

Presentation on
Kalanjia Meenavar Sangam
(KMS)

Coastal Context – Ramnad and Tuticorin

Community:

- All the fishermen practice traditional method of fishing - Except in few pockets / village
- The fishermen belongs to different religions

Fishing:

- Export items - Prawn, Lobster, Squid, crab and fish
- Traditional way of fishing using the traditional crafts like Vattai and Vallam is noticed in the coastal villages in between Tuticorin and Meemisal
- It covers GoM and Palk Bay which is rich in marine bio-diversity

Market Control

Major export items are Crab, Prawn, Squid, Lobster and other fishes

- Market control is with export companies
- Village level: Vattakara / Money lenders
- Middle level: Agents of export companies

Exploitation in Fish Marketing

- **Debt slaverness:**

- Vattakara creates debt slaverness;
- Fisherfolk are in the debt trap of Vattakaras and it is not a easy task to come out of it.
- He transfers his debt slaverness to his son, traditionally

- **Exploitation**

In rate	: 10 - 30 %
Additional weight gain	: 5 – 10 %
Additional materials	: 3 – 5 %
Weight difference	: 5 – 10 %
Through net, diesel, Ice	: 10 - 25%

In terms of interest rate the exploitation is: 30 – 60 %

Kalanjia Meenavar Sangam

- DHAN promoted KMS to avoid the intermediary exploitation and to enhance the income of the fishermen. These institutions are promoted after the long term assessment at the field level
- It is a fishermen marketing institution promoted with poor and marginal fishermen in the coastal area
- It operates on the cooperative basis
- It provides different marketing Services – Fish marketing, net, Ice etc.,
- KMS is owned and managed by the fishermen

Purpose of KMS

- To overcome the money lender's exploitation
- To establish a sound marketing mechanism
- To provide financial support to the fishermen at the time of emergency
- To involve the fisherfolks in marine conservation activities

Objectives

- Welfare of the fishermen
- Development of the Fishing village
- Conserving the Marine resources & its ecology

Membership Eligibility

- Traditional Poor fishermen
- Member of fishermen group (SHG)
- Members accepting the byelaw and the norms of KMS

Administrative set-up

GBM

- General Body meeting is organised on monthly basis
- Members select their executive committee members
- Member addition / deletion during their GBM
- Approving and finalizing the KMS byelaw
- Appointing the staff
- Reviewing the accounts, staffs, growth

EC

- 7-11 depend on size of the KMS
- Weekly meeting
- Leaders rotation – Once in a year
- Reviewing the accounts, staffs performance, growth

Institutional Status

- KMS : 23
- Total members : 901
- Total share capital collected : 6,57,000
- Total KMS staffs : 44

All the recurring cost are met by the KMS

Marketing Initiatives (in Lakhs)

- Total fish catch amount : 310
- Total marketing amount : 319
- Profit : 9.37
- Member savings : 7.53

Addressing Vulnerability

- Fishermen get less / no income during the off season
- No income generation during the fishing holidays

Interventions

- Encourage savings with KMS
- Support financially during the off seasons
- Addresses the emergency needs

Impacts realized by the members

- Members get additional income by avoiding intermediaries
- Accurate weight for the fishes caught
- Additional income by selling the fishes directly to the Agents
- Members coming out from the debt slavery
- Additional income through increase in weight is received by the people institution
- Assured marketing facilities with better price
- Other Services like net, ice, insurance etc.,

The net benefit received by the members comes around 30 – 40%

Monitoring System

- The KMS promoted are having its own offices
- Exclusive staffs are appointed by the KMS
- Weighing is done by the staffs employed by KMS
- All the financial Transactions are recorded in the books of accounts
- Members are provided with procurement bill immediately after weighing the fishes
- The progress in each KMS are shared with its members in the forum (EC and GBM)
- All the transactions are externally audited

Impact on conservation

- Initiatives taken on net regulation
- Village marine conservation council – promoted
- Initiated the community enforcement on catching the banned marine resources

...THANK YOU

