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JICA's Initiative for Fisheries-Centred Blue Economy through SDG 14 in SIDS

Hisakatsu OKUDA, Takao NAGUMO, Minoru TAMURA

Summary/short description/key points:

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided the technical cooperation for stable food supply and economy revitalization of agricultural and fishing communities in alignment with SDG 2, Zero Hunger and 14, Life Below Water. This paper intends to introduce JICA's new Initiative for Fisheries-Centred Blue Economy in SIDS which aims to realize the vision of increasing the economic benefits through sustainable use of marine resources in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). To achieve this vision, the initiative establishes the sustainable fishing industry in SIDS by 2030 and contributes to achieve the SDGs.

Marine resources are one of the development options in SIDS where have geographical constraints such as narrowness, isolation and remoteness, and the limited natural resources available for the primary industries. Specifically, fishery resources are not only the valuable export products, but also the basis for securing livelihoods as domestic food source in rural areas including remote islands. Thus, the sustainable utilization of fishery resources is essential. However, the marine resources are currently threatened by overfishing and the degradation of marine environment and ecosystems caused by human impacts such as climate change.

Japan as island country possesses traditional and practical knowledge and experiences of marine resource management such as SATOUMI and co-management. Furthermore, JICA has accumulated many know-hows to promote co-management and development of alternative livelihood based on the outputs from JICA's technical cooperation in Pacific and Caribbean countries. JICA's Initiative for Fisheries-Centred Blue Economy can be applied to realize the coexistence of humans and ecosystems as well as the sustainable use of fishery resources.

Recommendations:

Fishery resources are the important sources of nutrition and cash income for coastal residents in SIDS. To achieve both conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources, JICA recommends SIDS to consider applying the basic concept of JICA's initiative. This initiative will serve to make behavioural and social changes in communities by practically combining the following three elements:

1. to accelerate the "Co-management" and "Community-Based Coastal Resource Management (CB-CRM) / Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) approach" that have been implemented in each country;
2. to combine the Japanese concept of SATOUMI which enable to coexist people's livelihood and environmental conservation; and
3. to develop new food value chains (FVC) system called Sixth Sector Industrialization including fish processing, distribution and tourism.

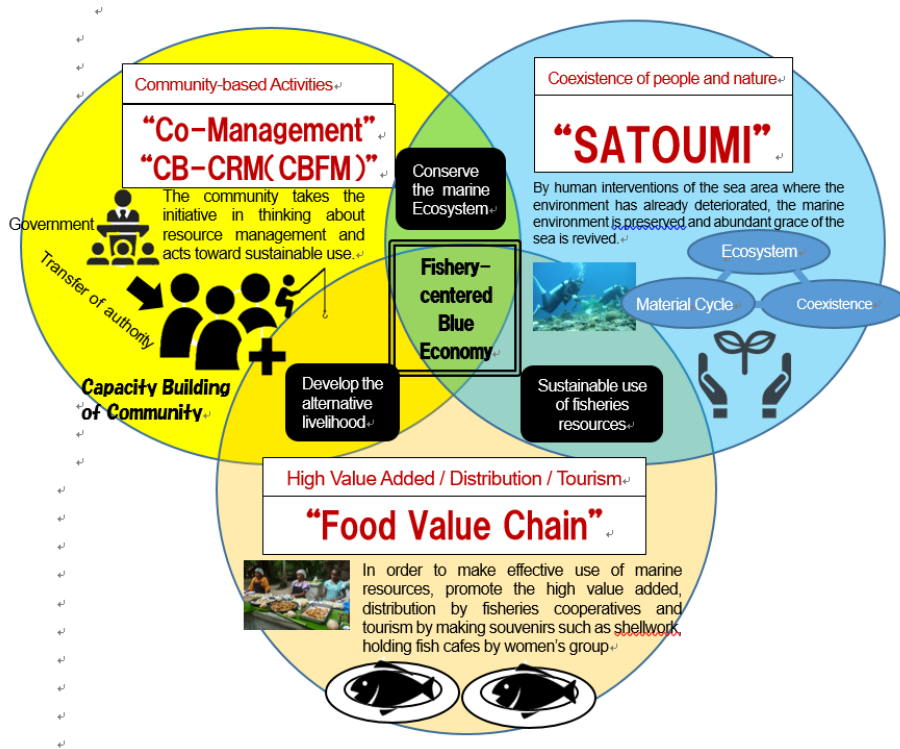


Figure 1 The Concept of JICA’s Initiative for Fisheries-Centred Blue Economy in SIDS

(e.g. Members and partners are invited to: note/endorse/review/discuss/etc.)