



Community-Led Solutions in Smallholder Shrimp Production in Andhra Pradesh, India

MOTIVATING FORCE

India has rapidly grown to become one of the largest producers and suppliers of whiteleg shrimp globally, generating over \$5 billion in value. The majority of shrimp production is from Andhra Pradesh, with over 90% of farmers operating small farms. Shrimp farming contributes significantly to the livelihoods of many communities and the economy. Despite the industry's rapid growth, shrimp farmers and communities face mounting challenges, including disease risks, extreme weather, price instability, debt cycles, and rising production costs. The Indian shrimp industry also faces criticism for human and labor rights abuses, creating concerns for key markets.

To foster community-led, scalable solutions, FishWise and Monterey Bay Aquarium, along with the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Acharya Nagarjuna University and local partners, initiated an 18-month project funded by the Walmart Foundation. This project aims to involve small-scale shrimp farmers and their communities in identifying solutions and developing an action plan to enhance livelihood resilience and sustainability while prioritizing human rights, decent work principles, and adopting sustainable production practices. Achieving this vision depends on bridging current efforts, and elevating perspectives among farmers, local communities, and downstream market actors.

Interested in learning more? Reach out to IndiaPBI@fishwise.org to share your initiative, stay connected, or explore how you can get involved! We look forward to hearing from you.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- **East and West Godavari farmers and their communities design the future they would like to see.** A co-design event will bring together participants to identify, validate, and prioritize the social, environmental, economic, and operational challenges and solutions affecting smallholder shrimp production, as defined by those most impacted, and prioritize actions for collective impact.
- **Bring insights to downstream market actors, gain input, and inspire support and involvement.** Two business roundtables will help to align smallholder priorities with market demand and supply chain activities. Through the roundtables, we seek to clarify the role that businesses can play in supporting and incentivizing solutions that have been prioritized in the Community Action Plan (CAP).
- **Develop an action plan that addresses the needs and priorities of smallholder shrimp farmers and their communities.** The five-year plan will define key goals and priority actions that deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits, outline necessary enabling conditions for success, and leverage points for change to drive the adoption of practice shifts by smallholder farmers across this landscape and solve the challenges that they deem are most important.
- **Strengthen relationships and build capacity with local partners to lay the foundation for implementing the CAP.** To achieve a lasting impact, the project will build the capacity of local partners and strengthen connections with supply chain stakeholders and other organizations invested in Indian aquaculture, livelihood, and community development.