Women’s Empowerment in Aquaculture: Two case studies from Indonesia

Participation, drivers and challenges of women in shrimp farming and fish processing

6th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (3-7 August in Bangkok, Thailand).
Irna Sari and Cynthia McDougall
Introduction: Background and objective of the study

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is spearheading the Asia and the Pacific’s Blue Growth Initiative on sustainable intensification of aquaculture.
- The main focus of the initiative is promoting informed policy, good governance and improved management practices in the course of intensification of the aquaculture sector.
- The initiative seeks to enhance women’s participation and empowerment in aquaculture.
- The study objective is to generate greater understanding of if—and the ways in which—women’s engagement in aquaculture may contribute to women’s social and economic empowerment.
Context: Socio-economics of Indonesian aquaculture

Average growth 2009-2013 (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2012 (HH)</th>
<th>2013 (HH)</th>
<th>Average growth 2009-2013 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mariculture</td>
<td>183,357</td>
<td>192,871</td>
<td>13.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brackish-water pond</td>
<td>236,806</td>
<td>245,390</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater pond</td>
<td>927,755</td>
<td>966,229</td>
<td>6.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cage</td>
<td>67,874</td>
<td>56,069</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floating net</td>
<td>30,411</td>
<td>35,311</td>
<td>7.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice farming integrated aquaculture</td>
<td>221,244</td>
<td>171,558</td>
<td>-0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,670,447</td>
<td>1,667,428</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source MMAF 2014
Context: Women’s roles in Indonesian aquaculture sector

Women in seaweed farming in NTT and marketing in Karimunjawa

Women in fish processing

Women in fish marketing
Context: Socio-economics of Indonesian aquaculture

Number of people involved in Indonesian marketing and processing activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Processing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>485,758</td>
<td>524,633</td>
<td>524,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>866,245</td>
<td>832,028</td>
<td>832,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,352,003</td>
<td>1,356,661</td>
<td>1,356,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,963,829</td>
<td>1,963,829</td>
<td>1,963,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>2,882,316</td>
<td>2,882,316</td>
<td>2,882,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,846,145</td>
<td>4,846,145</td>
<td>4,846,145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MMAF 2015

Data include commodities sourced from capture and aquaculture fisheries.
Context: Gender in Indonesian aquaculture sector

Government programs such as Sustainable Aquaculture Development for Food Security and Poverty Reduction (SAFVER) Project

Barriers still exist including: gender and social norms; access to resources; and technical capacity.

INPRES No. 9, 2000
A joint decree of MMAF and MoWECP No.06 MEN-KP/III/2011

Indonesian gender mainstreaming policies

MoWECP: Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection.
MMAF: Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia

Training and business cluster development
Methodology: Case study (1) Shrimp farming and (2) homestead milkfish processing.

- Traditional (extensive), modified-extensive, to semi-intensive and intensive systems shrimp farmers in Barru District.
  - One case each for woman lead semi-/intensive and woman lead extensive systems.
- Homestead milkfish processing in Sidoarjo District, East Java; opposed to Bangladeshi case (factory-based).
  - Sidoarjo District is important for homestead processing industries
  - High degree of women’s participation
Methodology: Research questions

In what ways, to what extent, and why, are different women empowered (or disempowered) by their engagement in aquaculture?

i) What are the gendered patterns of engagement and roles women played by women in these types and nodes of aquaculture?

ii) What enabling and constraining factors shape these patterns and roles?

iii) What are the positive and negative outcomes for women in these different aquaculture roles and nodes?

iv) What factors shape these outcomes, including what enables or constrains women in successfully meeting their aspirations in or through aquaculture?
Methodology

- **Data collection methods**: FGDs (5) and interviews (30); and observation
- **Total respondent for FGDs and interviews**: 69 respondents.
- **Respondents**:
  - *Shrimp farming*: lead operators and spouses; women involve in shrimp grading; head of community; government officials (Fishery Agency).
  - *Milkfish processing*: lead operators and spouses; women and one man involve in milkfish gutting and deboning; government officials (Extension Service Agency); head of community.
- **Respondent category**: disaggregated by social-economic groups (poor-; medium-; and high-wealth groups); and sex (for the lead operators).
Methodology

• **Tools used:** Demographic and wealth ranking, Gendered roles, Benefits and costs, Enabling and constraining factors, Who decides what, Access to resources and services and Aspiration & Contributions to Empowerment using Ladder of the Ladder of Power and Freedom.

• **Definition of empowerment:** “empowerment is defined as “the expansion of people’s ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them” (Kabeer 2001: p. 19).

**Limitations:**

- Small qualitative inquiry.
- Only able to identify two cases of women led shrimp farming.
Finding: Direct engagement of women in milkfish processing and shrimp farming

- Homestead milkfish processing industries provides significant opportunity for women; poor, unskilled women and full-time mothers.
- Shrimp farming case showed low participation of women, perceptions of the work’s physical strength requirements (men’s work).
- Women involve in shrimp grading, feeding (unpaid-labour).
- Driving force: financial motivation.
- Limiting factors: socio-economics (financial; skills); social norms (gender roles and relations) esp. for shrimp farming; access to land (for shrimp farming) and training.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

WorldFish
Finding: Positive outcomes of women’s participation

**Benefits**

**Economics**
Income that can contribute to financial security; development of the households.

**Social:**
Expanding human capital (skills; knowledge); social capital, self-esteem, confidence, appreciation and respects from self-, husband, and community members.

**Determinants:**
- Social-economics group
- Gender norms and relations.

**Degrees of empowerment**
Financial; social and political freedoms
Finding: Negative outcomes of women’s participation

Costs and risks

Social judgement
Time burdens
Household well-being
Security risk

Social norms: Gender norms; and relations
Finding: Enabling and constraining factors for success

- **Human capital**: education, training, persistence, entrepreneurship.
- **Spouse/family support**: financial assistance; emotional support.
- **Social norms**: gender norms and relations.
- **Financial capital**

"Success"
Policy implications and recommendations

GENDER INCLUSION and AGENCY-BUILDING STRATEGIES

- Aquaculture programs & networks apply context-specific strategies for gender-equitable (& pro-poor) inclusion and benefits
- Multifaceted approaches applied in women-targeted programs
- Technical strategies developed/applied to reduce time burdens, increase value

GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE MECHANISMS

- Shifting gender and social norms and gender relations
- Policy supporting gender equal access to resources such as land ownership
- Aquaculture programs engage both men and women in gender transformative strategies including to enable women’s mobility and gendered role-sharing

- Both tangible and intangible barriers addressed
- More gender-equitable capabilities and enabling factors
- Multi-faceted and multi-scale social change
Thank You

Shrimp farmers and workers; milkfish business owners and workers.