

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE PROCEDURE (WCP)
34th SESSION OF COFI

INDONESIA'S COMMENTS ON ITEM 17.1

Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of COFI: for information

On this agenda item, Indonesia would like to present the result from the Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of ASEAN Member States (AMS) in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets, that was held virtually from 16 until 17 September 2020.

The Workshop was conducted as a follow-up of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) work plan of 2016-2020 and was organized by Indonesia along with ASEAN and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

After the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in 1995, there has been a number of international instruments and conventions adopted dealing with fisheries. However, the only instrument that gives a special attention to the protection and empowerment of small-scale fisheries (SSF) is the SSF Guidelines, which was adopted back in June 2014. The adoption thus becomes a golden opportunity to accelerate development efforts aimed at making small-scale fisheries a front liner at national level.

The workshop has made several recommendations as follows:

1. Strengthen network between government, NGO and private sector to support access on regional and international market;
2. Promote the development of regional SSF guidelines which include market access;
3. Empower youth and women participation;
4. Improve and develop infrastructure to support fisheries sector;
5. Continue to promote research and application of science and technology in exploiting and preserving post-harvest products and value adding;
6. Continue to conduct capacity building on the quality and safety of the products, and post-harvest handling;
7. Enhance the capacity of family fishers for livelihood diversification;
8. Raise the importance Developing the ASEAN Fair Trade Standard that gives priority to small-scale producers;
9. Acknowledge the role of Small-Scale Aquaculture (SSA) in the regional level for food security and poverty eradication;
10. Improve aquaculture methods that are resilient to climate change.

Furthermore, Indonesia would like to propose FAO to develop regional strategies to encourage the implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines SSF and encourage FAO together with AMS to develop collective agreement/initiative and activities related to Small-Scale Aquaculture in the ASEAN Region.