



Tropentag, September 20-22, 2023, hybrid conference
“Competing pathways for equitable food systems transformation:
Trade-offs and synergies”

Small scale fisheries in Egypt: Main challenges and its sustainability

SAHAR MEHANNA

National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF), Fish Population Dynamics, Egypt

Abstract

Fish and fish products account for more than 20 percent of global animal-based protein consumption, but they are also critical sources of micronutrients necessary for human health. Small-scale fisheries SSF are critically contributed to food security, sustainable livelihoods, nutrition and poverty alleviation especially in developing countries. These traditional fishing communities found predominately in Asia and, to a lesser extent, Africa, are likely account for more than half of total global fisheries catches and employ more than 90 percent of the world's capture fishers and fish-workers, of whom almost half are women. Despite the significant contribution of SSF, the issues constraining its sustainable development remain poorly discussed. SSF are facing a number of challenges, including external threats such as invasive species, infrastructure development, eutrophication, coastal pollution and distal drivers (e.g. markets, governance, and human migration to the coast), overfishing, climate change, and ocean grabbing that deprives small-scale fishers of resources and undermines their historical access to areas of the sea. SSF are an important contributor to the Egypt's fish production; accounting to around 83 % of total landed catches with a fleet comprises more than 90 % of the Egyptian fishing fleet (GAFRD, 2020). Despite the critical contribution of SSF to nutrition, food security, national economies and poverty alleviation, there are many challenges facing this important sector and its related communities. Overfishing, habitat degradation and land-based activities are the key challenges facing the SSF communities in Egypt. With the serious decline in different fish stocks in the Egyptian fisheries, the government started to pay attention to how to support and improve the small-scale fisheries. In this presentation, we will discuss the importance of SSF and the main challenges facing this important sector as well as the global efforts to sustain and develop it with special reference to Egyptian SSF.

Keywords: Food security, small scale fisheries, socio-economic indicators, sustainable development