

**Report of the Workshop
On**

Future Vision for Fisheries Management

**For
Pondicherry and Karaikkal Regions**

**20-21 October 2011
Hotel Annamalai, Pondicherry**

Submitted by

**FERAL
Pondicherry**

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I. The Background

The Stakeholders and Livelihoods Analysis as part of FIMSUL programme had given a fair level of introduction to the members of the fishing community in the Pondicherry region about its objectives. Despite the time lag between the two phases, members of the community remembered the FIMSUL work done earlier. After a reticent beginning due to respondent's fatigue which is increasingly becoming a worrying phenomenon, especially when scientific management related initiatives seem to have increased. One clearly articulated reason from the community for such a fatigue is also that they are yet to witness any tangible impact or initiative subsequent to 'lot of talking', as they say. It took us considerable effort to overcome this reticence and to convince the different stakeholders to participate in the visioning workshop. We did our best to communicate to them the importance of their participation, to voice their opinions and ideas in any effort, which would potentially impact their work and lives. The efforts did prove fruitful finally, as evident in the number of participants at the workshop and by the nature of their participation through the two days.

II. Planning and Organization for the Workshop on Visioning

After the state level consultation on the 22nd September 2011, efforts were made to coordinate with the responsible officials of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Pondicherry. The concerned officials responded with enthusiasm and a letter was drafted from the Department as invitations to the concerned stakeholders. We approached the different stakeholders in the settlements whom we had met and interacted during the focus group discussions and the validation meetings held as part of FIMSUL Phase I. We also met the panchayat leaders and representatives of fisher organizations and informed them about the workshop. The Department of Fisheries had taken the responsibility to invite community elders and representatives from the Karaikkal region. Logistics were arranged for the workshop at Hotel Annamalai and the dates were decided for the 20th and 21st of October after much deliberations since the BoBLME Programme also was planning a meeting with stakeholders around the same time. Finally a consensus was reached that the first session of the first day would be used up by BoBLME team for them to engage with the fishing community of Pondicherry while the rest of the sessions would be utilized by the FIMSUL team, but with the specific stakeholders we had invited for the two-day workshop.

III. The Workshop

The primary objective for the two-day workshop was to develop a vision statement on fisheries management for the Pondicherry and Karaikkal region. Sessions were planned by the FIMSUL team accordingly with appropriate exercises to enable participation. While the first session of the first day with a large number of participants for the BoBLME meeting set the tone for the seriousness of the issues concerned which actually helped the FIMSUL workshop objectives, time constraints on the other hand was a limitation. The workshop could only begin after a delayed lunch and with hardly two hours left for the day, the FIMSUL team did manage to introduce the workshop objectives as well as to complete the exercise meant to identify current issues in fisheries for the region. The overview presented to them by means of banners with outputs from the Stakeholder and Livelihood Analysis was well received by the participants as well.

The second day's proceedings started around 10-30 AM and the major exercise for the day to present vision statements for the region was taken up, with participants divided into groups and with each group given a set of vision statements to discuss. The final plenary when groups presented their views and the subsequent discussion on such views was a lively session with several strong opinions coming to the fore. The Workshop concluded around 2-30 PM with a final power point presentation by a team from PONDYCAN, a voluntary network of organizations working on

coastal management issues in the region. The vote of thanks was given by FERAL who thanked the FIMSUL team, the representatives from the community, the Department officials and all others concerned in making the two-day deliberations successful.

On Participation

The first day of the workshop was attended by about fifty members from the various groups of stakeholders, apart from the FERAL and FIMSUL teams. There were about fifteen women, mostly market based fish vendors and head loaders, while the rest belonged to Kattumaram, FRP boat owners and with few representing other stakeholder groups. The second day in fact had a much higher presence of community leaders and influential sections from the community, even though most of them arrived late for the meeting. The second day had about sixty members of the community who participated in the deliberations for that day.

IV. Outputs

We will list below the outputs of the major exercises conducted in the two days as part of the process to evolve the statement of vision for management in the Pondicherry region.

A. Problems, Perceptions, Challenges

The first introducing visioning exercise involved a ball game where participants divided into groups and noted down the response of all those who expressed their views on the three issues namely: problems in marine resources; future state of fisheries; obstacles and ways to overcome them.

