BACKGROUND

Shrimp is considered as one of the most traded fishery products in the world (Gillett, 2008). More than half of the estimated annual gross production (almost 6 million tons) comes from catching from the wild (40%) and the rest from farming (40%).

For the Philippines, shrimp production in 2012 was estimated at 10,245.98 metric tons (Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, 2013). One-third of this amount was contributed by Region VI. Within the region, the province of Iloilo contributed the biggest share with 2,793.27 metric tons (83.92%).

Specifically, sergeant shrimp (Acestes sp.) are found in shallow waters less than 50 meters in depth (FAQ, 1984). They are small, with a maximum size of 30mm and dwell in shallow water over muddy bottom.

Sergeant shrimp or locally known as “Alon” is a familiar catch in only two municipalities - Oton and Tigbauan - in Iloilo Province. The local sergeant shrimp industry has contributed to the local economy in terms of revenue and livelihood of the people from shrimp catchers to raw shrimp traders, processors and traders of processed shrimp.

As an important source of livelihood in the community, the sergeant shrimp industry needs to be examined in terms of the roles performed by the men and women to understand better the access of men and women to this livelihood towards addressing discrimination and bias.

OBJECTIVES

The study identifies and describes the roles performed by men and women in sergeant shrimp catching, processing, and trading in Oton and Tigbauan, Iloilo.

METHODOLOGY

STUDY SITE: Tigbauan and Oton, Iloilo, Philippines

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

In Shrimp Catching

Shrimp catching is dominated by men and only few were women. The principal catching tools were local line, outrigger, and swap. The tasks include pulling of nets, setting and taking of traps, unloading of shrimp from the boat, and carrying the shrimp to the commission house (Table 1).

Few women were involved in shrimping, setting, and unloading shrimp, pulling of nets and repelling of mosquitoes.

To the men, the women are seen as "source of strength.” Women prepare the food that sustains the catchers in the sea.

In Shrimp Processing

Most owners of shrimp processing businesses were male, assisted by a few female relatives. The activities that still require physical strength like scaling, cutting, and pounding the shrimp.

Women participate in the scaling of fresh/frozen of the shrimp products. It is known that shrimp processing involves the handling and purchase of shrimp products, and in the delivery of shrimp products to market outlets.

Large-scale production of shrimp paste is dominated by men. The activities involved require physical strength.

Small-scale production is dominated by women. Shrimp paste being confined with women require meticulous work.

CONCLUSION

Men and women are involved in the local sergeant shrimp industry. Men dominate the catching while women are involved in the shrimping particularly of the wholesale business. Women extend net production and the term to the sea-gate area.

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Study Participants

Key Informants