

# ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD OF SMALL FISHERFOLK

## BY “SWADEEP”



### VENUE: TRGADI BANDER

#### INTRODUCTION

“Tragadi bander” a small hamlet near the coastline of Mandvi had been for years a hub of fishing activities. It being a suitable place for fishing activities had attracted families involved with fishing activities to settle. About a hundred fisher folks come over as migrant families from far away villages. Some of them are residents of villages which are around 50 to 60 kms away from Tragadi bander.

They come over during the month of August every year and put up at this location till almost the end of April. These had been going on for years and for some households engaged in fishing activities have been coming to Tragadi Bandar for generations.

SWADEEP a partner agency was selected by Tata Power to carry out various development activities with the fishing community at Tragadi Bandar. In addition to its effort in education of children of these fishing households, SWADEEP was also engaged in setting up a fisheries information centre and carried out several livelihood promotion activities with the fisher folks. The developmental efforts by SWADEEP with the fisher folk households were started during 2013.

## **CHALLENGES**

During the initial days of working with the fisher folks, SWADEEP carried out an action research project. Data were obtained from the families to understand the fish catch on a weekly basis. The data showed that among the many fishes that the fisher folks caught, a particular one known as tiny or shrimps of smaller size was among the dominant ones. The fisher folks were deprived of the price for the catch. Interactions with traders dealing with the fish trade provided us the reason behind low price that the catch attracted. The problem identified was the method adopted by fisher folks to dry the fishes before trading them. The challenge for SWADEEP was to ensure a method that on one hand is cost effective and on the other is a sustainable one and not something that would be cumbersome. Discussions with the fisher folk helped SWADEEP to find a way out. The case narrates the process and the outcome of this simple solution which helped in improving the quality of the dry fish and better the prospect of gains in the market.

SWADEEP provided each of the fisher folk with a 2000 sq feet (40 X 50 feet) black color tarpaulin (tadpatri) which helped them to carry out several operations. The fishes which the fisherfolk brought from the boats were unloaded on the tarpaulin. They were sorted out as per the type of fishes and size. Fishes like mandeli and jawala which formed the small size catch were thereafter dried directly under the sun on the tarpaulin sheets. This drying process reduced the

chances of the fishes being damaged due to dust and sands and hence attracted better price in the market.

**Mr.Haji Hussain Gadh** who hailed from Tuna vandh had been coming to Tragadi bundar since his childhood days. He being a beneficiary of this tarpaulin initiative is a standing testimony for the outcome. The price that he fetches today is at least 10- 15 % more than what he fetched prior to this initiative. The trader offers him a better deal as his fish is free from dust and sand. The better quality of the catch is due to the process adopted by Haji Husain is sorting and drying the catch.

<b>BEFORE INTERVENTION</b>	<b>After Intervention</b>
 <p><b>SORTING</b></p>	 <p><b>SORTING ON Tarpaulin</b></p>
 <p><b>Boiling Of Jawala</b></p>	 <p><b>Winnowing and Cleaning of the Catch</b></p>
 <p><b>DRYING OF FISHES ON SAND BED</b></p>	 <p><b>DRIED FISHES</b></p>

An economic analysis of the method is presented in the table below

**Table 1**

**Showing the Feasibility of the Method adopted**

<b>Sr.no</b>	<b>Drying method</b>	<b>Fresh fish Weight</b>	<b>Material used for drying</b>	<b>Time duration</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Dry product weight</b>	<b>Prize Per kg</b>
1	Old	200kg	On flat ground	1.5 days	Medium	20kg	<b>140</b>
2	New	200kg	Tarpaulin	1 days	Very Good and white color	20 kg	<b>160</b>

**Conclusion:**

The enhanced price obtained from the selling of quality dry fishes which takes on an average a day to dry up fetches an additional return of about Rs 20 per kg. With catches in the range of 200 kgs per fisher folk, the net additional income derived would be Rs 4000 per fisher folk per season. On an average the net income would surpass the value of the tarpaulin that was supplied. The challenge is to see if the fisher folk see the benefit and practice the drying on tarpaulin purchased by them in years to come. SWADEEP understands that this distribution of tarpaulin that was done was to demonstrate the feasibility of a method. Fisher folk if they understand the method as cost effective and something that would bring for them additional income they will continue with it.

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