

Objective

This project aims to support women and men in rural Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste to develop and share innovative solutions for sustainable fish-based livelihoods. It also aims to increase the capacity of national agencies to support community-based initiatives and ensure equitable rural fisheries development investments.

It will:

- Improve community understanding of current fish distribution practices and opportunities for livelihood innovation along the supply chains.
- Build on existing initiatives for rural fish-based livelihoods and local capacity for innovation.
- Facilitate upskilling to enable improvements in livelihoods and access to safe and healthy aquatic foods.
- Build capacity of national agencies to support community-identified and led development pathways for fish-based community economies.

Expected scientific results

- Improved knowledge of how fish-based activities and products shape local livelihoods and how both formal, informal, and non-market exchanges spread benefits at the community level through:
 - cash income, gained through both formal and informal market transactions
 - improvement in non-cash livelihoods, through bartering and exchange of goods and services
 - health and wellbeing through improved food security and nutrition for households
 - strength of reciprocal networks and community bonds.
- Improved understandings of how local livelihoods and associated gender roles and responsibilities are shifting with the adoption of new innovations and identify common traits that enable fish-based livelihoods innovation in diverse community economies.
- Development of place-based understanding of what training is needed for safe fish handling, and how it is best delivered to be appropriate for local contexts.

Expected impact/outcomes

- Increased knowledge of fish-based livelihoods and improved opportunities for community-led innovation through tools and techniques to share successful practices
- Increased capacity of community members to pursue place-based innovations that will lead to sustainable livelihood improvement
- Enablement of community members to ensure fish-based products are safe for consumers and the nutritional benefits of aquatic foods is widely available
- Enablement of partner organisations and national governments to design programs that meet national development goals building on community strengths and leadership.

