

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN CARP CULTURE ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

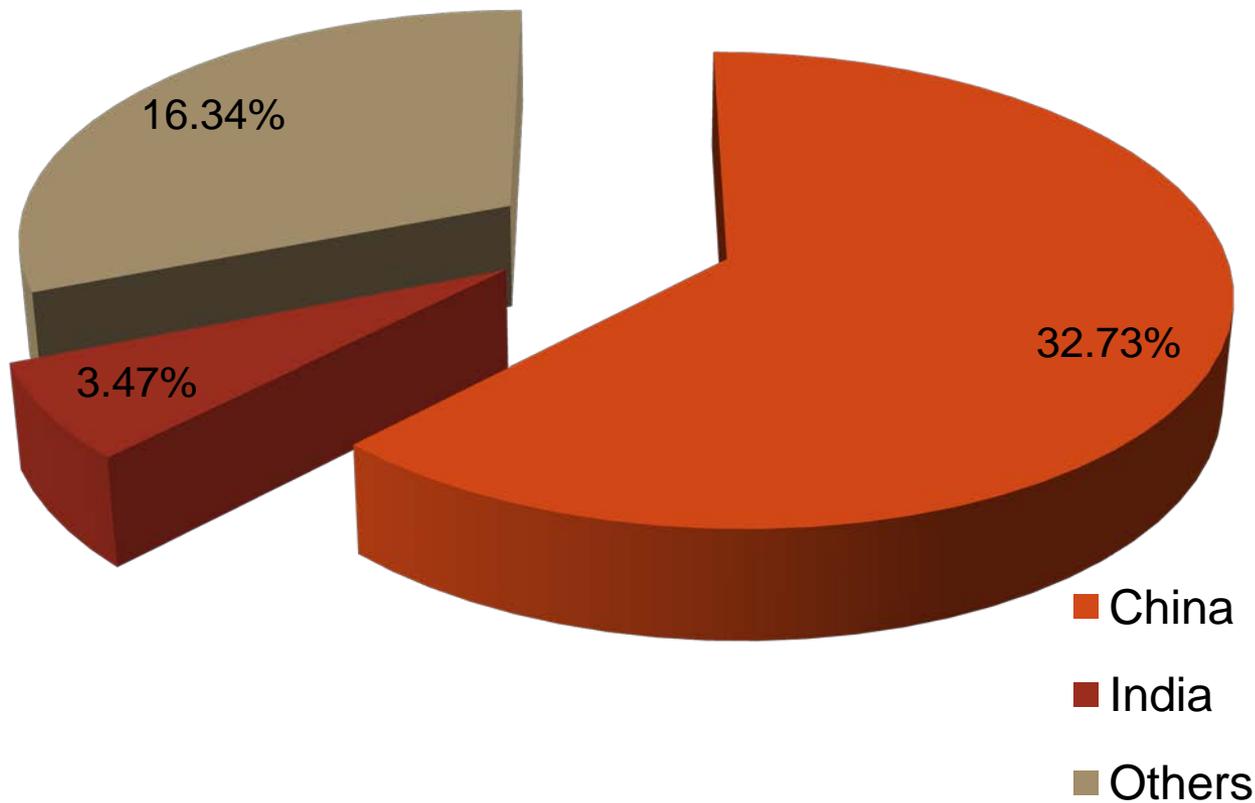
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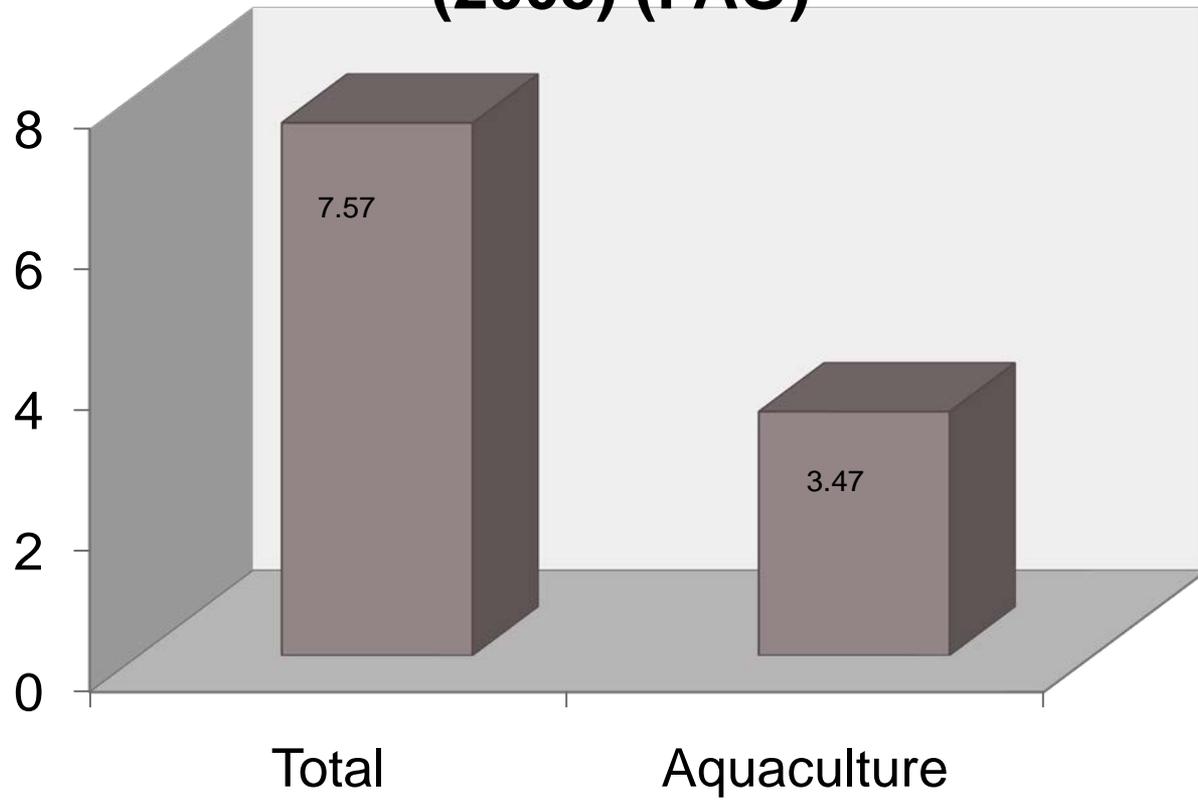


