



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF GENDER IN AQUACULTURE IN CAMBODIA, LAO PDR, THAILAND AND VIETNAM

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WA 2015 JEJU
World Aquaculture 2015 Jeju

► About NACA

What NACA is

The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific is an intergovernmental organisation that promotes rural development through sustainable aquaculture and aquatic resources management. NACA seeks to improve the livelihoods of rural people, reduce poverty and increase food security. The ultimate beneficiaries of NACA are farmers and rural communities.

How it works

NACA implements development assistance projects in partnership with research centres, governments, development agencies, farmer associations and other organisations. NACA supports technical exchange, capacity building, institutional strengthening and policies for sustainable aquaculture development and aquatic resource management.

Organisational structure

The network is coordinated and administered by a Secretariat based in Bangkok. NACA policy is determined by its Governing Council, consisting of member government representatives, which meets annually to articulate needs and set

URL: <http://enaca.org>



Employment for rural communities: Collecting giant freshwater prawn broodstock, Bangladesh.

priorities. The NACA work plan is developed by a Technical Advisory Committee, formed from independent technical experts. The work plan is implemented by a network of research centres in collaboration with governments, donor agencies, farmer associations and NGOs.

Membership

Government membership of NACA is via accession to the NACA Agreement, an international treaty. The agreement also provides for associate membership by intergovernmental organisations and donor agencies.

"NACA seeks to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods and food security of rural communities".

► Work plan 2015+

Work programmes

The mandate of NACA is addressed through five interlinked thematic work programmes that support sustainable aquaculture and aquatic resource management, policy development and inter-governmental cooperation in the region. These are:

- Sustainable Farming Systems
- Aquatic Animal Health
- Genetics and Biodiversity
- Food Safety, Quality and Certification
- Emerging Global Issues



"The NACA work plan is revised to meet changing priorities biannually, on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee."

Three additional cross-cutting programmes facilitate and support implementation of the thematic work programmes:

- Education and Training
- Gender
- Information & Communications

Implementation

The work plan is implemented through the development of collaborative projects and activities by partners in the network, addressing issues of common or regional interest.

Individual projects draw heavily on the personnel and facilities of participating centres. Projects are essentially implemented by the centres with the Secretariat acting as a coordinating body.

NACA also works in close cooperation with FAO, international donor agencies and other regional and international organisations in implementing the work plan.

Harvesting a small pond in Mymensingh, Bangladesh. Fish accounts for 60-80% of the animal protein consumed by the population.



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MARKET

Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through
Knowledge, Enterprise Development, and Trade



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Feb 2014 - Mar 2015



Assessment of Gender in Aquaculture in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

- Thematic studies component of MARKET Project which
 - Promotes more sustainable and efficient use of aquaculture and fishery resources
 - ASEAN region emphasizing LMI countries



Objectives

- Gather information
- Raise awareness
- Advocate

for improved recognition of gender roles, policies and programs in aquaculture for sustainable and responsible development

Project Locations & Partners



A desk study on all sites was conducted prior to actual gender assessments.

Methodology

1. Desk study
2. Planning workshop
3. Gender assessment (in-country)
4. Report Synthesis
5. Regional Summary
6. Dissemination to relevant stakeholders



Gender Assessment Reports

- **Review of national policies** supporting gender equality in both outside and inside the fisheries and aquaculture sectors
- **Status of participation** by gender in the aquaculture sector
- **Key issues** in women empowerment
- Gender in **professional organizations**
- **Recommendations**

1. National policies supporting gender equality

- a number of policies related to women empowerment and equality
- concern and awareness at the national government levels for gender equality and women empowerment
- Level of integration and implementation at the local levels

Cambodia

Policy	Objectives	Activities
Women's Economic Empowerment (MDG Acceleration Framework)	To eliminate gender disparities in wage employment (agriculture, industry, service sectors)	Women in Development Centers Skills training Scholarships MSMEs Improving rural livelihoods
Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Camcode)	Recognition of the importance of the role of women in all activities	Gender mainstreaming in all fisheries activities

- Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries
- Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Strategy in Fisheries Sector
- Women's Association Committee