I. Problems due to Resource Depletion

- ◆ Increase in the number of boats
- ◆ Increased pollution in the sea
- ◆ Over fishing in the same territory
- ◆ Increase in natural calamities
- ◆ Unregulated and exploitative fishing methods
- ◆ More presence of foreign vessels fishing in the deep sea
- ◆ Depletion of particular species
- ◆ Intensifying industrial pollution
- ◆ Failure of monsoons
- ◆ Ring seining and trawling
- ◆ Modern technology and commercial practices intrusion into artisanal fishing
- ◆ Encroachments on the coast and violation of norms
- ◆ Rise in input costs
- ◆ Near shore trawling
- ◆ Fishers from neighbouring states compete in our territories

II. Perception about the State of Fish Resources in the Future

- ◆ Protection of corals
- ◆ Line fishing to be encouraged by mechanized boats
- ◆ Separate Ministry for fisheries in the Union Government
- ◆ Distinct bank for fisheries
- ◆ Unique higher education set up for fisheries, like a separate University system
- ◆ Encouragement towards deep sea fishing
- ◆ Regulated pricing mechanism for fish by the Government

- ◆ Promotion of officials of the Fisheries Department
- ◆ Alternative Livelihoods training for those interested from the fishing community
- ◆ Developing a Fisheries Board
- ◆ Encourage trawlers to go deep sea fishing
- ◆ Ban on foreign vessels
- ◆ Fishers should volunteer not to fish during the breeding seasons
- ◆ Training in modern techniques
- ◆ Training in fishing shark
- ◆ Gear supplied through fisher cooperatives should be available to all
- ◆ Ban on ring seine
- ◆ Development of more fishing harbours

III. Pathways to clear obstacles

- ◆ Subsidies from the Department for mechanized boats
- ◆ Strict enforcement of the ban on ring seine
- ◆ By-catch from trawling should be dumped back into the sea
- ◆ Modern and sophisticated market infrastructure for fish vending
- ◆ Artificial fish breeding techniques
- ◆ Increase in the number of fishing harbours
- ◆ Cold storage facilities in all settlements
- ◆ Separate Ministry for Fisheries in the Central Government
- ◆ Universal waiver on all loans to the fishing community

B. Pathways towards realizing Future Vision

1. The community would enjoy adequate infrastructure for safety and security both at sea and on the coast from both natural and man-made threats

- ⤴ Strict enforcement of ban on cross border intrusions on the coast and in the sea
- ⤴ Ban on foreign fishing vessels in the sea
- ⤴ Should not allow setting up of industries, hotels, ship building, ports, refineries
- ⤴ Allow for representation of the community in all legislative bodies
- ⤴ Fisher representation in coastal management institutions
- ⤴ Provision of safety infrastructure for those involved in deep sea fishing
- ⤴ Protection and augmentation of mangroves, coconut and casuarinas plantations along the coast, sand dunes and indigenous plant varieties
- ⤴ Prevention of urban waste into the sea
- ⤴ Prevention of dumping from other countries in our territorial waters

2. Our profession would be treated with dignity by the civil society and institutions

- ⤴ Government and other concerned organizations should provide for modern, sophisticated markets for fish vending
- ⤴ Mobile fish vending facilities and cold storage infrastructure
- ⤴ Distinct cooperatives for women involved in fish vending
- ⤴ The community should stay united and act with responsibility with sincere leadership

3. Our Community would have good leadership with proper representation and will be united

- ⤴ Existing unity should be strengthened and coordinated well
- ⤴ Strengthening of traditional panchayat institutions
- ⤴ Election of traditional leadership once in 3-4 years instead of annual basis
- ⤴ District level traditional panchayat structures a necessity and require strengthening

4. The Coast will be managed properly without any kind of pollution

- ⤴ The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification of 1991 should be implemented without any changes
- ⤴ Adequate representation for fishing community in the coastal management plans and institutions
- ⤴ Environmental protection in every settlement involving youth, women and students from the community

5. Our Children would receive the best education

- ⤴ Community naturally intelligent due to high consumption of fish for generations. Children just require proper guidance to achieve excellence in higher education
- ⤴ Parents should attend to their children's education and encourage them
- ⤴ Students should be trained in modern fishing techniques
- ⤴ In a rapidly changing scenario of professions, our children should regularly update themselves on available opportunities and means to realize them

