



MINISTERIO  
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES  
Y DE COOPERACIÓN



REGIONAL FISHERIES LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME  
FOR SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (RFLP)

-----

# GENDER ISSUES OF THE FISHERY COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF VIETNAM



**BY: Nguyen Dang Hao Ph.D**  
Hue University – College of Economics, Vietnam

# Presentation Content:

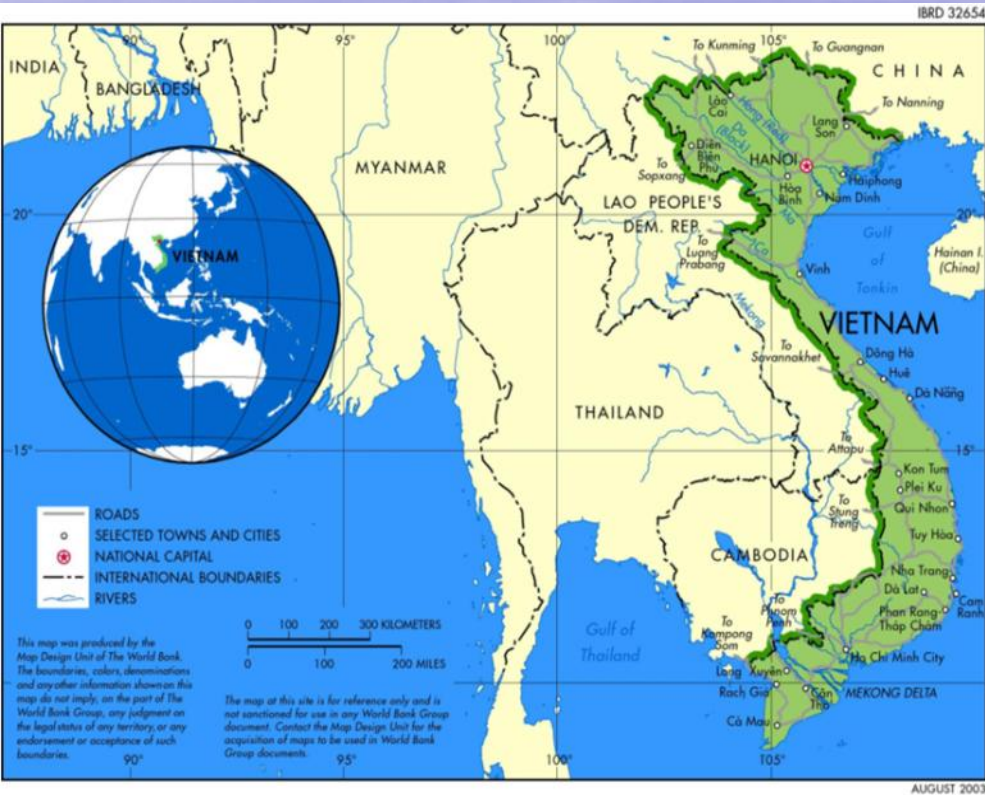
Introduction

Methodology

Findings

Conclusion and policy implications

# INTRODUCTION



## Coastal Central region

✓ ***Crowded population*** and mainly living in rural areas

✓ ***High vulnerability:***

Natural disasters: typhoons, floods, droughts

Poor resource endowment (low land area per capita, sand land infertility),

✓ ***Under-developed infrastructure***



- ✓ ***High incidence of poverty, most of them are women***
- ✓ ***Environmental degradation***
- ✓ ***Lagged behind and low-transferred economy***

# OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ Assess the existing gender relations related to economic position such as the division of labour between men and women, income, access to resources and benefits.
- ✓ Identifying the factors that influence or determine the women's access to resources and benefits, their participation in the social network and rural organizations.
- ✓ Identifying the possible policy to improve the gender issues of the fishery communities in the Central region .

# METHODOLOGY

## *Qualitative assessment:*

Participatory gender assessment  
Using several tools of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA): trend analysis, day-time use analysis, social mapping, Venn diagram, life-line, and ranking matrices.

