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POVERTY ERADICATION IN THE FISHING COMMUNITIES: GENDER PERSPECTIVE

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Outline of presentation

- **Malaysia in brief**
- **Poverty eradication strategies in Malaysia**
- **The fishing sector**
- **Poverty eradication programs in the fishing sector**
- **Gender perspective in poverty eradication**



Malaysia in brief

- An independent country since 1957
- Three region: Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak
- Multi ethnic nation (Malay, Chinese, Indian)
- Population 27 millions, aged nation by 2035
- Vision: achieve developed and high income nation by 2020



Malaysia's Development Efforts

3 National Policies

 The New Economic Policy	1971 - 1990
 The National Development Policy	1991 - 2000
 The National Vision Policy	2001 - 2010

3 Outline Perspective Plans (OPP)

 OPP 1	1971 - 1990
 OPP 2	1991 - 2000
 OPP 3	2001 - 2010



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Poverty Eradication Strategies in Malaysia



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**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY (1990-2000)**

**NATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY (1971-1990)**

**NATIONAL VISIONARY
POLICY (2001-2010)**

POLICY

BACKGROUND

**POVERTY RATES 1970 -
49.3%**

**Basic infrastructure
Human capital investment
Rural development**

ACHIEVEMENT

**POVERTY RATES
1990 – 16.5%**

**Targeted poverty (Hard core)
Urban poverty**

**POVERTY RATES 2004 -
4.5%**

**Pockets of poverty
Vulnerable group
Relative poverty**





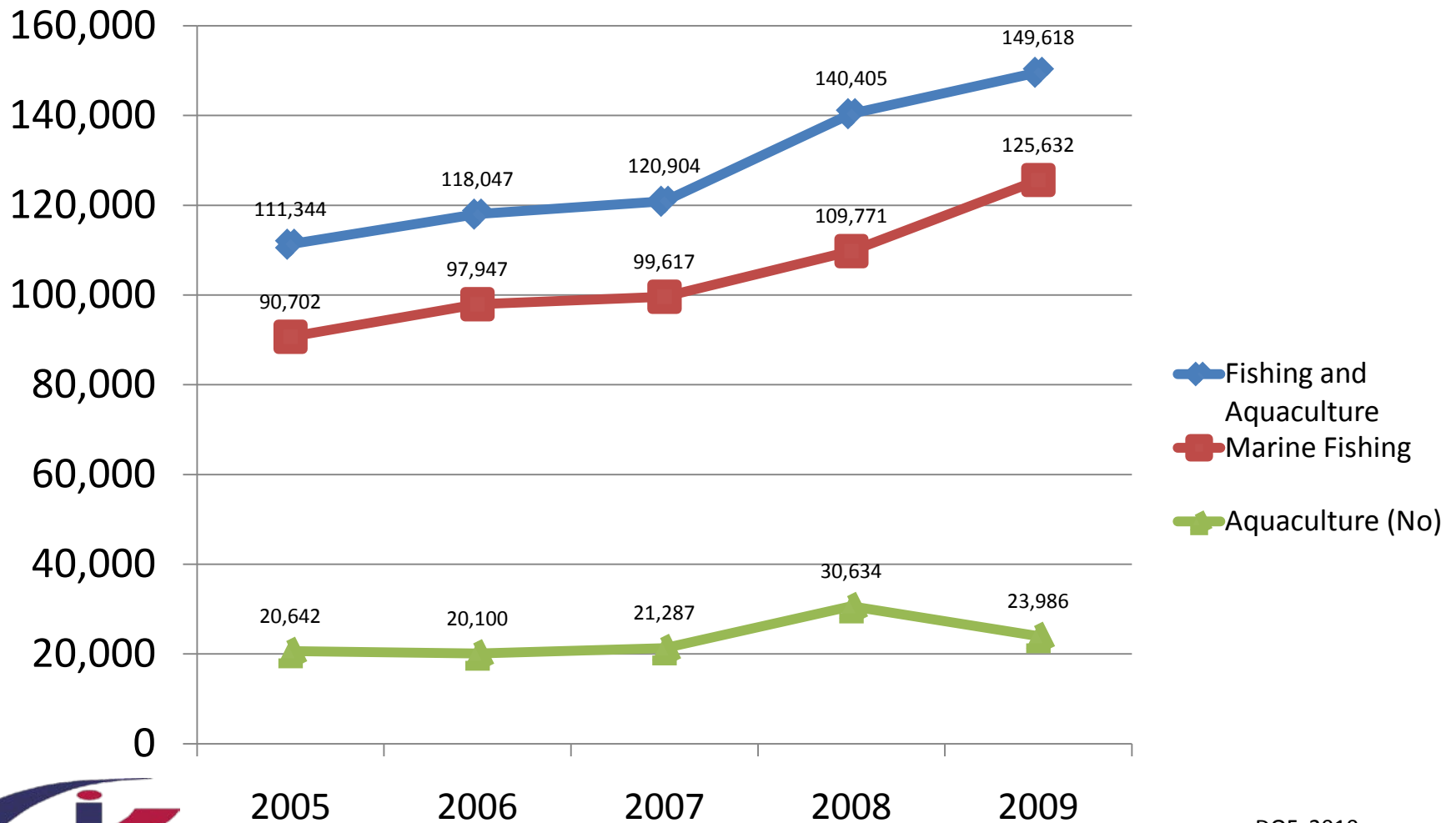
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The Fishing Sector in Malaysia



