

Report of the meeting of fishing communicators from Senegal's community radio stations and generalists

The meeting days for fishing communicators from community radio stations and generalists in Senegal were held on 15 and 16 October 2020 at the David Boilat Centre in Mbour. They brought together more than twenty participants composed of representatives of community radio stations and some national press organs specialized in raising awareness and providing information on the issues and challenges of the fisheries sector on the one hand, teams and technical support from CAOPA and APRAPAM on the other.

1. The opening ceremony

The opening ceremony started at 9:51 am and was marked by the speech of Mr. Omar Diaw, initiator of the meeting, to welcome and wish a good stay to participants. He stressed the importance of the meeting whose objective is the setting up of an association of fisheries communicators from community radio stations to harmonize and strengthen their knowledge for a good contribution to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector. He also praised and magnified the support of CAOPA which facilitated and enabled the holding of this workshop at a time when the fisheries sector is going through one of the most difficult periods of its existence. Then, the participants introduced themselves by declaring each one his name, his locality, the name and frequency of his radio for an immersion and a good participation in the workshop. Finally, as is the custom, prayers were formulated for the success of the association that will be set up.

Mr. Mor Diouf, presenter at RTS of Saint Louis, was unanimously designated by his peers to chair the sessions of the two days of the meeting. He began by thanking Mr. Omar Diaw, the initiator of the meeting, for having made it possible to bring together such a large number of community radio representatives. Then he magnified the idea of the creation of the association which, according to him, should serve as a forum for the exchange of information and experiences between the different community radio stations with a view to a better participation in a responsible and sustainable development of fisheries. Finally, he recalled the agenda for 15 and 16 October, which covered the following points:

Day of the 15th of October:

- Discussion and adoption of the draft statutes of the association ;

- Election of the Executive Board of the association.

Day of 16th October

- Capacity building for fishing community radio presenters on the issues that are affecting the fishing sector.

2. Synthesis of the day's work on October 15

2.1. Discussion and adoption of the draft statutes of the association

It came back to Mr. Cherif. Y. Ndiaye, a consultant assigned to draw up the draft statutes and rules of procedure, to present the advantages and disadvantages of a network, an organizational model chosen by the community radio presenters, as a framework for bringing them together to contribute to the development of responsible and sustainable fishing.

Referring to the law of 1901 on associations, the concept of network and some articles of the new press code, notably in its chapter IV, Mr Ndiaye drew the attention of the participants to the impossibility of the creation of a network by the radio presenters in their capacity as individuals, because legally and technically, only legal entities such as the press organs have the possibility of forming a network.

So instead of a network, he suggested the creation of an organization based on the model of an association which best meets the needs of community radio presenters.

Before observing the coffee break at 11.53 am, the participants unanimously agreed to the creation of an association instead of a network, in order to be more in line with the relevant laws and regulations.

After the coffee break, work resumed at 12.23 pm and was devoted to discussions and amendments to the articles of the draft statutes with a view to their adoption by the general assembly.

At the end of the discussions the following emerged.

For some articles, major changes have been made. Thus, for Article 1, in order to integrate all communicators and avoid a division between community radio hosts and those of other media

who broadcast on fisheries, the name "**Association of Fisheries Communicators of Community Radio presenters and Generalists of Senegal**" was retained for the name of the organization.

The head office is set in Mbour by article 2. The duration of the mandate is three years according to article 3. According to article 4, the mission is and the objectives of the association have been defined as to contribute to the promotion and development of responsible and sustainable fishing in relation to the other sectors of activities present in the localities within the scope of the association.

The fourteen other articles, which comply with the standard model statutes, have remained unchanged. Unanimously, the fishing presenters of the community radio stations adopted the statutes by acclamation.

2.2 Election of the Executive Board

The election of the Executive Board was presided over by Mr. Mor Diouf, presenters of the fishing programmes on RTS Saint-Louis, with Mr. Aliou Ciss of radio Xew-Xew of Mbour as assessor. It was held normally and in accordance with the relevant regulations.

The General Assembly unanimously elected for a period of three (03) years, the persons designated hereafter to carry out the functions entrusted to them:

Chairman: Oumar Diaw/Mbour ;

Vice President: Mariéme Mbengue/ Dakar;

Vice President in charge of Financial Affairs: Ibrahima Niang/Ndayane ;

Secretary General: Assane Déme/Mbour ;

Deputy Secretary General: Adama Sall/ Saint-Louis;

Treasurer: Mor Diouf / Saint-Louis;

Deputy Treasurer: Ndéye Fatou Ndoye /Mbour ;

Vice President in charge of Communication and External Relations: Lahaibe Sambou / Kafountine;

Vice President in charge of organisation, events and celebrations: Maissa Ndao/Mbour;

2 auditors;

Matar Sall/ Dakar

Mour Faye/Yenn-Dialaw.

As nothing was left on the agenda, the meeting was closed at 7:35 pm

3. Synthesis of the work of the day of 16th October

The second day was marked by various presentations by the panelists followed by discussions. The themes of the panels, as recalled by Dr Alassane Samba, moderator of the workshop, are the results of the training needs expressed by the community radio presenters.