Indian contribution through aquaculture to the global fish production



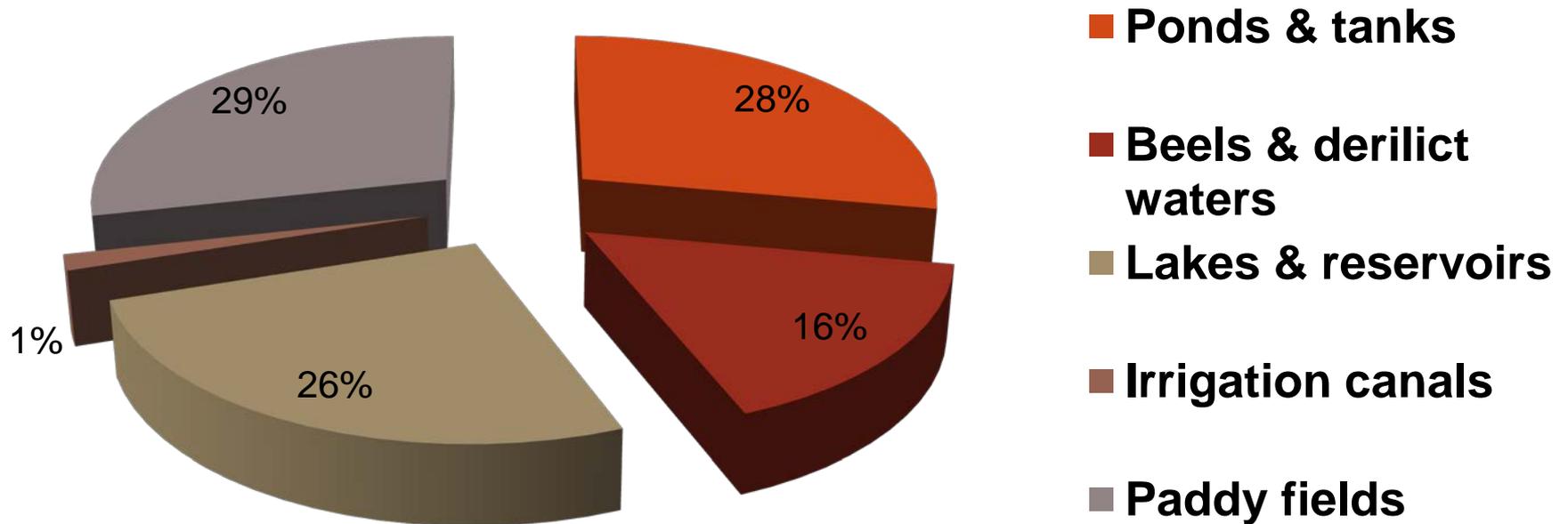
Share of aquaculture (3.47 mt) in total Indian fisheries production (7.57 mt) (2008) (FAO)

production in million tonnes



Water resources used for carp culture

Area (7 million ha) of carp culture resources in India



Only 45 % of area has been brought under culture in the form of ponds & tanks

CARP CULTURE IN INDIA

- India basically a carp culture country
- Freshwater farming system mainly concentrates on carp culture
- 3 major carps
 - Rohu
 - Catla
 - Mrigal

contribute to more than 80 % of
aquaculture production

- 3 exotic carps
 - Common carp
 - Silver carp
 - Grass carp

are additionally cultured

The Scenario

- **Carp**s account for most of the inland aquaculture sector production
- **Almost all of this production is from rural areas**
- **The study here focuses on 10 states representing different agro-climatic conditions with varied intensity of carp culture and cultural differences**
- **Objective was to understand the role and contribution of women in carp culture activities**

The 10 states have been grouped regionally into 3 categories:

1. The Northern India

Punjab & Uttar Pradesh

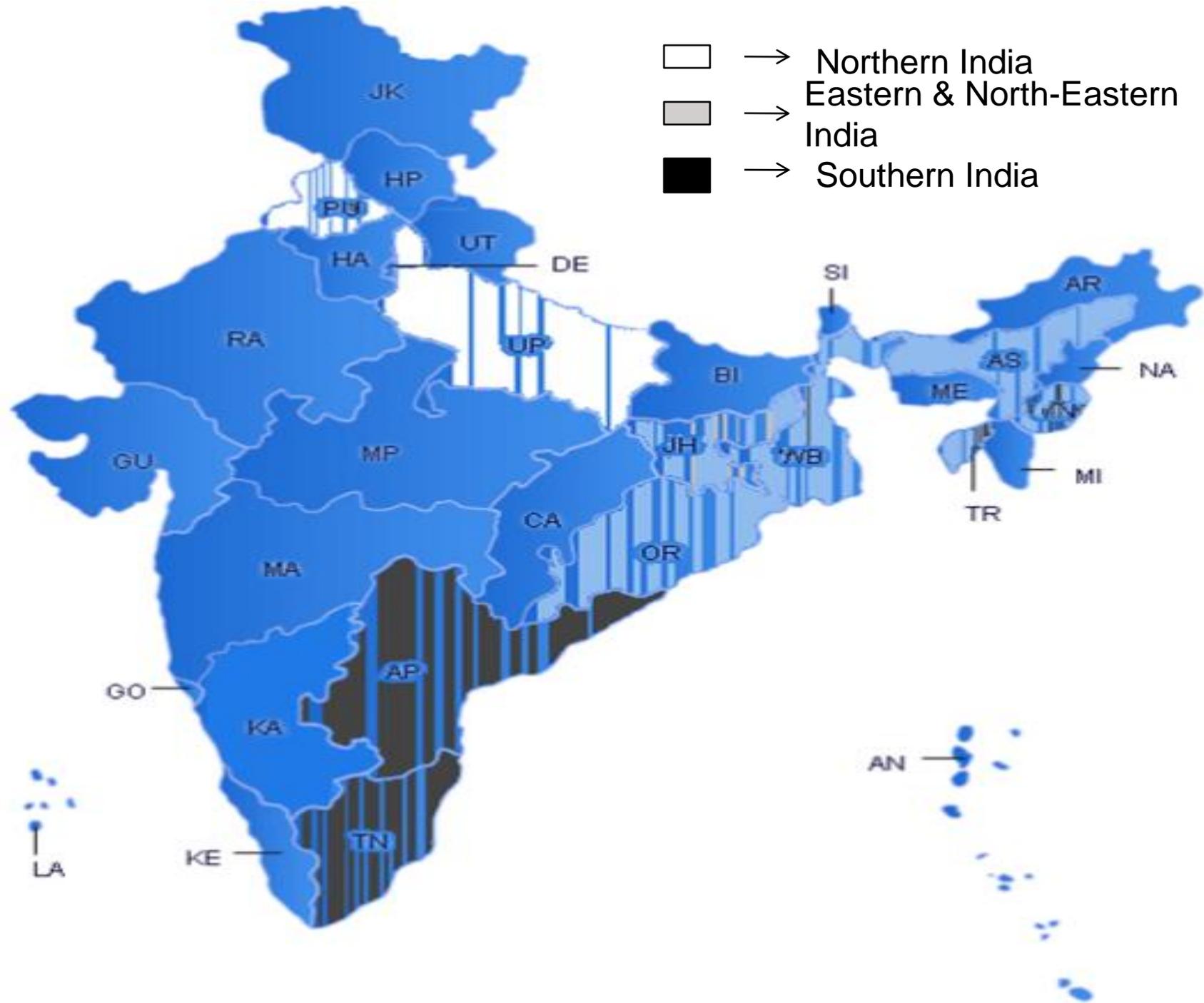
2. The Eastern and North-Eastern India

The Eastern India : West Bengal, Orissa & Jharkhand

The North-Eastern India : Tripura, Assam & Manipur

3. The Southern India

Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh



Overview

- ❏ **Women participation varied widely among the 10 different states**
- ❏ **Low participation in states like Andhra Pradesh & Punjab in spite of higher level of carp production than other states**
- ❏ **But considerable participation in states of Manipur, Assam & West Bengal in sustainable aquaculture in pond fertilization, nursery rearing, fish feeding & harvesting**
- ❏ **Greater participation of women through self help groups (SHG)**

