



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERWORKERS

Memo No. NFSF/President-04/2025

February 3, 2025

Rao Inderjit Singh
Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Sub: Incorporation of small-scale fisheries sector in data collection for National Planning

Sir,

Greetings from the National Federation of Small-Scale Fishworkers (NFSF). NFSF is the largest federation of small-scale fish workers unions of the country.

We are happy to note that the Field Operation Division (FDO) of the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, has undertaken a nationwide large-scale sample survey on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE).

Small scale fisheries sector, comprising of small-scale fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors, fish sorters and driers along with other ancillary workers like fishing net weavers and repairers, employs about 5 crore of our countrymen and plays a very important role in the food security and nutritional status of our country. The role of small-scale fisheries sector in maintaining gender balance in employment is particularly worth mentioning as about half of the workers engaged in fisheries are women. It is particularly disturbing to note that the small scale fishers, who are engaged in capture fisheries in the inland water bodies, are not getting due recognition of their role in nation building.

In view of the above, we would request you to kindly ensure that small scale fisheries sector, largely unincorporated till now, gets adequately covered by the nationwide large-scale sample survey presently undertaken by your Ministry.

National Federation of Small-Scale Fishworkers, having unions of small-scale fishworkers in 19 states of India affiliated to it, will be supporting the process.

We would also request you to kindly share the statistical findings with us to strengthen our knowledge about the sector.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Pradip Chatterjee.
President,
NFSF