

## GUCCI – Stakeholder Workshop 2 23 October 2019

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations focus primarily on the sustainable development of coastal communities and conservation of marine fisheries as mandated by the Goal 13 and Goal 14. It also looked at Goals 5 which addresses the gender equality and 6 which looks at clean water and sanitation.

#### Technical Session 1:

It was possible during the discussions, to identify based on the zonal consultations and also in the course of the open house question sessions, that there was a gap in terms of Information, Education and communication to the Stakeholders. There are sufficient funds that have been allocated for IEC but there are gaps in terms of dissemination and critical points that need to reach the people regarding their entitlements often do not reach them. The following policy level recommendations are made based on the discussions in the technical Session 1:

- Health care for the fishing community needs to be made dynamic and real time so that even when they are in the mid sea and are affected by some fatal sickness are catered to.
- Focus on alternative employment opportunities for the fishing communities.
- Need for creating awareness on safety and sexual harassment and what are the protocols that needs to be followed for making complaints.

#### Technical Session 2:

In the technical session 2, the focus was on the women in coastal areas. This session focused on the Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 14 dealing with environment and climate change and also life under water. The 'blue' sustainability debates of the international community recognizes that the oceans are not an area devoid of humans, but recognizes that coastal inhabitants hold rights to the land and the seas and have in some cases done so for a long time. Representatives of the artisanal fishery sectors had the impression that they were not treated as equal partners but merely serving as objects of a wide range of voluntary initiatives by States, business and NGOs that were in support of 'Blue Economy' or 'Blue Growth'. The rights of artisanal small-scale fishers are also given scant reference. However, it has to be borne in mind that marine conservation and sustainable fishery issues also includes respecting the centuries-old access rights of fishing communities to their fishing grounds and the economic, social and cultural rights of the coastal communities. Another aspect here is the right of people living in the hinterland of the coastal regions to a healthy and diversified diet, of which fish products are an indispensable element.

In the discussions post technical session 2, there were a few questions that were asked by the representatives from the zonal level deliberations. In the course of the discussions, it was possible to identify the following gaps in the policy

- Fishing communities were not able to get good alternate livelihood training
- Legal help and provisions for support was not available to all sections of women

- Conservation efforts and protection of marine resources using the fishing community to combat climate change needs to be popularized
- Cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation facilities in the fishing hamlets is not addressed

**For sustainable development of coastal communities and conservation of marine fisheries** the following policy recommendations can be given to the Department of Fisheries and also to the Department of social Welfare.

- There is need for identification of skills of fishing communities and provide skill based training for value addition of fish based/coastal produce
- There is need to coordinate with the other departments – TNCDW for setting up of retail outlets to encourage sales of fish
- Fisheries department and the Social welfare department should give capacity building sessions on hygienic fish handling
- The fishing community women also need some psycho-social support that would build their positive attitudes and make them work towards common benefits in keeping the coastal system clean
- There is also need for documenting the Indigenous traditional knowledge of the fishing communities
- SHGs formed with fishing women should be provided with market, technical and credit support to help them in retail sales and value addition.
- Need for supporting fishing communities for diversified livelihood options like hi-value farming like mussel and oyster
- It is also necessary that the fisheries department with the Environment department engage the fishing communities in keeping the coasts litter free and also in mitigating the impact of climate change
- The fisheries department should focus on alternate market linked livelihood options that help the women to maintain their families even during the ban period.
- Create awareness among fishing women (preferably in the local language and using appropriate dissemination mechanisms) on: existing policies and the need for potential reforms, their rights and duties/responsibilities – civil, political, resource, economic, social, cultural rights.
- Documentation and dissemination of existing local management practices (types of breezes, location specific fish varieties etc) of women.
- Fisher community members particularly women should be motivated to participate in Gram Panchayats (local self-governance systems).
- States should ensure that representatives of fisheries sector and fishing women are consulted in decision making processes and are involved in other activities related to coastal area (management, micro-planning at village level and development).
- Encourage setting up of common fund among self-help groups for the purpose of starting diversified income generation programme. Making government funds and infrastructure available for women in a phased and sustainable manner.
- Government should provide skill training to women on fish handling techniques, packaging, sea food preparation and marketing to the fishermen communities.
- Periodical health camps in fishing areas should be regularly conducted specifically for skin, eye and respiratory problems. To raise awareness on hygienic practices, women safety and sanitation.
- Local risk zones for disaster preparedness should be identified. Search operations during natural calamities should include helicopters to prevent loss of life.
- Regular awareness campaigns and mock drills on disaster preparedness should be conducted.

