

Session 6

AgTalks

Fishing – A man's world?

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IFAD headquarters
Rome, Italy



IFAD
Investing in rural people

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is both an international, financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency. It is a unique organization dedicated exclusively to investing in rural people. IFAD finances innovative agricultural and rural development projects and also brings the point of view of smallholder farmers to bear on international policy processes. In line with IFAD's mission, AgTalks was launched in order to raise awareness of the importance of smallholder and family farming for global food security, poverty reduction, rural development and sustainable use of natural resources. It is hoped that these discussions will influence national policy frameworks in favour of family farmers, and build global and national support. AgTalks provide a platform for diverse opinions, innovative ideas on agriculture and smallholder family farming, and the voices of smallholder farmers themselves to be heard.

Fisheries and aquaculture play an important role in addressing global poverty and food insecurity. About 60 million people worldwide are employed in the primary sectors of fisheries and aquaculture, of whom over 85 per cent are in Asia and 10 per cent in Africa. In the rural areas fisheries have a very important socio-economic dimension as a means of livelihood for low educated, low skilled and marginalized groups with limited opportunities, including a significant number of indigenous people. Women have a big stake particularly in fish processing and marketing, where they constitute 90 per cent of the labour force. Fisheries are increasingly important in many countries facing the challenge of young people migrating from rural to urban areas as well as leaving their homes to find employment opportunities in other countries.

Nutritionally, fish accounts for about 25 per cent of animal protein consumed in the low income food deficient countries, while in some coastal and island states this contribution is much higher. Fish products are also used in animal feeds, ornamentals and pharmaceutical industries. However, fisheries and aquaculture are faced with a number of development challenges, which include: unsustainable pressure on fishery resources, resource management constraints, technological issues, food safety and quality, post-harvest losses and climate and environmental changes. Fishing communities are among the poorest in society and are faced with many human development challenges.

This AgTalks session will address some of these issues, stimulating a conversation in order to find innovative ideas to respond to these challenges.



Kathleen Schwerdtner Máñez

Kathleen Schwerdtner Máñez is a human ecologist with a strong background in ecology and social sciences. She has been working on small-scale fisheries, as well as coastal fisheries in tropical developing countries for more than a decade.

Her research work at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) in Bremen, Germany and the Asia Research Center in Perth, Australia focused on the development of social-ecological systems as a result of human-nature interactions over time.

Since 2010, she has been a member of the Steering Committee of the History of Marine Animals Populations Project (HMAP). Since 2014, she has been actively involved with the Oceans Past Platform (OPP). Schwerdtner Máñez leads the OPP working group “Gendered Seas”, studying the role of women and men in the exploitation of marine resources. She has published articles on a number of topics including marine resource exploitation, small-scale fishing, sustainability and ecosystem services. She is also the editor and one of the authors of the first textbook on marine environmental history, *Perspectives on Oceans Past*, which will be published in spring 2016, and which contains a chapter on gender issues in fisheries which she authored.



Ranjitha Puskur

Ranjitha Puskur, an agricultural socio-economist, is the senior policy advisor at WorldFish and has led the organization’s gender research programme. She has 16 years of experience in research for development (R4D) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Her professional interests and experience are in agricultural innovation systems, integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D), gender, agricultural research policy and value chains.

She won the Jawahar Lal Nehru prize, instituted by the Government of India, for outstanding research in Agricultural Economics. She has been part of the CGIAR since 2002, starting at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and then with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) from 2005, where she led the research team working on innovation in livestock systems. She led the mainstreaming of the innovation systems, concepts and principles, as well as the capacity development of researchers and partners. She has also served as a resource person for the International Center for Development Oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA), whose mandate is to strengthen the capacity of agricultural researchers and development practitioners in agricultural research for development.



Richard Abila is the Senior Technical Specialist for Fisheries and Aquaculture at IFAD. Abila has over 20 years of experience in fisheries research, management and development. Most of his work experience has been with small-scale fisheries and aquaculture systems, working with national, regional and international projects and programmes supported by governments and leading international development partners. Abila has a particular interest in the social and economic dimensions of small-scale fisheries in developing countries and has produced several publications in this field. He has been a consistent advocate for co-management of resources, economic opportunities and appropriate technologies for empowerment of small-scale fishers, fish processors and traders.

**Richard
Abila**



**Susana V.
Siar**

Susana V. Siar is a Fishery Industry Officer in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). She is a social scientist and has been working in the field of fisheries and aquaculture for the past 25 years. Before joining FAO in 2005, she worked briefly with the WorldFish Center in Penang, Malaysia, and before that, was with the Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center in Iloilo, Philippines. Her areas of work include stakeholder participation in the management of fishing harbours and landing sites, strengthening fisherfolk organizations, fisheries co-management, gender in fisheries and aquaculture, and reducing bycatch and discards.

Social media and webcasting

Participants are encouraged to share their ideas, views and insights via social media channels using **#agtalks** hashtag.

The virtual audience may follow the proceedings and interact with the prominent guests on the social media channels listed below and via webcasting at <http://webcasting.ifad.org/agtalks>.



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Coffee

Coffee, light beverages and pastries will be available outside the meeting room.

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi facilities are available in all meeting rooms. You may connect to the **ifad_guest** network using **ifadguest** as password.



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