Gender integration for sustainable aquaculture practices in Southeast Asia

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Introduction

“Societies with greater gender equality experience faster economic growth, and benefit from greater agricultural productivity and improved food security.”
• Nearly 50% of 120 M workers are women (fisheries sector & supply chains)

• 38 M workers in aquaculture sector, M:F ratio unknown (yet)

Source: HLPE, 2014
“Gender inequity in the fishery and aquaculture sectors is greater, made worse with the increasing mechanization, modernization and global trade regimes for fish, where women and many low-paid men are at a great disadvantage.”

Dr. Meryl Williams
Mentor, NACA Gender Programme
Former DG, WorldFish Center
http://genderaquafish.org
Some issues

• Insufficient/Lack
  – Gender disaggregated data
  – Valuation of some aquaculture work, including indirect contribution & benefits
  – Understanding of relations & differences among actors
  – Gender sensitivity in projects, policies, other activities

• Trend – emerging emphasis on gender mainstreaming and integration in aquaculture initiatives

• Focus – some initiatives, constraints
Gender is ...

- social differences between men and women, boys and girls
- determined by society
- may be learned and changed
- could vary between & within cultures
- Deals with unequal power relations between men and women, from personal to societal levels.

Sources: FAO 2001, GGCA 2009
Giving women the same access as men to agricultural resources:

- increase production on women’s farms in developing countries by **20 to 30 %**
- raising total agricultural production in developing countries by **2.5 to 4 %**
Knowing gender differences

• Differences: affect opportunities to participate, access to resources, decision-making

• Awareness of differences – equal access to opportunities, more targeted programs, policies, development & marketing strategies

• Even if participating – are they getting good value/payment for the effort?
Recommendations by Committee on World Food Security on Gender Equity (2014 Report):

• **States**: ensure aquaculture and fisheries policies and interventions **do not create negative impacts** on women and encourage gender equality

• **FAO Committee on Fisheries**: should develop **policy guidance** on gender equality and economic contributions

Source: HLPE 2014
Recommendations by Committee on World Food Security on Gender Equity (2014 Report):

• *Committee on World Food Security: promote to address gender dimensions in policies and actions*

• *Development assistance programmes: be gender-aware and give priority to gender projects.*

Source: HLPE 2014
Gender dimensions*

- Access to resources, information
- Knowledge, beliefs, perceptions
- Practices and participation
- Laws, legal rights, policies, institutions

* Basis for framework on gender integration – expected to be integral in project activities
Entry points for gender integration

- Research
- Policy
- Projects
- Education
- Extension
- Marketing
- Capacity building
- Media & communications

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific Gender Programme
Shrimp and Tilapia Value Chains in Thailand

Men and women are involved all throughout the chain, with varying roles and interactions between and among them.

Source: SEAT, 2013
Relationships/interactions

Wife owner/manager, husband assists
Couple caretaker
Male owner/manager, wife has own business
Farmers’ basis of diagnosis

- Why? in addition to How?
- Implications?

Source: SEAT, 2013
Faces in Farms

Owner-manager

Co-owner & co-manager

Co-owner

Owner / teacher

Manager

Worker

Couple workers

Male worker/ Couple workers?
## Gender issues in farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Owner and or Manager</th>
<th>Worker</th>
<th>Couple Workers</th>
<th>Worker’s family on farm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>M, F</td>
<td>M, F</td>
<td>M, F</td>
<td>Wife, kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai/migrant</td>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>Thai, migrant</td>
<td>Thai, migrant</td>
<td>Thai, migrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to opportunities e.g. training</td>
<td>Yes  Few hired F managers</td>
<td>Some, mainly on farm</td>
<td>Some, mainly on farm</td>
<td>Education for kids Wife can work outside but limited for migrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>Income from farm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Individual or couple</td>
<td>Wife no even if helping in work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits (bonus, housing, water, etc.)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>House, water, safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of life based on needs</td>
<td>Better off</td>
<td>Better off</td>
<td>Better off</td>
<td>Better off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>Needs more esp for migrant workers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nites-Satapornvanit, 2014
NACA’S Gender Programme

