

DRAFT

For consultation & Stakeholder Comments

Department of Fisheries

**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Government of India**

**FISHERIES SECTOR COVID-19 RECOVERY
PROJECT**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

March 10, 2021

1. Introduction/Project Description

A new respiratory infectious disease, COVID-19, caused by a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2, emerged in early December 2019. Since then, the virus has spread to India and 106 other countries in Asia, Europe, North America, Africa, and Oceania. On March 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic, which has since rapidly evolved. As an economic hub with substantial global connectivity and movement of people and goods, India is directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the fisheries sector like other sectors. The sector is expected to slow down in its growth performance in 2020-21. Impacts are also expected to linger in 2021-22. The sector mainly employs lower-income and historically disadvantaged communities. Most of them have eroded their working capital due to wastage and distress sale and are unlikely to be able to resume production/capture at the pre-COVID-19 levels. Quite a considerable number of fish workers currently have lost jobs and income; and millions of them are unlikely to regain the jobs at least until 2022-23 – pushing these vulnerable households back into poverty. Without planned and coordinated sector-wide efforts for appropriate recovery that mainstreams “Build back Better” impacts on the sector will perpetuate. In search of financial recovery of the largely unorganized sector, there would be a rush to cut cost and increase margins at all levels which will inhibit sustainable and resilient growth of the sector in future, create long-term damages, and full-scale collapse of the sector cannot be ruled out. Sustainable recovery will need to include promotion of sustainable practices and behaviors, improved access to finance for enterprises to create better jobs, and targeted incentives for resilient business growth.

As part of the COVID 19 response program, the proposed India Fisheries Sector COVID-19 Response and Recovery Project aims to support preservation of jobs in the fisheries sector through facilitating working capital and insurance by expanding sustainable fisheries sector enterprises, and, enhancing fish food safety. The project is aimed at sustainable recovery of the Fisheries Sector in India from impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and enhancement of resilient supply chains of safe fish products.

Component Details

Project design is based on request for support received from Gol and discussions with a wide range of relevant stakeholders. The final design reflects three main considerations: (i) the need to quickly provide emergency support to sector recovery while also addressing some of the more structural issues underlying the sector’s vulnerability to shocks; (ii) the need to balance the urgency of delivery with the rigor of the design’s analytical underpinnings – thus deferring some analytics to the early implementation period; and (iii) the need to leverage project support to build back better. The project will be co-financed by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and has four components as detailed below.

Component 1: Facilitating Formalization and Working Capital Finance for Micro- and Small-Enterprises (total financing US\$158.7 million)

1. This component will aim at preserving jobs by supporting fishworkers and fisheries sector micro- and small enterprises in gradual formalization, by helping them access Gol programs for business support and by establishing a ‘market insurance’ scheme. To support formalization of the sector, this component will also support analytics and dialogue on sector management and sustainability challenges. To improve the facilitation and for digital service delivery, a national fisheries digital platform will be established and promoted to facilitate future sector analytics and fomenting improved access to finance. Finally, the component will consider supporting a new risk sharing facility for fisheries sector, aimed at expanding the availability of loan products offered by financial institutions to eligible

beneficiary enterprises. This component will consist of the following subcomponents:

2. (Subcomponent 1-A)Fostering stakeholder formalization and engagement on fisheries and aquaculture management for sustainable development(US\$3.3 million) through: (a) sector-wide and targeted analytics, and technical assistance; (b) dialogues on sector sustainability including transition away from open-access regime.
3. (Subcomponent 1-B)National Fisheries Digital Platform for augmented financial access and gradual formalization of fishworkers and fisheries sector enterprises (US\$6.2 million) through: (a) establishment of a national digital platform and Mobile Apps for self-registration, self-reporting and verification; (b) compilation available data and supporting self-registration by fishworkers, and verification thereof by local authorities; (c) capturing regular and periodic data on fishing efforts, catch/production, activity patterns, expenses and income.
4. (Subcomponent 1-C)Facilitating Access of Individual Fishworkers and Micro and Small Fisheries Sector Enterprises to GoI Programs for Working Capital Financing(US\$40.9 million) through: (a) mobilizing local functionaries, fisherpersons' cooperatives, women entrepreneurs, industry and traders' associations to prepare the required documentation needed to access the relevant schemes; (b) handholding to micro and small enterprises with specific emphasis on women-owned enterprises to prepare bankable proposals; (c) developing dialogue and agreement with scheduled commercial banks including a "fisheries sector literacy campaign" for staff of the banks and other financial institutions; and (d) undertaking periodic evaluation and mitigation of policy barriers.
5. **(Subcomponent 1-D) Credit Guarantee scheme (Expanding Flow of Credit from Financial Institutions to Enterprises in Fisheries Sector)** (US\$ 70 million) through: (a) conducting market analysis of supply and demand factors affecting the access to the formal credit by fisheries sector (b) indentifying the eligible participating financial institutions (PFIs) for the PCGS, and providing them with training and TA for rollout of loan products customized to the needs of fisheries enterprises (c) establishment and operation of Credit Guarantee and related funds.
6. (Subcomponent 1-E)Facilitating adoption and coverage of Insurance in Fisheries Sector (US\$38.4 million) through: (a) increasing accessibility, availability and adoption/usage of insurance mechanism in the fisheries sector, providing regulatory and supervisory framework to set up effective claims management and making insurance for "loss and damage due to diseases and natural calamities" mandatory for relatively large (>4 ha) shrimp farms and all shrimp processing units; (b) developing eligibility and performance criteria¹ for smaller fish farms and enterprises to be supported to adopt the market insurance scheme; (c) setting up market practice and institutional processes taking into account insurance companies approach for institutional loss assessment and verification systems, self-reporting of losses and inspections for standards defined in good aquaculture practices; (d) grants to insurance companies against part of the appropriate regulated premiums to be paid by small fish farms and enterprises; and (e) integrating a digital payment system in the National Fisheries Digital Platform for the insurance companies for claims management (to compensate the insured fisheries enterprises for losses assessed).