Number of Fishermen, 2005-2009

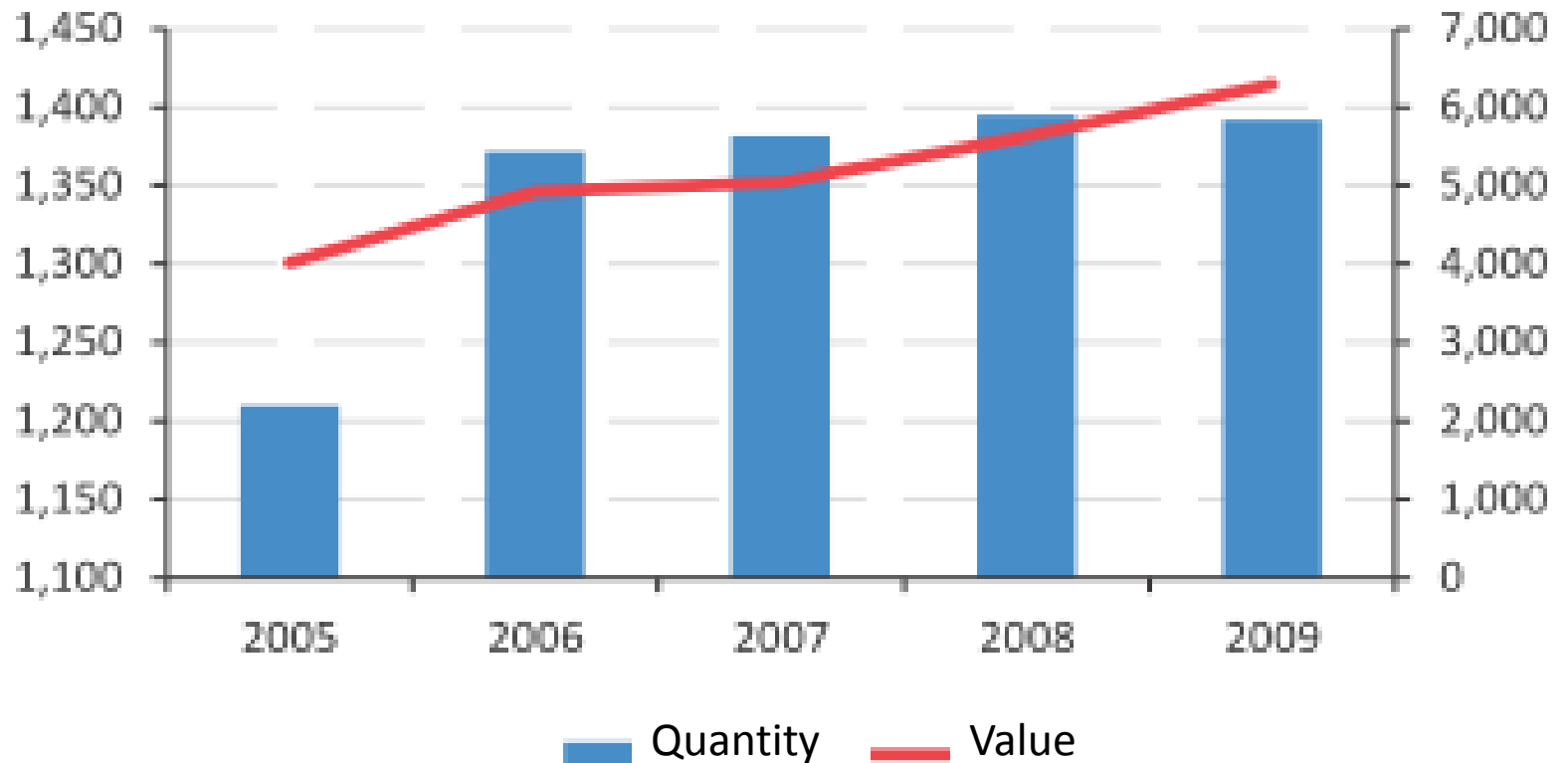




Quantity and Value of Marine Fish

'000 Metric Ton