The Northern India region



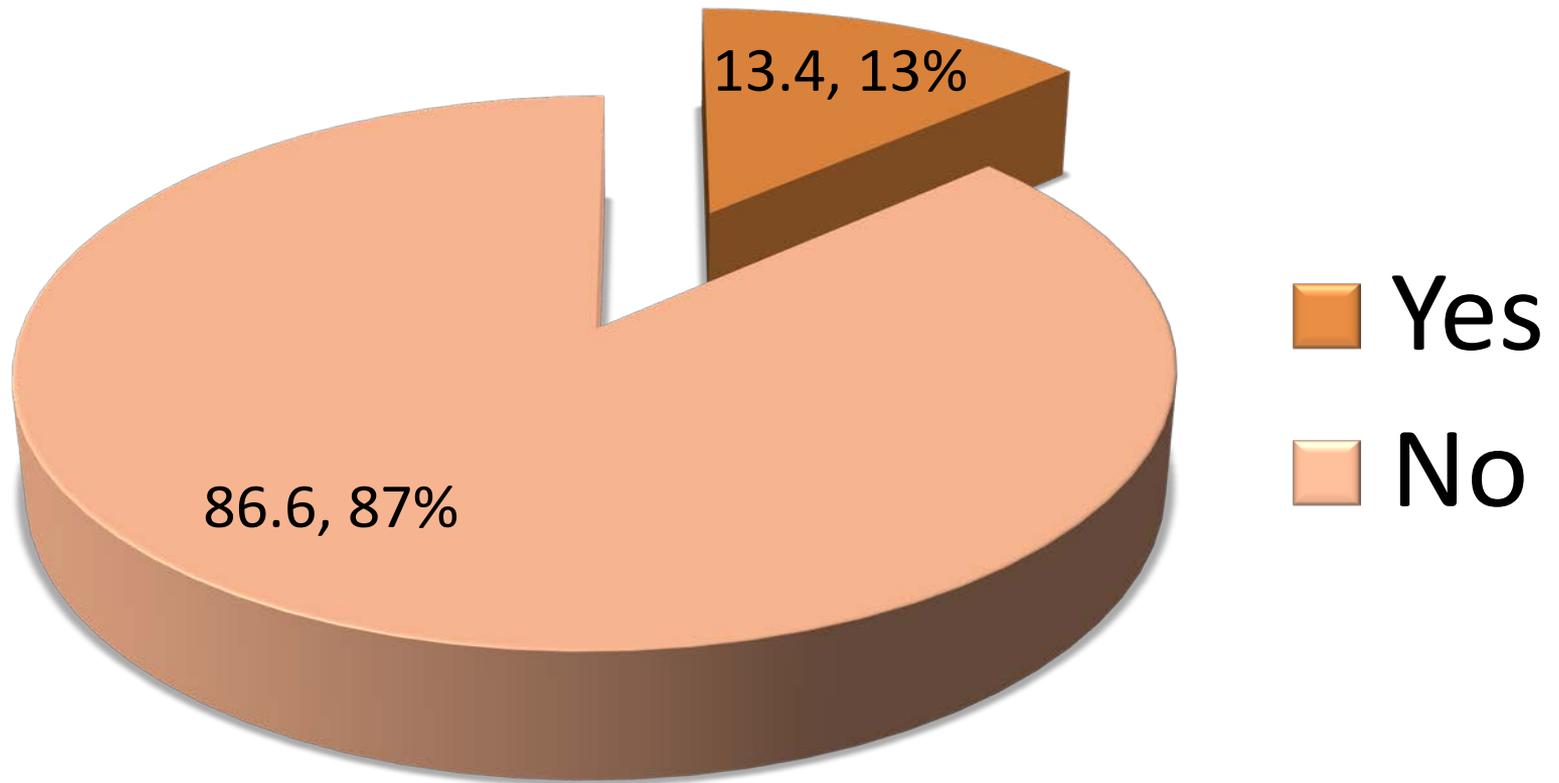
Punjab & Uttar Pradesh

Fisherfolk

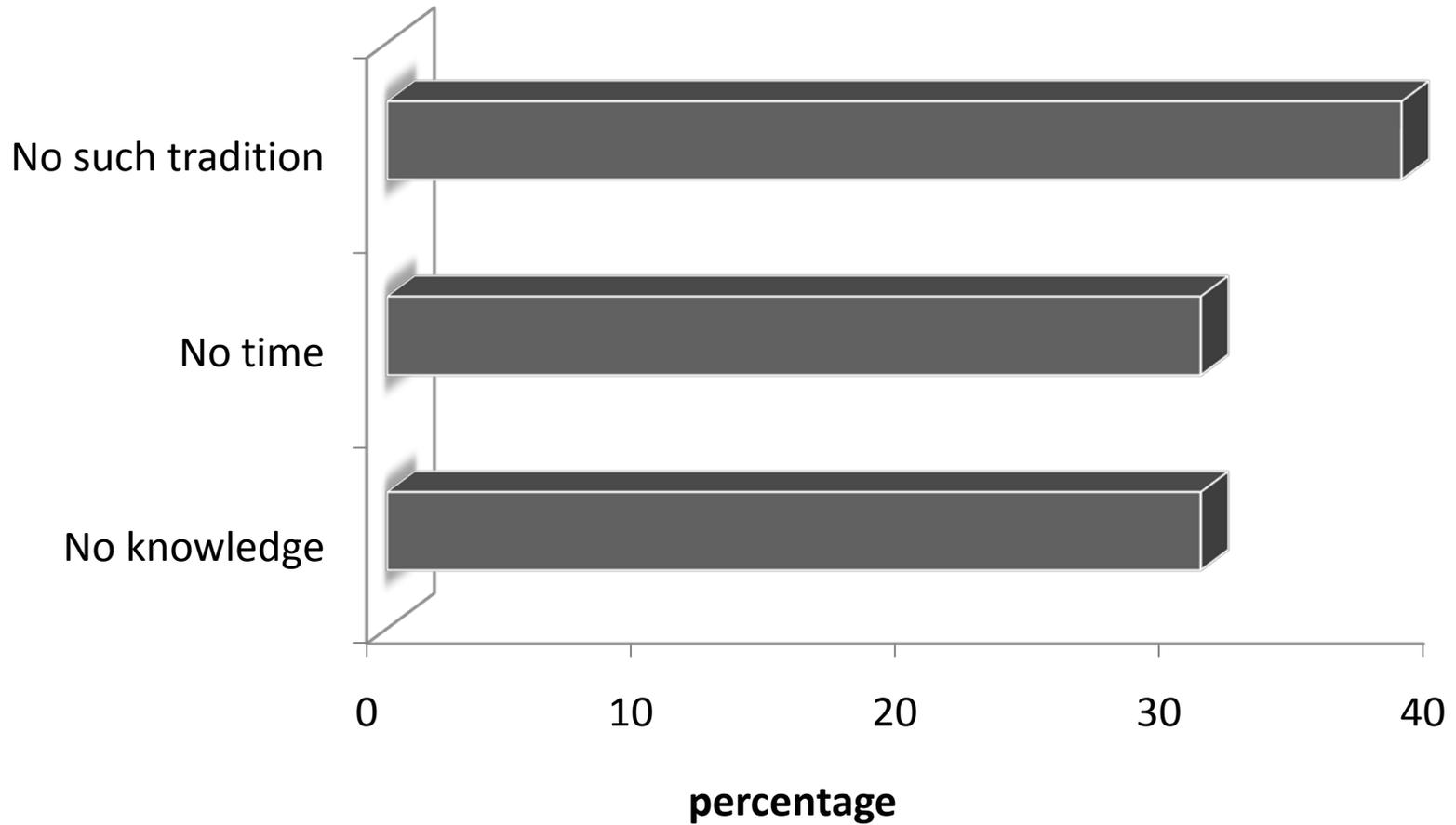
Present status

- ❑ Most farmers have agriculture as their primary occupation, & aquaculture as secondary occupation
- ❑ Women participation in aquaculture negligible
- ❑ At present community ponds in Punjab are leased out to migrant labourers from Bihar & U.P.

