

ORL-EB&C-06**Proposing Big in Small-Scale Fisheries for Establishment of Too Big To Ignore Hub in Nepal for Land-Locked Countries**

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Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF), in general, represents one of the most important natural resource-based means of livelihood for indigenous communities depending on aquatic food often known as fishers. The SSF especially for Least Developed Landlocked Countries (LDLCs) like Nepal carries an extra value where a significant portion of the population relies on inland aquatic resources probably due to relatively rich water resources and fish diversity in the country. In this context, this paper attempt to elucidate the concept of SSF, Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) Global in relation to inland aquatic resources, especially in landlocked countries. For the purpose of the paper, relevant literature collection, desk-based review and key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted. Additionally, individual level sporadic observations, author's experiences and opinions have been used to enrich the statements of this big proposal, i.e. establishment of a TBTI hub in Nepal for the landlocked countries.

Evidences suggest that the SSF was developed through age old traditional knowledge and culture. However, still remains a popular means of livelihood, food security, self-employment opportunities, among several poor, deprived ethic fishing communities, men and women in Nepal. The SSF is a sustainable approach influenced by indigenous wisdom that helps conserve aquatic biodiversity. The sustainable management of such resources has become a hilarious task in the face of market-based economy where traditional means of resource harvesting have been mostly replaced by modern challenging licensing regimes. In such a scenario TBTI Global is emerging up as a well reputed institutions supporting to stakeholders, governments and intergovernmental organization as research and knowledge hub, proclaiming that SSF are 'Too Big to Ignore'. Implying that the strategies of the TBTI becoming more relevant for the sustainability.

Based on these backgrounds, we conclude that for strengthening small-scale fisher communities and maintaining healthy ecosystem, the TBTI-Global's collaboration with SSF Nepal should be highly substantial. The suggested TBTI-Nepal hub could develop policy and regulatory framework on SSF as perpetuated by United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Later, the knowledge generated on SSF in landlocked countries from the TBTI hub-Nepal could be multiplied to uphold the indigenous wisdom, biodiversity, human rights, livelihood, food security of the SSF in several other landlocked countries of the world.