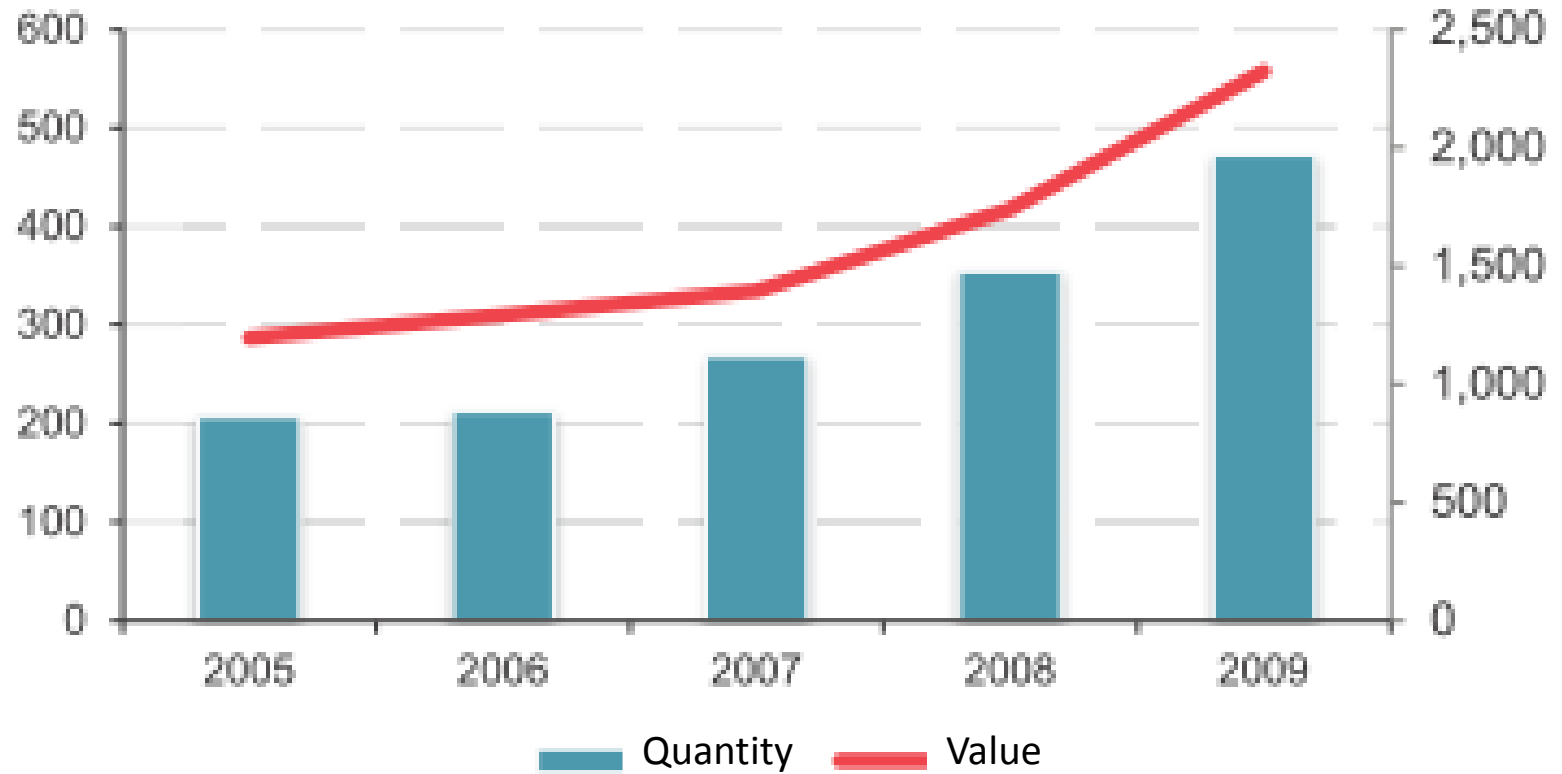
RM Mill



Quantity and Value of Aquaculture

'000 Metric Ton

RM Mil





Third National Agriculture Policy (1998-2010)