Women participation in carp culture in Northern India



Reasons for non-participation of women



Issues

Reasons for non-participation are mostly traditional beliefs, lack of knowledge, and priorities for household chores

Recommendations

1. Lease out community ponds to local women groups instead of migrant labourers
2. Impart more training programmes on ornamental fish culture & value added fishery products to women
3. Priority-based agendas needed from government for women empowerment

The Eastern and North-Eastern India

The states here have been grouped according to cultural similarity, as this is a vital factor in determining the participation of women in aquaculture & allied activities, especially in the socio-economically weaker sections of the society



1. Orissa

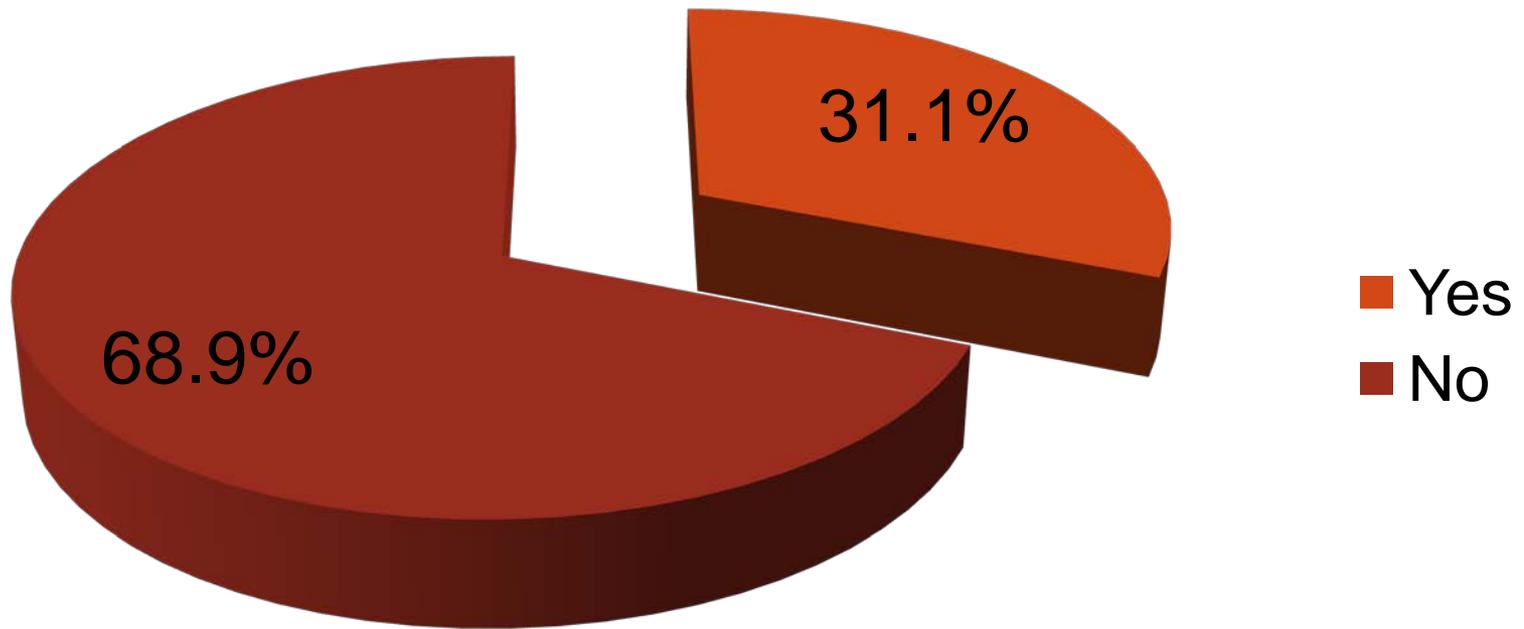
Fisherfolk

Present status

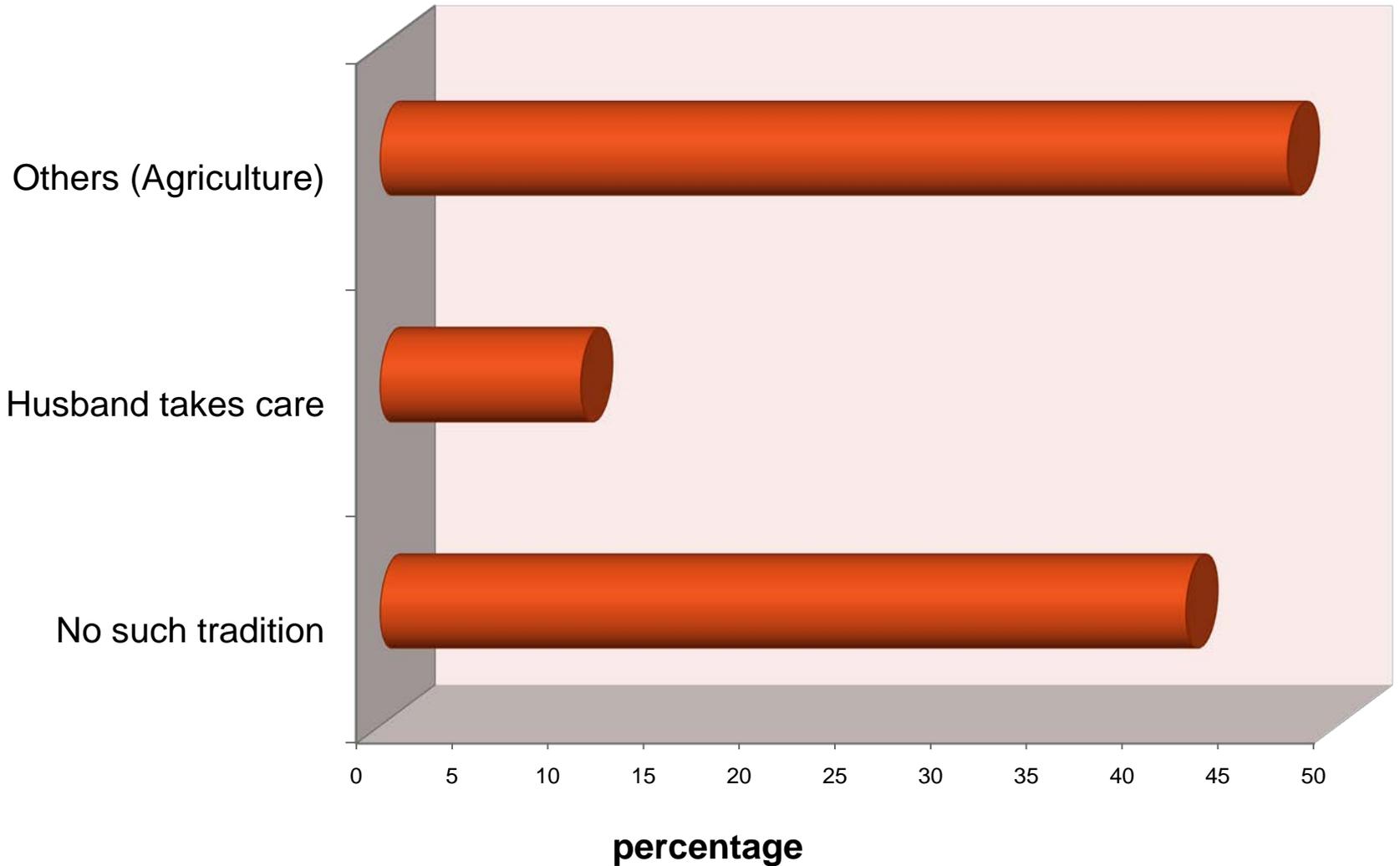
- ❑ Primary occupation of farmers is agriculture
- ❑ Over all women participation is poor
- ❑ Participation is more visible in socially weaker sections of the society
- ❑ Women from well-to-do families do not opt for aquaculture or fishery related activities
- ❑ However women from economically backward families interested to take up aquaculture if profitable returns are assured with risk coverage



