



Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the collaboration a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) for Small Pelagic Fishes in Karnataka

As a step to foster sustainable fisheries and to meet the international demand, we have decided to undertake a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) for Indian Oil Sardine. The FIP is a pre-requisite for getting the MarinTrust Improver Program. The project will be confined to Karnataka coast. During the project implementation, following major issues are expected to be addressed:

- Fishes are sourced from responsibly managed fisheries, meeting the key principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and can be traceable throughout the supply chain.
- Conservation of the resources and its management based on the Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (MFRA) of Karnataka that can prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and overfishing as well as the protection of wider marine ecosystem.
- Fish are from well managed stocks and not sourcing from IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) Fishing.

NAGARAJ SUVARNA

(President - Purse Seine Boat Association Malpe)

HAMZA ISMAIL PATEL

(President – Honnavara Talluk Purse Seine Union,
Honnavara)

GIRISH V SUVARNA

(President - The Fisheries & Fish Products Manufacturing Co-
operative Society Ltd.)

KARUNAKAR SALIAN

(Director – The Malpe Fishermen's Primary Co-Op. Society Ltd.)

SARABPREET SINGH

(General Manager – Devi Seafoods)

UDAYA KUMAR SALIAN

(Partner - Yashaswi Fish Meal And Oil Company)

Dr. NIMNUAL PIEWTHONGGAM

(Project Manager - EURASIA Silk Road Company Limited)

JAYAVITHAL CHANDRAKANT KUBAL

(President – The Kumta Fisheries Co-Op. Society Ltd)

DINESH KUMAR KALLER

Director - State Fisheries Department, Govt. of
Karnataka (Witness)

Dr. B. MANIA NAIK

Professor & Head, Department of Fish Processing Technology –
College of Fisheries, Mangalore (Witness)



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Memorandum of Understanding

The Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) in Karnataka

November 2023



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The Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) in Karnataka

The FIP is organized in the following way:

1. FIP stakeholders:

Name of the Fishery	Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery, Karnataka State, Republic of India
Management Authority (Country/State)	India (Karnataka State)
Fishery Location	Karnataka - State waters and adjacent national waters
Gear Type (s)	Purse Seine
Start Date	January 2024
End Date	December 2028
FIP Lead	Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company – Fish meal & Fish Oil Producer
FIP Stakeholders	Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company- Branch 2
	The Malpe Fishermen's Primary Co-Op. Society Ltd – Fisherman Association
	Purse Seine Boat Association, Malpe – Fisherman Association



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	The Kumta Fisheries Co-Op. Society Ltd – Fisherman Association
	Honnavara Talluk Purse Seine Union, Honnavara – Fisherman Association
	The Fisheries & Fish Products Manufacturing Co-operative Society Ltd – Fisherman Association
	Devi Seafoods Ltd – Feed Mill
	Mr. Ramesh M.R- Shrimp Farmer
FIP Advisers	Department of Fisheries – Government of Karnataka
	ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) – Government Agencies
	College of Fisheries, Mangalore – Academic
	Eurasia Silk Road Company Limited – FIP consultant
FIP Coordinator	Mr. Pitipong Dejjarukul



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2. The Stakeholder Committee:

The Stakeholder Committee should consist of, but not limited to representatives of the following organizations;

- Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company
- Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company- Branch 2
- The Malpe Fishermen's Primary Co-Op. Society Ltd.
- Purse Seine Boat Association, Malpe
- Honnavara Talluk Purse Seine Union, Honnavara
- The Fisheries & Fish Products Manufacturing Co-operative Society Ltd.
- Devi Seafoods Ltd.
- Mr. Ramesh M.R- Shrimp Farmer
- Department of Fisheries -Government of Karnataka
- ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI)
- College of Fisheries, Mangalore
- Eurasia Silk Road Company Limited: Mr. Pitipong Dejjarakul



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The Stakeholder Committee Responsibilities:

- Drive the FIP and participate in the physical meeting and/or conference calls in order to keep track of its mission/task.
- Engage in advocacy efforts to support the project within the timeframe specified in the Fishery Action Plan
- Cooperate in good faith with the other Parties' efforts and activities including but limited to providing non-confidential documents, information, and materials as they may reasonably request to further the purposes of this project.

