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Topic: Food and nutrition security

Title: Improved contribution of fish to food and nutrition security policy, and reduction of malnutrition in Africa

Presentation Type: Workshop

This 90 minute interactive workshop aims to promote better recognition of the importance of fish, fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition policies, strategies and development frameworks. The purpose of the workshop is to enable participants identify opportunities to strengthen policy in relation to fish and its role in food security. The presentations will cover the following: Overview of global fisheries, regional fisheries and food security; overview of threats for fisheries and its contribution to food security and gender considerations in enhancing fish and fisheries and its contribution to food security lastly assessment of national policy frameworks and the level of inclusion of fish into food security. The workshop targets decision makers, development actors, NGOs and government agencies involved with planning food security and nutrition and those able to influence policy making. Participants should be in a position to contribute their experience and knowledge in the fields of food security, nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture or all of these towards a constructive discussion on policy. The workshop will be highly interactive through group activities and buzz sessions.

The contributors for the session seek to provide an in depth discussion highlighting the connection and linkage between fisheries and food security. The session aims to provide the participants with information on the importance of fisheries sectors contribution towards poverty reduction and food security in order to meet the needs of growing population in an environmentally, economically and socio-culturally sustainable manner. Food security is an important dimension of poverty. Fisheries make a major contribution to human food supply. In 1995 at the International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Supply held in Kyoto Japan 95 participating States approved a Declaration and Action Plan to enhance the contribution of fisheries to human food supply. Despite this international commitment studies have revealed that fisheries are often overlooked in food security and nutrition policy discussions and frameworks yet there is potential to expand the contribution of fish to national food security and nutrition. The workshop will cover fundamentals of the progress that has been made after the Abuja Fish for all summit in 2005. The main purpose is to enable participants appreciate the contribution of fish and fisheries to poverty reduction and food security and identify equitable ways to enhance fisheries contribution to food security through policy. The session will engage five contributors

with varied experience in fisheries as well as gender to ensure that audience is provided with rich information on fisheries and gender aspects as they relate to the sector and its contribution to food security. The session will be conducted in a participatory manner using multiple approaches including Power Point presentations and group discussions. At the end of the workshop it is envisaged that participants will have acquired in-depth knowledge and be in a position to contribute to policy related debates aimed at enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security. In addition an advice paper will be produced which will be packaged for the World Fish Centre Fish Trade Programme.