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FAO to help India draft action plan to boost small-scale fisheries

Our Bureau
Kochi

In the face of growing challenges, including climate change, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations will help Bay of Bengal countries, including India, to prepare a national action plan for boosting small-scale fisheries and to safeguard the lives of millions of traditional fisherfolk.

The FAO, in association with the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), will focus on preparing country-specific roadmaps for a National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF).

Aimed at developing the roadmap, a three-day regional capacity building meeting of senior officials



and representatives from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives will be held in Chennai from September 17.

The effort is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14) and FAO's guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

ACTION PLANS

Union Fisheries Secretary Abhilaksh Likhi will inaugurate the meet.

Organised jointly by the

FAO and BOBP-IGO, the event aims to upskill the core team of national task force members to prepare the road map.

The proposed action plans would address issues such as fisher rights, fair working conditions, safety at sea, women's participation and sustainable management of marine resources, said BOBP Director P Krishnan.

Lena Maria Westlund, International Fisheries Analyst of FAO, said, "Small-scale fisheries are the backbone of coastal communities, providing food security and livelihoods to millions. However, the sector is facing significant hurdles due to a combination of factors, including the climate crisis and competition for resources. The discussions for developing a road map for each country aims to address these issues."