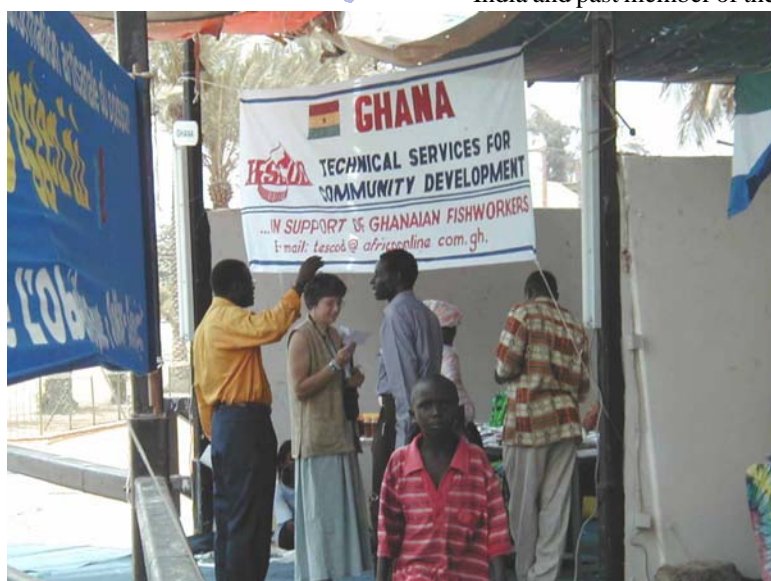
□ The workshop was organised in Dakar, Senegal from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2001 by ICSF (International Collective in Support of Fish Workers), CREDETIP (Centre de Recherche pour le Développement des Technologies Intermediaires de Peche) and CNPS (Collectif National des Pecheurs du Sénégal) with SFLP support. Participants included fish processors and traders (mainly women) from Senegal, The



Workshop on artisanal fish trade in full session

Gambia, Guinea, Ghana, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Mauritania, and representatives of NCUs, NGOs, international organisations and Fisheries Departments. M. Kuyateh, K. Kourkouliotis and E. Corcoran from the RSU joined R. Coutts, SFL Programme Coordinator, in Dakar, Senegal from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2001. T. Barton, SL Adviser DFID UK attended the Workshop and Fish Fair to obtain first impressions of West African fisheries livelihoods activities before participating in the DFID-FAO Joint Review Panel on 11 June 2001. J. Kurien, Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, India and past member of the ACFR also attended both events as part of an evaluation exercise of ICSF activities. Y. Diei represented FAO-RAF at the meeting.

SFLP consultant, A. Ward (NRI), gave a presentation on policies institutions and processes (PIP) in relation to the livelihoods of processors and traders. This focussed on promoting discussion by stakeholders on the links between PIP and the Responsible Fish Utilization aspect of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Issues relating to technical, economic and non-economic barriers, and the prospects of fish products marketing within the region were also treated by Infopêche and working groups set up to identify possible solutions and ways in which responsibilities can be shared among stakeholders. Another SFLP consultant, Dr. Akande presented a paper by his INFOPÊCHE colleague Dr A. Tall, on "Obstacles to the development of small scale fish trade in West Africa".



Ghana fishworkers stall at the fish fair

The participants of the Workshop proved that they have strong ideas and were able to conclude the following priorities:

Specific actions requested from States:

**a. Processing sites:** The participants requested States to reserve land exclusively for women both for their processing needs and for reforestation, essential for smoking. Due to the impact of climate change (drought), fuelwood had become scarce. Participants condemned the impact of tourism that threatened their access to land and demanded that help be provided to gain ownership rights to shared land.

**b. Trade in processed fish products:** The priorities to be addressed concerned equally the difficulties encountered in trade circuits, poor infrastructure in processing areas, and the problem of credit. Women appealed to States in the region to take the following steps:

1. Simplify administrative formalities by establishing a single tax system applicable to trade in artisanally processed fish products within countries of the region.
2. Publicize widely any decision to this effect, through notices put up at checkpoints, where women face innumerable problems, including harassment by men in uniform.
3. Reduce the number of checkpoints that are detrimental in all respects (payment of excessive taxes, bribery, wastage of time etc.)
4. Set-up appropriate infrastructure in markets, especially storage facilities
5. Improve access to landing areas and markets through construction of roads, etc.



Kayar beach, a case for improving hygiene

Specific actions requested from development agencies, international organizations and NGOs:

- a. Support for training in management, processing technologies and storage techniques;
- b. Support for purchasing equipment;
- c. Support for interaction/ exchange between women in the sub-region;
- d. Support vis-à-vis credit institutions to make conditions easier.

Initiatives necessary at their own level:

- a. Organizing their own network. Whilst recognizing the role of other institutions like NGOs, the women felt that their initiative to organize should be undertaken independently, without outside interference. NGOs should establish their own networks independently and their role should be to provide information and other kinds of support;
- b. Organizing at the local level: The women stressed the importance of organizing locally to be able to influence policies and policy-makers within their respective countries. Local initiative, they felt, was the starting point for any change and was a prerequisite to creating their own regional network;
- c. Developing interaction amongst themselves;
- d. Developing a culture of cleanliness: with particular regard to the unhealthy conditions prevalent at certain sites.



Fish drying at Lonmpoul, Senegal

6. Create appropriate credit structures to support women processors and traders, and make available credit at lower rates of interest. Women were of the view that lending institutions also have an important role to play towards this.

**c. Access to fish resources for processing:** The women requested that States take measures to effectively monitor the artisanal fishing zone to prevent incursions by large fishing vessels. They called for strict regulations on destructive fishing gear. They also stressed the need to regulate certain gear used by artisanal fishermen like monofilament nets, beach seines and purse seines.

The SFLP team stayed on to present the SFLP display at the Regional Artisanal Fish Processing Fair from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2001 and to talk informally with participants. The fair was opened by Chef du Cabinet accompanied by the Director of Oceanography and Marine Fisheries of Senegal and attracted members of the public and other interested parties, and offered all the participating countries the opportunity to display their different local fish processing techniques and discuss trade issues on an informal basis. Women groups were encouraged to identify interesting post-harvest technologies and practices of their colleagues from other countries so as to promote exchange and transfer of technologies and best practices. It was interesting to note at the end of the fair that a Burkinabe women's group (Fédération Nationale des Acteurs pour la Filière Pêche) had already identified their interest in training in the production of salted/dried/smoked fish (Kechah).