Caribbean fisherfolk perspectives on gender equality in the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines

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Led by UWI-CERMES, with partners to conduct applied interdisciplinary research and outreach to better understand and assist with policy and practice concerning gender in Caribbean small-scale fisheries. Focus on gender in SSF Guidelines and in the countries of CRFM and CNFO.

http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/gift/overview.aspx
Context: geographical scope of RFB and NGO
Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)

Caribbean hypothetical EEZs — shaded areas are Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States
Caribbean Sea ~2 million sq km
17 countries of CRFM and CNFO
Purpose

Rough and rapid scoping of perspectives of mainly CNFO fisherfolk leaders on content of the Gender section (No. 8) of the SSF Guidelines in their CRFM countries and fisheries
Methods

Design survey
• Content from SSF Guidelines
• Simple, quick ratings

Implement survey
• CNFO fisherfolk leaders network
• Communicate electronically

Analyse data
• Exploratory Excel
• Limited by sample size, type

Validate findings
• Fisherfolk invited to provide feedback
Survey question equality topics

Societal level
- Treatment in society
- Opportunities in society
- Equality backed by legislation
- National gender policy on equality

Fishery level
- Fisheries management and development needs met
- Discrimination in fisheries
- Participation in fisheries decision-making
- Participation in fisherfolk organisations
- Access to capacity development
- Access to formal credit
Survey Results

Caribbean Fisherfolk Perspective on Gender
Composition of the sample

- Locations: 13 CRFM countries
- Sample size: 38 respondents
- Male: 62%
- Female: 38%

Sample variation by age
- 20-30: M- 62.5%, F-37.5%
- 31-45: M- 70%, F- 30%
- 46-60: M-72.7%, F-27.3%
- 61-65: M-all males

*Sex and age undetermined for some of sample*

Both men and women had mainly secondary and tertiary education.
Societal level findings

- **Treatment in society**
  - 80% do not agree that men and women are treated equally

- **Opportunities in society**
  - 68% said women and men have equal opportunities

- **Equality backed by legislation**
  - 45% said men and women have equality backed by legislation

- **National gender policy on equality**
  - 57% indicated being aware of a gender equality policy
Fishery level findings

- **Fisheries management and development needs met**
  - 65% disagreed that the needs of men and women were equally taken into account

- **Discrimination in fisheries**
  - 58% said no discrimination against women in fisheries exists in their country

- **Participation in fisheries decision-making**
  - 53% do not agree that men and women participate equally in fisheries decision making processes
### Fishery level findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in fisherfolk organisations</th>
<th>50% do not agree that women and men are encouraged equally to actively participate in fisherfolk organisations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to capacity development</td>
<td>76% reported that there is equal access to fisheries technical services, training and others for capacity development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to formal credit</td>
<td>71% said men and women have equal access to credit from financial institutions</td>
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Some comments on gender equality

“Everybody should have equal rights in my country, we need more education for women as far as fishing is concern”

“I really do think women are responsible for placing a glass ceiling and limiting themselves. Reducing their involvement in the industry”
Conclusions

Inequality is greater in Caribbean societies generally than fisheries specifically, but in both men and women are not treated equally.

Inequalities exist in several topics included in the SSF Guidelines.

Both men and women are aware of the need to achieve equality.

There is much for the GIFT to do in Caribbean fisheries gender mainstreaming (see later presentation on Caribbean perspective).
Thank you

For more information on gender in Caribbean fisheries, and related activities, visit the GIFT web pages at http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/gift/overview.aspx