- Enhance food security
- National income and export earning
- Maximize income of the producers and
- Poverty eradication
- Fish Consumption:
 - 2000 - 49kg per capita
 - 2005 - 53kg per capita
 - 2010 - 56 kg per capita





Agencies Responsible

- Economic Planning Unit
- Inter Agency Coordinating Unit (ICU)
- Ministry of Agriculture.....
 - Department of Fisheries
 - Fisheries Development Board of Malaysia
- Ministry of Rural and Regional Development
- Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and many other Ministries





Non Government

- Fishermen's Association (NEKMAT)
- Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (Micro Credit NGO)
- Religious based group
- Sejahtera foundation





Programs for Fishing Sector 2010

- Fishermen's fund: December 2007, a total 2,442 beneficiaries and 61 association received the fund
- Enriching fisheries resources: 421 location benefiting 50,000 fishermen
- Aquaculture using fish protech system: 4 states with 100 target
- Diversifying fishermen's income: 118 KUNITA with 5,010 members





Programs

- Fish Landing facilities: 27 complexes and 108 jetty built, benefiting 5,000 vessels
- Village infrastructure: 15 projects involving 2,978 houses
- Village modernization: 750 fishermen in 4 villages
- Village infrastructure: 308 projects, 43,383 beneficiaries.





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Poverty Eradication Programs in the Fishing Sector



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No	Project Title	Project Scope	Number
<u>KEDAH</u>			
1	Income generating program	Providing fishing gear	60
2	Aquaculture using fish protech system	Fish rearing using fish technology	
<u>TERENGGANU</u>			
1	Processing industry	Income genarating	24
2	Poverty eradication: vulnerable group	Fishing gear and food processing	100
3	Poverty eradication:poor	Fishing gear and food processing	50
<u>JOHOR</u>			
1	Aquaculture using fish protech system	Fish rearing using fish technology	100
2	Poverty eradication: poor	Fishing gear and food processing	50
<u>PERLIS</u>			
1	Subsidy and incentives	Fishing gear	29

PAHANG		Project Scope	Number
1	Aquaculture using fish protech system	Fish rearing using fish technology	100
2	Poverty eradication:poor	Fishing gear and food processing	50
KELANTAN			
1	Aquaculture using fish protech system	Fish rearing using fish technology	300
2	Resettlement	Fishermen resettlement	300
PERAK			
1	Poverty eradication: hard core poor	Fishing gear and food processing	100
2	Poverty eradication: poor	Fishing gear and food processing	50
SABAH			
1	Poverty eradication: poor and hard core poor	Fishing gear and food processing	100
1	Poverty eradication: hard core poor	Fishing gear and food processing	100
SARAWAK			
1	Poverty eradication program	Fishing gear and food processing	100



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Poverty in the Fishing Sector

PLI (2009):

