

Gender Empowerment in Aquaculture & Fisheries: Strategic Considerations

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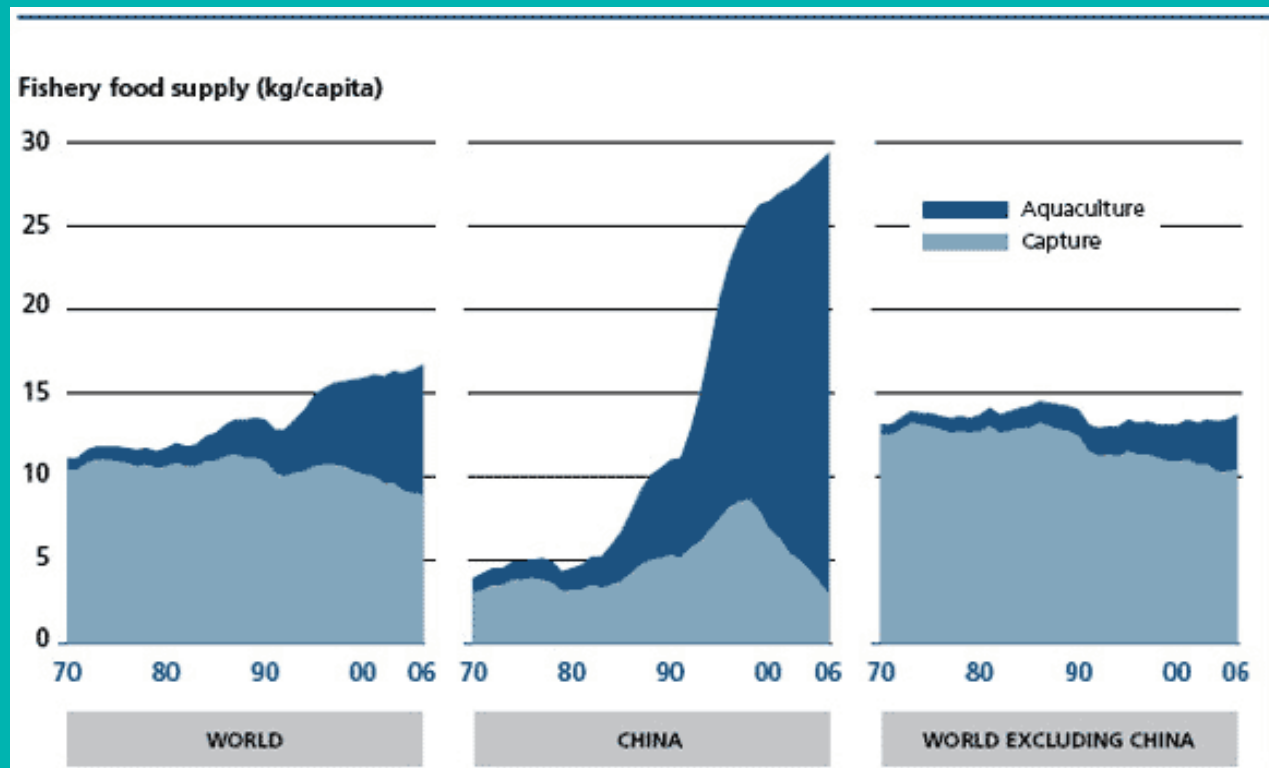
Overview

- ◆ Global importance of Fisheries & Aquaculture:
FNS + Livelihoods
 - ◆ FAO Mandate: SOFA 2010 report
 - ◆ Role of ESW
 - ◆ Gender Roles in Aquaculture & Fisheries
 - ◆ Accounting for Gender roles in A&F
 - ◆ Implications
 - ◆ Strategic Initiatives: Way Forward
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Global Significance of Aquaculture & Fisheries

- ◆ Source of Food and Nutrition Security (FNS)
- ◆ Low-cost source of protein
- ◆ Dramatic consumption increase: 110 + tons
- ◆ Shift to fish/seafood by health conscious
- ◆ Source of livelihood: **540 mil people**
- ◆ Increased/intersectional vulnerabilities (economic, environmental and social)

Relative contribution of aquaculture and capture fisheries to food fish consumption



Source: [FAO Fisheries – The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2008](#)

Framing Gender as an Intersectional vulnerability

gender/caste/class/ +

hidden vulnerabilities:

- precarious livelihoods
- male alcoholism
- gender-based violence
- commercial sex and HIV/AIDS
- widowhood

2010-11

THE STATE
OF FOOD
AND
AGRICULTURE

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE
Closing the gender gap for development



The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010

**Women in agriculture: Closing the
gender gap for development**

FAO's major annual flagship publication.

