

Somalia and Yemen Development Programme (SYDP)

Training program on 'Improving the quality and value of fisheries products'

Concept Note

1. Introduction

The fisheries sector is an ever-growing industry that contributes to job creation, income generation, poverty alleviation and food security. It represents an important source of protein providing almost one-fifth of the total animal protein supply. The fisheries and aquaculture sector have great influence on the livelihood of coastal communities through the provision of direct employment, food and income. In 2012, almost 58.3 million people globally were engaged in fish-rearing and harvesting activities, with artisanal fishing comprises 90% of all fishing jobs globally, representing approximately 45% of the world's fisheries, and nearly a quarter of the world catch.

The Indian Ocean region is one of the highest producers, and represents a huge market for fish products. However, the region has an economic diversity that result in some countries being more develop and have more resources and capacities to develop this sector than others. In addition, the IORA Member States are facing a wide range of challenges, including the increasing pressures of climate change, overfishing and overexploitation of fisheries resources and marine pollution, which negatively impact on the sustainability of this important sector.

Somalia and Yemen are among the IORA countries that are attributing high importance to the development of their fisheries sector. In fact, Somalia, with its longest coastline in Africa, has got one of the richest fishing grounds in the continent, which represents huge development and business opportunities. Similarly, Yemen coastal habitats are home for a rich marine resource wealth. In fact, Yemen's fisheries sector is one of the four promising sectors as per the Strategic Vision 2025 and contributes up to 3% share to the country's GDP. This sector can potentially contribute to the diversification of the country's economy that could in turn address the employment issues, thus leading to socio-economic development.

However, both countries are facing persistent challenges that impede on the development of their sector. For example, in Somalia, the sector remains under developed due to lack of skills among fishermen to go deep into sea water, lack of tools (boats and fishing gears) and lack of regulatory frameworks. Yemen also faces the challenges of: weak institutional management and capacities for strategic planning and implementation; unknown fisheries stock carrying capacity; low quality of fish/fisheries products; limited aquaculture and SME's development; low productivity of fishermen community; and underutilized potential of fisherwomen.

2. Proposal

With the challenges and the prevailing situation in the two countries, the IORA Secretariat has been considering possibilities for developing capacity building and developmental programs for trainers and small scale business people from Somalia and Yemen that would effectively address these challenges, with the objective of acquiring the required skills in order to meet their developmental needs. In view of bridging the gap in terms of capacities of both countries in addressing issues and challenges, IORA has developed the Somalia-Yemen Development Program (SYDP). The first SYDP project on Banking and Artisanal Fisheries was held on 13-14 August 2017 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and was organised by UAE, in collaboration with the IORA Secretariat.

The workshop resulted in several recommendations on the wayforward, which has enabled the IORA Secretariat to identify the theme of the current training program.

At the First SYDP workshop, participants highlighted the need for capacity building program on improving the quality and value of fisheries product. Indeed, artisanal fishermen (that contribute mostly to the fisheries sector in both countries) lack skills, knowledge and expertise in handling, processing and preserving fisheries products, thus resulting in low market value for their catch and low income for their fishing efforts. The current training program will equip the participants with required skills and knowledge on the ways to improve the value and quality of fisheries product in view of securing a better market and ensure greater socio-economic growth.

3. Aims and Objectives

The aim of this training programme is to enhance the knowledge and capacities of the participants on ways to improve value and quality of fisheries products through the use of simple methods and technologies in support of developing small-scale fisheries activities and businesses.

The specific objectives are:

- a) To share information, experience and best practices on ways to improve quality and value of fisheries product across the value chain;
- b) To enhance knowledge on fish storage, handling, post-harvest processing and preservation;
- c) To encourage the use of simple methods and technologies to improve the quality and value of fisheries products;
- d) To share knowledge on seafood safety and quality standards; and
- e) To increase access to markets through improved quality of fisheries products.

4. Envisioned Outcomes

- a) Enhanced knowledge and capacities of participants on fish storage, handling, post-harvest processing and preservation;
- b) Sharing of information, best practices and experience on how to improve value and quality of fisheries products;
- c) Increased knowledge on the use of simple methods and technologies for improving quality and value of fisheries products;
- d) Improved skills on how to optimise market access through improved quality of fisheries products; and
- e) Increased economic benefits of fishing efforts through better products and services.