



## National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSF) National Conference 2022

### Resolution on the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojana (PMMSY)

The Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Government of India had brought out the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojana (PMMSY) programme in 2020-21 for 5 years to 2024-25. PMMSY had a total investment amount of Rs. 20,050 crore of which Rs. 9407 crore was marked as Central Government's share and Rs. 4880 and Rs. 5763 were indicated as state Governments' and Beneficiaries' shares respectively.

The main objectives of the programme have been announced as –

1. Doubling fishers and fish farmers income and generation of employment; and
2. Social, physical and economic security for fishers and fish farmers.

But the programme is drawn to facilitate large scale investment in the fisheries sector which is going to further marginalise the small scale fish workers because of the following reason -

- A. The beneficiaries earmarked include entrepreneurs and private farms;
- B. Most of the schemes are not suitable for small scale fish workers in view of the nature of their present work;
- C. Many of the schemes are not accessible because they are not operated by the State Governments;
- D. The disbursement of government assistance towards the schemes first require implementation of the scheme through full investment of the total scheme cost by the beneficiary only after which the Government assistance is to be released;
- E. The Government offers no guarantee to the financial institutions on behalf of the resource constrained small scale fish workers for getting bank loans.
- F. Corruption in fisheries departments that naturally favours the rich.

Because of the above the moneyed persons including business farms with corporate ties are bound to prevail over small scale fish workers in fisheries through PMMSY schemes. This will further the exclusion of small scale fishing communities from ownership in fisheries and the women fish workers will be worst affected.

NPSSF has already engaged with the Government of India in the matter and resolves to –

1. Prepare, in consultation with partner organisations, advisers and experts a detailed assessment of PMMSY programme that would include assessment of individual schemes from the standpoint of small scale fish workers.
2. Prepare in consultation with partner organisations, advisers and experts schemes that are both suitable for small scale fish workers and environmentally sustainable and demand the Government to implement the same.
3. Demand that the Government provides guarantee to banks for advancing the money payable by the fish workers (there should be no requirement of land documents) for the schemes and release the government assistance in instalments during the scheme period.
4. Demand special schemes for women fish workers with enhanced subsidies and facilities.
5. Stop entrepreneurs or private farms other than small scale fish workers from availing of the PMMSY Schemes and Government Assistance.
6. Demand mandatory informed consent of local fish workers before allowing any entrepreneur or private farm to undertake ventures in fisheries.

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*Dt. November 9, 2022*