3. The Steering Committee (SC):

The Steering Committee consisting of representatives of the following organizations;

- Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company
- Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company- Branch 2
- Devi Seafoods Ltd.
- Eurasia Silk Road Company Limited: Mr. Pitipong Dejjarukul



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The Steering Committee Responsibilities:

- Strategic direction and governance for the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) in Karnataka. The SC works to provide guidance on project resource utilization, deadlines, staff hiring, and marketing needs.
- Inter-unit coordination. This involves fostering positive and timely communication about FIP progress to stakeholders. Also, they oversee FIP collaboration and resolve conflicts amongst teams.
- Allocating resources. An initial budget is planned by the SC, and funds are disbursed to the project following that determination. If additional funds are needed, requests must be verified by the committee.
- Monitoring progress. The SC finalizes FIP monitoring to measure successful performance. They periodically review projects, and support in minimizing obstacles that can threaten project outcomes.
- Determine overall project scope and strategic project direction. The SC reviews the end result, and communicates such result with other working committees and/or stakeholders on the project.
- Identify the right staff, FIP project managers, and subject matter experts to work for this project.

4. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):

The TAC consists of representatives of the following organizations;

- Department of Fisheries-Government of Karnataka
- ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI)
- College of Fisheries, Mangalore



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- Eurasia Silk Road Company Limited: Mr. Pitipong Dejjarakul
- Fish Matter Pty. Ltd. (Fishery Expert): Mr. Duncan Leadbitter
- Mr. Ramesh M.R – Fishery Expert

Responsibilities:

- Consider all technical matters relating to the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) in Karnataka. The work of the TAC shall not overlap that of other existing groups.
- Advice to the SC from time to time as appropriate, and give recommendations to the SC on the above mentioned technical and operational aspects, including the technical aspects activities, or on any other support requested by the SC.
- Ensuring all technical issues, new research and scientific knowledge submitted have been properly considered by the TAC and independent expert advice sought as necessary.

5. The Project:

The Parties sign this MOU that signify their acceptance of the proposed MOU as well as the distribution of the roles of each organization. The MOU is also intended to formalize the agreement on activities covered as part of the association between the Parties in relation to the development of the improvement program of the fishery (FIP).

The Parties agree that the Project is a long-term endeavor that aims to result in the certification of the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) in Karnataka State, Republic of India to the MarinTrust Improver Program (IP), and



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which consists of implementing management improvements in the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery FIP, Karnataka State as outlined in the Fishery Action Plan agreed between the Parties.

Each party to the MOU agrees to play a role in implementing the FIP as provided in the action plan, and which may be amended from time to time by written agreement by all the Parties. In carrying out their responsibilities, each Party may collaborate with consultants and fishery stakeholders as needed. Eurasia Silk Road Company Limited will coordinate and manage the implementation of the FIP in collaboration with each party to the MOU. The Parties (or authorized representatives) agree to attend meetings as needed to ensure that the FIP is progressing in a timely and effective manner, and to ensure that deliverables are helping the fishery improvement project move towards the MarinTrust Improver Program (IP).

6. The Parties' Roles and Responsibilities:

6.1 FIP Consultant shall:

- a) manage the implementation of the Fishery Action Plan, the Project, and the IP;
- b) monitor and review FIP progress and how the fishery is advancing towards being able to meet the requirement of MarinTrust Improver Program (IP).



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6.2 FIP members shall:

- a) within the timeframe specified in the Fishery Action Plan, engage in advocacy efforts to support the Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) in Karnataka State, Republic of India in line with scientific advice, and for a long-term science-based management agreement; and
- b) cooperate in good faith with the other Parties' efforts and activities under this MOU, including but limited to providing such non-confidential documents, information, and materials as they may reasonably request to further the purposes of this MOU.

7. Agreed-Upon Principles:

The Parties agree to the following principles in carrying out their respective roles under this MOU: an FIP is defined as a multi-stakeholder effort to improve a fishery. FIPs are unique because they utilize the power of the private sector to incentivize positive changes in the fishery towards sustainability. FIP participants may vary depending on the nature of the fishery and the FIP, and may include stakeholders such as producers, NGOs, fishery managers, government, and members of the fishery's supply chain.

8. Agreed between the Parties:

Under this Protocol, the Parties are committed to:

- 8.1 Extend their commitment in the implementation of a continuous improvement model for fisheries and make public the results of the work of the FIP, progress reports and the assessment of the fishery.



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8.2 Accept that all of the results of the ongoing work to be published under the bucket/logos of the parties involved, on an internet platform managed by FIP Consultant.

