

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON FOOD SECURITY AND INCOME GENERATION THROUGH REDUCTION OF LOSSES AND WASTE IN FISHERIES

**15-17 December 2013
Nouakchott, Mauritania**

Background

Fish is a highly perishable commodity and if not properly, harvested, handled and stored, the quality deteriorates rapidly. The problem is particularly acute in warm climates where infrastructure facilities in boats, landing centers and in subsequent operations are not adequate. This quality deterioration leads to economic loss and also loss of fish as food, as fish becomes unfit for human consumption. The extent of postharvest loss of fish varies in different countries and losses in the range of 20-30% is not uncommon. In addition to the economic loss, these losses also contribute to increased pressure on the fisheries resources. Postharvest loss may occur even in case of processed fish; for example dry fish may become unfit for consumption by insect infestation and mold growth. Even in situations where fish is processed, considerable volumes of waste is generated through discarding fish heads, viscera, bones, fins, tail, which contain meat that can be used for food. In some sectors, for example the tuna industry, "scrape" is used for food, for making "pate", and in many sectors there is considerable potential for the utilisation of processing "waste" for by-products, however this is not yet common. Discarded bycatch are also a critical issue, they can sometimes constitute between 28-80% of the catches from industrial trawlers; a large waste of food which could be otherwise utilized.

Fish is a very valuable resource in terms of being an important source of protein as well as an important source of employment for fishers, traders, processors and more, and in many countries, fish is derived only from the natural environment and obtained by capture fisheries. Many fish stocks have already been overexploited or fully exploited and therefore to increase fish availability for the population, it is important to fully utilise the harvested resource by minimising postharvest losses, minimising waste generation and utilising byproducts. FAO estimates indicate that annually about 7.3 million tons of fish are discarded and about half of these come from trawl fishing for shrimp and demersal fish. By-products are also a good option for utilisation of fish that are often discarded for various reasons. This principle is laid out in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Article 11. Thus to comply with the Code of Conduct, countries need to develop policies and programmes directed towards minimising postharvest losses, utilisation of discards and by-products while setting an effective mechanism to control fishing effort. To improve income generation, it is also important to provide assistance for stakeholders to enhance their role in the value chain.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to (a) review the current practices in the sector in the Near East and North Africa region, (b) examine case studies of best practices globally and discuss the best options for the region, and (c) identify policy level and operational level interventions to

improve food security and income generation through reduction of losses and waste in fisheries in Near East and North Africa region.

Participating countries

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, I.R. Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The process

Four experts will deliver key note addresses covering: (a) Best practices and strategies for minimising postharvest losses and waste; (b) Fishery by-products and co-products for minimising waste (c); Value chain based approach for minimising fish loss and waste; and (d) Best practices in fish by-catch and discard management.

There will be an overview of post-harvest losses and waste including presentation of baseline information on the status of post-harvest losses and waste in the participating countries, and case studies of good practices in the region and identification of capacity building needs by national experts from countries in Near East and North Africa region. This will be followed by group work to draft regional strategies, policy interventions that can facilitate improvements in fish handling and processing practices at operational level and contribute to minimising fish losses, waste and facilitate by-catch management.

FAO partners and donor agencies active in the region will be invited for the workshop to facilitate drafting of project concept notes, outlines of proposals that can be taken forward for support by the donor agencies.

Expected outputs

1. Proceedings of Regional Conference containing four reports of global best practices presented by key note speakers, case studies of best practices in the region, capacity building needs, content elements of strategies for improvement, policy level and operational level interventions.
2. Project concept notes, proposal outlines for support by donor agencies active in the region.

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Tentative agenda

14 December 2013

Arrival of participants and registration

15 December 2013

09.00 – 10.00 Opening addresses

10.00 – 10.30 *Coffee break*

10.30 – 13.00

- Technical Session 1: The FAO Global initiative Food Loss and Waste reduction
- Overview of the national survey questionnaire findings
- Overview of case studies of best practices from the region
 - Egypt : Post harvest fish losses in the Gulf of Suez fisheries, Egypt
 - Iran : An overview on Post-Harvest fish losses in Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Mauritania : Revue sur les pertes post-capture en Mauritanie
 - Morocco : Approche stratégique pour la gestion des captures accessoires et la réduction des rejets en mer au Royaume du Maroc
 - Yemen : National review on post-harvest fish losses in the Republic of Yemen

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 – 15.30

- Key note address: Best practices and strategies for minimising postharvest losses and waste
- Planning for group work: assignment of tasks
- Group work on best practices and strategies for minimising post harvest losses and waste.

15.30 – 16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00 – 17.00

- Group work cont'd

16 December 2013

09.00 – 10.00

- Feedback/plenary presentation and discussions on group work outcomes.

Technical Session 2

10.00-10.45

- Key note address: Fishery by-products and co-products for minimising waste

10.45-11.15 *Coffee break*

11.15 - 12.45 Technical Session 2 Continued

- Key note address: Value chain based approach for minimising fish loss and waste
- Key note address: Best practices in fish by-catch and discard management

12.45 – 13.45 *Lunch break*

13.45 – 15.30 Planning for and group work on:

- Fishery by-products and co-products for minimising waste
- Value chain based approach for minimising fish loss and waste
- Best practices in fish by-catch and discard management

15.30 – 16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00 – 17.00 Plenary presentation of group work

- Discussions on content elements of strategies, policy interventions, capacity building, improvements at operational level and recommendations of the regional workshop.
- Discussions with donor agencies on concept notes of project proposals, drafting concept notes.

17 December 2013

Morning: Field visit

14.00 Afternoon session

- Presentation for endorsement of draft summary report, project concept notes