



**BOBP**



**Environmental  
Defense India  
Foundation**



*International Workshop on*  
**Upgrading Marine Fisheries  
Value Chain in the Bay of Bengal Region:  
Destination - Puducherry, India**

*In Technical Cooperation with*



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

(This Workshop is organized as a follow-up to the FAO Regional Workshop on Strengthening Value Chain organized by BOBP-IGO during Dec 2025. The workshop presents Puducherry, India as a case study considering recent policy developments in India including launching of the PM-MKSSY scheme for strengthening the aquatic value chain in India)

**12 - 13 February 2026 | Hotel Accord, Puducherry**



## Introduction

India's marine fisheries sector stands at a critical juncture. With annual production of approximately 4.1 million tonnes harvested from over 1,000 species across 1,363 landing centers, the sector generates approximately USD 7 billion in revenue at the point of first sale and provides livelihoods to 3.77 million fisherfolk across 13 coastal states and union territories. Operating 166,333 fishing crafts and employing nearly 58% of the nation's 14.14 million fisheries workforce, marine fisheries represent a cornerstone of India's blue economy and coastal food security architecture.

However, beneath these impressive aggregate figures lies a value chain beset by severe structural vulnerabilities and operational inefficiencies that could threaten both immediate competitiveness and long-term sectoral sustainability. The sector's portfolio exhibits serious under-diversification: despite harvesting over 1,000 species, the lack of product innovation, limited value addition, and concentration in low-margin commodity formats represent substantial foregone revenue opportunities and vulnerability to market volatility.

*Post-harvest value loss represents perhaps the most immediate drain on sectoral performance. Studies show marine fisheries suffer 10.52% volume losses, with quality degradation adding up to 20% value erosion largely due to the infrastructure deficit resulting in poor economic outcomes for fishers despite toiling through sun, seas and storms.*

These challenges occur against a backdrop of mounting resource pressures and climate risks. While 86.7% of assessed marine stocks remain at sustainable levels, 8% are already overfished and the sector has exploited 71-77% of assessed fishery potential, leaving limited headroom for volume-led growth. Climate change intensifies operational uncertainty through increased cyclone frequency in the Bay of Bengal, ocean warming that alters fish distribution patterns, and sea-level rise threatening coastal infrastructure and communities.

The fragmentation of the value chain itself constitutes a fundamental constraint on upgrading efforts. Multiple intermediaries between fisher and final market capture margins while suppressing farmgate prices, information asymmetries disadvantage small-scale producers who comprise the overwhelming majority of operators, and nascent Fisher Producer Organizations lack the business capacity to effectively aggregate supply or negotiate collectively. Processing capacity remains chronically underutilized despite 400+ registered establishments, hampered by raw material supply inconsistencies and working capital constraints that prevent backward integration.

Gender dynamics add another layer of complexity and untapped potential. Women constitute 72% of the post-harvest workforce, dominating fish marketing (74%) and processing (76%), yet their contributions remain largely informal and unrecognized. Inadequate facilities at landing centers and markets, unsafe working conditions in processing plants, and systemic exclusion from credit access and decision-making bodies all point to a value chain that fails to optimize its most significant human resource.

This International Workshop is a follow up to the comprehensive regional assessment of Asia's Aquatic Food Value Chain conducted by BOBP-IGO and supported by FAO during 2025-26 identifying the above challenges. ***The present workshop would explore the ways and means to translate these findings into policy and practices with a primary focus on India but replicable across the Bay of Bengal region.***



## Destination Puducherry:

### *Building on the FAO-BOBP Regional Aquatic Food Value Chain Assessment*

**The selection of Puducherry as the destination for this National Workshop is deliberate and strategic.**

As a union territory with significant marine fishing activity, established processing infrastructure, proximity to major fishing states including Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and a governance structure that enables direct central-state coordination, Puducherry offers an ideal laboratory for examining value chain upgrading pathways. Its coastal geography encompasses the challenges common to India's eastern seaboard—cyclone exposure, resource management pressures, export orientation—while its institutional capacity positions it to serve as a demonstration hub for scalable interventions.