8.3 Collaborate with FIP consultants and stakeholders of the fishing industry, with a view to the implementation of the FIP.

8.4 Participate at least once a year, meetings physical to review progress, discuss upcoming issues and activities necessary to implement the fishery improvement action plan.

8.5 Accept that strategic business data be considered a "trade secret"

8.6 Engage and influence suppliers and other stakeholders when it is possible to involve them in the project.

8.7 Require that the improvement actions identified by the plan of work of the FIP are initiated and followed by stakeholders.

8.8 Under normal circumstances, new FIP members should be approved by a unanimous consensus, however it may be more appropriate in certain situations for a majority vote of the Steering Committee. The SC may decide the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and this process must be fair to all parties involved. In order for a fish meal and fish oil factories that join after the FIP has been accepted onto the MarinTrust Improver Program and want to make a MarinTrust Improver Program (IP) claim, the nominated FIP Coordinator may submit the MarinTrust IP Application Form 3C to include the details of the new FIP members onto the MarinTrust Improver Program (IP).

9. Funding:

The Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) in Karnataka is made up of Commercial FIP Members and Non-Commercial FIP Members such as Fisherman Association, NGOS, Government Agencies, fisheries scientists, and



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advisors. The Non-Commercial FIP Members are not required to make financial sponsorship. The future financial needs will be determined by the Steering Committee. This financing plan will be publicly available on the internet platform.

The financial needs by the action plan are directed/designed primarily for two types of expenses:

- a. Expenses related to the organization of meetings and consulting
- b. Expenditures related to the implementation of the work required by the action plan

A clear distinction must exist between these two items. All stakeholders can be approached to participate in the financing this project.

10. Administration:

10.1 This MOU aims to clarify the roles of the participants and to achieve cooperation between the Parties to complete the activities described above.

10.2 Each party may propose amendments to the present Protocol at any time during his term. Changes to the MOU must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by a written endorsement dated and signed by all parties before making any changes.

10.3 The Parties wishing to publicly explain the elements of the partnership, such as the progress and completions of the FIP can rely on reviews and various reports on this project as a result of the meetings. These documents will be validated by the Steering Committee and before be disseminated into public.



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11. Assurance on IP claims for the fish meal & fish oil members:

Any fish meal and fish oil factories in scope of this FIP will follow the MarinTrust Improver Program Accepted Sites Claims Agreement. Whilst those that are accepted onto the MarinTrust Improver Program (MarinTrust IP) are not able to use the MarinTrust logo, they may sell products within the approved scope as MarinTrust Improver Program material. In order for a site to make a MarinTrust Improver Program claim, a site must be listed in the MarinTrust Improver Program Accepted Sites list on the MarinTrust website and they must also be listed as a stakeholder in a MarinTrust accepted Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) on the MarinTrust website. The species being used as a raw material for the MarinTrust IP claim must also be listed within the relevant FIP scope on the MarinTrust website. It should be noted that an Improver Programme Claim will only be made Small Pelagic Purse Seine Fisheries, Karnataka State, Republic of India specifically targeting Indian Oil Sardine (*Sardinella longiceps*), Indian Mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*), Mauritian sardinella (*Sardinella jussieui*), Goldstripe sardinella (*Sardinella gibbosa*), Fringescale sardinella (*Sardinella fimbriata*), White sardine (*Sardinella albella*) and selling to MarinTrust certified fish meal / fish oil factories.



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Mr. Karunakar Salian
(Director – The Malpe Fishermen’s Primary Co-Op.
Society Ltd.)

Mr. Girish V Suvarna
(President - The Fisheries & Fish Products
Manufacturing Co-operative Society Ltd)

ಕುಬಾಳ

Mr. Udaya Kumar Salian
(Partner, Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company)

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Kaller
(Director, Department of Fisheries – Govt. of
Karnataka)
(Adviser)

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Mr. Hamza Ismail Patel
(President – Honnavara Talluk Purse Seine Union,
Honnavara)

Mr. Jayavithal Chandrakant Kubal
(President – The Kumta Fisheries Co-Op. Society Ltd.)

