CARIBBEAN FISHERIES: PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER

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### Gender In Fisheries Team (GIFT)

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.

Looks simple for the marine resources and natural scientists
More complex for the resource users and social scientists
CLME+ Project

Catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LMEs

5 year project
Co-financed by Global Environment Facility (GEF)
US12.5million

Focus
Transboundary living marine resource governance
2014-2019

Generously sponsoring the participation of Ms Nembhard at GAF6
COUNTRIES
Fisheries relevant policies

• National Gender Action Plan (2010)
  – Reduce poverty by establishing cooperatives for women in agriculture
  – Address sexual division of labour by training women in jobs previously for men and vice versa

• Draft National Fisheries Policy addresses gender
Fisheries relevant policies


**Gaps**
- Draft fisheries and aquaculture policy; no gender mainstreaming
- Few sex disaggregated data
- Limited capacity of Gender Bureau to monitor, report on and implement strategies
- No national gender sensitive agricultural census to create gender disaggregated data.
The Global Gender Gap Report
(out of 136 countries)

Educational Attainment
- Female-to-male ratio

Literacy rate

Enrolment in primary education

Enrolment in secondary education

Enrolment in tertiary education

Health and Survival
- Female-to-male ratio

Sex ratio at birth (female/male)

Healthy life expectancy

Political Empowerment
- Women in parliament
- Women in ministerial positions
- Years with female head of state (last 50)

Barbados

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</th>
<th>HEALTH AND SURVIVAL</th>
<th>POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT</th>
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ORGANISATIONS
Key organisations for promoting gender equality in fisheries

- Coastal zone management authorities
- Gender bureaus
- National fisheries authorities
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
- Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO)
- Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
- BINGOs
- Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
Fisherfolk network aiming to get a protocol on SSF Guidelines, including gender, into fisheries policy
Recommendations for women’s empowerment in fisheries poverty study

Sex disaggregated statistics are often scarce and/or outdated, and very few cover fisheries
FISHERIES
Diversity in Caribbean fisheries
Research in Barbados on Rights in the Flyingfish Fishery

- **Rural Barbados**
  - Stall Owner/ Fish Vendor/Boner of flyingfish
  - “My right to speak up”

- **Urban Barbados**
  - Leading Vendor/Hawker for flyingfish (also exporter)
  - “My right to lead and provide for myself and family”

- **Rural Barbados**
  - Carpenter/Boat owner/fisherman
  - “My right to fish”

- **Urban Barbados**
  - Conch fisherman
  - “My right to not be excluded from the Barbados fishing industry and to make a living.”
Women’s role in the fisheries value chain

**INPUTS**
- Boat owners
- Fishing gear sales

**CATCH/PRODUCTION**
- Mariculture
- Fish harvesting

**PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION**
- Fish/seafood scaling, cleaning & boning
- Processors
- Work in factories

**MARKETING/SALES**
- Trade
- Retail trade

**CONSUMERS**
- Households
- Restaurants
GENDER
Women play critical roles in providing fishery inputs e.g. gear and fuel supply
Barbados sea urchin fishery

Women divers are quite rare

Women breakers and sellers often work in family groups
Anna still knows how to land a big catch. She caught this oversized snapper off the shores of Toledo!

Growing recognition

Award-winning fisherwoman Anna Ramirez from Belize

Recognised by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
Women are common in fisheries research and management. In many places they can outnumber the men.
Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) Board

- Purple = female
- Blue = male

Women occupy leadership positions in some fisherfolk organisations.
Women in fisheries face challenges

Fisherwoman seeking better for her family
by Rosheika Grant

- The 33-year-old single mother of five toils almost 20 hours a day
- Tries to take care of family by juggling jobs as a shopkeeper and fisherwoman
- Takes to the sea at night
- Hoping to stop fishing soon because of fear for her life
- Livelihoods research needed
Sexual division of labour in harvest and postharvest jobs in Barbados

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<tr>
<th>post harvest</th>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Typical workers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fish vendor</td>
<td>mostly females</td>
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<tr>
<td>fish boner</td>
<td>mostly females</td>
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<td>fish cleaner</td>
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<td>fish skinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>processing firm</td>
<td>mostly males</td>
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<td>boat crew</td>
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<td>boat owner</td>
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<td>boat mechanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>boat builder</td>
<td>mostly males</td>
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Many women in fisheries pursue multiple livelihoods.

Based on interviews with fish vendors at Oistins, Barbados.

- **No other work but in fisheries**
- **Work in services**
  - Baby sitting overseas
  - Cane loading
  - Domestic work
  - Hotel Industry Picking cotton
- **Work in marketing**
  - Sell food/catering
  - Sell household products
  - Sell vegetables

69%
Livelihood assets of female fish vendors in Barbados

- Physical capital: Items for fish handling and storage, home space, vehicle
- Social capital: Kinship and friendship networks, child fathers, not formal organisations
- Human capital: Formal school and fisheries specific training mainly, also business management
- Financial capital: Savings accounts, credit union, meeting turns
- Natural capital: Rely on fishers, small kitchen garden produce
Seasonality impacts some fishermen more than women (e.g. fish vendors)

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Main fishing season

Off season

Community research on seasonal calendar
Limited access to investment and operational funds is main constraint identified to date.
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