## Purpose of the National Workshop

The National Workshop on Upgrading Marine Fisheries Value Chain in India brings together diverse stakeholders to achieve four interconnected objectives:

- 1. Present Value Chain Analysis Methodology for Puducherry:** Introduce and validate the analytical framework adopted for assessing Puducherry's marine fisheries value chain, building on the FAO-BOBP regional methodology while incorporating India-specific and location-specific adaptations. Participants will examine the tools, data collection protocols, and assessment criteria used to map value chain segments from landing to market, enabling replication across other coastal states and union territories.
- 2. Share Initial Findings from Puducherry Marine Fisheries Scoping Survey:** Present preliminary results from the ongoing scoping study of Puducherry's marine fisheries sector, including production profiles, species composition, landing center infrastructure, post-harvest handling practices, market channels, and actor relationships. These baseline findings will establish the factual foundation for evidence-based discussions and identify priority intervention areas specific to Puducherry's context.
- 3. Gather Stakeholder Intelligence for Value Chain Upgrading:** Facilitate structured consultations with fishers, traders, processors, exporters, government officials, and technical experts to collect ground-level insights on binding constraints, successful local innovations, market opportunities, and feasible upgrading pathways. Through interactive sessions, participants will contribute contextual knowledge that quantitative data alone cannot capture, enriching the analysis with practical implementation considerations.
- 4. Co-develop Recommendations for Puducherry Government:** Synthesize assessment findings, stakeholder inputs, and technical expertise into actionable recommendations for submission to the Government of Puducherry. The workshop will produce a consensus-driven upgrading strategy with prioritized interventions, implementation responsibilities, resource requirements, and monitoring frameworks tailored to Puducherry's institutional capacity and market position.



# Expected outputs

The workshop will generate the following tangible deliverables:

- 1. Validated Value Chain Assessment Report:** A comprehensive diagnostic of Puducherry's marine fisheries value chain incorporating methodology, baseline findings, stakeholder consultations, and gap analysis.
- 2. Upgrading Strategy Document:** Prioritized recommendations with an implementation roadmap, institutional responsibilities, budget estimates, and success indicators for submission to the Government of Puducherry.
- 3. Stakeholder Consensus Statement:** A joint declaration from workshop participants endorsing the upgrading priorities and committing to collaborative implementation within their respective domains.
- 4. Replicable Methodology Toolkit:** Documentation of the assessment framework, data collection instruments, and analytical tools for adaptation by other coastal states and union territories.
- 5. Knowledge Products:** Policy briefs, technical notes, and visual communication materials for dissemination to broader audiences including policymakers, development partners, and fishing communities.

## Participants

The workshop will convene approximately 40-60 participants representing:

**Government Representatives:** Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India; Department of Fisheries, Government of Puducherry; National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB); Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

**International Technical Experts:** FAO, BOBP-IGO, WorldFish, IUCN, ICSF.

**Industry Stakeholders:** Fisher representatives from mechanized, motorized, and traditional craft segments; Fish traders and commission agents; Processing plant owners and managers; Ice plant and cold storage operators; Exporters and domestic market distributors; Retail market associations

**Research and Academia:** ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi; ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi; Tamilnadu Dr. J. Jayalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU), Nagapattinam

**Fisher Organizations:** Fisher cooperatives and producer organizations; Women's self-help groups in post-harvest sector; Traditional fisher community leaders; NGOs working on fisheries livelihoods and sustainability

## Methodology

**The workshop would employ a participatory approach combining** - Plenary presentations for knowledge sharing and context setting; Technical sessions for methodology and findings presentation; Parallel working groups for deep-dive discussions on specific value chain segments; Interactive exercises including value chain mapping, constraint ranking, and solution brainstorming; Structured field observations with guided discussions (selected participants).

**Working Languages:** English and Tamil (simultaneous interpretation provided for plenary sessions; working groups may operate bilingually based on participant composition)

## Post-Workshop follow-up

**Immediate Post-Workshop:** Upgrading Strategy Report submitted to Govt. of Puducherry within 30 days; Policy brief and summary presentations prepared for broader dissemination

**Medium-term Follow-up:** Formalize an institutional mechanism for capacity development, implementation support and monitoring; Documentation of early results for national and regional level policy dialogue and scale-up, for addressing value chain constraints in the marine fisheries sector.