Various relevant stakeholders at multi levels

Farmers groups

Villages

Commune

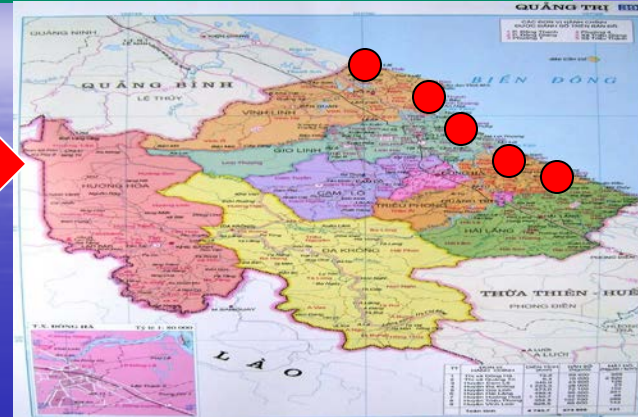
District

Province

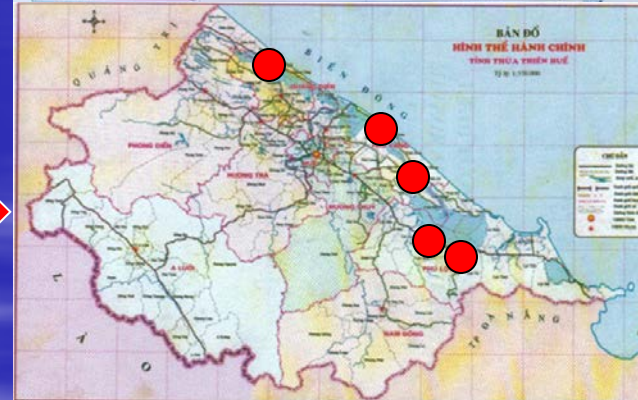


# STUDY SITES

Quang Tri: 5 communes



Thua Thien Hue: 5 communes



BẢN ĐỒ HÀNH CHÍNH TỈNH QUẢNG NAM

Quang Nam: 6 communes



# FINDINGS

## 1. Human capital

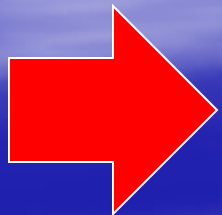
Family size:

More crowded family (6prs vs 4.3prs)

High frequency of the families have more than three children, WHY?

Traditional culture beliefs give overestimated value to the men who are mainly responsible for fishing – the main income source of the majority of the households

Every couple, husband in particular wants to have a boy



Overload to women for both birth giving and housework

Longer working day: 12-14 hours vs 9-10 hours

# FINDINGS

## 1. Human capital (cont.)

Education and access to training:

Low literacy: 80% is under secondary

About 10-15% of labor force is illiteracy, most of them are women

Majority of children stop their study earlier for involving in earning living, girls in particular

Higher dropout rate for girls since their parents give priority to the boys

Over 80% at the age of working do not have professional trainings and women have fewer access to the trainings



