In Cambodia, around 20 per cent of the population rely directly on the fisheries sector for their livelihood. Therefore, the fishery value chains play a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country. The post-harvest fishery activities employ an estimated 33,000 persons, the majority of whom are women, and the sector is one of the main sources of income generation and job creation in Cambodia. Nevertheless, the fishery resources are not valorized at their full potential and the post-harvest activities are still dominated by small- and micro-scale productions which are generally informal and can not access to high end external markets.

The CAPFISH-Capture: Postharvest Fisheries Development project focuses on building capacities of businesses as well as its support institutions in the country for sustainable and competitive fishery development programme. The project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNIDO in cooperation with Fisheries Administration (FiA), support institutions and private sector fishery businesses.

**MAIN APPROACH**

The CAPFISH-Capture: Post-Harvest Fisheries Development is designed with the specific objective to contribute to the development of post-harvest fisheries through establishing the regulatory and institutional system, as well as to promote the adoption of better practices and innovation by the private sector under the following major interventions:

1. Institutional support for establishing an efficient food safety official control system in post-harvest fisheries to harmonize Cambodian products with global market requirements, including the EU;
2. Support private sector businesses through value chain financing for upgrading the operations and market compliance to enhance business competitiveness;
3. Support for research and development through networking of Universities and research institutes for improving capacities for product development, innovations and entrepreneurship.

**IMPACT/RESULTS**

By 2024, the CAPFISH-Capture: Postharvest Fisheries Development project is expected to develop competitive and profitable fishery postharvest businesses and robust institutional systems complying with market requirements wherein:

- Food safety systems and official control services governing the post-harvest fisheries are harmonized and achieve mutual recognition with ASEAN and global requirements, including the EU;
- Private sector fishery operations are upgraded to comply with international requirements for improved business competitiveness;
- Selected Cambodian fishery products achieve compliance with Cambodia Quality Seal and global requirements including the EU;
- Food safety compliance harmonization enables the expansion of exports of Cambodia fishery products benefiting the processors and actors along the value chains;
- Fishery product innovations, research and development attract more entrepreneurs and investments in to the fisheries sector;
- Fisheries sector increases its contribution to national economy in terms of income generation, job creation, investments and exports.