3.1 Presentation and discussion of capacity building needs

3.1.1. Presentation of the "Introduction to the sustainable management of fisheries resources: main challenges" by Dr Alassane Samba

Mr. Alassane Samba introduced the topic by showing how the news is dominated lately by events related to fisheries resources, the most important of which have been reported by the television and print media:

- **The television press:**

-11th October: immersion of octopus pots in Mbour by the MPEM;

-12th October: Greenpeace-GAIPES debates on fishing licenses (scarcity of the resource, fishmeal factories, poor management of the resource);

-13-14th October: the reappearance of the phenomenon of illegal emigration.

- **Print Media (Newspapers)**

-10th October: Greenpeace on fishing licenses (scarcity of the resource, poor management, joint ventures);

-12th October: Civil Forum on transparency (lack of transparency on the list of vessels and fishing agreements);

-13 October: The plundering of waters, and the presence of large numbers of foreign boats in Senegalese waters);

Without forgetting other media supports with other themes: on the marine environment, the resource, exploitation, actors, management, etc.

Thus, he wanted to show radio animators the magnitude of the task that awaits them in their information mission, which will be to learn and know a lot, in order to better transmit knowledge.

In an illustrative diagram, he showed that the main target of resource management is the stock, which is confronted with several factors, for which it is necessary to achieve a fair balance between them: spawning, natural mortality, fishing mortality, emigration, immigration, predation, recruitment and growth.

This requires the resolution of several major constraints related to the aquatic environment (pollution, environmental degradation), fishing resources (distribution, size, and abundance), the institutional framework (actors, structures), the regulatory framework (Codes, conventions and regulatory texts) and the political framework (Programs, Plans, Projects). To conclude, he insisted on two fundamental aspects to be respected for any good management: accountability and transparency.

3.1.2. Presentation "Presence of Foreign Fleets in West Africa - Challenges for Coastal Communities» by Gaoussou GUEYE President of CAOPA

Mr Gaoussou GUEYE in his presentation wanted to show how foreign fleets have fraudulently invaded the fish-filled coasts of West Africa with the complicity of the State authorities of some coastal countries.

Apart from EU agreements that are published and known to the public, there is a massive presence of vessels from China, Russia, South Korea and flags of convenience for which there is no transparency on vessels, joint ventures and private licensing conditions.

This situation has fostered strong competition in fishing areas with frequent incursions of trawlers into the coastal zone, destruction of the marine environment and threat to food security due to the targeting of pelagic species by these vessels present in the fisheries, which have become very vulnerable due to the issuing of numerous fraudulent private licenses.

Despite this difficult situation, progress is noted with the new EU fisheries policy of 2013 through general improvements in fisheries agreements with important measures for African artisanal fisheries: Restricted access to fisheries resources that cannot be fished by local fishermen; Transparency of negotiations for better information/participation of actors; more attention to local development needs through sectoral support.

Finally, to conclude his presentation, Mr. Gueye made three recommendations: more transparency on the content of all agreements, private licenses, joint ventures, and their implementation; information, consultation and participation of fishing communities before any license is granted for access to foreign fleets, and also in the use of possible financial compensation; a renegotiation of the access of foreign fleets on the basis of quality data on the state of the resources and on the access needs of local fishing communities to the resources.

3.1.3 Presentation of "The Impact of Fishmeal Plants on Food and Nutrition Security and Job Creation: Production Based on Small Pelagic (Sardinella)" by Mrs. Khady Diop Thiao

Mrs Thiao in her presentation gave figures showing the relatively large share of sardinella (60%) in the landings of artisanal fisheries and the role it plays in the food security of local populations and in the creation of direct employment (20%), mainly occupied by women in the artisanal processing sub-sector.

Sardinella also remains the animal protein most accessible to the populations in terms of price and is best exported to Africa and Asia, providing substantial income to artisanal fishing units.

The strong and sudden setting up of fishmeal processing plants has disrupted the entire traditional system around which the exploitation of Sardinella had developed.

The fishmeal factories have the particularity of not creating many jobs, while competing strongly with women processors, micro fish processors and consumers with low incomes.

In addition to this already very difficult situation, there are other negative consequences caused by the nuisances generated by the processing of fish into flour: the discharge of waste

into the sea and on the beaches, atmospheric and marine pollution, spread of noxious odours, the development of infectious, respiratory and dermatological diseases.

In order to remedy this situation, Mrs Thiao proposed a number of recommendations concerning:

- Raising awareness and informing consumers, fishermen and fish wholesalers about the consequences of the proliferation of fishmeal factories;
- The development of advocacy with administrative and technical structures in order to better alert state and legislative authorities;
- Supporting and supervising the population in putting pressure on existing factories to encourage them to comply with environmental standards;
- Regular monitoring of the social, economic and environmental impact of fishmeal factories.