¹ Eligibility and/or Performance Criteria will include traceability systems, residue monitoring, testing and self-reporting; adoption of GAPs; full recycling of wastes; and, adoption of safe aquaculture certification.

Component 2: Supporting Small-scale Participants in the Fisheries Sector to Re-engage and Expand Businesses (total financing US\$109.7 million)

7. The aim of this component is to assist small producers, hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, to re-engage in production; foster improvements in their value chains with the view of enhancing productivity, environmental stewardship, safety and quality of products; and expand the range and diversity of attractive market channels available to the subset of small-scale producers able to generate marketable surpluses. Project support will be provided through analytical and business development support services, matching/competitive incentive grants and performance grants. Matching/competitive grants will be scaled to the specificities and requirements of individual production systems and would have to be matched by the beneficiaries. The PIP, satisfactory to the Bank, would include detailed procedures and guidelines for inviting, reviewing, evaluating, selection, and awarding the matching/competitive grants; maximum allowable grant amounts and share of beneficiaries' contribution; and specific requirements to ensure that grants flow to women including a sliding scale of beneficiary contribution to productive investments that is skewed in favor of women enterprises. This component will consist of the following subcomponents:

8. (Subcomponent 2-A): Support to Small-scale Fish Producers and Value Chain Integration (US\$71.3 million) will support: (a) incentive grants to organized fish producing groups for basic inputs such as fingerlings, feed, and/or postharvest management equipment to help re-engage in the next cycle of production; (b) advisory services to such groups to reasonably promote sustainable intensification, improved quality and safety of produce, and reduced postharvest loss; (c) identification of product/cluster-wise market opportunities and bottlenecks of fish value chains including different approaches for linking producers to remunerative markets and value chain integration; (d) for select clusters/products, organizing and providing business development advisory services to fish producers for critical, but missing collective services/productive investments such as logistics, postharvest management infrastructure, business advisory, safety and quality management systems necessary to access identified markets; (e) incentive grants to fish producers for establishing identified collective services/productive investments for accessing direct retail; productive alliance arrangements among producers, off-takers and service providers; and/or supply chains of more advanced and competitive value chain actors such as Business-to-Consumer companies in the seafood businesses.

9. (Subcomponent 2-B): Accelerating Innovation in Support of Sustainable Fisheries Value Chains (US\$20.1 million) will support: (a) multi-stakeholder consultations designed to validate a new vision for the fisheries value chains; (b) organizing competition and selection of scalable innovation proposals from individual firms including women-owned enterprises, fish cooperatives/associations, and consortia among fishworkers, fish retailers, market agents, input suppliers, research organizations, service providers; (c) innovation/incentive grants for implementation of the selected innovation proposals; (d) monitoring and documentation of implementation performance and achievements of the such grant-financed activities; and, (e) public disclosure of the documented innovations.

10. (Subcomponent 2-C): Supporting Small-scale Fish Retail for Improved Hygiene(US\$18.4 million)will support: (a) development of a market hygiene performance monitoring system; (b) incentive grants for minimum market infrastructure improvements to manage wastes and improve hygiene; (c) performance grants to market operators meeting the agreed hygiene and safety standards.

Component 3: Improved Food Safety and Quality Monitoring Systems, Traceability, Advocacy and Awareness (total financing US\$111.8 million)

11. This component will aim at establishing safety and quality monitoring, and traceability systems, providing support for their implementation, and generating awareness and recognition for fish products safety and quality among the producers and consumers, and will consist of the following four subcomponents.

12. (Subcomponent 3-A) Establishing Safety and Quality Monitoring and Traceability Systems (US\$81.2 million) through: (a) development and adoption of fish quality and safety standards, and the relevant traceability and monitoring systems; (b) incentive grants and performance grants for the fisheries sector enterprises to adopt the requisite quality assurance systems, necessary infrastructure/equipment and good practices to deliver safe food to domestic consumers; (c) identification and integration in the National Fisheries Digital Platform tracking standards necessary to ensure traceability including the use of blockchains; (d) strengthening the extension service network for handholding for the implementation of good practices, traceability protocols, monitoring plans and corrective actions; (e) rolling out a national fish products' quality and safety monitoring and inspection program; and, (f) augmenting and transforming the policy and institutional arrangements to attain comprehensive achievement of traceability in the sector.

13. (Subcomponent 3-B) Knowledge Provision Services (US\$10.2 million) related to standards, certifications, strategic environmental and social assessments, and good practices including handling and hygiene², through: (a) augmentation of research and analytical capacities of selected knowledge institutions to be able to produce targeted analytics needed as a basis for intended regulatory reforms, (b) development and dissemination of knowledge modules and examples of good practices and appropriate technologies used in the sector across states and geographies; (c) development and dissemination of standard operating protocols (SOPs) for a variety of needs in the sector.

14. (Subcomponent 3-C) Communication, Advocacy and Labeling (US\$25.8 million) through: (a) awareness and communication campaigns in support of policy and behavior transformation on the issues related to sector sustainability and safe fish products; (b) evidence-based advocacy among value chains' stakeholders and financial service providers to promote the safe fish product agenda for domestic consumers; (c) promotional events, such as exhibitions, trade fairs, digital promotion platforms, for advancing domestic market for safe and quality fish; and, (d) creation and promotion of a label for promoting and showcasing fish products subject to food safety and quality management, and traceability systems.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Reporting (total financing US\$19.8 million)

15. This Component will support strengthening of DoF's institutional capacity for Project implementation, through the maintenance of project management units (PMUs) to manage, implement, monitor and evaluate project activities, including: (a) incremental operating costs for the PMUs at DoF, NFDB; (b) preparation and implementation of environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) and environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) pursuant to the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP); (c) ensuring adequate financial management and procurement management systems; (d) implementation of communications plans and a grievance redressal mechanism; (e)

² Which might also enable better credit flow and increased provision of insurance.

carrying out of monitoring and evaluation activities and third party audits; (f) coordination with state departments of fisheries and other state or national government agencies and other stakeholders; and, (g) carrying out of special evaluation studies.

2. Stakeholder identification and analysis

Project stakeholders are defined as individuals, groups or other entities who:

- (i) are impacted or likely to be impacted directly or indirectly, positively or adversely, by the Project (also known as “affected parties”); and
- (ii) may have an interest in the Project (“interested parties”). They include individuals or groups whose interests may be affected by the Project and who have the potential to influence the Project outcomes in any way.

Cooperation and negotiation with the stakeholders throughout the project development phase often also require the identification of persons who act as legitimate representatives of their respective stakeholder groups, *i.e.* the individuals who have been entrusted by their fellow group members with advocating the groups’ interests in the process of engagement with the Project. Community representatives may provide helpful insight into the local settings and act as main conduits for dissemination of the Project-related information and as a primary communication/liaison link between the Project and targeted communities and their established networks. Verification of stakeholder representatives (*i.e.* the process of confirming that they are legitimate and genuine advocates of the community they represent) remains an important task in establishing contact with the community stakeholders. Legitimacy of the community representatives can be verified by talking informally to a random sample of community members and heeding their views on who can be representing their interests in the most effective way.

2.1 Methodology

In order to meet best practice approaches, the project will apply the following principles for stakeholder engagement:

- *Openness and life-cycle approach*: public consultations for the project(s) will be arranged during the whole life cycle, carried out in an open manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion or intimidation;
- *Informed participation and feedback*: information will be provided to and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format; opportunities are provided for communicating stakeholders’ feedback, for analyzing and addressing comments and concerns;
- *Inclusiveness and sensitivity*: stakeholder identification is undertaken to support better communications and build effective relationships. The participation process for the projects is inclusive. All stakeholders are always encouraged to be involved in the consultation process. Equal access to information is provided to all stakeholders. Sensitivity to stakeholders’ needs is the key principle underlying the selection of engagement methods. Special attention is given to vulnerable such as, women, youth, and the elderly people.

For the purposes of effective and tailored engagement, stakeholders of the proposed project(s) can be divided into the following core categories:

- **Affected Parties** – persons, groups and other entities within the Project Area of Influence (PAI) that are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with the project, and who need to be closely engaged in identifying impacts and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures;
- **Other Interested Parties** – individuals/groups/entities that may not experience direct impacts from the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect the project and the process of its implementation in some way; and

- **Vulnerable Groups** – persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the project(s) as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status³, and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the project.