## **POLICY LEVEL DIRECTIONS SUGGESTED BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **Department of Fisheries:**

- Setting up of common facility centres
- Focus on alternative employment opportunities for the fishing communities
- Skill training to women on fish handling techniques, packaging, sea food preparation and marketing to the fishermen communities
- Research and studies to document the traditional knowledge and practices of the fishing community

### **For clean water and sanitation:**

- Policy and schemes of the state to empower women to **monitor availability and quality of water** at Gram Panchyat and in Urban Local Bodies.
- Policy to accord high priority for **water literacy and behaviour change communication** strategies on sanitation among women groups.
- Policy to create **water and sanitation districts** and women to be the ambassadors of Water and Sanitation in it.
- Policies and schemes to be mooted for **transfer of environmental skills** necessary for conserving water.
- Empirical studies on role of women & **intervening factors** at rural/urban level on water security and total sanitation to be initiated.

### **Department of social welfare:**

- Need for creating awareness on safety and sexual harassment and what are the protocols that needs to be followed for making complaints.
- Create awareness among fishing women (preferably in the local language and using appropriate dissemination mechanisms) on: existing policies and the need for potential reforms, their rights and duties/responsibilities – civil, political, resource, economic, social, cultural rights
- Dovetail schemes related to the differently abled fisher women to make it inclusive

### **Greater Chennai Corporation:**

- Health care for the fishing community needs to be made dynamic and real time so that even when they are in the mid sea and are affected by some fatal sickness, they are catered
- Periodical health camps in fishing areas should be regularly conducted specifically for addressing occupational health issues related to skin, eye and respiratory problems.

### **Department of Disaster Preparedness**

- Local risk zones for disaster preparedness should be identified. Search operations during natural calamities should include helicopters to prevent loss of life.
- Regular awareness campaigns and mock drills on disaster preparedness should be conducted.

### **Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation and IFAD**

- To raise awareness on hygienic practices, women safety and sanitation.
- Encourage setting up of common fund among self-help groups for the purpose of starting diversified income generation programme. Making government funds and infrastructure available for women in a phased and sustainable manner.

- Provide capacity building training for improving their participation in social and political areas and also skill building training

### **Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply**

- Notify and keep the communities informed regarding the quantity and time of supply
- Have a regular reporting of the quality of the water supplied
- Schemes to empower women to monitor availability and quality of water at Gram Panchyat and in Urban Local Bodies.
- Policy to accord high priority for water literacy and behaviour change communication strategies on sanitation among women groups.
- Policy to create water and sanitation districts and women to be the ambassadors of Water and Sanitation in it.
- Policies and schemes to be mooted for transfer of environmental skills necessary for conserving water.
- Empirical studies on role of women & intervening factors at rural/urban level on water security and total sanitation to be initiated.

### **Department of Environment**

- Consultative meetings with the representatives of fisheries sector and fishing women should be had while discussing the coastal management, marine ecosystems or coastal regulation zones.
- The fishing community should be considered as a stakeholder and made as partners in the decision making processes and are involved in other activities related to coastal area (management, micro-planning at village level and development). In other words, the principle of co-management of the coastal areas should be adopted for conservation and management of climate change.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In the changing scenario of climate change, the coastal communities and city like Chennai which has a long coastline needs greater focus and policy changes to mainstream their activities and livelihood in a sustainable manner. It is necessary that all the departments work in a convergent matter and involve the fishing communities on the principles of co management. Fisheries co-management is based on the following hypothesis – involvement and participation of user-groups creates incentives for cooperation in order to formulate and implement more efficient, equal and sustainable management schemes which would benefit all parties. Co-management provides some sense of ownership to the fish resources, which makes user-groups far more responsible for obtaining long-term sustainability of the fish resources. It might also be more cost-efficient in terms of administration and enforcement than centralized systems, but administration costs may increase in a co-management systems, as the process may be rather time consuming, involving several interest groups.

Co-management is often referred to as relations between fishermen and the State's administration including fisheries research institutions, mainly concerning regulation methods, quota allocation and stock assessment. However, co-management can also be perceived in relation to market activities, whereby relations between fishermen and buyers come in focus. As market dynamics become more important to fishing activities, it can be

expected that coordination of market performance and fisheries management measures will be increasingly important. Co-management is a set of institutional and organizational arrangements (rights and rules), which determine how the fisheries administration and user-groups cooperate. A co-management arrangement is not a static legal structure of rights and rules, but a dynamic process of creating new institutional structures. A co-management institution for the Chennai coastal areas can therefore be designed with the support of WIA who has been working closely with the communities which emerges as an entirely new institution or can be based on already established institutional structures. The latter might often be the case in fisheries, where co-management institutions usually evolve as incremental user-group involvement in certain management tasks. The devolution of authority to manage the fisheries, away from the fisheries administration to user-groups, may be one of the most difficult tasks of co-management. This in other words would mean that the fisheries administration and the departments would have to relinquish their authority, or portions of it, and follow the process of decentralized decision making. It is also equally true that the user-groups may not have the aspirations nor the capabilities to undertake enhanced fisheries management responsibilities.

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