Mr. Ramesh M.R
(Shrimp Farmer)

ನಾಗರಾಜ

Mr. Nagaraj Suvarna
(President - Purse Seine Boat Association Malpe)

Mr. Sarabpreet Singh
(General Manager, Devi Seafoods Ltd)

ಪಿಟಿಪಂಗ್ ಡೆಜ್ಜಾರುಕುಲ

Mr. Pitipong Dejjarakul
(Project Manager & FIP coordinator, Eurasia Silk Road
Company Limited)

Dr. H.N Anjaneyappa
(Dean, College of Fisheries, Mangalore)
(Adviser)

represented by its authorized representative on the
First Part (First Party)

And

M/s. Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company,
9-184B, Post Pithrody, Udyavara, Udupi, Karnataka- 574118,
represented by its authorized representative on the
Other Part (Second Party).

Objectives of the MOU:

1. The **Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries University, Nandinagar, Bidar-585401** and the **M/s. Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company**, shall sign this **MOU** to maintain close liaison and co-operation for conducting various studies on sustainable fisheries management and related academic exercises or extending technical expertise to the Second Party by the First Party, as and when required by the Second Party.
2. This MOU holds good for a period five years from the effective date of signing i.e., from 20-11-2023 to 19-11-2028
3. The First Party has agreed to provide technical expertise in improving efficiency of fisheries management & governance, fostering food safety, environmental responsibility, transparent traceability of fisheries products throughout the supply chain & promoting sustainability in the fisheries products supply chain to meet the international standards.
4. Second Party has agreed to provide internship placement for Final year **B.F.Sc.** (Bachelor of Fisheries Science) students of the **College of Fisheries Mangalore** to undergo in plant industry attachment (6 months) specified under **Student READY** program at their fish meal plant and other facilities.
5. Second party has agreed to cooperate & extend their facilities for the research works of PG students of the **College of Fisheries Mangalore.**
6. Both the Parties have agreed to find out avenues on the possibilities of Industry cum Institute research programs which are beneficial to the institution, industry, fishing community as well as to the sustainability of the fisheries sector of Karnataka.

7. Second Party has agreed to extend their facilities for the visit of students and faculty for the academic program of the First Party.
8. Second Party will be upgrading the facilities to the international standards in terms of sourcing the raw material responsibly from the sustainable pelagic fishery sources. For this they will be approaching "Marine Ingredients Certifications Ltd., U.K", which is an internationally renowned certification agency.
9. In this regard the Second party will initiate stock assessment studies on the pelagic fishery of the Karnataka coast by competent agencies. Since First party has done lot of work on the above subject, second party will be handing over this project to the first party. First party can prepare DPR on this and second party will fund the entire project.
10. First Party has agreed to participate by providing guidance and advise in the Fishery Improvement Program and to implement Fishery Action Plan taken up by the Second Party to improve sustainability of the marine pelagic fishery of Karnataka.
11. The Second Party shall provide the data/samples/information sometimes even of confidential nature for the studies/work/project to the First Party as per the requirement.
12. First party can charge relevant fees, charges for the extension expert advice, suggestions and service to the second party as per KVAFSU guidelines.
13. First Party agrees to hold the confidential information, received from the Second Party and not to disclose or divulge that information /samples to any third party, nor use it for any purpose other than set forth in the preamble to this MOU.
14. Both the Parties are obliged to observe strictest confidentiality in the information shared.
15. Either parties may at any time terminate this MOU by giving one calendar months' notice in writing to the other party. A notice required to be sent personally under this MOU shall be sufficiently served on the Parties if delivered to them personally or dispatched by the address herein given under registered post.

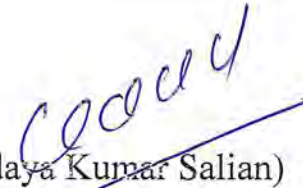


16. Subject to the approval by Second Party, First Party may use the information generated for academic purposes (including publications), if deemed necessary. In publications, co-authorship shall be given to the scientists involved in the study as suggested by Second Party.


For the First Party	For the Second Party
Sivasankar, S., IFS Registrar, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries University, Nandinagar, Bidar-585401	Mr. Udaya Kumar Salian, Partner, M/s. Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company, 9-184B, Post Pithrody, Udyavara, Udupi, Karnataka- 574118


(Sivasankar, S., IFS)

REGISTRAR
Karnataka Veterinary Animal &
Fisheries Sciences University
BIDAR-585 226


(Udaya Kumar Salian)

Witnesses 1.


Dr. B.V. Shivaprakash
Director of Research
KVAFSU, Nandigram, Bidar
Director of Research
KVAFSU, Bidar.

Witnesses 2.


Pradeep Moger
Senior Executive Manager
Yashaswi Fish Meal & Oil Company