2.2. Affected parties

Affected Parties include local communities, community members and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project. Specifically, the following individuals and groups fall within this category:

Affected Parties include local communities, community members and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project. Specifically, the following individuals and groups fall within this category:

- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD)
- Fisherfolks economically impacted by COVID 19
- Women SHGs and SHGs of fisherfolks
- Members of fish federation; fish cooperatives; shrimp farmers' federation; Fishing Vessel Operator's association; AISHA; etc.
- Seafood Exporters,
- Fish vendors, retailers

2.3. Other interested parties

The project stakeholders also include parties other than the directly affected communities, including:

- People involved in fisher sector such as officials of Department of Fisheries; exporters, traders, etc.,
- State government officials,
- NGOs working with fisherfolks, district administration, panchayat representatives; transporters
- Government and Private sector Consultants, officials of Banks, Insurance companies, expert institutions
- Local businesses,
- Fish consumers and the public at large and specifically coastal community
- Traditional and digital media (Television, Radio, and print media in Hindi, English, and other regional languages) and Advertisement Companies
- Other departments (Health, Environment, Finance, Home, etc.)

2.4. Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals or groups

It is particularly important to understand whether project impacts may disproportionately fall on disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups, who often do not have a voice to express their concerns or understand the impacts of a project and to ensure that awareness raising and stakeholder engagement with disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups or individuals particular sensitivities, concerns and cultural sensitivities and to ensure a full understanding of project activities and benefits. Engagement with the vulnerable groups and individuals often requires the application of specific measures and assistance aimed at the facilitation of their participation in the project-related decision making so that their awareness of and input to the overall process are commensurate to those of the other stakeholders.

Within the Project, the vulnerable or disadvantaged groups may include and are not limited to the following:

- Elderly

³Vulnerable status may stem from an individual's or group's race, national, ethnic or social origin, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, property, age, culture, literacy, sickness, physical or mental disability, poverty or economic disadvantage, and dependence on unique natural resources.

- Illiterate or those with limited education
- People with disabilities
- Women, especially Young women and girls at heightened risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual Harassment
- Female-headed households, especially single mothers with underage children
- Those below poverty line

Vulnerable groups within the fishing community and community at large will be further confirmed and consulted through dedicated means, as appropriate. Description of the methods of engagement that will be undertaken by the project is provided in the following sections.

3. Stakeholder Engagement Program

3.1. Summary of stakeholder engagement done during project preparation

Affected Stakeholders: The MoFAHD conducted face to face initial consultations with the affected stakeholders at one location during the preparation stage

Stakeholder: Affected Parties	Issues Raised	How it has been addressed in project design
Fish farm owner(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support • Access to new markets • Disease monitoring and prevention 	The project has technical support built through a digital platform as well as state department of fisheries and a communications and outreach strategy for ensuring access to it. Fish cooperatives are key stakeholders for assisting with disease prevention. The sub-component on traceability and safe fish branding will open up access to new markets that require quality fish food.
National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish biodiversity assessments • Invasive alien species • Genetic research 	The project will support exploration of lesser known rivers, streams, wetlands and other freshwater resources that have not been scanned for fish diversity, including a study to assess the extent of invasive species in select waterbodies. The project may provide research grants for improving the laboratory and research environment for improved fish genetic studies.

Apart from affected stakeholders, Ministry of Fisheries also conducted virtual consultations with **other interested parties**. The objective of the consultations to define project scope, activities to be undertaken, role and responsibilities, and identification of target beneficiaries. The Stakeholder consultation was also held on Credit Guarantee and there was a strong support for the same. Subsequently, the Ministry was also consulted the Credit Guarantee Fund Management Agencies to select one of the agencies. The minutes of the meeting of these stakeholder consultations is annexed (please see **annex 1**)

Stakeholder: Other Interested Parties	Issues Raised
Dated: October 14, 2020 MoFAHD Dr. J Balaji- Joint	Adoption of Insurance Topic of Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job recoveries for those affected by the pandemic, like export-oriented jobs, especially for women; and