# FINDINGS

## 2. Access to resources

Big challenge due to open access to sea and lagoon

- Rapid increase in a number of boats and fishing nets

- Destructive fishing equipments

- Overfishing

- Low awareness about community-based as well as co-management mechanisms

Low financial and physical capitals

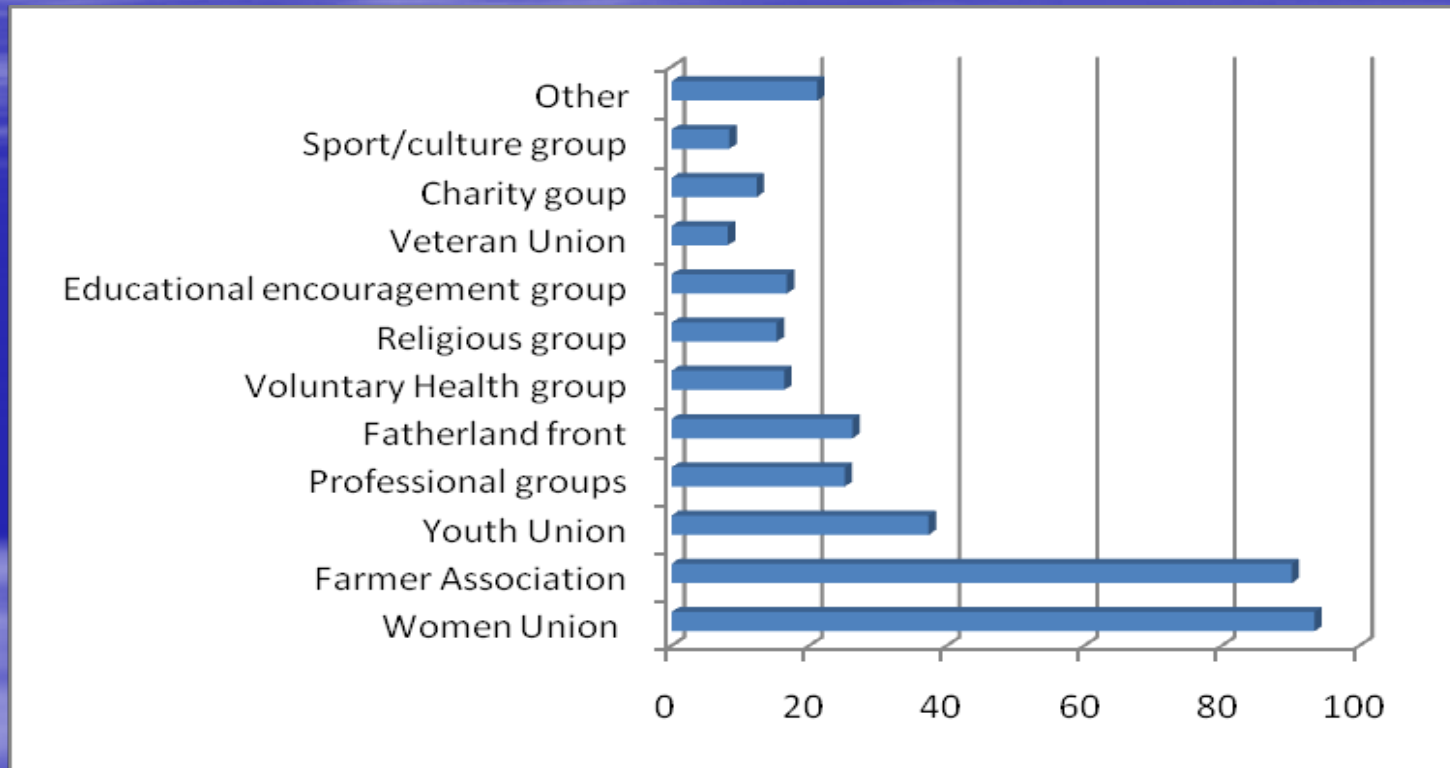
Voice of women is low for the sharing property rights since men often take more power in decision making

Women have more access to credit but they are lack of knowledge to manage loans

# FINDINGS

## 3. Access to social capital

Rate of households participating into social networks (%)

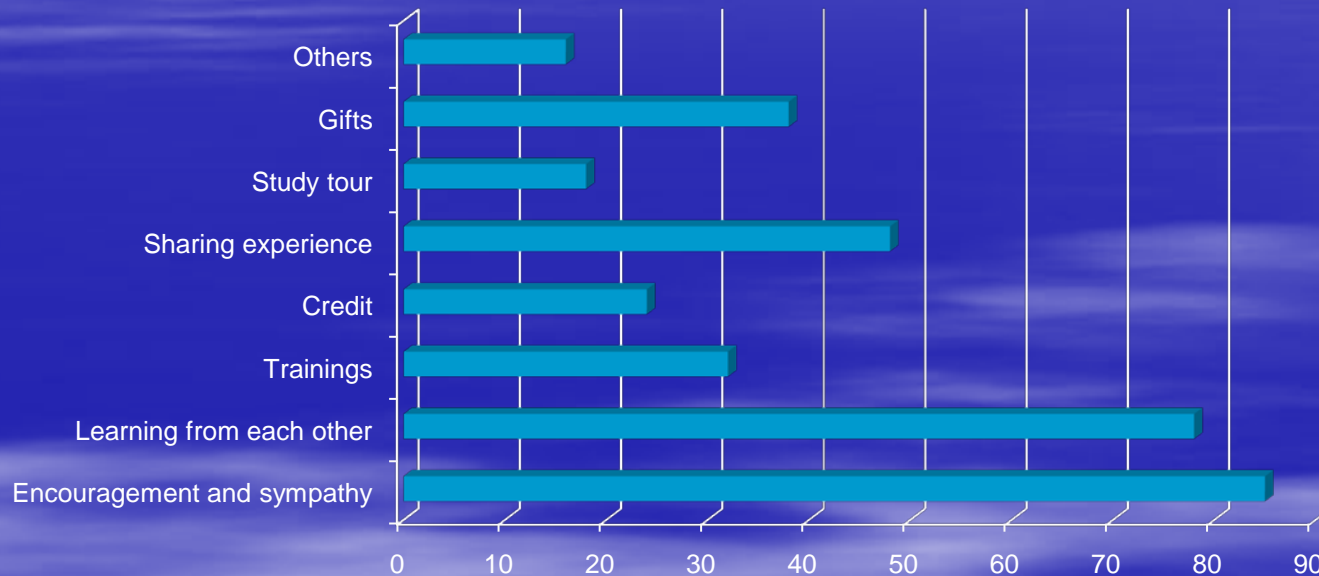


Women Union and Farmers Association are the most important organizations in the study sites