2012 – Gender mainstreaming into NACA programmes & activities

2013 – GAF4 workshop: NACA to take a leading role in raising the profile of gender equality opportunities & issues

2014 – USAID/MARKET Project, GAF5, others
Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET) Project

“Thematic Studies and Outreach on Gender in Aquaculture in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam”

Gather information       Raise awareness       Advocate

for improved recognition of gender roles, policies, & programs in aquaculture for sustainable & responsible development
MARKET PROJECT

- Gender assessment for commercially important species in selected ASEAN countries
- Develop case studies focusing on gender aspects of selected aquaculture value chains
- Dissemination and presentation of findings and recommendations to relevant stakeholders
- Develop a regional gender in aquaculture practitioner network
Project Locations & Partners

Department of Fisheries
- Gender Assessment Report
- Tilapia cages
- Shrimp farms

Fisheries Administration
- Gender Assessment Report
- Aquaculture systems

Inst. for Fisheries Economics & Planning
- Gender Assessment Report

Cantho University
- Tilapia cages
- Rice-shrimp farms
Gender Assessment Reports

- Review of national policies supporting gender equality in both outside and inside the fisheries and aquaculture
- Participation by gender in the aquaculture sector
- Key issues in women empowerment
- Gender in professional organizations
Gender Assessment Reports – Initial results

• National level: gender concern with various levels of commitment and degrees of success

• Global Gender Gap Index of 4 countries – still low ranking: 60L 65T 73V 104C out of 135 countries

• Needs to link efforts at national level with concrete implementation to improve GGGI

• Studies done – more descriptive but lack analysis on reasons and benefits
Gender Case studies

• Mapping of gender roles in the selected aquaculture value chain
• Roles and activities of women and men in the grow-out stage of the aquaculture
• Gender dimensions - division of labour, decision making process, benefit sharing and access to resources
• Issues, needs and opportunities in fish health management, farm management and BMP, feed management, processing, food quality, safety and marketing
Cambodia

• Research concentrated on gender roles in fisheries, post-harvest fisheries, needs and aspirations of women in the fisheries sector

• Limited studies on gender issues in aquaculture especially in grow out farms

• More women involved in aquaculture due to men’s migration for other job opportunities

Source: Sochivi, et al., 2014
Cambodia

- Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE):
  - Skills training
  - Promoting, enhancing women-led MSMEs
  - Improving livelihoods of rural communities

- 60,000 households engaged in pond aquaculture

- Gender roles & involvement in various value chain nodes are undocumented, except post-harvest (more women)

Source: Sochivi, et al., 2014
Thailand

- Gender promotion in fisheries sector is a policy of DoF (mainly at national level)
- Gender networks participation – national and regional
- Gender high on Thailand’s agenda including budget allocation – but still no continuous/concrete action plan to make gender a cross cutting issue in projects including fisheries and aquaculture
- Other initiatives more gender focused, including a few publications but not updated
Gender roles in tilapia farming in Thailand: a case study

What are the implications?

Source: Sermwatanakul, A. et al., 2014
Vietnam: Tilapia Value Chain

Source: T.H. Minh, et al., 2014
Vietnam: Tilapia Value Chain

Source: T. H. Minh, et al., 2014
Other initiatives

NGF supported by MRC
Global Symposia in Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries

GAF5

12-15 November 2014
Lucknow, India

- Women fishers, climate change, and natural disasters
- Methods and approaches in gender planning and budgeting
- Gender in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management
- Global innovations
- Towards GAF 101 - Mainstreaming Gender into Aquaculture & Fisheries Education
- Gender Aquaculture and Fisheries Writing Workshop
Aquaculture without Frontiers - Women’s Network

• To further the promotion of women’s, family and community issues in AwF projects, in collaboration with other groups working on the same goals and activities
• Composed of volunteers from Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, North America
• More info: http://www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org/womens-network/
In Conclusion ...

• growing interest in gender integration in aquaculture and fisheries

• lack of capacity to implement effective programs which integrate the gender dimensions

• adding a gender dimension in aquaculture value chains gives assurance that seafood products are produced sustainably (assuming environmental, economic and other social considerations are met)
References


Thank you.