



Training on Fisheries Management for staff of South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS)

**26 November – 4 December 2007
Trivandrum, Kerala, India**

**Capacity Development and Institutional Change Programme
Wageningen International, the Netherlands**

Peter G.M. van der Heijden, course coordinator

December 2007

Wageningen International

Report of Training on Fisheries Management for staff of South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS)

- 1. Project name:** "Towards participatory fisheries management"
2. Wageningen International Project code: 8111470500
3. Reporter: Peter G.M. van der Heijden
4. Location: Trivandrum, India
5. Period: 26 November – 5 December 2007
6. Contractor: South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS)
7. Funding: Ministerie van LNV: BOCI project 10-005-12
FAO Fisheries programma, Chennai, India
8. Recipient(s): South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS); FERAL

CONTENT:

Introduction	3
Fisheries management programme of SIFFS	3
Staff training on fisheries management	3
Activities in Kerala	4
Results and conclusions	4

ANNEXES:

Annex 1. Report of field visit	7 - 15
Annex 2. Name and function of participants	
Annex 3. Programme of the training	
Annex 4. Average evaluation scores	

Introduction

About 1.5 years ago Mr. M. Bavinck (MARE – Centre for Maritime research, University of Amsterdam) informed me about the wish of the Director of the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) to have part of its staff trained on the subject of fisheries co-management. SIFFS is an NGO that was started in 1980 and has played an important role in the organising and development of small-scale fishermen along the coast of southern India, mainly in the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, but also in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Pondicherry and Mangalore. At present the federation has member societies in 120 coastal villages with a membership of 7000 fishermen. Its objective is to contribute to sustainable fisheries, development of sustainable livelihood, better institutions and development of coastal communities. SIFFS has assisted in the set-up and promotion of fish marketing cooperatives and it has contributed to the motorization and modernisation of traditional fishing crafts and vessels. SIFFS runs 11 boat production & repair units plus 24 outboard engine repair centres. In addition the organisation runs a micro-finance programme (5000 loans distributed), alternative employment programmes, information services (research and studies, census of fishing fleet and gear in Kerala, documentation, websites, village information centres), policy and advocacy programme and post harvest programme. SIFFS also played an important role in the coordination of tsunami relief & rehabilitation programmes in especially Tamil Nadu, and has executed some relief programmes itself in some fishing districts. The federation has approx 275 staff members plus a large number of people that are part-time, temporary (project-based) or otherwise loosely connected to the Federation. A noteworthy feature of its staff is that all originate from fishing communities, ensuring in this way a good basic knowledge of fishing culture, techniques and issues among its staff. A Dutch MFO has been a strong supporter of SIFFS since the 1980's.

Fisheries management programme of SIFFS

Since its inception in 1980 SIFFS has tried to influence the state and national governments to play a more active and effective role in fisheries management, mostly by means of dialogues, protest rallies, consultations, etc. But about 3 years ago SIFFS leadership concluded that this had not been very effective in influencing the government on fisheries management issues and realised that this approach was also probably not going to be very successful in the near future. Besides from implementing an all-out trawling ban for 6 weeks/year or longer (duration and timing depending on the state) SIFFS staff has come to the conclusion that state and national laws, policies and regulations regarding fisheries management are not effective at all in India due to lack of political will, capacity & capability, and the lack of personnel and means of enforcement. Realising that the natural resource base is limited and that the development of the fishery sector to which SIFFS itself is contributing can not continue without rules and regulations that avoid overfishing, SIFFS decided, perhaps being the first in India, that fishermen societies themselves would have to take up a more active role in the management of the fisheries resource. Building on its strong presence in some areas or on the good-will created by the role played after the tsunami or by the successful release of approx 100 Indian fishermen that had been detained in Sri Lanka for illegal border crossing, SIFFS embarked on a fisheries co-management programme in 3 areas. The three areas differ much in the character of predominant management issues as well as in size. One area is a village in Kerala with 3000 fishermen where expansion of the ring net fishery is a major issue,, while another is a district in Tamil Nadu with 54 villages and 25,000 fishermen, conflicts between trawlers and artisanal fishers being an important issue here.

Staff training on fisheries management

It was also realised however that the staff that would be involved in the fisheries management programme needed more training to have a clearer idea on the approach and to learn more about approaches and the tools available for fisheries management and about similar fisheries (co-)management experiences elsewhere. Already in 2006 a tentative programme was agreed upon with the SIFFS executive director, but the lack of funds to pay for the Wageningen International services prevented its execution. Early October 2007 it was decided to cancel the course 31/10 "Towards participatory fisheries management" (planned to be held in Naivasha, Kenya in November – December 2007) due to insufficient participants with funding or scholarships. The Fisheries Directorate of LNV

3/25/20093/25/2009

agreed that a part of the funds available in BOCI 10-005-12 could be used to prepare and conduct a special training on fisheries co-management for the staff of SIFFS.