Available in English, French, Spanish,
Russian, Arabic and Chinese


www.fao.org/publications/sofa

SOFA 2010 Key Findings


- ◆ Economic & social costs of gender inequality
- ◆ costs for food security, economic growth and broader social welfare



Gains from closing the gender gap

- ◆ Productivity gains
 - 20 to 30 percent increase on women's farms
 - 2.5 to 4 percent increase in agricultural output
 - ◆ Food security gains
 - 12 to 17 percent reduction in number of hungry
 - 100 to 150 million people lifted out of hunger
 - ◆ Broader economic and social gains
 - Better health, nutrition and education outcomes for children
 - Builds human capital which promotes economic growth
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Key Gender constraints/limitations

- ◆ Lower participation in WAGE employment by women
 - ◆ Clustered in part-time, seasonal, casual/insecure work
 - ◆ Mostly in jobs/occupations with low-wages
 - ◆ Less favorable terms of employment
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Main reasons for lower productivity

- ◆ Gender disparities in access to productive resources
- ◆ Smaller farms operated by women
- ◆ Fewer investments in inputs & technology



SOFA Conclusions re: Gender equality

- ◆ not merely a social concern
- ◆ nor solely about women
- ◆ has economic implications
- ◆ reaps productivity increases
- ◆ contributes to:
 - improved human capital
 - quality of life
 - food and nutrition security

Gender, Equity & Rural Employment (ESW Division)

- ◆ Primary FAO unit responsible for gender
- ◆ Foci:
 - gender & social equity in rural employment
 - gender & social equity
 - gender in food and nutrition security
 - analytical work + evidence base (GDD)
- ◆ Technical and policy assistance
- ◆ Capacity development for member states

Women's Roles in Aquaculture & Fisheries

- ◆ In the primary sector: 5.4 mil = 12% of 45 mil
(rivers, lakes and wetlands fishing in Africa, Asia, Pacific)
- ◆ Aquaculture: High involvement
 - China = 33%
 - Indonesia = 42%
 - Vietnam = 80%
- ◆ On shore activities: net making and mending, hauling, sorting - under-counted, under-estimated, under-valued
- ◆ Processing/packaging
- ◆ Marketing/entrepreneurial/Administrative activities
- ◆ Preparation/consumer outlets: fish-fry outfits





Canadian Women fishing – circa 1908
source: City of Toronto Archives





Fish marketing women at Ahmedpur mandvi, Gujarat, India



Fish market at a wharf in Nuku'alofa in Tonga.
Source: AusAID/Rob Walker

Mending nets - Thailand



eag7533 www.fotosearch.com



Woman Fisher, Lake Victoria, Uganda







Women Fishers' Movement, Philippines, carrying out assessment

Source: Oxfam GB 2008

Accounting for Gender Roles in A&F

- ◆ **Women's invisibility or low visibility**
 - ◆ **Dearth of data in general**
 - ◆ **Data on capture fisheries & aquaculture**
 - ◆ **Paucity of pre- and post-harvest data**
 - ◆ **Minimal data on marketing**
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Implications

- ◆ Lack of evidence contributes to invisibility
 - ◆ Impediment to supportive policies & programs
 - ◆ Under-estimation of economic contribution
 - ◆ Under-valuation of FNS role
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Strategic Initiatives

1. Build the evidence base: Research, data & documentation
2. Advocacy & support for the range of roles
3. Strengthen institutional linkages & networks
4. Policy & programs to improve access to resources, services, credit/capital, technology
5. Initiatives to reduce intersectional vulnerability
6. Enhance roles across value chain
7. Invest in human capital development: literacy, numeracy, formal training/skills development

Thank You

