EVALFOREARTH WEBINAR • AQUATIC FOOD SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE

Bridging Policy and Practice

Evaluating Postharvest Loss Interventions

Methods, Frameworks, and Insights from Africa and Asia

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31 July 2026

Based on the 2025 practitioner's guide co-published by WRI, WorldFish, FAO and partners

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SESSION PROMISE

From loss measurement to better decisions

This aquatic-food perspective complements the webinar's capacity-building lens across Africa and Asia.

SEE

Reveal the silent crisis

FRAME

Map loss types and drivers

MEASURE

Build mixed-method baselines

TEST

Validate what works, for whom and why

ACT

Improve programmes, policy and investment

The thread throughout: evidence must be relevant, effective, equitable, cost-effective and sustainable.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The crisis is large and often invisible

Loss hides in volume, quality, value and nutrition - so a single percentage never tells the whole story.

15–35%

of aquatic food may be lost or wasted each year

37M tonnes

produced annually by small-scale fisheries and aquaculture

2.3B people

rely on aquatic foods for essential nutrients

Evaluation implication

Track what disappears, what degrades, who loses value; and which nutrients no longer reach diets.

Sources: WRI/WorldFish Guidebook (2025); FAO (2024).

One catch.
Four kinds of loss.

Source: Practitioner's Guide (2025).

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WHAT TO MEASURE

Loss has four faces

Each needs a different indicator and a different response.

01 PHYSICAL

Mass removed from the value chain - discarded, dropped, scavenged or trimmed.

02 QUALITY

Damage or exposure that downgrades grade, price or usability.

03 MARKET-FORCE

Value lost through price pressure, gender bias, forced sale or inaccessible markets.

04 NUTRITIONAL

Protein, mineral or vitamin value depleted through spoilage or processing.

SYSTEM LENS

Technology alone cannot solve loss

Social, economic and infrastructure gaps reinforce one another.

01 **SOCIAL**

Gendered power • uneven voice • weak coordination

02 **ECONOMIC**

Narrow markets • low price transparency • limited investment

03 **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Storage and cold-chain gaps • poor roads • limited processing

Design indicators around drivers - not only end-point loss rates.

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FIND THE HOTSPOTS

Most loss emerges before food reaches a plate

Map where loss occurs, then match the method to the question.

PRODUCTION	POST-HARVEST	PROCESSING	DISTRIBUTION	CONSUMPTION
No onboard chilling Hauling damage	Storage and cold-chain gaps Delayed handling	Contamination Low processing capacity	Weak packaging Broken cold chain	Spoilage Excess preparation

MEASUREMENT LAYER

Observe practices → identify actors and drivers → quantify loss → validate findings → monitor change

Hotspot ≠ highest volume alone. Consider value, nutrition, equity and feasibility of change.

Source: Adapted from Kruijssen et al. (2020), in the Practitioner's Guide (2025).

The gap is not data alone - it is a path to action

Global consultation, October 2024–April 2025

01 — **NO CONSOLIDATED RESOURCE**

Methods exist, but intended use and trade-offs are scattered.

02 — **NO COORDINATED PLANNING TOOLS**

Projects struggle to connect early design, fieldwork and implementation.

03 — **TOO LITTLE DOCUMENTED COMMUNITY PRACTICE**

Engagement is often described as a principle, not as repeatable practice.

Source: Practitioner consultation reported in the Guidebook (2025).

THE RESPONSE

A guidebook built for field decisions

Published October 2025 by WRI, WorldFish, FAO and WholeFish Strategies.

PRACTITIONER-BUILT — Interviews, surveys and discussions with practitioners worldwide.

END-TO-END — Methods span project setup, assessment, validation and intervention design.

CONTEXT-RESPONSIVE — Gender, local knowledge, markets and infrastructure shape method selection.

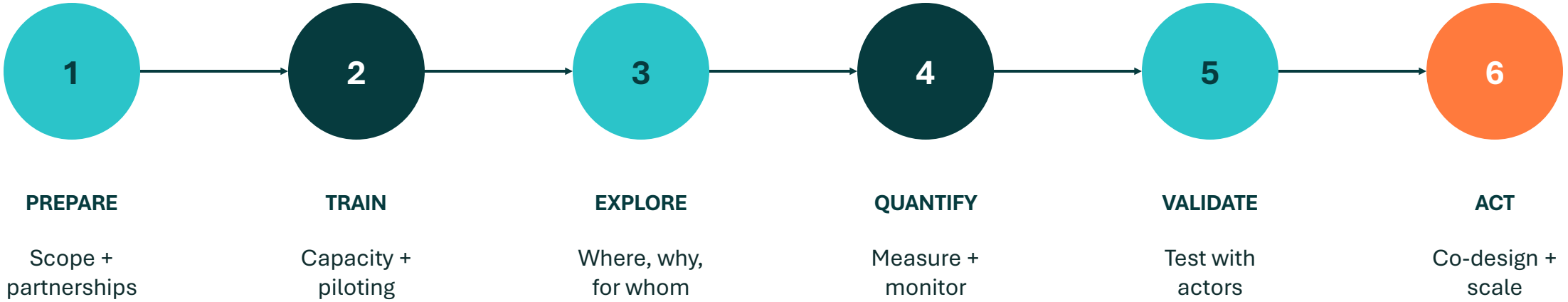
"Go beyond diagnostics - co-design solutions that are grounded in local realities."