Activities in Kerala

On November 27 a field visit was made to 2 villages where SIFFS is active. The purpose of this trip was to become familiar with fisheries management issues in the area where SIFFS is working, the approach and role of SIFFS, and the fishing situation in Kerala in general. A trip report is attached (ANNEX 1).

On November 28 the training programme was discussed in detail with SIFFS key staff and the training venue was visited.

The training on Fisheries Management was held from November 29 to December 4, 2007. It was officially inaugurated by 2 fishermen that are also members of the Board of SIFFS. The name and function of the participants (18 from SIFFS, 2 from FERAL – Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning) is listed in ANNEX 2. Besides from the staff member of Wageningen International 2 scientists of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) from Cochin, one from the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) and one from the UN/FAO Team for Recovery Support (for communities affected by the 2004 Tsunami) provided an input. FAO fisheries programme in Chennai has assisted SIFFS financially with this training. The programme of the training is in ANNEX 3.

Results and conclusions

The training was held in Hotel Horizon, Trivandrum (or Thiruvananthapuram as it is now called). There were 20 participants in the training. All participants but 2 were staff of SIFFS. Two participants were staff of an NGO called FERAL (Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning) that is among other things involved in participatory planning exercises in fishing communities of Pondicherry. The training consisted of presentations, group discussions, group exercises, and films. The technical support by SIFFS staff during the preparations and execution of the training was excellent.



Training on fisheries management, Hotel Horizon, Trivandrum, Kerala, 29 November – 4 December 2007.



Working in small groups during one of the training sessions



Lively explanation by a training participant from Alappad.

3/25/20093/25/2009

At the end a written evaluation form was completed by the participants. The average results are presented in ANNEX 4.

There was also a final, short round of oral feedback by all participants. The feed-back given by the participants was in general positive (useful, informative, interesting) but also some comments were made that aimed at possible improvements in a next training course like this one. The comments pointed at the need for more examples in a tropical context (4 of the 7 case studies of participation of fisheries in resource management that were presented were from Europe), to make the topic of conflict management more geared to tropical fisheries management, and more in-depth presentation of fisheries management tools that are applicable to tropical small-scale fisheries management. Having no example of fisheries co-management from India and being very aware of the typical Indian context the SIFFS director concluded that it would be up to SIFFS to try out various tools and approaches to develop the most applicable model for the types of small-scale coastal fisheries. The Indian context with a mixture of religions, a highly politicised situation in especially Kerala, the bureaucratic and slow response of most government institutes, and the enormous difficulty to reach the large number of people that are employed in Indian coastal fisheries (> 100.000 in Kerala, and > 1 million in the whole of India) makes the task to achieve participatory fisheries management in India a very daunting one. He appreciated the effort being made by Wageningen International to prepare presentations that were geared towards this particular audience. He also pointed at the increasing interest from the persons from the fisheries research and technology centres (often on a personal basis and without strong support from their respective institutions) in SIFFS's efforts to set up structures and institutions to facilitate community-based fisheries management and co-management.. The growing strength of the contact with these persons from the science institutions was a positive and useful side-effect of this training.



All participants of the training course. Sitting in the middle: Mr Vivekanandan, SIFFS Chief executive

ANNEX 1. Report of field trip to Anyengo and Alappad

Anyengo: approx 30 km north of Trivandrum. Community with 3000 fisher families and approx 600 plywood vessels (about 9 m length, powered by double out-board engines). Talked with president of Vadikkakom Fishermen Society. This society was started in 1988, has 35 members of which five in the executive committee. Executives are elected for 2 years. Only one (clerk/secretary) is paid by SIFFS. The society is in fish marketing (has an auctioneer). Three % of the value of catch goes to society. One % is to pay the auctioneer, 2 % is for the local society. Second activity is a micro-credit programme. (Fishermen are in general linked to fish traders by means of loans: the fish buyers extend loans for the purchase of new gears or for subsistence in the lean season, ensuring himself of a regular supply of fish for a controlled price for a long period. To release this bond with middlemen SIFFS runs a micro-credit programme.) Credit is given for vessels, gear, and for consumption, and the loans range between Rp 25,000 and RP 100,000. The Government extends kerosene subsidy to fishermen (for a certain amount of fuel/month) and this is also taken by SIFFS to repay the loan.

Major problems in the community according to the president:

-housing,

- Fish Attracting Devices (FADs). They are placed to attract cuttle fish (squids) but also attract puffer fish that destroy nets.