Stakeholder: Other Interested Parties	Issues Raised
<p>Secretary Dr. I. A. Siddiqui - Deputy Commissioner (Fisheries) Dr. Tarun Kumar Singh - Research Investigation Officer Ms. Poonam Rani Ms. Pooja Gautam Mr. Mukesh MPEEDA Dr. M Karthikeyan, Director – NFDB Coastal Aquaculture Authority Mr. A Darrell Xander Representatives of Department of Fisheries from Tamil Nadu Punjab Orissa Karnataka Farmer's Federation of India IPR Mohan Raju -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitating the long-term sustainability of the fish-farming sector and building its resilience against future crises. <p>Concern's raised / Suggestions made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only 5 out of 1200 policies in the fisheries sector and very few states provide insurance to the fisherfolks ● Aquaculture projects are capital intensive and therefore insurance is absolutely necessary, but pricing of the policy is an issue. At present due to low coverage of insurance, the premium is high (~6%) making it unaffordable for small scale farmers; The insurance premiums for fish farmers have been higher than the IRDA mandated 3%, however the companies are charging 4-6% premium since the authenticity of claims was a major issue impacting small fish farmers ● Insurance is linked to assets and not the harvest ● Insurance products available through commercial banks are also limited primarily to accidents and do not extend to other segments of aquaculture, processing, storage, transport, etc. ● In the existing insurance schemes the premium is too high, and there are issues in claiming compensation; crop insurance in India is plagued by lacunae since farmers are not maintaining their due records; the actual extent of crop loss along with their exact reasons have not been sufficiently documented; small farmers need state support in addressing disputes in claiming settlements ● Both droughts and floods affect small farmers greatly and provisions need to be made for those in the insurance policy; Most village farmers are unable to produce bills or other documents that they might need to settle claims ● Biosecurity and fencing around the farm area are too expensive a venture for small-scale, marginal farmers ● Cluster insurance would be more accessible to marginal farmers with smaller farming capacities and inability to afford high premiums or provide collateral ● Diseases causing slow mortality, have not been accounted for; there exists little to no information on the pattern of fish mortality as yet, leading to gaps in risk coverage for this sector ● Clarification need on whether farmers could still sell a sizable fraction of their crop even if some of the culture has been affected by a disease. The small farmers are more impacted than large farmers ● The CAA urged an expedited assessment of loss for claims related to live crop since it is difficult to maintain stock for long after the disease hits. ● Bankers declare that KCCs can only be issued for amounts up to INR 25,000, beyond which there arises the need for insurance; high rejection rate and slow application processing for KCC is an issue ● Bankers have specifically been rejecting farmland being offered as collateral and would prefer urban properties seeing as it is easier to take criminal action against defaulters in case of urban property assets.
<p>Dated: October 15, 2020 MoFAHD Dr. J Balaji- Joint Secretary</p>	<p>New value chains and diversification Topic of Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation of new jobs for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis, especially women and other vulnerable sections including artisanal fishworkers. ● Reduce imports and augment exports for ornamental fish.

Stakeholder: Other Interested Parties	Issues Raised
<p>Dr. I. A. Siddiqui - Deputy Commissioner (Fisheries)</p> <p>Dr. Tarun Kumar Singh - Research Investigation Officer</p> <p>Ms. Poonam Rani</p> <p>Ms. Pooja Gautam</p> <p>Mr. Mukesh</p> <p>MPEEDA</p> <p>Dr. M Karthikeyan, Director</p> <p>Vijaykumar Yaragal</p> <p>Expert Agencies</p> <p>ICAR-CIFRI</p> <p>Dr. BK Das, Director,</p> <p>ICAR-DCFR</p> <p>Dr. Biju-Sam Kamalam</p> <p>ICAR-CIFT</p> <p>Director,</p> <p>CSIR-CSMCRI</p> <p>Dr. Vaibhav A Mantri –</p> <p>OFTRI</p> <p>Dr. Atul Kumar Jain</p> <p>NIFPHATT</p> <p>Jai Singh Meena - Director,</p> <p>Representatives of Department of Fisheries from</p> <p>Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Jammu and Kashmir</p> <p>Andhra Pradesh</p> <p>Karnataka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acquire brood stock for Coldwater fisheries, ornamental fisheries and promote self-sufficiency, working towards the bigger goal of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”. ● Promote seaweed mariculture and retail chains for seaweed products. <p>Concern’s raised / Suggestions made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on (i) preservation of current jobs in the fisheries sector as well as the creation of newer, more meaningful and sustainable job prospects; (ii) value chain business and production model in its totality, instead of individual aspects; and (iii) Expansion of domestic supply chains for fish ● Market for ornamental fish is not lucrative enough yet; Ornamental fish farming is not an area that has been greatly explored; Shortage and a lack in the quality of ornamental fish brooders in India; Mariculture of ornamental fish be promoted. ● Greater diversity be introduced in brackish-water fish farming which is currently dominated by shrimp farms. This would also serve to generate employment options, besides generating a supply stream of protein-rich nutrition. ● Introduce new species into mainstream fish-farming along with the provision of better market infrastructure and access to quality seeds ● CIBA-sponsored projects at Navsari have had successful mudcrab cultures in such cages. The state of Maharashtra feels that employing local artisans in the manufacture and supply of these cages in addition to increasing the participation of female fishworkers in the cultivation process would generate both more income sources and improve the gender balance in this sector. ● Backyard hatcheries, under PMMSY, can employ more women fishworkers along with the creation of self-help groups (SHG) for fisherwomen. ● Over 50,000 tonnes of seaweed production by SHG fisherwomen is proposed to be facilitated under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). ● Fishfarming/mariculture production units needed the most funds since there were already too many retailers ● The ornamental fisheries sector was underdeveloped because of a lack in financing and scheduled commercial banks unwilling to sanction such projects ● No clear demand for seaweed exists in the Indian market; Seaweed production units be developed for value added export quality products/derivatives, in addition to promoting domestic use and consumption. Seaweed cultivation need scaling up. ● Approve cold water fisheries in J&K and HP. Product affordability and steady retail-and-supply chain is an issue. It is important to ensure that production costs are compliant with the purchasing power of consumers ● sustained and continuous line of production was required to be established/enforced to meet market demands ● ICAR-CIFRI introduced the idea of engaging tribal women in the Sunderbans in cluster farms and community wetland projects. These tribal people are given a 5-day training and supplies before active engagement in the field <p>Establishment of urban retail chains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1,67,000 fishworkers were out of jobs leading to INR 186.25cr loss in wages. ● There exists an “ineffective” demand for fish. Fish consumption in the country is primarily a weekend affair or most pronounced during festivals, therefore boosting

