

Guinea: A workshop on improving the working conditions of women in artisanal fisheries

The Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy chaired the opening of the workshop on "Capacity Building for Women of the African Confederation of Professional Organisations of Artisanal Fisheries" on Thursday, May 02 in Conakry.

This Conakry meeting focuses on the theme: "Decent working conditions in the artisanal processing of fishery products, issues and challenges to be addressed". The workshop aims to improve the working, income and living conditions of women in artisanal fishing communities, but also to increase the quality of products marketed by women and the contribution to food security.

The participants of this meeting in Conakry will discuss for three days the issues of improving access to natural resources, improving product quality and safety, nutritional aspects and reducing waste (fresh and processed) and marketing conditions through improved packaging and preservation methods.

With regard to the funding of activities, they will have to consider setting up an alternative credit scheme to existing funding systems, which can meet women's needs, generally limited to small amounts, to overcome the current obstacles related to access to existing institutional funding sources, the limiting factors identified are related in particular to:

- The absence of collective economic activity of members of professional organizations;
- The difficulty of implementing real guarantees;
- The informal nature of the activities, which does not allow reliable financial documents reflecting the reality of the case and allowing bankable files to be presented;
- The low development of sustainable savings, which leads to insufficient capital.

According to the Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Economy, the annual catch of artisanal fisheries is 119,410 tonnes, more than half of the total catch of all marine fisheries. These products are processed by women in the artisanal fishing sector, who play an essential role in them, explains Minister Frédéric Loua.

The minister will continue by saying that these women face enormous difficulties in the practice of their profession, namely: "lack of knowledge of quality standards, lack of training in new

technologies for processing, preservation, packaging, storage and transport. This is why the Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy welcomes this CAOPA initiative, which will undoubtedly contribute to solving some of the issues faced by women in the artisanal fisheries sector".

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