Women participation in carp culture in Orissa



Reasons for non-participation



Issues

- **Social & cultural taboos**
- **Fully engaged with house-hold chores**
- **Incapability to buy inputs for financial constraints**
- **Pond-leasing under Panchayati Raj system upto maximum 3 years only**
- **Question of resource allocation to the needful**

Recommendations

- ▶ **Encourage women in economically backward families to take up aquaculture**
- ▶ **Provide financial subsidies and inputs to buy inputs along with bank support**
- ▶ **Lease out ponds to women SHGs & extend the period of leasing**

2. Jharkhand



Fisherfolk

Present status

- ❑ **Women participation almost negligible except in some marketing activities**
- ❑ **Most farmers undertake aquaculture as a secondary activity**
- ❑ **No seed production in the state**
- ❑ **Fish seeds transported mainly from other states**

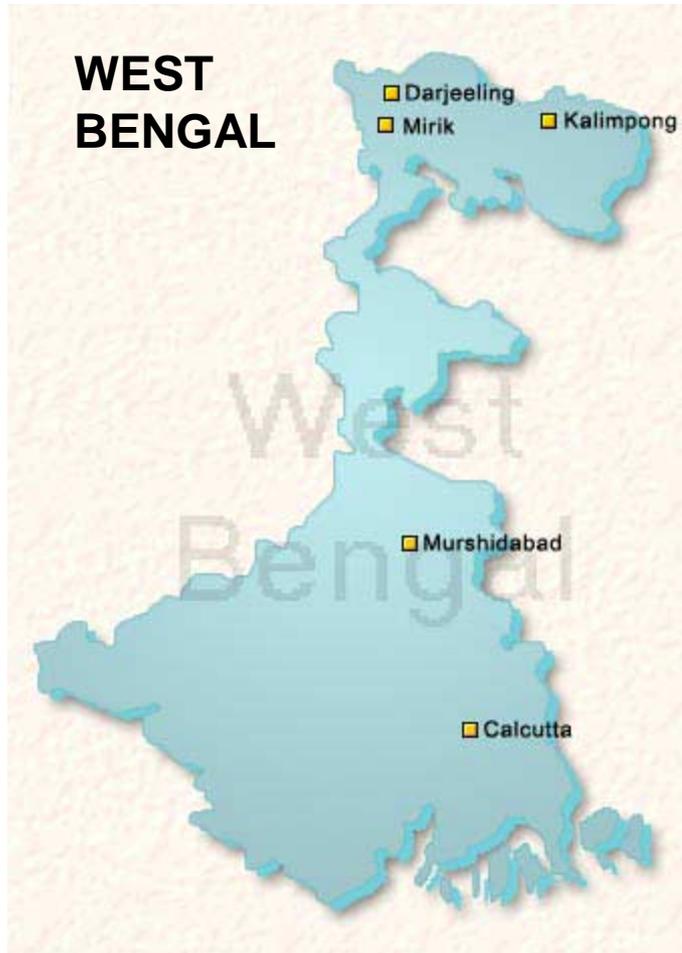
Issues

- Most of the families are vegetarian
- Women have no interest in aquaculture even though plenty resources are available
- Lack of social awareness
- Social taboos hindering women development in economically backward classes

Recommendations

- ▶ Raise awareness about fish as a nutritious food item
- ▶ Carry out extensive training programme for women development
- ▶ Demonstration of benefits of aquaculture with the available resources
- ▶ Special focus to the economically backward classes

3. West Bengal, Assam & Tripura



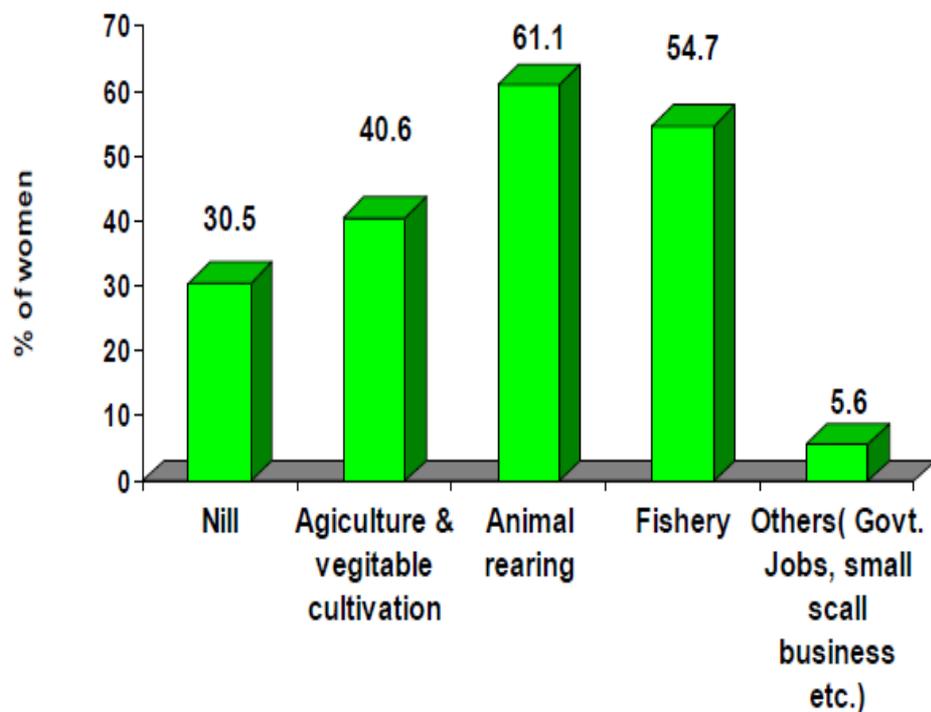
Fisherfolk

Present status

- ❑ The whole population – an admixture of tribal & non-tribal people
- ❑ No large-scale women participation in aquaculture
- ❑ Participation of women more in animal rearing than in aquaculture
- ❑ But considerable changes (15.19 % increase in production) when women participate



Percentage of Involvement of women in different economic activities other than household activities



Issues

- **Social stigma hindering women from getting down to pond**
- **Obligations to attend to household chores and bringing up children**
- **Women have no knowledge about doses & application of feed, fertilizer etc.**
- **No clear understanding about aquaculture species & quality**
- **Gender biasness while arranging training programmes**

Recommendations

- ▶ **Encourage women part in decision making process in family**
- ▶ **Women empowerment with aquaculture knowledge & skills**
- ▶ **Appoint women trainers for better technology transfer**
- ▶ **Training programme to be rescheduled according to**

Recent Programs to encourage women involvement in carp culture projects in

Assam

- Farmers Pond Development**
- Community Pond Development**
- Integrated Fish Farming**
- Beel Fishery Development**
- Women empowerment through Fish Seed Raising Programme under State Plan Scheme**