Stakeholder: Other Interested Parties	Issues Raised
	<p>domestic consumption of fish and fish products in order to build resilience against future crises is important; engagement of private sector entrepreneurship is needed. The “less-served” section of urban India that bore a high demand for quality fish is currently neglected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited diversity in brackish water cultivation which offers mainly shrimp • Aquaculture and capture cultivated needs a significant boost • Fish is extremely nutritional but many consumers prefer purchasing processed or frozen fish products in domestic markets • No standardized budget exists for the support of the fish sector, mainly owing to the low shelf life of products. There is also a pronounced demand for fresh fish that isn’t always easy to meet. More people needed to be educated about the nutritional benefits of fish consumption • The development of a franchise model would also attract young entrepreneurs • Increasing the subsidies could perhaps attract more private sector entrepreneurs to the fisheries business

3.2. Summary of project stakeholder needs and methods, tools and techniques for stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement under the project will be carried for consultations with stakeholders throughout the entire project cycle to identify beneficiaries; keep stakeholders informed about the project activities, including their concerns and feedback about the project and any activities related to the project; any grievances. Project will also carry out awareness-raising activities to sensitize primary and secondary stakeholders on the risks of COVID-19 which will be done under all the components of the project.

In terms of consultations with stakeholders on the project design, activities and implementation arrangements, etc., the revised SEP, expected to be updated within 60 days after the project effectiveness date, and continuously updated throughout the project implementation period when required, will clearly lay out:

- Type of Stakeholder to be consulted
- Anticipated Issues and Interests
- Stages of Involvement
- Methods of Involvement
- Proposed Communications Methods
- Information Disclosure
- Responsible authority/institution

The consultations shall focus on inclusiveness in participation of community members, perceptions and concerns about the positive and negative social impacts of the Project, including impacts on land and structures. Separate individual interviews shall be held with disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community to disseminate information about the Project and to understand their views about the Project. Women at select locations shall also be consulted on their interest in ensuing livelihood activities, concerns on SEA/SH, etc. Currently, as the project is in early stages, other may also be identified and will be made part of the SEP as and when they are engaged. The stakeholder engagement is an on-going process, throughout the following stages of the Project Planning/design (including disclosure) and implementation.

Table 1: Information dissemination and modes of disclosure and engagement for consultation				
Target stakeholders ⁴	Information to be disclosed	Tools of engagement & mode of disclosure	Frequency	Responsibilities
Component 1: Access to Finance including Insurance and Credit Guarantee				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementing agency ✓ Fisherfolks ✓ Fish federation / Cooperatives ✓ Traders and Exporters ✓ Insurance and Bank officials ✓ Local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project Scope on self-registration and verification ✓ Process to be followed ✓ Grievance mechanisms ✓ GOI programs ✓ Insurance policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consultative meetings ✓ Website notifications ✓ Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Multiple ✓ Continuous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MoFAHD ✓ Department of Fisheries ✓ Insurance and Bank officials
Component 2: Modernization, Expansion and Greening of Supply Chain				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Department of fisheries ✓ Expert institutions ✓ Facilitators of supply chain such as Insurance companies, Banks, etc. ✓ Urban Consumers ✓ Producers and Traders ✓ Media / advertisement companies ✓ Producers of fish/ Poultry feed ✓ Women fisherfolks, women SHGs ✓ Entrepreneurs interested in new enterprises based on fish wastes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requirements of insurance industry and banks ✓ Information on promotional events such as exhibitions, trade fairs, digital promotion platforms. ✓ Information on hygiene, safety and traceability ✓ Revenue models ✓ Trainings on use of fish waste eligibility and performance standards for supply chains to receive government support ✓ Grievance mechanisms; Gender issues and GBV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consultative meetings ✓ Household surveys ✓ Focus Groups discussions ✓ Newspaper advertisements, pamphlets, websites notification, ✓ Workshops, exhibitions, trade fairs, etc. ✓ Online training courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Multiple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MoFAHD ✓ Department of Fisheries ✓ Expert Institutions ✓ Insurance Companies and Banks ✓ Industry

⁴Indicative and not exhaustive..