6. Our rights will not be compromised towards our places of dwelling and work

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ All Non-fishing activities on the coast tend to suppress the rights of the fishing community over the coast
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ Prior consultation and consent from the community is essential for any non-fishing activity on the coast before their formulation
 - ⤴ If found detrimental to the livelihoods and profession of fishers, such proposals should not be entertained at all
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ Revenue Department should necessarily seek the community's consent before entertaining any non-fishing activity based proposal on the coast and using the resources of the sea
 - ⤴ Existing non-fishing activities on the coast that are detrimental to the community should be suspended
 - ⤴ The Department of Fisheries should ensure that the rights of the fishing community are respected by other official departments

7. Every individual in the community would possess equal opportunities to avail support and services

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ There is no equality in the community
 - ⤴ Money power has become dominant
 - ⤴ Ignorance prevails
 - ⤴ Economic equality is necessary
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ Economic equality should be established in the community
 - ⤴ Erase all traces of ignorance from within the community
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ The community should initiate steps to remove prevailing economic inequality
 - ⤴ Department of Fisheries should also help remove ignorance in the community
 - ⤴ Revenue Department should initiate steps to reduce inequality

8. Women of the community would earn dignity from within and outside the fishing community

- ⤴ Children should be educated without any dropouts
- ⤴ Planned expenditure and savings
- ⤴ Inter-caste marriages
- ⤴ Modern and sophisticated fish vending markets
- ⤴ Loan assistance from banks

9. While the fishing community would uncompromisingly sustain its hold over their occupation, we would also diversify into different occupations in society.

- ⤴ To adapt to appropriate techniques and instruments in view of future changes
- ⤴ To learn, cherish and remember the labour and positive experience and roles played by fishing women
- ⤴ To receive periodic training from the Department of Fisheries and voluntary organizations to update ourselves with changes in the industry
- ⤴ To continue to receive the best quality education

10. Our Children would choose the professions of their choice and also would be qualified for

such opportunities

- ⤴ Would receive good higher education
- ⤴ Would receive better technical education
- ⤴ Would be self confident
- ⤴ Would get continuous exposure to modern technologies
- ⤴ Good education with a worldly outlook
- ⤴ Education in tandem with traditional occupation

11. Women of the community would have secure and better livelihood

- ⤴ With their interaction with other communities, would gather better experience
- ⤴ Continues skill training
- ⤴ Self confidence
- ⤴ Steady and stable income

12. Our livelihoods would not only be secure but we would possess all necessary means to sustain such livelihoods

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ Permanent place to live
 - ⤴ Harbours
 - ⤴ Quality craft and gear
 - ⤴ Secure place for craft and gear
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ Cold storage facilities
 - ⤴ Solar driers
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ The Community itself
 - ⤴ Department of Fisheries
 - ⤴ Voluntary organizations

13. Agencies related to fisheries would be committed to our welfare and support us in our endeavour to attain our needs

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ Credit assistance from banks
 - ⤴ Assistance from investors
 - ⤴ Fish traders and exporters
 - ⤴ Insurance firms
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ Research in fisheries
 - ⤴ Modern fishing techniques
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ Our own community and the rest as well

14. Our Community would thrive better in the future

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ United and tireless labour from the community
 - ⤴ Enhanced focus on education
 - ⤴ Live with less internal conflicts

- ⤴ Higher political participation
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ Direct involvement in import and export trade in fish
 - ⤴ Coexistence of traditional and gram panchayat institutions
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ People of the entire village

15. Our lives will be secure in old age

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ Labour
 - ⤴ Simple life style
 - ⤴ Attend to children's education
 - ⤴ Better quality of life with dignity and increased awareness about modern science and technology
 - ⤴ Savings as habit
 - ⤴ Unity from within
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ Save and gather assets
 - ⤴ Credit assistance from banks
 - ⤴ Access to insurance (life and assets)
 - ⤴ Collective effort and labour
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ Supportive children
 - ⤴ Pioneers of the community
 - ⤴ Guidance from the educated members of the community
 - ⤴ Support from Government institutions

16. The rights of the fisher folk would be legitimately ensured and secure

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ Sophistication in our own traditional territorial waters and in deep sea
 - ⤴ Foreign shipping vessels with higher capacity and techniques should not be allowed to fish in our territories
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ Regulations to be strengthened in deep sea fishing
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ Dedicated plans and schemes to be conceptualized, formulated and implemented with adequate representation of the community

