



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

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

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WorldFish

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.

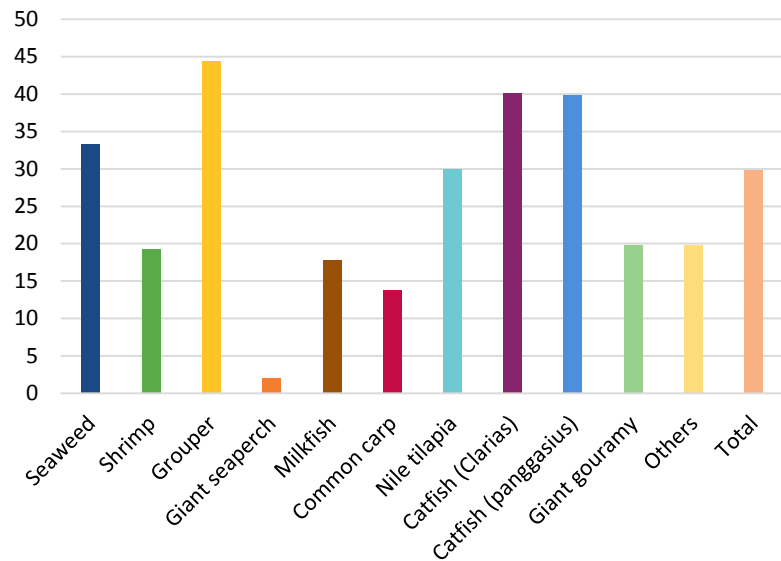


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Context: Socio-economics of Indonesian aquaculture

Average growth 2009-2013 (%)



Source MMAF 2014

Number of households involved in aquaculture

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



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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



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Context: Socio-economics of Indonesian aquaculture

Number of people involved in Indonesian marketing and processing activities

	2011	2012	2013
Processing			
Male	485,758	524,633	524,640
Women	866,245	832,028	832,035
Total	1,352,003	1,356,661	1,356,675
Marketing			
Male	1,963,829	1,963,829	1,963,829
Women	2,882,316	2,882,316	2,882,316
Total	4,846,145	4,846,145	4,846,145

Source MMAF 2015

Data include commodities sourced from capture and aquaculture fisheries.



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Context: Gender in Indonesian aquaculture sector

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

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



Training and business cluster
development

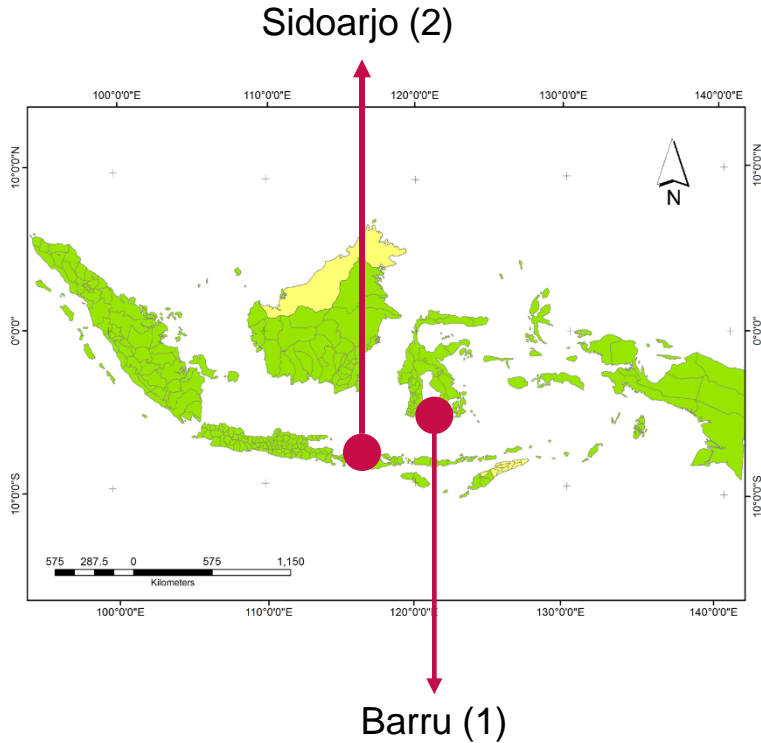
Barriers still exist including:
gender and social norms;
access to resources; and
technical capacity.