## Provisional Agenda & Programme Day 1 (Thursday, 12 Feb 2026)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
0830 - 0910	Arrival of participants at Hotel Accord & Registration	
0910 - 0915	Participants to be seated in the Conference Hall	
<b>0915 - 1115</b>	<b>INAUGURAL SESSION</b>	
0915 - 0925	Arrival of the dignitaries / Dignitaries to be escorted to the dais	
0925 - 0930	<b>National Anthem / Tamil Thai Vazhthu (Invocation of Mother Tamil)</b>	
0930 - 0935	<b>Lighting of the Lamp</b> by Chief Guest and dignitaries	
0935 - 0940	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>	<b>Dr. D. Manikandan, IAS</b> <i>Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Lt. Governor &amp; Secretary (Fisheries and Tourism), Government of Puducherry</i>
0940 - 0948	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Ms. Angela Lentisco</b> <i>Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok</i>
09482 - 1000	<b>Thematic Presentation</b> Upgrading Marine Fisheries Value Chain in Puducherry – Broad Messages and Roadmap for future collaboration	<b>Dr. P. Krishnan</b> <i>Director, BOBP-IGO</i>
1000 - 1010	<b>Keynote Address</b> PMMKSSY – A game changer initiative for prosperous fisheries	<b>Dr. S. Kannappan</b> <i>Senior Executive Director, NFDB</i> <b>Thiru. Sagar Mehra, IAS</b> <i>Joint Secretary Department of Fisheries, MoFAHD, Government of India</i>
1010 - 1020	<b>Address by Guest of Honour</b>	<b>Dr. Sharath Chauhan, IAS</b> <i>Chief Secretary Government of Puducherry</i>
1020 - 1030	<b>Address by Chief Guest</b>	<b>His Excellency Thiru. K. Kailashnathan</b> <i>Lieutenant Governor Government of Puducherry</i>
1030 - 1035	<b>Presentation of Mementos to Dignitaries on Dais</b>	BOBP-IGO
1035 - 1040	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	<b>Thiru. A. Mohamad Ismail</b> <i>Director, Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Government of Puducherry</i>
1040 - 1045	<b>Group photograph</b>	BOBP-IGO
<b>1045 - 1115</b>	<b>High Tea</b>	



Time	Activity	Responsibility
1115 - 1300	<p><b>SESSION 1:</b></p> <p><b>VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY AND PUDUCHERRY BASELINE</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Ms. Angela Lentisco, FAO</b></p> <p>Objective 1 &amp; 2: Present methodology and share initial findings</p>	
1115 - 1140	Aquatic Food Value Chain Assessment: Analytical Framework	<p><b>Dr. Omar Peñarubia</b></p> <p><i>Fishery Officer, FAO, Rome</i></p>
1140 - 1215	<p>Puducherry Marine Fisheries Value Chain: Baseline Assessment and Preliminary Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Production profile and species diversity</li> <li>● Landing center infrastructure</li> <li>● Post-harvest handling and losses</li> <li>● Market channels and actor relationships</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dr. P. Krishnan</b></p> <p><i>Director, BOBP-IGO</i></p>
1215 - 1300	Regional Models of Marine Fisheries Value Chain	<p><b>Mr. Abu Naim Muhammad Abdus Sabur</b></p> <p><i>Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Hussain Sinan</b></p> <p><i>Director General (Fisheries)</i> <i>MoFOR, Maldives</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Susantha Kahawate</b></p> <p><i>Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, MoFAR, Sri Lanka</i></p>
1300 - 1400	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1400 - 1530	<p><b>SESSION 2:</b></p> <p><b>STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES - GATHERING GROUND INTELLIGENCE</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Dr. D. Manikandan, IAS, Department of Fisheries, Government of Puducherry</b></p> <p>Objective 3: Gather stakeholder intelligence</p>	
1400 - 1425	Fisher Voices: Production, Landing and Post-Harvest Challenges	Fisher Representatives (Mechanized, Motorized, Traditional - 8 min each)
1425 - 1445	Trader and Market Actor Perspectives: Logistics, Quality and Market Constraints	Trader/Market Representatives (2 speakers, 10 min each)
1445 - 1505	Processor Perspectives: Supply, Processing and Value Addition Opportunities	Processing Plant/Exporter Representative
1505 - 1530	Open Discussion: Additional Insights and Cross-Cutting Issues	All Participants
1530 - 1600	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	
1600 - 1630	<p><b>SESSION 3:</b></p> <p><b>INTRODUCTION TO WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator: Dr. P. Krishnan, BOBP-IGO</b></p>	
1600 - 1620	Working Group Themes, Guiding Questions and Expected Outputs	BOBP-IGO
1620 - 1630	Summary of the day	BOBP-IGO

