

ADDRESSING THE SYSTEMIC CAUSES OF SMALL-SCALE ACTORS' VULNERABILITY IN AQUATIC FOOD SYSTEMS: THE CGIAR RESILIENT AQUATIC FOOD SYSTEMS INITIATIVE



VULNERABILITY TO VIABILITY
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

1:00 PM UTC to 2:15 PM UTC
8:00 AM EST to 9:15 AM EST
5:00 AM PST to 6:15 AM PST

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LINK



<https://youtu.be/9A6tBcp3g4E>

Edward H. Allison is an interdisciplinary scholar with over 30 years of academic and policy experience, who works closely with researchers across social and natural sciences and the humanities, as well as with the stewards of natural resources in communities, civil society organizations, development actors, governments and the private sector. Allison's influential livelihoods and food systems work spans the globe thanks to his research, teaching, and policy experience in fisheries and aquaculture with links to sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America, North America, and Europe. In both 2020 and 2021, he was listed by Clarivate/Web of Science in the top 0.1 percent most cited of the world's researchers in the cross-disciplinary category.



Photo by Mohammad Mahabubur Rahman



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A flourishing of research and policy engagement – including that by the V2V network – has led to increased understanding of the multiple causes of vulnerability in small-scale fisheries and has identified pathways to viability, including through application of the FAO voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries. In this presentation, Dr. Edward H. Allison argues that both the research and policies are sufficiently well developed to support viable pathways to enable small-scale fisheries and fisherfolk to thrive, but that there has been a systematic underinvestment in implementing the proposed reforms. He further argues that this underinvestment will persist unless five systemic failings at the research-policy-practice interface are addressed. These are:

(i) shortcomings in the data and information required by decision-makers and investors, (ii) lack of effective partnerships with other food-system and ‘blue economy’ actors outside the fisheries sector, (iii) continuing exclusion of small-scale aquatic food system actors from large-scale water resource and coastal zone management planning, (iv) failure to recognize common-cause with sustainable aquaculture that complements (rather than displaces) fisheries and; (v) exclusion of the aquatic food systems from national systems of innovation in agriculture and food. In all these areas, a failure to address social and power differentials within the sector – gender, class, ethnicity and landlessness – exacerbates vulnerability and hinders the path to viability.

This argument is the basis for the CGIAR’s new USD 35 million 3 year- research initiative on Resilient Aquatic Food Systems (RAqFS) – which seeks to galvanize policy action and investment to address the five key systemic failings identified above. This presentation introduces the RAqFS initiative’s proposed program of work and invites collaboration and welcomes participants’ insights and discussion.



Photo by Md. Ruyel Miah



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