- night fishing with bright lights. This is officially forbidden in Kerala according to the Fishing Act) but everybody is using this method. Night fishing is blamed for lower catches by driftnet and beach seine users. The bright lights are placed on a small catamaran pulled by 2 vessels that pair-trawl a net that acts like pelagic trawl. It was agreed by Parish Committee (which has a strong influence in this village) that light should only be used from Nov to January, but this rule is commonly violated. "If everybody uses it and it makes better catches, I will also use it" is the common logic behind this.



Plywood vessels (powered by outboard engines) built at SIFFS wharf on the beach of Anyengo, Kerala

3/25/20093/25/2009



Fishermen arranging their nets on beach of Anyengo, Kerala

Alappad panchayat, situated 100 km north of Trivandrum. Panchayat president: Mr Rajadas. He is also chairman of the newly formed fisheries management council. In this council (25 members, formed in August 2007) the major stakeholder groups represented are the fishworker's unions (trades and unions are organized according to party lines in Kerala, with Congress Party and the Communist Party being the major political forces in the state), fish boat owners (4 gears), and major religious groups and the "kareogan councils" (=traditional neighborhood council).

The expansion of ring net fishing (both in size of the vessels and their number) is a major fisheries management issue in this village. This fishery has developed from small traditional craft using small seines towards ever larger ring seines and larger crafts. Local ship yards now make vessels of 25 m length with an inboard engine. But the larger units are no longer economically feasible and owners interested to scale down again. There are now about 80 of such large ring net vessels, but many are not active: too expensive to operate, land lack of deck hands. Each vessel needs 40 to 60 people to pull the large seine. The major catch is oil sardine. In the peak season the catches can be so abundant that the price drops to Rp 1 to 2 /kg. There is no way of preserving this fish in Alappad (this species can not be dried), and excess fish are dumped in back-waters (lagoons). The council has identified over-fishing and the economic problems of the ring net fishers as a major problem. To reduce fishing pressure the council agreed to follow 2 religious holidays/month during which no fishing would be allowed. Besides from this no other measures have been worked out yet, and the council is struggling how to tackle this issue.

Alappad is a very long village situated on a 17 km long, narrow peninsula between the open sea and a backwater (lagoon). The village was badly hit by the 2004 Tsunami, that made 128 victims, and destroyed many houses. Now many new houses have been build, but 36 families still live in government-provided shelters in the refugee camp. Problem is that new relocation sites have been provided but far from the sea shore, but many victims do not want to be rehabilitated far from the shore (= far from their livelihood).



Memorial for Alappad victims of the 2004 tsunami. Sand sculpture representing the sea goddess.

ANNEX 2. Name and function of the course participants

1. **V.Vivekanandan, Chief Executive
South Indian federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS)**
2. **S.Ephrem, Deputy Chief Executive (Acting)
SIFFS**
3. **Dr.K.K.Appukuttan, Principal Scientist (Retired)
CMFRI
Ernakulam**
4. **John Swamy, Executive (Sea Safety)
SIFFS**
5. **V.Wilfred, Manager (Information Division)
SIFFS**
6. **S.Raveendran Nair, Consultant (Resource Management)
SIFFS**
7. **Antony Benchilas, Executive (Extension Services)\
SIFFS**
8. **A.Ansalam, Executive (Propulsion)
SIFFS**
9. **S.Madhavan, Regional Officer
SIFFS**
10. **S.Bhasker, Programme Officer
SIFFS**
11. **Belgin.P.Moraise, Assistant Manager
SIFFS**
12. **T.Arulanandam, Programme Officer
SIFFS**
13. **Dr.B.Subramanian, Executive (Resource Management)
SIFFS**
14. **V.N.Roy, Executive (Research & Development)
SIFFS**
15. **G.D.Prasad, Programme Officer
SIFFS**
16. **M/Jeyaprakash, Programme Consultant
SIFFS**
17. **Sidhan, Fisherman, Member, Fisheries Management Council**

3/25/20093/25/2009

Alappad, Kollam

- 18. Thadeus Koriyah, Manager (Documentation)
SIFFS**
- 19. J.Gaspard, Co-ordinator
FERAL
Pondicherry**
- 20. Saravanan, Co-ordinator
FERAL
Pondicherry**

ANNEX 3. Programme – SIFFS Staff training on Fisheries Management

(29th Nov 2007 to 4th December 2007)

AGENDA

Day 1: 29th November 2007

9.30 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 11.00	Inaugural session
Welcome Address	Mr. V. Vivekanandan, Chief Executive, SIFFS
	Mr. Peter van der Heijden Senior Faculty, Wageningen International
	Mr. Julian Teelar. Dy Chief Executive, SIFFS
Chairperson' Address	Mr. Antony Augustine Vice Chairman, SIFFS
Inaugural Address	Mr. Maria John, Chairman, SIFFS
Vote of thanks	Mr. Ephrem, DY CE (Acting), SIFFS
11.00 – 11.30	Tea break
11.30 – 12.15	Getting acquainted with each other
12.15 – 13.15	Session I "Recent history of fisheries and fisheries management" Mr. Peter van der Heijden
13.15 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	Session I – continued
15.30 – 15.45	Tea break
15.45 – 17.30	Session II "Important paradigms and objectives in fisheries management" Mr. Peter van der Heijden

