

DIALOGUES ON FISHERY CERTIFICATION FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN INDIA



India is the 3rd largest fish-producing country in the world. Home to more than 10% of global fish biodiversity, it is one of the 17-mega biodiversity-rich countries and the fisheries sector plays a significant role in the country's economy by supporting fisher livelihoods. Current marine exports is about 5% of total exports from India. MPEDA reports that the total marine exports increased from US\$ 3.5 billion in 2011-12 to US\$ 5.9 billion in 2020-21. Importers are increasingly demanding seafood sourced from sustainable resources.

Today, the importance of utilizing fisheries resources responsibly is widely recognized as almost 90% of global marine fish stocks are now fully exploited or overfished owing to rising populations, higher incomes, and greater awareness of seafood's health benefits. According to the data by the World Bank, the situation is worst in low-income and middle-income countries, where weak regulation and enforcement have produced above average declines in fish stocks. This situation needs to change as fisheries are critical to global food security and nutrition. This is where the question of sustainability becomes crucial for the industry.

Thus, sustainable fishing is essential for ensuring sustainable fish stocks and securing livelihoods, minimizing environmental impact and allowing effective fisheries management by preventing illegal fishing. These targets are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) widely recognized by the international community. In this context, fisheries certification or ecolabelling is adopted to maintain the productivity and economic value of fisheries, while providing incentives for improved fisheries management and the conservation of marine biodiversity.



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▶ According to the FAO, ecolabels are seals of approval given to products that are deemed to have fewer impacts on the environment than functionally or competitively similar products. The rationale for basic labelling information at the point of sale is that it links fisheries products to their production process. Product claims associated with ecolabeling aim at tapping the growing public demand for environmentally preferable products.

▶ In India, recently, ecolabeling has been used as an integral part of voluntary commitments towards delivering SDG-14 targets on life below water, and can also be used to fulfil other SDG targets such as strengthening food security (SDG-2), to promote sustainable economic growth (SDG-8), promote sustainable consumption and production (SDG-12) and strengthen global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG-17).

▶ The present Dialogues are envisioned to elaborate on the initiatives taken by India, to identify the issues and problems, stakeholder commitments and to strengthen India's commitment towards sustainable fisheries and towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals through fisheries certification. The dialogues are timed with the UN World Environment Day and the World Ocean Day.

Who should attend?

Fishery managers of the States and Centre, researchers, seafood exporters, development agencies, policy makers, academicians, and fisher organizations.

What is the program?

A dialogue space for expressing views of globally renowned speakers on SDGs and fisheries certification, that can influence policy.

Organised and hosted by



Co-hosted by



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