Table 1: Information dissemination and modes of disclosure and engagement for consultation				
Target stakeholders ⁴	Information to be disclosed	Tools of engagement & mode of disclosure	Frequency	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advertisement for setting up business of fish waste 			
Component 3: Improved Traceability, Quality and Communication				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Department of fisheries especially extension workers ✓ Expert Institutions ✓ Digital media and traditional media ✓ Consultants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fish quality and safety standards; ✓ Traceability framework for the fisheries ✓ Residue monitoring program; ✓ Proposed regulatory reforms ✓ knowledge modules; appropriate technologies standard operating protocols (SOPs) ✓ Project safeguards including ESMF / ESIA, ESMPs ✓ GBV ✓ Grievance mechanisms ✓ Audit reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consultative meetings ✓ Household surveys ✓ Focus Group Discussions ✓ Website notifications, notifications in print media ✓ Workshops, online courses ✓ WhatsApp notifications or SMS alerts ✓ In formal meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Multiple ✓ Continuous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MoFAHD ✓ Department of Fisheries ✓ Consultants for ESIA ✓ Expert institutions

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan as well as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will be prepared under the project will also be consulted and disclosed. The project includes considerable resources to implement the above-mentioned activities and actions. The details of this will be prepared during the update of this SEP, expected to be updated within 60 days after the project effectiveness date, and continuously updated throughout the project implementation period when required.

3.3. Proposed strategy for information disclosure

The responsibility of project preparation and implementation lies with Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and will be supported by state level department of fisheries during implementation. The website of MoFAHD(<https://www.dahd.nic.in>) and websites of Project IAs will be used to disclose project documents, including those on environmental and social performance. Besides the draft disclosure documents (and the final documents in future), project brochures and updates will be posted. In addition, the site shall

provide details about the Grievance Redress Mechanism and contact details. Other opportunities for information disclosure and dissemination shall be utilized as well, which may include - consultation platforms, working groups, workshops, seminars, conferences, focus groups etc.

Drafts of ESCP, SEP shall be disclosed as early as possible in the project cycle. Other framework documents (ESMF including RPF, GBV Risk mitigation framework) and plans (as relevant) and subsequently relevant plans such ESMP, LMP, GBV action plan, Bio-diversity Action Plan (if required), etc. shall be disclosed prior to the implementation of the project activities. Various Project technical documents such as traceability frameworks, standard operating procedures, knowledge modules, monitoring and evaluation reports, audit reports, safety procedures, various guidelines etc., will be disclosed through <https://www.dahd.nic.in>. Executive summaries of ESMF, SEF shall be made available in Hindi, English and other local languages spoken and understood in the project sites areas as well.

The project will ensure that the different activities for stakeholder engagement, including information disclosure, are inclusive and culturally sensitive. Measures will also be taken to ensure that the vulnerable groups outlined above will have the chance to participate in the project benefits. This will include, among other things, household outreach through SMS, telephone calls, etc., depending on the social distancing requirements, the use of different languages (Hindi and other regional languages to target local areas), the use of verbal communication, audiovisuals or pictures instead of text, etc. The ESMF and SEP will be disclosed prior to formal consultations.

4. Resources and Responsibilities for implementing stakeholder engagement activities

4.1. Resources

The department of fisheries at state level, will be in charge of stakeholder engagement activities though overall coordination will be with MoFAHD for this purpose. Since stakeholder engagement is part of the project design itself, the budget for the SEP is included under the components of the project.

4.2. Management functions and responsibilities

As mentioned above, the nodal agency at the center and the state level within the MoFAHD will be responsible for implementing the SEP while working closely with other agencies and institutions. The stakeholder engagement activities will be documented through quarterly progress reports, to be shared with the World Bank.

At the national level within MoFAHD, an Environment and Social Management Unit (ESMU) will be established, with Deputy Commissioner as the head of this unit. The ESMU shall be responsible to monitor the management of E&S issues by IAs including the conducting of Annual Audits as proposed in the ESMF. At the State level, department of fisheries shall be responsible for the management, coordination and implementation of the SEP and its integral tasks. The roles and responsibilities of the organizations are presented below

The key tasks of ESMU are inter alia to:

- ✓ Approve the content of the SEP (and any further revisions);
- ✓ Approve prior to release, all materials to be used for providing information associated with the project such as project information, IEC materials, technical information, environmental and social safeguard documents, gender, measures to address SEA/SH; etc.
- ✓ Approve and facilitate all stakeholder engagement events and disclosure of material to support stakeholder engagement events;
- ✓ Participate either themselves, or identify a suitable member representative, during all face-to face stakeholder meetings

- ✓ Review and sign-off minutes of all engagement events; and
- ✓ Maintain the stakeholder database.

The Director, Department of Fisheries at the state level, shall be responsible for overseeing and coordinating all activities associated with stakeholder engagement and management. The Director, DoF will be assisted by Environmental and Social Specialist at the state level. DoF shall be also responsible to sustain relationships and communicate with Government entities and other stakeholders.