Poor- RM660

Hard core- RM275



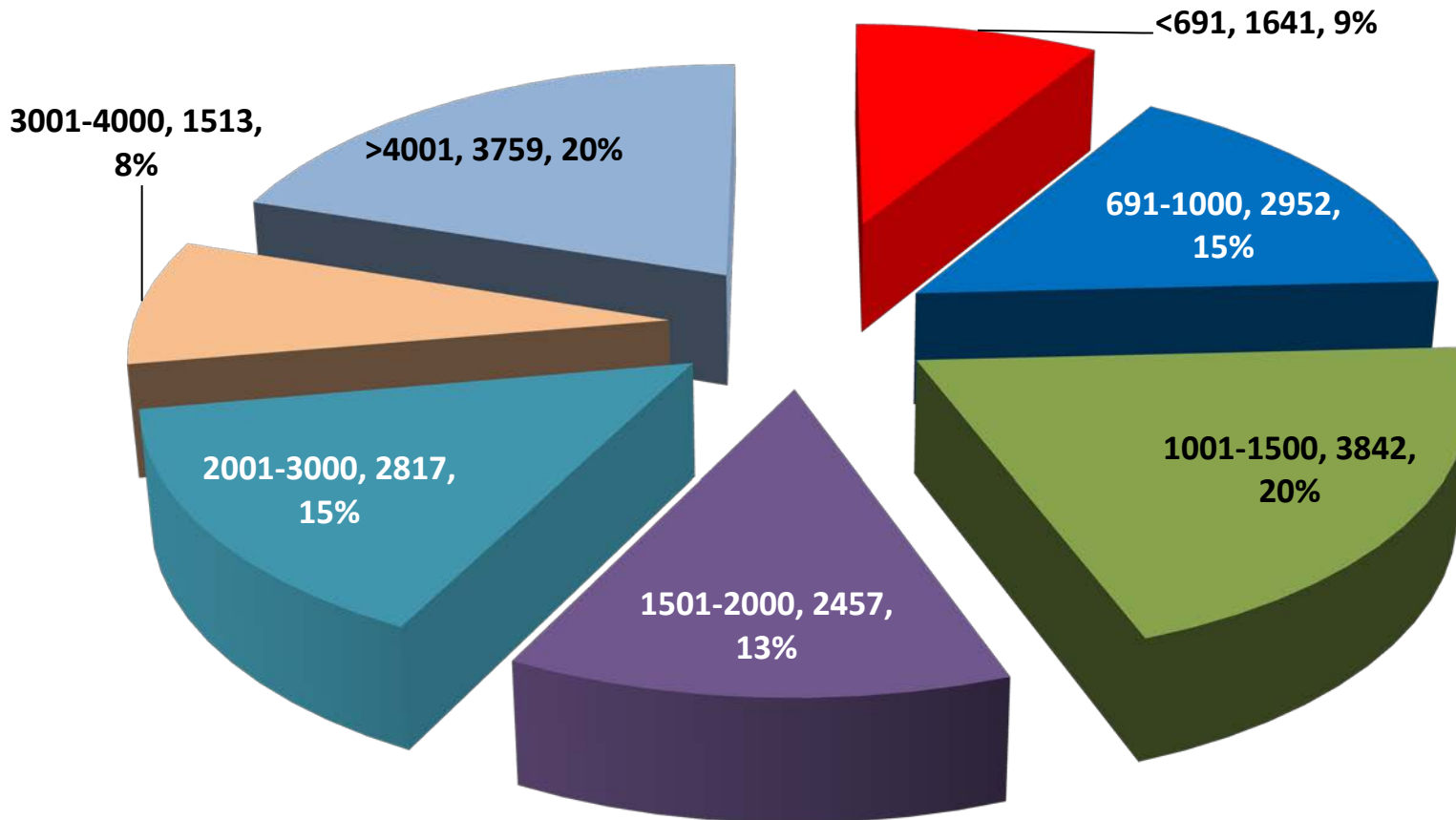
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Poverty Among Fishermen	Poor household	Hardcore poor	Total Fishermen
Household Income Survey 2004	20,695 (29.7%)	5,882 (8.3%)	69,680
e-Kasih 2006 (poverty database)		2,036 (9.0%)	22,745
Traditional fishermen 2008	1,604 (38.2%)	340 (8.1%)	4,201 (total 15,974)
Bruit Island (2010)	1,668 (93.7)	36 (2%)	1,780



Income Categories





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Gender Perspective in Poverty Eradication