# FINDINGS

## 3. Access to social capital (cont.)

Major benefits gained from participation at WU and FA related activities (% of surveyed households)



Their participation are passive and not regular

# FINDINGS

## 3. Access to social capital (cont.)

**Women rarely participate the meetings organized by the villages, communes**

No place for women in traditional beliefs

Women's voice is less respected by men

Meetings are often at night, not suitable for women

**Low rate of women represented in the organizations at various levels: village, commune, district and province**

# FINDINGS

## 4. Main income generation activities

<b>1. Fishing</b>	4.2. Sea product trade
1.1. Onshore	4.3. Input trade
1.2. Offshore	<b>5. Processing</b>
1.3. River and lagoon	5.1. Fish sauce
<b>2. Aquaculture</b>	5.2. Dried fish
2.1. Shrimp	<b>6. Service</b>
2.2. Fish	6.1. Tourism
<b>3. Agriculture</b>	6.2. Transportation, repair, milling
3.1. Crop: rice, sweet potato, cassava, vegetable, seeds	<b>7. Hired labor</b>
3.2. Husbandry: pig, chicken, duck, cow	<b>8. Migration</b>
<b>4. Trade</b>	
4.1. Miscellaneous trade	

# FINDINGS

## 4. Main income generation activities (cont)

**Fishing is the most important, but very risky**

Natural disasters: many fishermen were annually killed  
Chanchu killed 257 fishermen, some villages became widow ones.

Fishermen high aware about regulation on safety at sea, but they are bad practice.