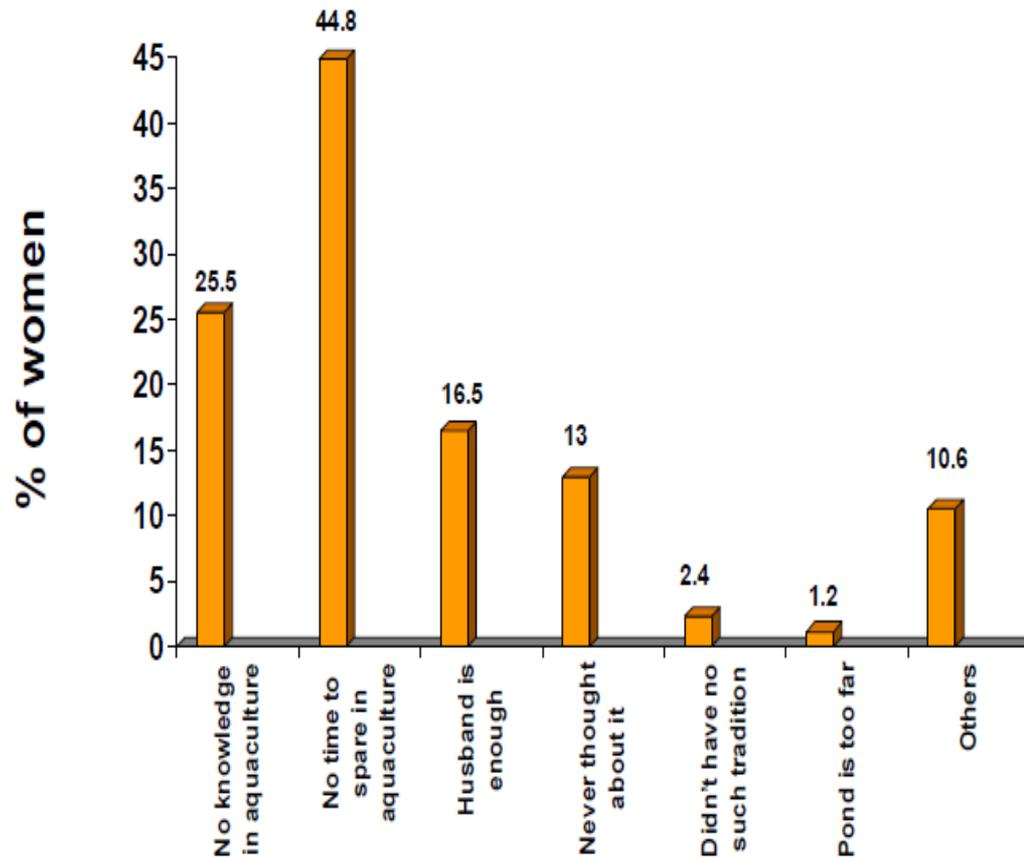
Women beneficiaries out of total beneficiaries in Assam is 11 % during the last 5 years

Constraints for women

❑ **Land holdings & ownership in the name of men only**

❑ **Women are less participatory as per family tradition in respect of outdoor work**

Reasons reported by women for non-involvement in aquaculture



Issues raised by women fishery professionals in Tripura

- ❑ Difficult to convince fish farmers about scientific farming**
- ❑ Cannot reach women from families involved in carp culture in the training programmes due to their non-participation in aquaculture activities**
- ❑ Women professionals are also concerned about their children's education & upbringing**
- ❑ Because of various reasons , women prefer jobs in cities**

4. Manipur



Fisherfolk

Present status

- **Grass carp culture predominates because of presence of soft aquatic vegetation throughout the state**
- **Special focus on women & fisheries because women participation is the highest in this state in contrast other states**
- **No social stigma in women participation irrespective of rich & poor families**

- ❑ **Interesting to note that fishing in some lakes is done by women exclusively by Chinese dip nets**
- ❑ **Women participation more in fishing than aquaculture**
- ❑ **Even though they participate in nursery rearing, feeding and exclusively marketing**
- ❑ **Participation also visible in integrated aquaculture**



Issues

- Burden of household chores
- Commercial aquaculture practices in small-scale only
- Inbreeding depression of carps
- Minimal use of manures & fertilizers

Recommendations

- ▶ Develop site-specific aquaculture policies like hapa breeding in Manipur
- ▶ More rigorous training & awareness
- ▶ Financial incentives for inputs like fertilizer & feed
- ▶ KVKs to train enterprising women SHGs
- ▶ Largely promote the socio-economic benefits of aquaculture

The Southern India

1. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh



TAMIL NADU



ANDHRA PRADESH

Fisherfolk

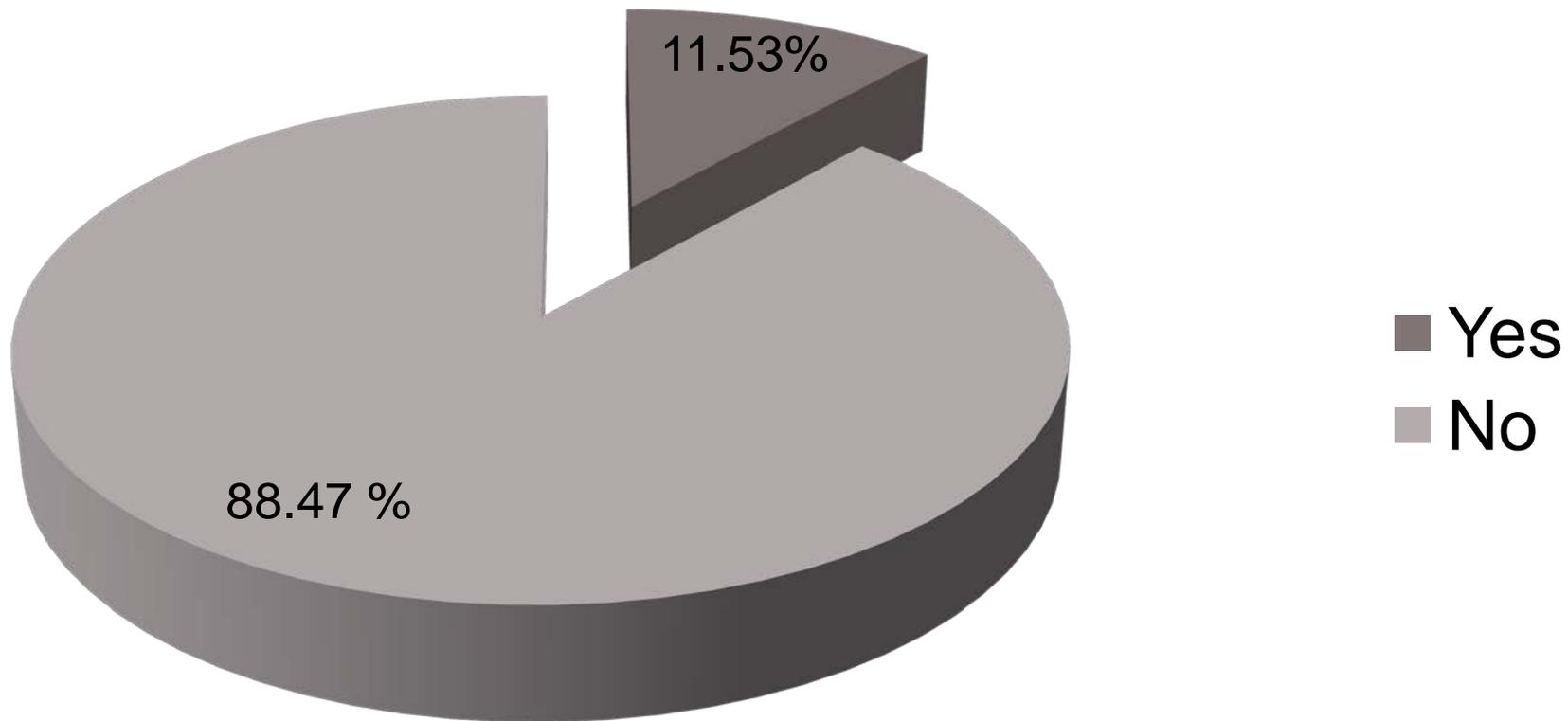
Present scenario

- ❑ Overall women participation negligible in aquaculture
- ❑ Women tend not to work in fields and ponds with the betterment of socio-economic conditions
- ❑ If any participation, only as unskilled labourers, particularly in ornamental fish culture

