

Outreach Programs by NETFISH

- Onboard Training
- Harbour/Landing Centre Training
- Pre-processing/Processing centre Training
- Dryfish Training
- Square Mesh Fabrication training
- Value addition training
- Tuna onboard processing
- Clean-up programs
- Door-to-door program
- Mass communication
- Students awareness program
- Stakeholder's meetings
- Workshops/Seminars

Extension Tools

Awareness documentaries, animation films, posters, leaflets, charts and training manuals/booklets on different topics were developed in English, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya and Bengali languages and disseminated among the trainees.



Value addition training



PPC training



Square mesh popularization program



Suchitwa sagaram project, Kollam



Organogram



Network for Fish Quality Management & Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH)

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NETFISH

A registered society under the aegis of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India formed with a view to empowering fisheries sector by imparting knowledge to fishermen/ fisherwomen/ processing workers, technicians, etc. on fish quality management, conservation of fish resources and sustainable fishing.

Background

With the growing importance of total quality management in seafood production, post harvest handling has assumed paramount importance. Although India has world class seafood processing plants which take care of the final stages of post harvest handling, concerted efforts are lacking in the initial stages of the quality chain. Imparting training to fishermen at the grassroots level is a challenging task for which the involvement of agencies working close to the fishermen is highly imperative. There is a feeling among fishermen that they are completely left out of extension programmes because of the lack of reach. They do not get vital information on the quality requirements in international seafood trade as well as newly emerging areas like eco-labeling. The conventional system of extension through the official machinery needs to be replaced by an agency which can reach out to the grassroots levels and mobilize organization whose primary objectives to work for the welfare of fishermen. Besides, training fishermen in post harvest handling and other techniques calls for devoted efforts by a dedicated agency. Such agency will be far more effective in imparting training to fishermen and fish workers and thus bring about a "bottom up" approach to post harvest handling. Based on this concept, NETFISH was formulated to concentrate deeply on capacity building in quality management and conservation of aquatic resources at the grass root level by networking with fishermen societies, federations and other non-governmental organizations.

Major objectives

1. To function as the focal point for upgrading the technology and quality management of fishing and fish processing sectors at the grass roots level
2. To organize appropriate training programmes on fish quality management and conservation of fishery resources in all the maritime states of India
3. To network with stake holder organization by inducting their representatives in to the general body NETFISH
4. To assimilate, absorb and transfer technologies related to capture fisheries.
5. To develop systematic linkages between international & national institutions of excellence in the field of extension
6. To facilitate public or private investment in infrastructure development.

Methodology

NETFISH designed its activity on a three tier system by (i) Giving a variety of training programmes repeatedly in selected places as an effort to change the mindset of people (ii) Practical demonstration of different aspects of hygienic handling of fish and conservation by organizing coastal cleanup programmes, mass boat cleanup programmes, biodiversity day celebrations etc. with the cooperation of member NGOs, stakeholders and Govt. officials (iii) Meetings and discussions with various concerned Government agencies like Harbour Engineering Department, State fisheries department, NFDB to develop infrastructural facilities at harbors and landing centers. NETFISH is liaised with State as well as National level extension agencies to network and implement its goal much effectively.

State coordinators of NETFISH maintained a healthy relationship with local community leaders.

Various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been selected as members in NETFISH considering their past records on conducting fisheries development programmes. Personals from these member NGO's are being trained on various fisheries extension programmes with the help of reputed fisheries institutes /universities /departments/scientists, etc. are utilized for conducting various extension programmes among fisher folk. Both theory and practical classes on above mentioned topics are being arranged for the fishermen.

Activities

NETFISH's extension training programmes dealt with two major aspects. One is Fish Quality Management and the other is Conservation and Sustainable Fishing.

Topics dealt with in Fish quality management

- Hygienic handling of fishes onboard
- Hygienic handling of fishes at harbours
- Hygienic handling of fishes at pre-processing centers
- Production of good quality dry fish

Topics dealt with in conservation and sustainable fishing

- Coral reefs
- Mangroves
- Marine turtles
- By-catch reduction
- Mesh size regulation
- Juvenile fishing
- Destructive fishing
- Eco-friendly fishing methods
- Responsible fishing
- Trawl ban and its importance
- Wild seed collection
- Marine pollution
- Night trawling
- Marine protected areas