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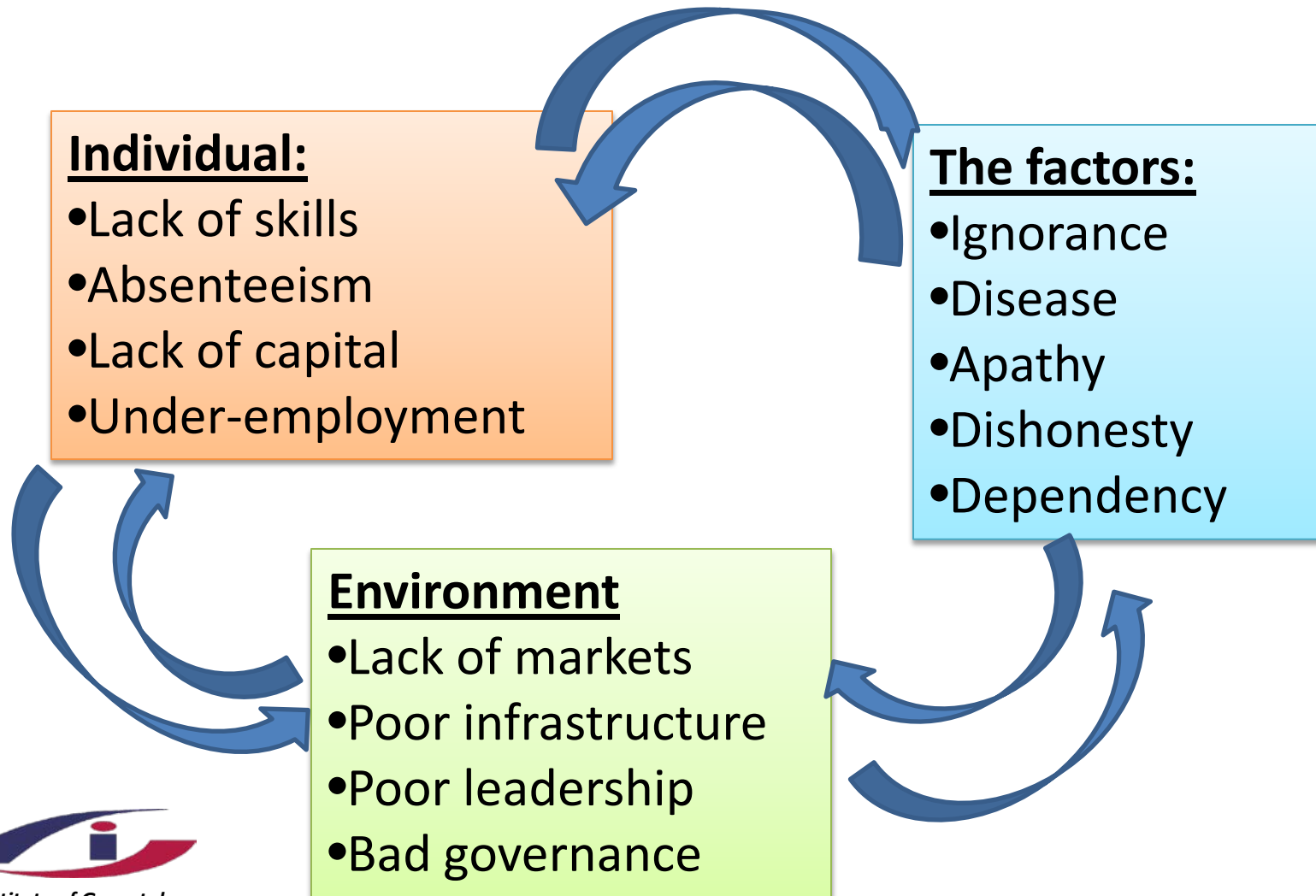


Gender Perspective

- Poverty eradication programs targeted the household heads (automatically men).
- The gender perspective looks at the impact of gender on people's opportunities (men and women), social roles and interactions
- Poverty is a multi-dimensional social problem.



Poverty As Social Problems





Gender Issues in Poverty Eradication

- Fisher women marginalized, discriminated and deprived of their rights to receive support since fishermen=men (example: Bruit Island, Sarawak) due to gender stereotype.
- Women's roles invisible and unrecognized.
- Focus on income poverty eradication only.
- Women only program addressing practical needs, lack of integration in the mainstream development





Recommendations

- Redefine poverty target: the head of households
- Regards poverty as social problems
- Focus on family as unit and identify the most at risk persons and the potential contributors to poverty eradication program in the short term and long term to ensure sustainability.
- Increase gender sensitivity among policy makers, program planners and researchers to rethink assumption and practice



**Rethinking Assumption
Rethinking Practice**

**Gender-sensitive
policies**

Gender-neutral

Interventions intended to leave distribution of resources and responsibilities intact

Gender-specific

Interventions intended to meet targeted needs of one or other gender within resources and responsibilities

Gender-redistributive

Interventions intended to transform existing distributions in a more egalitarian direction



Conclusions

- Despite growth in the fishing sector in Malaysia, poverty remain a concern especially among small scale aquaculture and fishing communities.
- Lack of sex disaggregated and household data to enable better understanding of poverty among fishing households.
- Mainstreaming gender in the fishing sector.





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Thank you



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