



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



National Workshop on **Fisheries Management Inventory (FMIInv) – Maldives**

08 – 09 February 2026

Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources, Velaanaage, Malé

In collaboration with



Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources
Republic of Maldives



1. Background

Fish stocks in assessed and managed fisheries are in better condition than stocks in unassessed and unmanaged fisheries. There is also a high correlation between fishery management intensity and outcomes such as stock status. Following a recommendation from the First Session of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management of the Committee on Fisheries (<https://www.fao.org/3/cd0256t/cd0256t.pdf>), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been developing a global process and tool to gather information on current practices for assessment and management of fisheries aimed at empowering fishery managers to improve sustainability. In this context, the FAO initiated information collection for preparation of Fisheries Management Inventory (FMInv) to share best practices for fisheries assessment and management and to understand “what is working where” in terms of fishery management measures.

FMInv is a knowledge production and management tool, which provides information from case studies in a structured manner. It provides appropriate management options based on the fishery's situation/context and can be used as a tool which fishery managers can refer and use by themselves. The objective of FMInv is to allow fishery managers, fishers and other stakeholders to access information on other management systems and measures, and their effectiveness or not in achieving the intended objectives. This database is the first step to understanding the context and potential pathways for improvement and ultimately contributes to the development of management plans in line with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.

2. FMInv Pilot Phase: FAO and BOBP-IGO Partnership

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), set up in 2003, is a regional fisheries body, mandated to strengthen cooperation in regional fisheries management.

BOBP-IGO partnered with the FAO during the pilot phase of FMInv data compilation for selected fisheries in its member countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka). BOBP-IGO adopted the data template developed by FAO and contributed in developing the database for 21 fisheries, covering a wide spectrum of fishery types, management systems, and management measures from the four countries, which was periodically reviewed and finalized by the FAO. The required information was collected from researchers, managers, and other stakeholders associated with fisheries (e.g., through literature surveys, interviews and questionnaires).

3. FMInv Phase II: Developing a Validated FMInv Database

Building on the information collected in pilot phase, FAO and BOBP-IGO propose to develop a fully validated database for shortlisted fisheries, through a participatory process involving all stakeholders. In this connection, National Workshops are planned to review the implementation of current fisheries management plans or interventions for three or four fisheries in each country.

From a series of discussions with experts from the FAO, BOBP-IGO and other stakeholders, the following four fisheries have been shortlisted for the workshop:

- (i) **Reef Fishery**
- (ii) **Grouper Fishery**
- (iii) **Sea cucumber Fishery**
- (iv) **Aquarium Fishery**



Fisheries managers, researchers and other stakeholders with reasonable knowledge and hands-on experience on the identified fishery will be reviewing the fishery using a set of structured questions and hold discussions among themselves to draw practical insights on the fisheries management.

4. Overview of National Workshop

4.1. Specific objectives

- To understand the implementation status of current fishery management plans/measures through participatory assessment and cross-learning among fishery managers, researchers, and other stakeholders.
- To foster inclusive dialogue among stakeholders regarding implementation of management measures in specific fisheries.

4.2. Key benefits to participating stakeholders

- Opportunity to showcase the local management practices to global audience.
- By participating in the workshop, the stakeholders will be able to reflect on the effectiveness of management plans and measures and explore how these can be improved through cross-learning.

4.3. Expected outcomes

- Document grassroots-level challenges in implementing management plans and measures for the respective fishery, and identify mutually agreed solutions for their effective implementation among the stakeholders.
- Facilitate conversations among the stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of management plans and measures for sustainable fisheries management.

