



# Current Situation of Fisheries Sector in Sri Lanka



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# Basic Information on Fisheries Sector in Sri Lanka

- ▶ 2/3 of protein needs of the populations fulfilled by small scale fishers.
- ▶ 14 coastal Districts out of 25 in SL fishing in salty water[Sea].
- ▶ Fresh water fishing are in 25 Districts across the country.
- ▶ 1337 coastal fisher villages & 1289 fresh water fisher villages are in SL.[ Fishing is the main Livelihood of 2626 Villages across the country.
- ▶ Annual contribution for the country's economy.
- ▶ 185,390 fisher families are engage in fishing in the salty water[Sea] & 64290 families are engage in fishing in the fresh water in Sri Lanka.
- ▶ More than 100,000 people are depending on Post harvest process[ DRY fish/Maldive fish/Jaddy/Transportation/Vendor and etc..

## Issues – Faced by Fishers in SL

- ▶ Fishermen are unable to engage in fishing as usual due to Fuel Price high and lack of fuel issues.
- ▶ A One day boat needs fuel 30 -60 Litters of Kerosene per day.
- ▶ But A fisherman get fuels once in two weeks- [ 20 Litters only]. Example: A fishman spends 12500LKR for fuel and catch fishers only for 7,200LKR.. So he loses 5,300LKR..
- ▶ Fish prices are rocketing in the market- Normally the cheapest fish which sold for 400LKR is now 1,000LKR per Kg.

# Continuing.....

- ▶ Illegal fishing practices are increased and which caused productivity issues and creates conflicts among the fishermen.
- ▶ Multiday boats need lots of fuel to engage in fishing because it returns after 30 days once it catches. But these Multiday boats are anchoring in the coast for more than 3 months. Example: Negombo Multiday boats. These boats brings the Foreign exchange to the country.
- ▶ No compensation/ No Subsidies for Fishermen
- ▶ Increased the Debt amount of the fishermen.
- ▶ Adversely hits the family income
- ▶ School children education cost/transport cost are drastically increased.

# Actions taken by NAFSO

- ▶ Support to the common ongoing fisheries protest and “GohomeGota” campaign.
- ▶ Conducted media briefings and brought to light the very vulnerable Fisher people’s issue.
- ▶ Provide dry rations for selected vulnerable families.
- ▶ Supported to enhance the home gardens of the members of the NAFSO
- ▶ Conduct continuous dialogues with various stake holders and Networks
- ▶ Provide Seeds and agricultural equipment for the families.
- ▶ Promote small farmers Self - Sufficient Units in selected areas.

# Voices of fishers themselves are raising and how they are working in solidarity for overcoming this crisis

- ▶ Isolated demonstrations are conducting by fisher people around the country.
- ▶ Take part in the common protest [GoHomeGota 2022].
- ▶ Northern fishers are conducting regular media briefings and bring forward their issues.
- ▶ Discuss with the other likeminded organization which are linked with fisheries sector.
- ▶ Discuss with the Fisheries Department
- ▶ Some fishermen engage in illegal fishing practices.

# Fisher people's Demand

- ▶ Fishers request to provide enough fuel for their livelihood at least once in three days.
- ▶ Take action for the sustainable solution for the illegal and destructive fishing practices.
- ▶ Government needs to provide subsidies
- ▶ People from International should pressure the present regime to move for the better structural change and a regime change.
- ▶ Foreign countries should provide fuel in subsidies.
- ▶ Foreign Aid organizations should support for the most vulnerable groups.



**Thank You**