



SMALL LOW-COST FISH: FROM BAIT TO PLATE

15-16 FEBRUARY 2021



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CB3288EN/1/02.21

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In line with 2025 global nutrition targets The Global Nutrition Report 2020 calls on societal parties to “to step up efforts to address malnutrition in all its forms and tackle injustices in food and health systems” (2020:8). It points out that progress towards this end is slow as well as highly unfair, with developing countries bearing the brunt of the problem. Fish is noted as one of the most nutrient-dense foods, for which more public investment is required (ibid.:94). Small fish, particularly when consumed whole, are very rich in micronutrients and aid in the absorption of nutrients from plant-based foods with which they are eaten. Small fish are still a relatively ‘cheap’ food in most countries of the world when compared to other animal-sourced foods, and can be purchased in small quantities, making them more accessible to the poor (ibid.:85). The event is a follow-up on the theme of World Food Day 2020, ‘Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together.’

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This event focuses on the contribution of the class of what are commonly known as ‘small fish’ (mainly epipelagic forage fish) to the food and nutrition security of poor and undernourished populations of the developing world. Small fish species are numerous in oceans and freshwater environments, and often make up the less expensive varieties of products in aquatic food marketplaces. They frequently end up on the plates of low-income households.

We take a food system approach to examine the role of the various segments of the small fish value chain in meeting the four dimensions of food and nutrition security – availability, accessibility, quality (utilization) and stability (FAO 2006). We recognize the direct nutritional contributions of small fish, but also the indirect contributions, through employment, that participation in small fish value chains provide. While our ambition is global in scope, the evidence presented derives from a more limited set of country settings in South and Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Four ongoing international research projects on the role of small fish in providing food and nutrition security provide empirical inputs and analyses, as do a set of relevant FAO-led efforts.

DAY 1 February 15th, 2021		
9.30-9.40	Welcome	Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam)
9.40-10.10	Opening	Nancy Aburto (FAO)
10.10-10.40	The nutritional value of small & low-cost fish	Shakuntala Thilsted (WorldFish)
10.40-11.10	Q&A	
11.10-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-13.30	<i>SESSION 1: ECOLOGY AND HARVESTING</i> <i>Presentations, discussion and Q&A</i>	Santiago de la Puente (Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia) Francis Nunoo (University of Ghana) Jeppe Kolding (University of Bergen) Martin Pastoors (Pelagic Fisheries Association, Netherlands)
13.30-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-16.00	<i>SESSION 2: PROCESSING</i> <i>Presentations, discussion and Q&A</i>	Derek Johnson (University of Manitoba, Canada) Benjamin Champion (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana) Ragnhild Overa (University of Bergen, Norway) Marian Kjellevoid (University of Bergen/Institute of Marine Research Norway) Lyndon Paul (Danish Care Foods. Co., Ltd.)
16.00-16.20	Coffee break	
16.20-16.30	Closing Day 1	Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam)

DAY 2 February 16th, 2021		
9.30-10.00	Summary of Day 1	Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam)
10.00-12.00	<i>SESSION 3: CONSUMPTION BEHAVIOUR Presentations, discussion and Q&A</i>	Froukje Kruijssen (KIT Royal Tropical Institute) Ben Belton (Michigan State University) Akosua Darkwah (University of Ghana) Amalendu Jyotishi (Azim Premji University) Kyana Dipananda (University of Amsterdam) Thijs Schut (University of Amsterdam)
12.00-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-16.00	<i>SESSION 4: DISTRIBUTION AND TRADE Presentations, discussion and Q&A</i>	Holly Hapke (University of California, Irvine) Kwasi Anderson (University of Amsterdam) Sharon Suri (University of Amsterdam) V. Vivekanandan (FishMARC) Moenieba Isaacs (University of Western Cape) Joeri Scholtens (University of Amsterdam)
16.00-16.15	Coffee break	
16.15-17.15	<i>COLLECTING THE THREADS Summary and Discussion</i>	Molly Ahern (FAO)
17.15-17.20	Closing	Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam)