

UNIDO's intervention on Impact of climate change on post-harvest operations

Respected Chair,

UNIDO recognizes that climate change has significant impacts on fisheries management and its resources;

Based on our continued work in post-harvest fisheries, UNIDO noticed that significant impact is observed in fish post-harvest practices, posing challenges to the sustainability and productivity of post-harvest fisheries operations.

UNIDO agrees with the members of this meeting that climate change has its impact on fish stocks, interrupted rain falls and migration. These issues also have significant impact on post-harvest fisheries by limiting the quantity of fish available for processing and distribution.

Warmer waters can accelerate spoilage, increase the risk of bacterial growth, and impact the shelf life of fish products. This necessitates climate resilient handling, storage, and processing techniques to maintain product quality and safety. In addition, climate change can also induce seafood supply chain disruptions such as Infrastructure damage and transportation disruptions can impact the timely delivery of fish to processing facilities and markets.

To mitigate the impacts of climate change on fish post-harvest practices, UNIDO has been working in many developing countries in implementing climate-resilient infrastructure, improving cold chain management, and capacity building in post-harvest fisheries operations.

To address the impact of climate change on fish post-harvest practices requires a multi-faceted approach involving collaboration. In this regard, UNIDO also works with national universities and linking them with policy makers and private sector operators to develop climate resilient technologies and sustainable practices, to address the impact of climate change to ensure the long-term viability of fisheries and the availability of high-quality seafood.