Source: A Practitioner's Guide... (WRI, WorldFish, FAO & partners, 2025).

CORE FRAMEWORK

Six stages turn diagnosis into action

Flexible and iterative—not a rigid sequence.



FOUNDATION

EVIDENCE

DECISION + LEARNING

Prepare, Train, Explore and Validate protect quality even when project resources are constrained.

Source: Practitioner's Guide (2025), Figure 1.

STAGES 1–2

Prepare and Train protect data quality

The strongest baseline begins before any questionnaire is deployed.

PREPARE

- Define scope and focus areas
- Map value-chain actors and power
- Build partnerships and permissions

UP TO

10

working days for a full training process

TRAIN

- Develop assessment capacity
- Pilot and refine tools in the field
- Train local trainers to reduce bias

Evaluation payoff

Clear assumptions, stronger participation, fewer measurement errors and greater ownership.

Source: Practitioner's Guide (2025), Stages 1–2.

STAGES 3–4

Explore and Quantify combine two lenses

Qualitative inquiry explains the pattern; quantitative tools establish its scale and change.

EXPLORE

Understand the system

EFLAM

Exploratory Fish Loss Assessment Method

Observation • interviews • stakeholder discussion

GRFLAM

Gender-Responsive Fish Loss Assessment Method

Who is affected • gendered roles • power and access

OUTPUT → loss types, seasons, actors and root causes

QUANTIFY

Measure and monitor

LOAD TRACKING

Follow product through value-chain nodes

QLAM

Questionnaire Loss Assessment Method

Standardised questionnaires + real-time quality checks

OUTPUT → defensible baselines, hotspots and trends

Source: Practitioner's Guide (2025), Stages 3–4.

STAGES 5–6

Validation makes evidence usable

Stakeholders test the interpretation before interventions are designed or scaled.

TEST FINDINGS

Accuracy + legitimacy

CO-DESIGN

Value Rescue + local priorities

IMPLEMENT

Targeted interventions

MONITOR

Results + learning

VALIDATE — ACT — LEARN

Iteration—not technology alone—turns loss data into sustained change.

Source: Practitioner's Guide (2025), Stages 5–6 and Value Rescue.

CASE STUDY 1/3 • NAMIBIA

By-products become value

Six hake competitors formed the Namibia Ocean Cluster after three years of pre-competitive collaboration.

COLLAGEN

FISH OIL

PET FOOD

FISH LEATHER

WHY IT HELD

Proximity • political backing • shared commercial benefit • member ownership

EVALUATION LENS by-product use • jobs • new value chains

READ THE FULL STORY → GUIDEBOOK BOX 4

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CASE STUDY 2/3 • MOZAMBIQUE

A common language strengthens the baseline

01	**PHOTOGRAPH**	Fish specimens and gear
02	**NAME**	Record local names—including women's often-overlooked knowledge
03	**FILL GAPS**	Use regional guides
04	**VALIDATE**	Confirm with the community

A shared visual guide improved classification, questionnaires and community legitimacy.

RESULT

READ MORE → GUIDEBOOK BOX 5

Ownership mattered more than the gadget

95%+

of landed octopus was damaged by traditional spearing and handling.

10 women gleaners • 3 co-designed trials

Harvest • storage • transport

The cooler backpack did not significantly improve quality. Yet co-design raised awareness, improved practice and showed that ownership mattered more than the device.

READ MORE → GUIDEBOOK BOX 7

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EVALUATION LENS

Ask more than “how much loss?”

A useful M&E plan connects outcomes, drivers, equity, cost and sustainability.

1 **RELEVANT?**

Does the intervention address the hotspot and local priority?

2 **EFFECTIVE?**

Did loss, quality or value change against the baseline?

3 **EQUITABLE?**

Who benefits, who bears costs, and whose knowledge counts?

4 **COST-EFFECTIVE?**

Is the value rescued worth the resources required?

5 **SUSTAINABLE?**

Can local actors maintain, adapt and finance the change?

Use mixed methods to answer: what works, for whom, under which conditions and why?

Aligned with the EvalforEarth webinar objectives (31 July 2026).

Evidence must travel to action

Measure the loss. Explain the drivers. Validate with people. Learn and adapt.

1. Build the baseline with communities-not for them.
2. Combine quantitative trends with gender-responsive explanation.
3. **Use findings to improve interventions, policy and investment decisions.**

Discussion

Which evaluation question is currently missing from your post-harvest work?

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wri.org/research/practitioners-guide-assessing-and-reducing-post-harvest-food-loss-small-scale-aquatic-food

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