Lao PDR

Policy	Objectives	Activities
Lao Women in Fishery Network	Mainstreaming gender into fisheries	
Women involvement in Department of Livestock and Fisheries project	As team members Increase participation Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women included as team members to conduct research on breeding, spawning and maintenance of fish nursing

From Desk Study

Thailand

Policy	Objectives	Activities
Women's Development Plan (National Economic Development Plan)*	Promote gender equality and women empowerment	Policy for all levels of government
Department of Fisheries Gender Policy	Consider opportunities for women to participate at the national and community-level activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school fish ponds • Fish cage culture • Seafood processing plants • DOF awarded for outstanding promotion of gender equality (2008)

- ❖ National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family Development
- ❖ Senate Committee on Women, Youth and Elderly Affairs
- ❖ Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development
- ❖ Chief Gender Executive Officers / Gender Focal Points

Vietnam

Policy	Objectives	Activities
Gender Equity Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• elimination of gender discrimination• creating equal opportunities in socio-econ and human resource development	A number of decrees for implementation of this law at various levels
National Strategy for Progress of VN women	Participation of Vietnam Women's Union in state management	
National Statistical Index on Gender	collect gender statistics to monitor and evaluate gender development, advancement of women and gender equality in all fields of economic & social	

2. Participation by gender in the aquaculture sector

- Insufficient gender/sex-disaggregated data in aquaculture
- Participation exists in various degrees
- Needs detailed research planning & design with statistics and data collectors
- Secondary literature may not be comprehensive enough

Country specific

Country	Status
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women throughout the AQ value chains• Women involvement undocumented• Decision-making power not much known• Various NGOs promoted importance of women:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• innovate in the area of pond infrastructure, local seed production, on-farm feed production and management• Women are also involved in cross-border fish trade• Relation to household food and nutrition security• >50% work done by women, more production

Country specific

Country	Status
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquaculture is integrated with agricultural and animal husbandry activities.• Collection of fish / aquatic species from paddy fields, adjoining streams, wetlands and channels• Purchase of fingerlings• Financial decision-making for small amounts• Pond construction, feeding, fertilizing, harvesting• Transport, marketing, selling, negotiating prices• Preservation/post-harvest• Purchasing, preparation for household• Greater in poorer households with men away• A women's union saving fund for loans – less dependence on fish middlemen

Country specific

Country	Status
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOF encourages women to participate in national, community and industry<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School projects, cage culture• Seafood processing plants• More gender inequalities in intensive, export-oriented industries• Women less chance to participate in extension programs• Some quantitative data on participation• Women importance in small scale farms and households not well researched/documentated• Fewer social pressures favor participation

Country specific

Country	Status
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women involved in minor, less technically or physically demanding tasks – farms, post-harvest, support activities, labor• Managerial, ownership, technical – processing, feed manufacturing, labs• Women important in processing, marketing and trading• Marginal presence in intensive farming• Insufficient documentation and quantification on women involvement specific to AQ• Men – decision makers and owners while women are implementers and workers

3. Key issues in women empowerment

- Lack of continuous action plans to make gender a cross-cutting theme, despite having policies and budget allocations.
- The impact of the efforts of the government departments and the NGOs for gender integration in aquaculture at various levels and the community is undocumented or unknown.
- Gender issues are not considered in various aquaculture and fisheries projects thus there is lack of gender disaggregated data from these projects
- Few studies documenting changes in women empowerment, participation, areas in value chains benefiting women. Most studies focus on roles and labor division, but still lacking in analysis such as causes, effects, benefits and quantitative information

3. Key issues in women empowerment

- Lack of employment for women due to lack of knowledge and skills, and access to information and knowledge - affect their choices
- Providers need to improve access to knowledge, information, credit to women farmers/ workers. Traditional extension services may not be gender sensitive, thereby limiting access to opportunities to improve skills or enhance knowledge for increased and more sustainable production.
- Gender stereotyping hinders participation.
- Ownership rights, negotiating skill/power, inequality in wages, social protection

3. Key issues in women empowerment

- In general, although there have been some efforts to improve women status, they still suffer inequalities in terms of :
 - access to knowledge and opportunities
 - credit
 - division of labor
 - decision making
 - compensation
 - participation in the political and business arena
- Emerging issues: labor , migration

