

VIDEO ANIMATION

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Gender equity and equality

Produced by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and the Social Policies and Rural Institutions Divisions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); 6.04 minutes; English

By **Nicole Franz** (Nicole.Franz@fao.org),
FAO Fishery Planning Analyst, and
Ilaria Sisto (Iliaria.Sisto@fao.org),
FAO Gender and Development Officer

Small-scale fisheries contribute about half of all fish catches in developing countries, making a major contribution to food security and nutrition. They employ 90 per cent of the world's capture fishers and fishworkers, and women represent half of them! Women engage along the whole fisheries value chain, including fishing and mending nets, shellfish collection and diving for abalone and pearls. Often they are also responsible for post-harvest activities, including trade and labour-intensive value addition, such as drying, smoking and salting, besides being the caretakers of the family and communities.

Yet, there are still many inequalities in small-scale fisheries, and women's contributions are not always adequately recognised and paid. Strong power imbalances exist. Middlemen often dictate the prices of fish that women sell. Women have limited access to credit and often work in insanitary, poorly ventilated and hazardous conditions, and are at risk of violence and discrimination. It is crucial therefore to address gender issues in fisheries value chains, and ensure women's equal participation in decisionmaking processes and organisations.

In 2014, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) were endorsed. These Guidelines represent the first internationally negotiated instrument

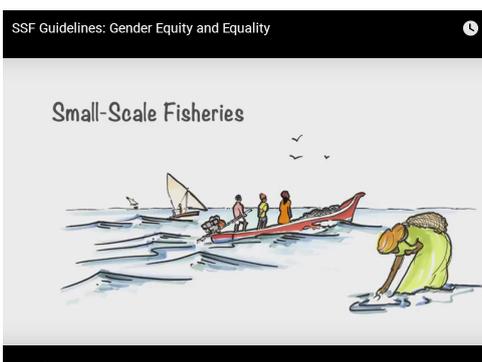
that specifically addresses small-scale fisheries, and, significantly emphasise gender equality and equity.

In this context, FAO produced a short animated video, to raise gender awareness and generate discussion about the relevance of gender equality in small-scale fisheries. Available on YouTube, the video is aimed to reach a broad audience, including the general public, and in particular policymakers, small-scale fisheries organisations and their support organisations. To develop the video, partners with expertise in small-scale fisheries and gender issues were contacted. Many had been involved in the development of the SSF Guidelines themselves and continue to support their implementation, including members of the IPC Fisheries Working Group, IFAD, the Too Big To Ignore network, genderaquafish.org, and ICSF, which had also prepared a Towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development: A handbook.

The exchange with these experts showed the complexity of gender issues in small-scale fisheries-the vulnerability of indigenous women in the sector, the occupational and health hazards women in small-scale fisheries often face, the need to not only address gender issues within small-scale fishing communities, but also in the context of fisheries administrations and support organisations. The capacity of women, especially when organised, to innovate and participate in a constructive and dynamic way in small-scale fisheries development and governance was also emphasised.

The video represents a compromise around all these points, and tries to strike a balance between keeping it short and capturing the main issues related to gender equality in small-scale fisheries. The Spanish and French versions of the video are under preparation and will be released shortly.

The video may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BolcVAAYeOW&feature=youtu.be>



PUBLISHED BY
the International Collective
in Support of Fishworkers Trust
22 First Floor,
Venkatrathinam Nagar, Adyar,
Chennai 600 020, India
Tel: (91) 44 2445 1216
Fax: (91) 44 2445 0216
E-mail: icsf@icsf.net

Web site: www.icsf.net

EDITED BY
Nilanjana Biswas

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
Sandesh
(sandeshcartoonist@gmail.com)

DESIGNED BY
P. Sivasakthivel

Writers and potential contributors to YEMAYA, please note that write-ups should be brief, about 1200 words. They could deal with issues that are of direct relevance to women and men of fishing communities. They could also focus on recent research or on meetings and workshops that have raised gender issues in fisheries. Also welcome are life stories of women

and men of fishing communities working towards a sustainable fishery or for a recognition of their work within the fishery. Please also include a one-line biographical note on the writer.

Please do send us comments and suggestions to make the newsletter more relevant. We look forward to hearing from you and to receiving regular write-ups for the newsletter.