3.1.4. Presentation of "sustainable fisheries management through transparency and multi-stakeholder participation" by Mansour Ndour, FITTI Regional Coordinator in West Africa

Mr. Mansour Ndour first presented the importance of the fishing sector in Senegal in figures, on the socio-cultural level (600,000 jobs, many of which are women, 80% of which are artisanal), food security (29 kg/inhabitants/year and 70% of animal protein intake), economic (551 tons/year, 227 billion CFA francs of wealth created and 247 billion CFA francs in exported products).

He then deplored the crisis situation that Senegalese fisheries are experiencing (drop in yields, job losses, threat to food security, social conflicts and economic and biological losses). Referring to the misleading effect of statistics, he said that in order to be sustainable, fisheries need transparent management.

According to Mr. Ndour, transparency in fisheries means sharing with all stakeholders all the information collected by the structures responsible for the sector. The lack of transparency in global fisheries has led to the creation of FITI which is an initiative that aims to make

maritime fisheries more sustainable through Transparency and Multi-stakeholder Participation where all aspects of fisheries, economic, social and environmental are shared among stakeholders or National Multi-stakeholder Groups (government, civil society and professionals).

FITI promotes more transparent, inclusive and beneficial fisheries management for all stakeholders. It improves participation and fisheries governance and remains a driving force for sustainable fisheries management, social stability, support for food security and protection of jobs in the fisheries sector.

To join FITI, a public commitment from the Head of the Applicant State or a designated government representative is required because only States can be members.

A public commitment from Senegal was made in 2016 by the President of the Republic of Senegal Macky Sall in Nouakchott in 2016 but was not followed up despite reminders from Senegalese civil society organizations.

3.1.5. Presentation "Safety at sea, what solutions for Artisanal fishing": by Adama FAYE Fisheries Engineer Head of the Safety Division for Artisanal Fishers

At the beginning of his presentation, Mr Faye tried to give a good definition of the concept of safety by adapting it to the context of activities at sea. This gave the following definition: "Safety is a set of regulatory, technical and administrative measures enabling a vessel to be handled and operated without risk to human life and property at sea".

Senegal has 718 km of coastline with an EEZ of 212,000 km² and four main rivers (Senegal, Gambia; Sine-Saloum and Casamance), but does not have the means to monitor these waters, which requires significant material and human resources.

Also to limit the risks in artisanal fishing, several programs have been set up: acquisition of life jackets, acquisition of outboard motors, acquisition of fibreglass canoes, geolocation of canoes, training and awareness-raising of actors.

Several levels have been identified to better define the safety of the boats: design, building, equipment, driving and operation.

Faced with the impacts of climate change, several safety strategies have been developed for the craft sector: the Meteorological Early Warning Signalling System and weather warnings for maritime safety.

A typology of accidents has been drawn up and has shown, with statistics for the period from 2015 to 2018, that the most frequent accidents are, in order of importance, capsizes, crew disappearances and falls, followed by on-board fires and drowning.

4. Summary of the discussions:

The five presentations were mostly informative to strengthen the knowledge of journalists and fisheries radio presenters to enable them to exchange on the current situation of artisanal fisheries.

The presentations were the object of rich and lively exchanges with more than fifteen (15) recorded interventions, most of which were contributions since the presentations as a whole were able to raise the various issues in a fair manner and provide adequate answers.

According to the participants, the presence of an impressive number of vessels on our coasts cannot be justified for the simple reason that the resource has become scarce and that the vast majority of artisanal fishing boats are hardly profitable and the food security of the local populations is under serious threat.

Several interventions focused on the concerns related to the difficulties in providing raw materials to women processors, with a threat to the existence of women's activities in the face of competition from fishmeal factories.

Transparency in the management of the sector was of greatest concern to some participants, who felt that the interests of artisanal fisheries actors are very poorly taken into account despite the important role that artisanal fisheries play in reducing unemployment and ensuring food security.

The problems of security and surveillance were raised and the feeling was that despite the efforts of the State to improve human and material resources, surveillance operations are still very inadequate due to the immensity of the marine territory, which far exceeds that of the country's land territory.

All the discussions focused mainly on contributions, situations or facts identified which constitute obstacles to the normal development of activities along the artisanal fisheries sector and for which journalists must master the ins and outs.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

At the end of the workshop, the feeling that was most shared by participants was the satisfaction of having succeeded in bringing together all the community radio presenters to set up a framework for meeting, exchanging and harmonizing points of view on the problems of the fisheries sector.

It is expected that the functioning of the meeting framework will lead to the breaking down of barriers between information and knowledge and the sharing of experiences from the various localities where most of the socio-economic and environmental development activities in the fisheries sector take place.

The different presentations served to strengthen the knowledge of the community radio presenters and made it possible to provide credible and useful information to those involved in fishing and to all those interested in the development of the fishing sector.

The main recommendation adopted is the development and maintenance, by the association of journalists and presenters of fishing programs, of permanent consultation and communication which, in the long term, will help to reduce the uncertainties that the actors in the development of the fishing sector are most generally confronted with.