Fish output gradually decrease, but cost for fishing increase rapidly

**Aquaculture is new emerging, but very risky too**

Unsustainable practice

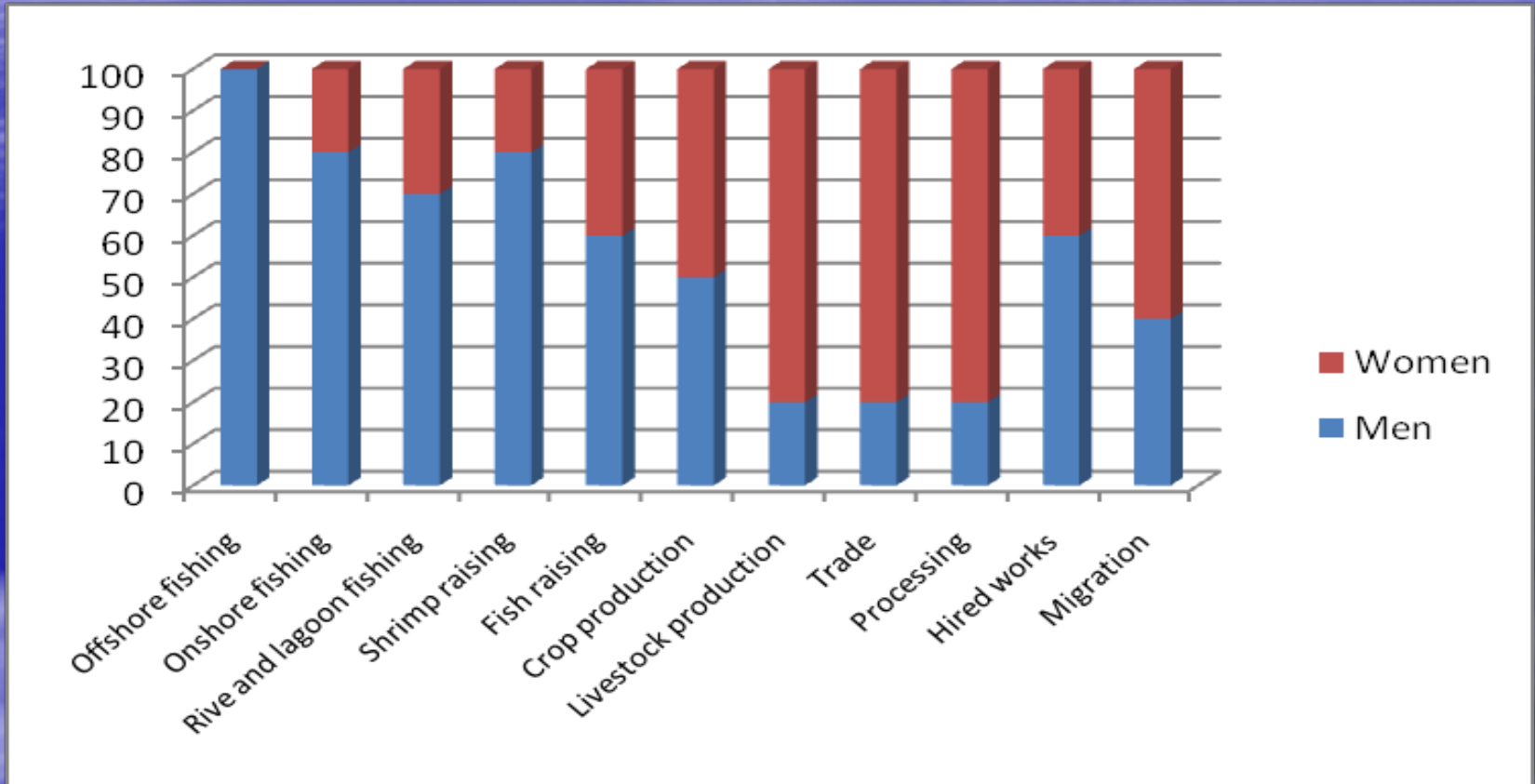
Widespread of disease

Unstable market

**Limited alternative income activities**

# FINDINGS

## 4. Labor division b/w men and women



Women are fewer opportunities to work in some activities because they are considered as bad luck

# FINDINGS

## 5. Income contributed by men and women

Women's income is lower, although their working day is longer

Fewer opportunities to work in fishing and aquaculture which could generate high income.

Most women's income is from trade, processing, husbandry and services.

Women's income of the better-off households is much more higher than that of the poor women.



# FINDINGS

*Important level of the income generation activities to the better-off households in Duy Hai commune*

	Contribution to household income (1000VND/year)	% contributed to total income	Level*	(%) contributed by	
				Men	Women
1. Fishing (boat owner)	100.000 -150.000	90	2	100	
2. Trade	120.000 -150.000	70	1	20	80
3. Sea product wholesale	100.000 -150.000	60	2	80	20
4. Processing	150.000 - 250.000	90	1	20	80
5. Migration	5.000 -10.000	10	5	30	70

**Note:** form 1=very important to 5= least important

# FINDINGS

*Important level of the income generation activities to the average households in Duy Hai commune*

	Contribution to household income (1000VND/year)	% contributed to total income	Level*	(%) contributed by	
				Men	Women
1. Fishing (small boat owner, sharing)	40.000 - 50.000	80	1	100	
2. Small collector	25.000 - 30.000	20	3	60	40
3. Small trade	15.000 - 20.000	20	3		100
4. Small scale processing	10.000 - 20.000	30	3	20	80
5. Agriculture	20.000 - 30.000	30	2	30	70
6. Hired labor	40.000 - 50.000	50	1	50	50
7. Others	20.000 - 30.000	30	2		

**Note:** form 1=very important to 5= least important

# FINDINGS

*Important level of the income generation activities to the poor households in Duy Hai commune*

	Contribution to household income (1000VND/year)	% contributed to total income	Level*	(%) contributed by	
				Men	Women
1. Petty trade	5.000 - 10.000	30	3	20	80
2. Hired labor	15.000 - 20.000	70	1	80	20
3. Others (any work)	10.000 - 15.000	40	2	30	70
4. Agriculture	5.000 – 10.000	20	4	30	70

**Note:** form 1=very important to 5= least important

# CONCLUSIONS

- Thanks to high growth of economy and support policies introduced by government, the socio-economic opportunities are significantly improved for both men and women.

-There are many disadvantages to women

Intangible barriers are existing: traditional beliefs, stereotypes, rural institutions...

Women have less access to and control over resources such as education, healthcare, information, technology, land and social capital

Due to burden of housework, traditional beliefs, women have fewer opportunities to work in the higher income generating activities. The alternative income activities are limited, most of women are underemployment.

Lower women's income makes their position low, their voice is not respected by men.

# POLICY IMPLICATION

1. More innovative solutions for better access to education, health care, social services, professional trainings for alternative jobs;
2. Gender mainstreaming should be taken account in rural development policies related to access to resources, income generation, development planning and trainings and decision making process;
- 3) More support policies for women in economic activities such as credit, trainings on starting new business, business skills and transferring technology;
- 4) Raising awareness about gender for local authorities.



Hope and smile forward future  
Thank you