17. Fisher folk working at sea would also earn standards of living comparable to professionals and executives

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ Children of the community in Pondicherry are better educated and skilled
 - ⤴ Access to education is ensured in Pondicherry region
 - ⤴ Educational loans are provided only on the basis of guarantees
 - ⤴ Opportunities for special and technical education are lesser
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation

- ⤴ Special education related to fisheries and marine sciences should be opened up in our region
- ⤴ Universal access to financial assistance to education
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ Department of Fisheries should tie up with banks to ensure financial assistance for education
 - ⤴ Special syllabus on fisheries should be included in the educational curriculum of this region

18. Fisheries sector should be managed better. Required regulations and rules should be followed properly and implemented with a constructive outlook

- ➔ Strength/Skills/Traditional Wisdom
 - ⤴ The existing regulations of management are merely in letters
 - ⤴ The community do not have sufficient awareness about these regulations
- ➔ Practice/Approaches/Regulation
 - ⤴ The current, potential and alternative regimes of regulations should be made aware to all members of the community including the necessity for them
 - ⤴ The existing system of regulations as mere letters should be implemented in spirit as well
- ➔ Fishing Community/Other institutions
 - ⤴ Department of Fisheries should organize awareness campaigns about the necessity and importance of the regulations and management

List of Participants on Day One

SL. NO	Name	Village Name	Designation	Phone No.
1	Kannan	Kanagachettikulam	Kattumaram	
2	Kumar	Kanagachettikulam	FRP Kattumaram	9226082352
3	Elangovan	Pondicherry	Dy. Director	9443627634
4	Murugan	Kanagachettikulam	FRP	989422o447
5	Ayyanarappan	Kanagachettikulam	Kattumaram	
6	Velu	Kanagachettikulam	Kattumaram FRP	9944538234
7	Pazhaniyandi	Kanagachettikulam	Kattumaram	97507383364
8	Veerapandian	Karaikal	FRP	9786635867
9	Suresh	Karaikal	FRP	9843737215
10	Kanniyappan	Nallavadu	Kattumaram	9476968718
11	Gomathy	Kanagachettikulam	Market Vendor	9894315303
12	Saras	Kanagachettikulam	Market Vendor	9789442276
13	Kavitha	Kanagachettikulam	SHG	956604674
14	Kamala Rani	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
15	Nagammal	Kanagachettikulam	Market Vendor	
16	Mallika	Solai Nagar	Head Loader	
17	Balamani	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
18	Vijayalakshmi	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
19	Thamarai selvi	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
20	Sampoornam	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
21	Manibalan	Pannithittu	FRP	9952492092
22	Ramajeyam	Veerampattinam	Social Worker	9365816202
23	Panchanathan	Solai Nagar	Trawler	
24	Kaliamoorthy	Kanagachettikulam	FRP Kattumaram	9629974843
25	Govindhu	Pudhukuppam	FRP	
26	Kumanan	Pudhukuppam	FRP	9698768884
27	Ponnusamy	Nallavadu		9688750575
28	Arul	Karaikal	Boat	9751271664
29	Veeramani	Karaikal	Panchayath	9786192316
30	Krishnaraj	Karaikal	Fish Agent	9943488667

31	Mayavathy	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
32	Ambiga	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
33	Mangalam	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
34	Nagalakshmi	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
35	Anchalai	Solai Nagar	Dry Fish Vendor	
36	Nageswari	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
37	Gokila	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
38	Geetha	Karaikal Kilingimedu	SHG	
39	Latha	Kanagachettikulam	Market Vendor	
40	Panchanathan	Pudhukuppam	FRP	9047919383
41	Kuppurasu	Nallavadu		9443475956
42	Kumanan	Pudhukuppam	FRP	9698768884
43	Gunasegaran	Periyakalapattu	FRP /Kattumaram	9994207448
44	Godhandapani	Periyakalapattu	FRP / Kattumaram	
45	Elango	Pondicherry	Ex. MLA	9345455122
46	Arumugam	Vaithikuppam		9944649812
47	Govindhasamy			9442067779
48	Dravidamani	Karaikal	Boat Owner	9842523310
49	Thangavadivelu	KKL	Boat Owner	9443525885
50	Anandharaju	KKM	Fishing	94435257665
51	Subashsandhiran	Kotticherry Medu	Ice factory owner	9842527141
52	Sakthivel	Moorthikuppam	Boat	9894557977
53	Srinivasan	FIMSUL		944119409
54	Sampath	FIMSUL		9444399814
55	Senthil Babu	FERAL		
56	Kaliamurugan	FERAL		
57	Saravanan	FERAL		
58	Kumaran	FERAL		
59	Chandramohan	FIMSUL		
60	Selvi	FERAL		