4.4 Technical Sessions

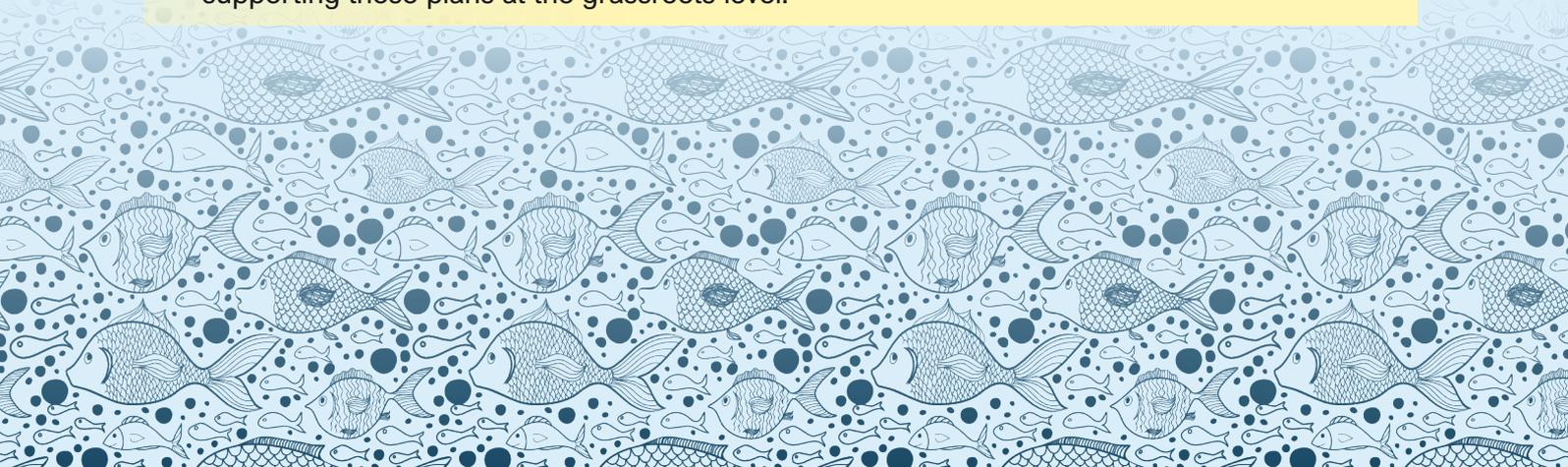
- Participants will discuss the 4 short-listed fisheries in groups on **08th & 09th February 2026**.
- Resource persons from BOBP-IGO will facilitate the discussions of the groups.

4.5 Facilitators

- **Dr. E. Vivekanandan**, *Sr. Scientific Consultant, BOBP-IGO*
- **Dr. K. Sunil Mohamed**, *FAO and BOBP consultant*
- **Dr. P. S. Ananthan**, *BOB Fellow & Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai*
- **Dr. T. Velumani**, *Project Scientist, BOBP-IGO*

4.6 Participants

Fishery managers involved in implementing management plans and measures, researchers involved in developing these plans and measures, and other stakeholders following and supporting these plans at the grassroots level.



Provisional Agenda

08 February 2026

Time	Agenda
09:15-09:45	Inaugural Programme
09:45-10:15	Overview of FMInv project & FMInv workshop
10:15-10:40	Overview of reef fishery & grouper fishery - Presentation by DoF, Maldives
10:40-11:00	Morning tea
11:00-13:30	Group discussion on implementation of management plans & management measures (reef fishery)
13:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-15:30	Group discussion on implementation of management plans & management measures (grouper fishery)
15:30-15:50	Afternoon tea
15:50-17:00	Group discussion on implementation of management plans & management measures (grouper fishery - continued)
17:00	Close for the day

09 February 2026

Time	Agenda
09:15-09:45	Overview of Sea cucumber fishery & Aquarium fishery - Presentation by DoF
09:45-10:40	Group discussion on implementation of management plans & management measures (sea cucumber fishery)
10:40-11:00	Morning tea
11:00-13:00	Group discussion on implementation of management plans & management measures (sea cucumber fishery – continued)
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Group discussion on implementation of management plans & management measures (Aquarium fishery)
15:30-15:50	Afternoon tea
15:50-16:45	Group discussion on implementation of management plans & management measures (Aquarium fishery – continued)
16:45-17:00	Plenary session & close of workshop



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