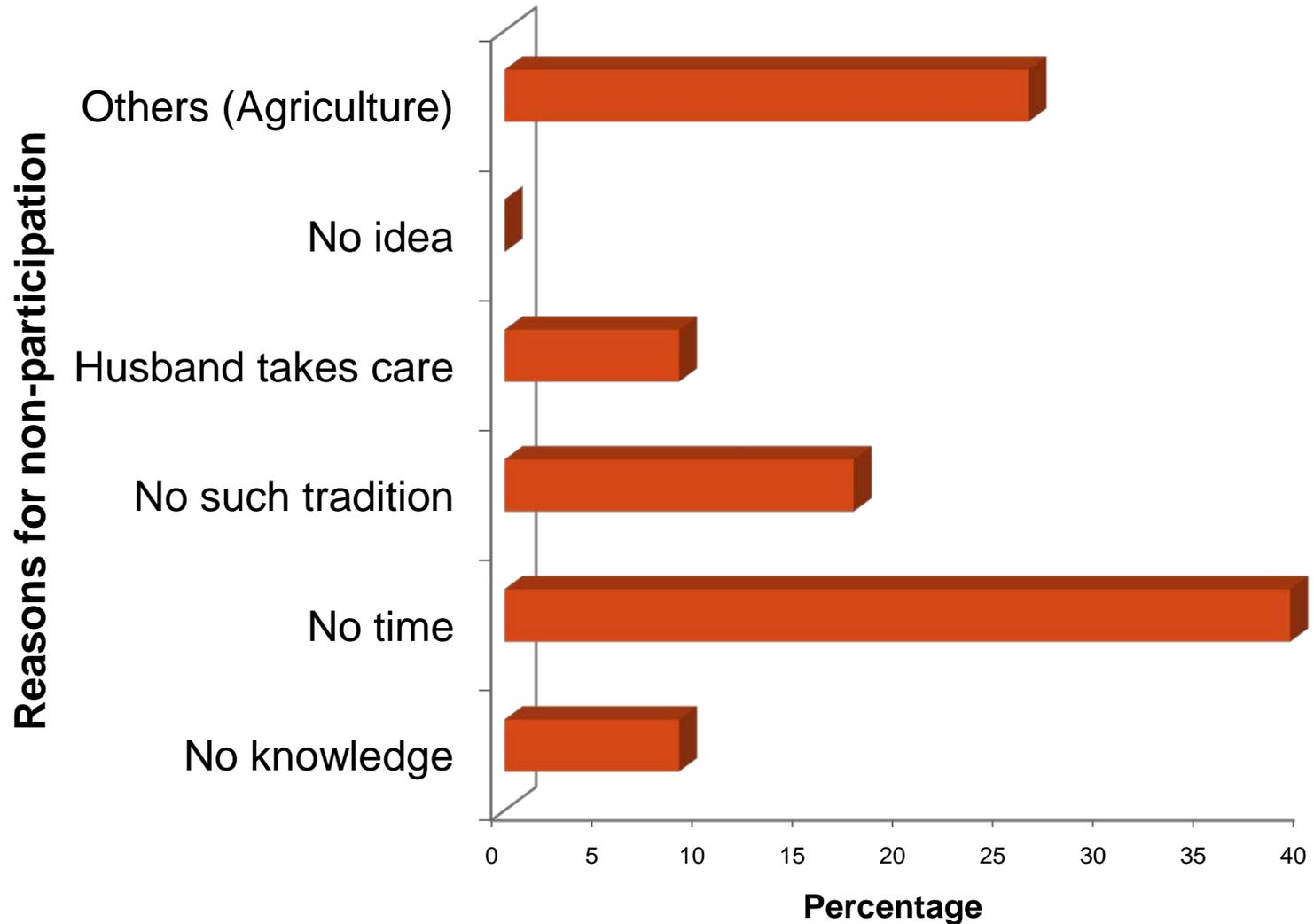
- However, women help men in post-harvest handling of fishes in capture fisheries
- Social taboos & cultural inheritance cite women participation in aquaculture as non-traditional



Women participation in carp culture in Southern India



Reasons for non-participation of women in aquaculture in southern India



Issues

- Male dominated society
- House-hold obligations for non-participation
- Lack of knowledge & awareness about aquaculture
- Poor socio-economic status of women in villages

Recommendations

- ▶ Raise awareness about importance of importance of women in family in economically backward classes
- ▶ Demonstrate benefits of aquaculture
- ▶ Impart women-focused training programmes
- ▶ Encourage women to take part in marketing activities
- ▶ Organize women to Self Help Group (SHG) for better performance

What the women have spoken out:

“We do not have knowledge about the doses & application of feed, fertilizer etc.”

“ We need empowerment with knowledge & skills”

