

A vertical strip on the left side of the page features a blue watercolor-style background with various shades of blue and white, creating a textured, organic appearance. The rest of the page has a solid dark blue background.

GENDER ISSUES IN FISHERIES POST-HARVEST

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STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

Difference in fisheries harvest and post-harvest: from a gender perspective

Gender issues in fish processing

Gender issues in fish trade

Gender issues in post-harvest management

VOLUNTARY
GUIDELINES
FOR
SECURING
SUSTAINABLE
SMALL-SCALE
FISHERIES
NOTED THAT

- “Small-scale and artisanal fisheries, encompassing all activities along the value chain – pre-harvest, harvest and **post-harvest** – undertaken by men and women, play an important role in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization” (p. ix).



Fisheries harvest and post-harvest: from a gender perspective

- Often not considered as “real” fisheries activities
- Invisible in fisheries – in-between fisheries and manufacturing/ commerce
- Employ large number of workers – both women and men; in various business sizes.
- Important for poverty alleviation, food security
- Trade and processing + financial management
Core element in creating benefits for fishing community

GENDER ISSUES IN FISH PROCESSING



FISH PROCESSING



Fish processed products include:

Dried aquatic products, fermented (fish, shrimp, crabs, etc.), fish crackers, fish meatballs, salted, smoked, shredded fish, fish sauce, marinated fish, etc.

Fish processing process includes

Sorting, gutting, washing, splitting, soaking, drying, packaging,



IMPORTANCE OF FISH PROCESSING FOR LIVELIHOOD

- Women's fish processing activities are important to alleviate poverty
- Indonesia - women depend on processing fish as a coping strategy four times more than men do
- Processing fermented shrimp is women's method of coping with economic declines when their husbands cannot go out to fish

WOMEN
PLAY A
LARGE ROLE
IN FISH
PROCESSING

- Women own processing business
 - Cambodia - more than half of fish processing business owned by women (seasonal/microbusiness)

CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN FISH PROCESSING

- No modern facilities.
- Access to space
 - storage, cleaning, sorting, other working space
- Access to technologies and training
 - No time, far away, low education, not informed
- Access to markets – high quality niche market.
- Access to market information
 - Mobility, connection, education
- Access to fish – when husband's catch is irregular and small
- Access to finance and control over income
- Time constraints of women
 - Amount of time spent for fish processing limited because of other responsibilities



- Health risks
 - Lung irritation from smoking fish
 - Back pain from sitting for long hours
 - Lacerations when cleaning fish
 - Irregular work (cannot stop during high season, because fish perish quickly)
- Fish processing factories
 - Low wages – some places, women workers earn half of their male counterparts.
 - Sexual harassment
 - Irregular job
 - Labor migrants
- Low status of fish processing activities
 - As extension of women's household work

GENDER ISSUES IN FISH TRADE



WOMEN IN FISH TRADE

- Concentrated in small-scale trade
- In some areas, women dominate (SEA, Sri Lanka), while in other women traders are absent (ex. India, Cox's Bazar)
- Some times, business is under men's name while women run the business. (Philippines)
- Women trade locally, while men intermediaries can source fish from wider areas.

CHALLENGES WOMEN FACE IN FISH TRADE

- Women's access to fish
 - Husband's catch irregular and small
- Space – access to infrastructure, spaces to sell (unauthorized spaces?)
- Access to finance
- Women's access to market information
 - Mobility, connection, education
- Time limitation
 - Women have less time to explore markets or to sell in different markets because of other responsibilities
- Women traders' lack of access to convenient and affordable transportation

- Access to protective gears (gloves), clean water, ice, equipment, cold storage
- Higher value products for niche markets, food safety
- Control over income
- Women fish vendors selling fish at night accused of seducing drunken men.
 - Independent women seen as a threat

GENDER ISSUES IN POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT



ORGANIZING AS A STRATEGY

- Women's group develop new businesses by working together (c.f. OTOP, SHG)
- Access to finance
- Access to insurance (through fisheries organizations)
 - Often post-harvest activities are not considered "fisheries" activities and they are not eligible to be members of fisheries organizations.
- Improve decision making power
 - Vis a vis household members and in the community.
 - Recognition of their knowledge and skills.

CHALLENGES
IN
ADDRESSING
ISSUES
THROUGH
COLLECTIVE
ACTION

- Difficulty in working in groups
- Not recognized for fishing community/ organizations' leadership (although fish processing business is run by women)
- Women not being able to assert without support from family member
- Processors/ traders not considered as fishers
 - Not eligible for membership in fishers' organization - benefits such as insurance, credit

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Recognize women's post-harvest activities as "fisheries" work (c.f. Voluntary guidelines)
- Collect more gender disaggregated data
- Conduct gender analysis to identify gender issues in certain contexts
- Time limitation of women
- Women to take part in technology development suitable for them
- Include support women's post harvest activities in fisheries budget.
- Organize women's groups.
 - Improve access to credit, insurance, information.
- Address gender-based violence

MORE IN THIS PUBLICATION

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Women and men in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in Asia

Barriers, constraints and opportunities
towards equality and secure livelihoods



A wide-angle photograph of a lush forest along a riverbank. The trees are tall, with thick, gnarled trunks and dense green foliage. The river in the foreground is calm, reflecting the trees and the sky. The sky is a clear, light blue. The text "THANK YOU" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, serif font.

THANK YOU