List of Participants on Day Two

1	Gomathy	Kanagachettikulam	Market Vendor	
2	Vijayalakshmi	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
3	Sampoornam	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
4	Nagalakshmi	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
5	Kuppurasu	Nallavadu	Panchayath	9443475956
6	Kumanan	Pudhukuppam	Panchayath	9698768884
7	Jeyakantha	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
8	Nageswari	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
9	Anchalai	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
10	Mangalam	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
11	Geetha	Karaikal	SHG	9095972326
12	Nagammal	Kanagachettikulam	Market vendor	
13	Gangaiyammal	Kanagachettikulam	Head Loader	
14	Kavitha	Kanagachettikulam	SHG	9566046744
15	Latha	Kanagachettikulam	Market Vendor	
16	Bodthraj	Moorthikuppam	Panchayath	9942223541
17	Chellappan	Kanagachettikulam	Kattumaram Owner	9944358366
18	Kaliamoorthy	Kanagachettikulam	Boat Owner	9629974849
19	Rajendiran	Kanagachettikulam	Kattumaram Owner	
20	Veeramani	Karaikal	Boat Owner	9786192316
21	Krishnaraj	Karaikal	Fish Agent	9943488667
22	Arul	Karaikal	Boat Owner	9751271664
23	Radha Krishnan	Karaikal	Steam Boat driver	9159586262
24	Thandayuthapani	Karaikal	Boat Driver	9488491975
25	Mohan Raja	Karaikal	Transport	9790629145
26	Gopathy	Pannithittu	Panchayath	9159148495
27	Ethiraj	Kurusukuppam	Steam Boat Owner	9894103153
28	Ramajeyam	Veerampattinam	Social Worker	93658816202
29	Balamani	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
30	Saras	Kanagachettikulam	Market Vendor	9789442276
31	Muthu Lakshmi	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
32	Anchalai Manjini	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
33	Mayavathy	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
34	Ambika	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	
35	Selvi	Solai Nagar	Market Vendor	

36	Mallika	Solai Nagar	Head Loader	
37	Elango	Pondicherry	Ex.MLA	
38	Govindasamy	Karaikal	Fishers. Dept	
39	Ponnusamy	Nallavadu		
40	Panchanathan	Solai Nagar	Trawl Boat	
41	Kumaravelu	Solai Nagar	Kattumaram	9345821963
42	Viswanathan	Veerampattinam	Boat Owner	
43	Saravanan	FERAL		
44	Kumaran	FERAL		
45	Selvi	FERAL		
46	Kaliamurugan	FERAL		
47	Padhmanathan	Veerampattinam	Kattumaram	
48	Ramanathan	Veerampattinam	Boat	9943994333
49	Kaliaperumal	Veerampattinam	Boat	8870145196
50	Senthil Babu	FERAL		
51	Kaviarasan	Pondicherry	Asst. Director of Fisheries	9843537752
52	Soundarapandian	Pondicherry	Asst Director of Fisheries	9952460301
53	Deivasigamani	Pondicherry	DD of Dept. of Fisheries	9443536274
54	Gothandapany	Kalapet	Boat	
55	Paneerselvam	Kalapet		
56	Rajendiran	Kalapet		
57	Parthipan	Kalapet		9943466408
58	Gothandapani	Kalapet	Kattumaram	9500475138
59	Rasu	Kalapet		9787878208
60	Aurofilo Schiavina	Pondy	Member Pondycan	9443381967
61	Sunaina	Pondicherry	Pondycan	9874033733
62	Sampath	FIMSUL		9444399814
63	Vivekanandhan	FIMSUL		9847084840
64	Chandramohan	FIMSUL		9486769180
65	Srinivasan	FIMSUL		9441194009