Day 2: 30th November 2007

10.00 – 11.30	Session III “Fisheries co-management (principles typology, cases)” Mr. Peter van der Heijden
11.30 – 12.00	Tea break
12.00 – 13.30	Session III continued
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00	Session IV “Fisheries co-management (cases, conditions for successful co-management)” Mr. Peter van der Heijden
16.00 – 16.30	Tea break
16.30 – 17.30	Session IV continued

Day 3: 1st December 2007

10.00 – 11.30	Session V “Current status of Indian fishery with special reference to fishery resources with eco-system approach” Dr. E. Vivekanandan, CMFRI
11.30 – 12.00	Tea break
12.00 – 13.30	Session VI “Major fish species in Indian waters and current status of exploitation – main issues” Dr. NGK Pillai, CMFRI
13.30 – 14.15	Lunch break
14.15 – 16.00	Session VII “Participatory approach – information collection in fisheries management” Dr. C.M. Muraleedharan, UNTRS
16.00 – 16.15	Tea break
16.15 – 17.15	Session VII continued....

Day 4: 2nd December 2007

10.00 – 11.30	Session VIII “Fisheries managers’ tool box to control fishing effort”
---------------	--

3/25/20093/25/2009

Mr. Peter van der Heijden

11.30 – 12.00

Tea break

12.00 – 13.30

Session IX
“Controlling fishing effort and reducing negative impacts of low rated gears”
Dr. Bhoopendranath, CIFT

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch break

14.30 – 15.00

Session IX continued...

15.00 – 15.15

Tea break

15.15 – 17.15

Session X
“Fisheries data collection – its importance, methods and fishers’ contribution”
Mr. Peter van der Heijden

Day 5: 3^d December 2007

10.00 – 11.30

Session XI
“Stakeholder analysis”
Mr. Peter van der Heijden

11.30 – 12.00

Tea break

12.00 – 13.30

Session XI continued ...

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch break

14.30 – 16.00

Session XII
“Conflict management”
Mr. Peter van der Heijden

16.00 – 17.30

Session XII continued

Day 6: 4th December 2007

10.00 – 11.30

Session XIII
“Capacity building for fisheries co-management”
Mr. Peter van der Heijden

11.30 – 12.00

Tea break

12.00 – 13.30

Session XIV
Evaluation

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch break

3/25/20093/25/2009

ANNEX 4. Average score by training participants of the subjects discussed in the SIFFS training course

Note: In column 2, 3 and 4 a score of 5.0 is optimal. In column 5 and 6 a score of 3.0 is optimal.

Date	Session number, subject	Number of staff present	Column 2 Presentation of subject (1...5)	Column 3 Increase of knowledge/skills (1...5)	Column 4 Relevance to your work (1...5)	Column 5 Difficulty (1...5)	Column 6 Time allotment (1...5)
29Nov	Getting acquainted	20	4.5	3.68	3.37	2.12	2.5
	I. Historic developments in fisheries management (vd Heijden)		3.9	3.82	3.70	2.05	2.47
	II. Important paradigms and objectives in fisheries management (vd Heijden)	20	4.29	3.64	3.82	2.05	2.52
30 Nov	III. Fisheries co-management – principles. (vd Heijden)	19	4.06	3.56	4.06	2.12	2.25
	IV. Fisheries co-management - case studies. (vd Heijden)	20	3.94	3.58	3.58	2.23	2.17
1 Dec	V. Status of Indian fisheries –ecosystem approach (Dr Vivekanandan)	18	3.82	3.70	3.58	2.17	2.11
	VI. Major fish species in Indian waters (Dr Pillai)	18	3.43	3.68	3.75	2.25	2.18
	VII. PRA tools for fisheries management (Mr Muraleeradhan)	16	3.6	3.26	3.86	2.26	2.46
2 Dec	VIII. The fisheries manager's toolbox (vd Heijden)	17	3.87	3.56	3.73	2.31	2.46
	IX. Reducing negative impacts of low-rated gears (Dr Bhoopendranath)	18	3.76	3.70	3.82	2.56	2.47
	X. Fishers' participation in data collection (vd Heijden)	17	3.93	3.62	3.81	1.87	2.56
3 Dec	XI. Stakeholder analysis (vd Heijden)	18	4.00	3.82	3.88	2.31	2.17
4 Dec	XIII. Capacity building for fisheries co-management (vd Heijden)	18	4.00	3.56	3.5	2.46	2.37

3/25/20093/25/2009