



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS  
RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING  
THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Workshop on :  
**" Sustainable development of fisheries in Africa through  
women in the sector "**

Training session for **" The new information technology and  
communications - ICT - in the service of African  
women working in the fisheries sector'**

Larache 24-25 April 2018

*"women make up 80% of the human force used for food production; they are the thousand and  
one little hands that feed the continent " (E. Lequeret-RFI).*

### **The context**

Half of the people working in the fisheries sector in Africa are women. They are particularly active in post-harvest stages, namely the processing and sale of fish.

Present since the arrival of the canoes on the beaches, they largely contribute to boosting the sales and the valorization of the products of the fishing, thus favor a consequent market economy. The added value generated, has immediate effects, very concrete, in several sectors of the economy: housing, health, schooling of children.

However, even if their role is undeniable both in processing, using traditional methods, mainly fermentation, salting or drying as in the industry, by buying fish directly from fishermen and selling it or on the beach, or at the market or processing sites, their intervention remains confined to the micro-fish trade.

Indeed, in addition to the problems of financing their activities, lack of training in leadership, organizational capacity, and the existence of tariff and non-tariff barriers for which solutions must be found, African women are confronted enormous difficulties that prevent them from positioning themselves on the export market and benefiting from their central position in the fishing industry

The main reasons for this situation are illiteracy, communication difficulties, access to import and export information, the lack of information on the availability of fish ....

To cope with this hurdles and in order to strengthen the capacities of the professional organizations of African women, ATLAFCO offers a training on new information and communication technologies (ICT). In addition to being accessible at reasonable cost across the continent and relatively easy to use, new information and communication technologies can significantly improve the status of African women, particularly in post-harvest activities.

This training is intended for the presidents of the national networks of the African Network of Women in Fisheries (RAFEP), in its capacity to disseminate the training provided, and as an instrument for carrying projects and programs to support African women operating in the fisheries sector for their social development by reducing poverty and improving their working conditions.

### **Objectives :**

- **The workshop** is part of the objective of building the capacity of women working in the fisheries sector to :
  - Contribute to poverty reduction ;
  - Improve women's working conditions ;
  - Ensure food security ;
  - Promote the marketing of fishery products at national, subregional, regional and international level;
  - Contribute to a better valorization of fishery products.
  - Contribute to maximizing the participation of women fishers in the sustainable development of fisheries;
- **Training** that target is introducing new information technologies is aimed at :
  - Sensitize and encourage participants on the positive impacts of using new ICTs and share successful experiences in this area ;
  - Contribute to strengthening the organizational, professional and entrepreneurial capacities of women fishers in the ATLAFCO countries, with a view to improving their political and economic powers;