## Day 2 (Friday, 13 February 2026)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
0930 - 1100	<p><b>SESSION 4:</b></p> <p><b>PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS - VALUE CHAIN SEGMENT DEEP DIVE</b></p> <p><i>Four concurrent groups (8-10 participants each). Each group will include mix of government, industry, fishers, research institutions, and NGOs to ensure diverse perspectives and actionable recommendations.</i></p> <p>Objective 3 &amp; 4: Gather intelligence and co-develop recommendations</p> <p><b>Each group to identify:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Top 3 binding constraints</li> <li>- Priority upgrading interventions (quick wins &amp; medium-term)</li> <li>- Specific recommendations with institutional responsibilities</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Working Group 1: Production and Landing Operations</b></p> <p>Focus: Infrastructure gaps, handling practices, fisher organization</p>	<p>Facilitator: CMFRI Representative</p> <p>Rapporteur: BOBP-IGO</p>
	<p><b>Working Group 2: Post-Harvest and Cold Chain</b></p> <p>Focus: Ice availability, transport, loss hotspots, logistics</p>	<p>Facilitator: CIFT Representative</p> <p>Rapporteur: BOBP-IGO</p>
	<p><b>Working Group 3: Processing and Value Addition</b></p> <p>Focus: Capacity utilization, product diversification, quality standards</p>	<p>Facilitator: MPEDA Representative</p> <p>Rapporteur: BOBP-IGO</p>
	<p><b>Working Group 4: Markets and Trade</b></p> <p>Focus: Domestic markets, export opportunities, pricing, demand trends</p>	<p>Facilitator: NFDB/Market Expert</p> <p>Rapporteur: BOBP-IGO</p>
1100 - 1130	<b>Tea/Coffee Break and Report Finalization</b>	
1130 - 1330	<p><b>SESSION 5: SYNTHESIS AND CONSENSUS BUILDING</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Dr. Omar Peñarubia, FAO</b></p> <p>Objective 4: Finalize recommendations for government submission</p>	
1130 - 1145	Working Group 1 Presentation: Production and Landing - Key Recommendations	WG1 Rapporteur
1145 - 1200	Working Group 2 Presentation: Post-Harvest and Cold Chain - Priority Interventions	WG2 Rapporteur
1200 - 1215	Working Group 3 Presentation: Processing and Value Addition - Strategic Actions	WG3 Rapporteur
1215 - 1230	Working Group 4 Presentation: Markets and Trade - Enhancement Pathways	WG4 Rapporteur
1230 - 1245	<p>Integrated Upgrading Strategy Framework for Puducherry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quick wins (0-6 months)</li> <li>- Medium-term actions (6-18 months)</li> <li>- Institutional responsibilities and resource requirements</li> </ul>	BOBP-IGO/FAO
1245 - 1300	Consensus Building: Validation, Refinement and Stakeholder Commitments	Facilitated Discussion All Participants
1300 - 1415	<b>Lunch</b>	

Time	Activity	Responsibility
<b>1415 - 1600</b>	<b>VALEDICTORY FUNCTION</b>	
1430 - 1435	<b>Lighting of the Lamp</b>	Dignitaries
1435 - 1440	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>	<b>Dr. D. Manikandan, IAS</b> <i>Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Lt. Governor &amp; Secretary (Fisheries and Tourism), Government of Puducherry</i>
1440 - 1448	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Ms. Angela Lentisco</b> <i>Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok</i>
1448 - 1500	<b>Workshop Outcome</b> Upgrading Marine Fisheries Value Chain in Puducherry – Roadmap for Future Collaboration	<b>Dr. P. Krishnan</b> <i>Director, BOBP-IGO</i>
1500 - 1510	<b>Keynote Presentation</b>	<b>Dr. S. Kannappan</b> <i>Senior Executive Director, NFDB</i> <b>Dr. Sharath Chauhan, IAS</b> <i>Chief Secretary Government of Puducherry</i>
1510 - 1520	<b>Address by Guest of Honour</b>	<b>Thiru. K. Lakshminarayanan</b> <i>Hon'ble Fisheries Minister of Puducherry, Government of Puducherry</i>
1520 - 1530	<b>Address by Chief Guest</b>	<b>Thiru. N. Rangasamy</b> <i>Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry, Government of Puducherry</i>
1530 - 1535	<b>Presentation of Mementos to Dignitaries on Dais</b>	BOBP-IGO
1535 - 1540	<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	<b>Thiru. A. Mohamad Ismail</b> <i>Director, Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, Government of Puducherry</i>
<b>1540 - 1600</b>	<b>High Tea</b>	

### ***For further information, please contact***

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