**“We can still
harvest fish by
hook & line for
family
consumption
when needed”**

**“Develop women-
friendly
aquaculture
technologies so
that we can
involve ourselves
in carp culture
business”**

**“If we dare netting,
people compare us
with men &
compare us with
having manly
attitude”**

**“Design
special nets
convenient
for us to
harvest fish”**

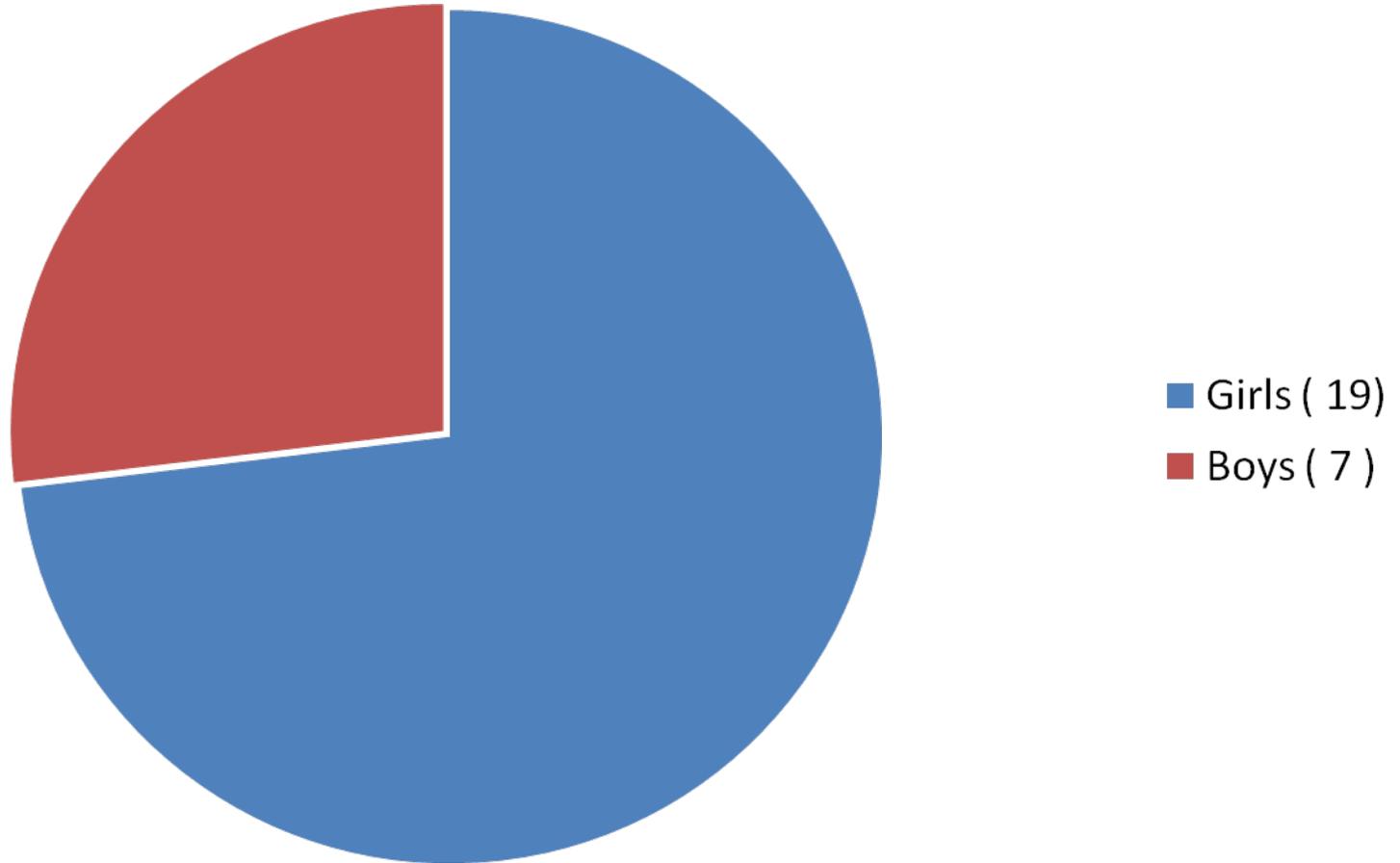
“ Not possible
for us to know
the hunger of
fish unlike pig
or cattle”

“ Evolve
mechanism to view
fish in pond easily
– UNDER WATER
CAMERA! ”

Gender status in teaching , research and development Indian institutions

- **Women Teaching staff :** **10.4%**
- **Women Scientists :** **16.42%**
- **Women Development staff:** **5.72%**
- **Number of female graduates passing out :**
13.8%
- **Number of female graduates passing out at
Master degree level:** **16.25%**

Gender distribution of rank in 26 years



Key Gender issues in aquaculture

Aquaculture need women, but whether women need aquaculture

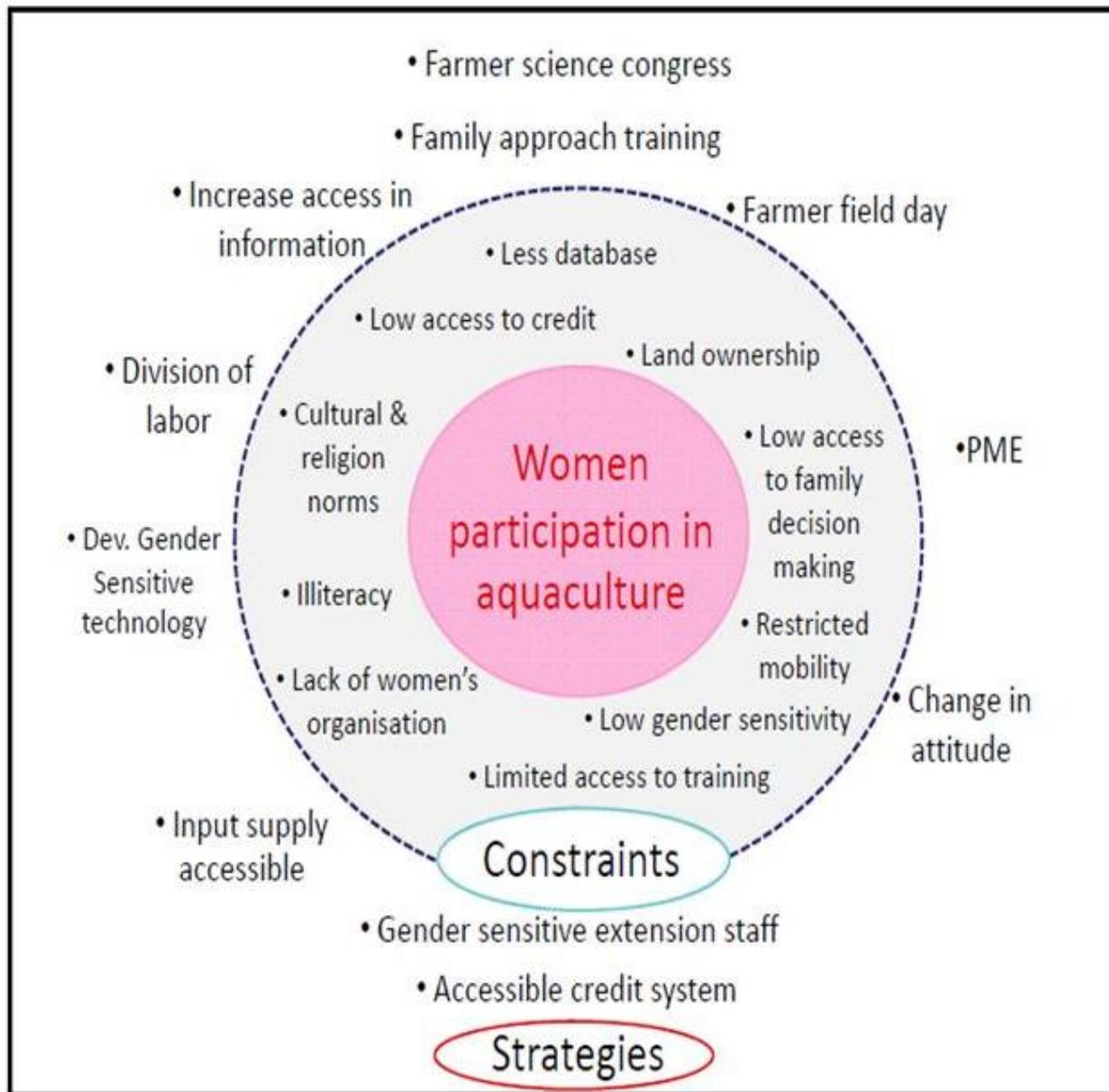
- **Land ownership**
- **Technology**
- **Access to Markets**
- **Increased urban migration**
- **Access to information**
- **Access to credit**
- **Land ownership**
- **Unequal access to final output**

Suggestions for consideration

- **Generate technologies that are woman friendly**
- **Encourage training of women by adopting flexible timings and training approaches**
- **Promote credit support that are appropriate and sustainable**
- **Promote crop insurance to cover various types of risks**
- **Celebrate Aquaculture Gender Day annually**

Suggestions for consideration

- **Enhance knowledge of aquaculture professionals on gender issues**
- **Introduce a course on gender for aquaculture students**
- **Attract more girl students to aquaculture courses**
- **Encourage Collection of gender disaggregated data**





Thank You