4. Gender in Professional Organizations

- Some international and national organizations encourage gender integration in their projects mainly agriculture and fisheries, a few in aquaculture
- Gender features in project documents and proposals but limited during actual implementation
- No specific GAF curriculum in universities in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam but there are Gender in Development and Technology courses
- Efforts to offer courses equally to men and women, with scholarships often requiring gender balance or more women
- Very few women in highest or top positions, mainly in support
- No database on organizations working on gender in aquaculture
- Gender audits of aquaculture organizations required

Some Conclusions

- The more gender is mainstreamed at higher governance levels, the more gender issues will feature in national fisheries and aquaculture policy documents.
- Need for gender audits and best practices in successful gender integration in the work place and in the field among stakeholders in aquaculture
- Most of the time, the lack of effective implementation of the policies is due to the lack of capacity for gender integration/ mainstreaming.
- Information exchange among countries and practitioners, including curriculum and training development - helpful to strengthen capacities

Recommendations

Regional Bodies (ASEAN, SEAFDEC-AQD, FAO-RAP...)

Country governments

Development agencies

Education and training institutions

Research institutions

Private sector

NGOs, civil society, farmers' groups

Recommendations

Regional Bodies (ASEAN, SEAFDEC-AQD, FAO-RAP etc)

- Support the regional gender practitioners' network formed from MARKET project and coordinated by NACA
- Convene a regional conference (2017?) for declaration to develop regional strategic gender in AQ action plan
- Encourage countries to address impacts on women's livelihood and wellbeing when working on issues such as climate change, disaster etc.

Recommendations

Country Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop/support/implement gender equality policies in aquaculture• Design/promote collection of gender disaggregated data as routine, establish baselines, track participation, contribution, benefits• Gender sensitive extension programs, skills development• Education priority for women and girls from fishfarming households• Balance commercial and small-scale where more women are involved

Recommendations

Development Agencies

- Develop gender in aquaculture strategies in projects
- Link aquaculture sector with existing gender priority programs
- Allocate funds for gender expertise to address and prevent inequality
- Assist aquaculture institutions to build up capacity on gender integration in all aspects of aquaculture

Recommendations

Education & Training Institutions

- Develop gender sensitive curricula in aquaculture and fisheries, including other related subjects
- Assist women learners to meet educational and early career aspirations
- Training courses should be gender equitable (access, content)
- Support attendance and success of women in various fields
- Address lack of capacity in aquaculture technologies, techniques, and business management

Recommendations

Research Institutions

- Make accessible existing studies incl in local language for global literature
- Gender dimensions framework in research design and activities
- Give priority and apply resources to research on gender in aquaculture, and gender sensitive R&D
- Upgrade skills and knowledge of research staff on gender integration
- ensure staff policies promote gender equality, including in recruitment and promotion.

Recommendations

Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender sensitive CSR• Recognize importance of women as users of products to meet their needs• Improve access to financing and credit to women
NGOs, Civil Society, Farmers' Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share and develop further knowledge and experience gained• Partner with government, research, educational institutions for shared work in gender promotion

NACA's ACTION

► Gender

The Gender Programme was established to ensure that NACA implements the action plans on gender mainstreaming within its activities. With a continued interest in embracing gender integration among relevant agencies, NACA aims to build up capacity of members in gender mainstreaming in all its undertakings, and motivate support and action globally.

Insufficient capacity for gender research and application among stakeholders is a hindrance to effectively implement programs integrating the gender dimensions in development. Adding a gender dimension in aquaculture value chains will give assurance to consumers that seafood has been produced sustainably.

Key activities

- Women, Youth and Aquaculture Development Programme
- Organising and supporting symposia on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Capacity building on gender integration and mainstreaming



Women play a key role in aquaculture value chains. Marketing fish from environmentally friendly wastewater fed aquaculture, Kolkata, India.

- Curriculum development on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Education
- In-country gender assessment reports for policy, action and research
- Publication of case studies and success stories on gender in aquaculture value chains
- Coordinating the Regional Gender Practitioners' Network and Mentoring programmes
- Campaigns and policy advocacy for gender integration in aquaculture

"Culture-based fisheries in small water bodies are an effective way to improve the food security and livelihoods of rural communities."

6th Global Symposium on Gender in
Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF6)

11th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture
Forum (11AFAF)

August 2016
Bangkok, Thailand