E&S Specialist at the state level will be responsible for implementing community engagement activities; and shall oversee all planned stakeholder engagement activities or in process of being implemented. Furthermore, these specialist(s) need to ensure that all stakeholder engagement aspects are permanent item agenda at all meetings, within implementing agency and that all actions arising from management decisions are duly implemented. The broad responsibilities of social and environmental specialists include the following:

- Develop, implement and monitor all stakeholder engagement strategies/plans
- Ensure implementation of project as per the agreed ESMF
- Conduct ESIA and prepare ESMPs if required
- Oversee all stakeholder engagement related activities for the Project;
- Manage the grievance mechanism;
- Interact with related and complementary support activities that require ad hoc or intensive stakeholder engagement (beneficiary identification, raising awareness, project implementation);
- Liaise with project manager to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements/protocols are understood; and
- Proactively identify stakeholders, project risks and opportunities and inform the Director, DoF to ensure that the necessary planning can be done to either mitigate risk of exclusion or exploit opportunities.

5.0 Grievance Redress Mechanism

A grievance redressal mechanism shall be developed for potential use by the stakeholders primarily affected parties. The aim of the grievance redressal mechanism is to achieve mutually agreed resolution of grievances raised by such stakeholders. The grievance redressal mechanism described hereunder is distinct from the grievance redressal mechanism, to be used by the Project's workforce. Key definitions are as follows:

- Complaint: an expression of dissatisfaction that is related to an impact caused by a project activity, which has affected an individual or group. Adversely, the interest of an individual or group and the individual or group wants a proponent to address and resolve it. A complaint is normally of a less serious nature than a grievance; and
- Grievance: a claim raised by an individual or group whose livelihood, health and safety, cultural norms and heritage are considered to have been adversely affected (harmed) by a project activity which, if not addressed effectively, may pose a risk to project's implementation such as issues related to beneficiary exclusion, SEA/SH, etc.

The main objective of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is to assist to resolve complaints and grievances in a timely, effective and efficient manner that satisfies all parties involved. Specifically, it provides a transparent and credible process for fair, effective and lasting outcomes. It also builds trust and cooperation as an integral component of broader community consultation that facilitates corrective actions. Specifically, the GRM:

- Provides stakeholders including external ones with avenues for making a complaint or resolving any dispute that may arise during the course of the implementation of projects;

- Record, categorize and prioritize the grievances;
- Ensures that appropriate and mutually acceptable redress actions are identified and implemented to the satisfaction of complainants;
- Forward any unresolved cases to the relevant authority, and
- Avoids the need to resort to judicial proceedings (at least at first).

5.1. Description of GRM

Grievances will be handled at the Social Specialist of MOFAHD at the Central Level and by Department of Fisheries at the State level. The GRM will include the following steps:

Step 0: Raising and registering the grievances using various mechanism including, online portal, email, Walk-ins and registering a complaint on grievance logbook with DoF and other implementing agencies

Step 1: Grievance raised is screened and forwarded to respective administrative/ facility level for redressing

Step 2: Grievance discussed at the respective administrative/ facility level, and addressed

Step 3: If not addressed in stipulated period it is escalated to MoFAHD

Step 4: Once addressed, feedback sent to the complainant

Step 5: If not satisfied, appeal to the other public authorities

Once all possible redress has been proposed and if the complainant is still not satisfied then they should be advised of their right to legal recourse.

The Grievance Register shall be maintained by the implementing agencies, who will log the: i) details and nature of the grievance; ii) the name and their contact details of the aggrieved person; iii) date; iv) corrective actions taken in response to the grievance. This information shall be included in the progressreports to the World Bank. The project level process can only act within its appropriate level of authority and where appropriate, grievance shall be referred on to the relevant authority such as those indicated.

Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) shall be formed at each implementing agency level comprising of competent members, who can effectively contribute in grievance redressal. Cases not resolved at GRC level would be escalated to DoF / MoFAHD. A time period of one month would be available for resolution. In case at this level the dispute is also not resolved, the aggrieved person may take recourse to the civil court. An indicative list includes:

- Social Specialists of State level DoF and MoFAHD
- Head of Implementing agency
- NGO representative, if any working with the fisherfolks

The numbers and contacts of the GRC members will be disseminated.

6.0. Monitoring and Reporting

The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of project implementation in order to ensure that the information presented herein is consistent and is the most recent, and that the identified methods of engagement remain appropriate and effective in relation to the project context and specific phases of the development. Any major changes to the project related activities and to its schedule will be duly reflected in the SEP. Monthly summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the senior management of the project. The monthly summaries will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and the nature of complaints/grievances and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner. Information on public engagement activities undertaken by the Project during the year may be conveyed to the stakeholders in two possible ways:

- Publication of a standalone quarterly progress report and annual process documentation on project's interaction with the stakeholders.

- A number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will also be monitored by the project on a regular basis, including the following parameters:
 - Number of consultations carried out within a reporting period (e.g. monthly, quarterly, or annually);
 - number of public grievances received within a reporting period (e.g. monthly, quarterly, or annually);
 - and number of those resolved within the prescribed timeline; number of press materials published/ broadcasted in the local, regional, and national media.

Further details will be outlined in the updated SEP, to be prepared and disclosed within 30 days after the project effectiveness date.