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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*



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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?



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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).



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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



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Finding: Direct engagement of women in milkfish processing and shrimp farming



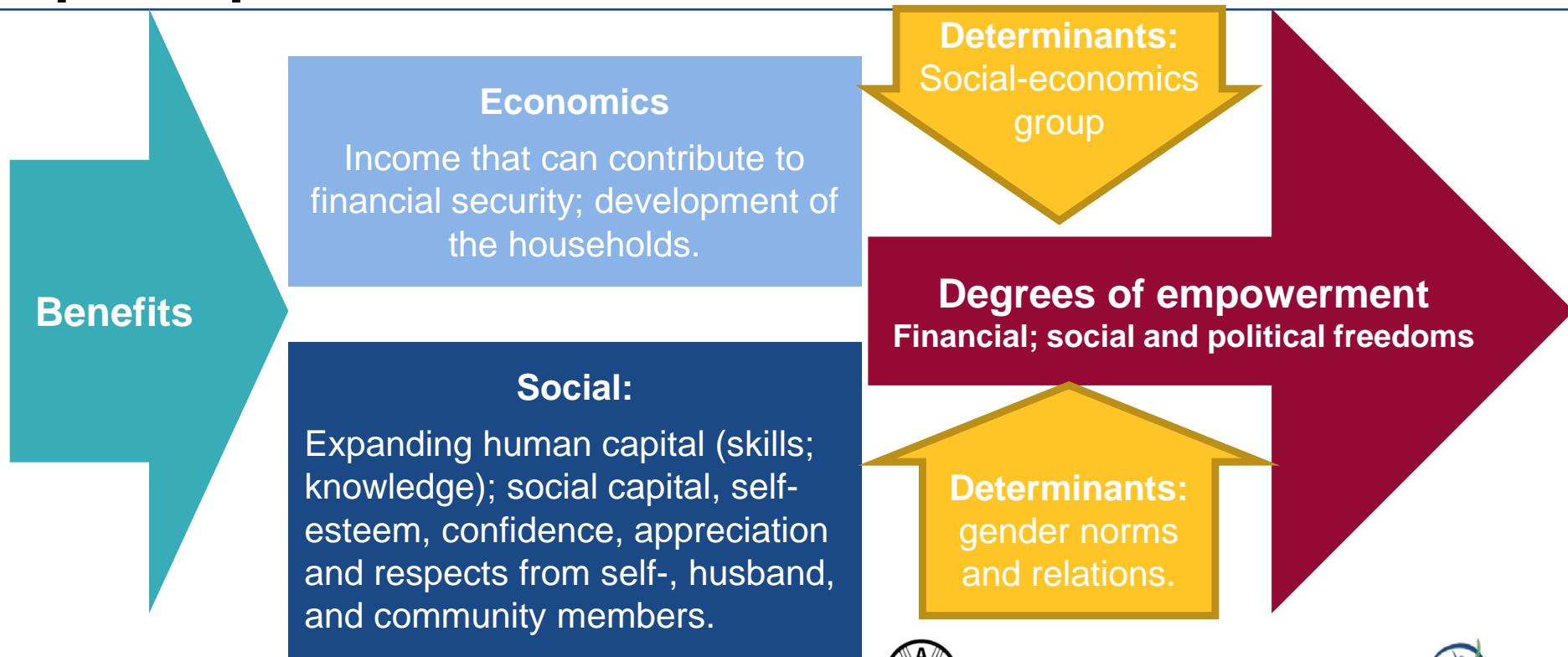
- Homestead milkfish processing industries provides significant opportunity for women; poor, unskilled women and full-time mothers.
- Shrimp farming case showed low participation of women, perceptions of the work's physical strength requirements (men's work).
- Women involve in shrimp grading, feeding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



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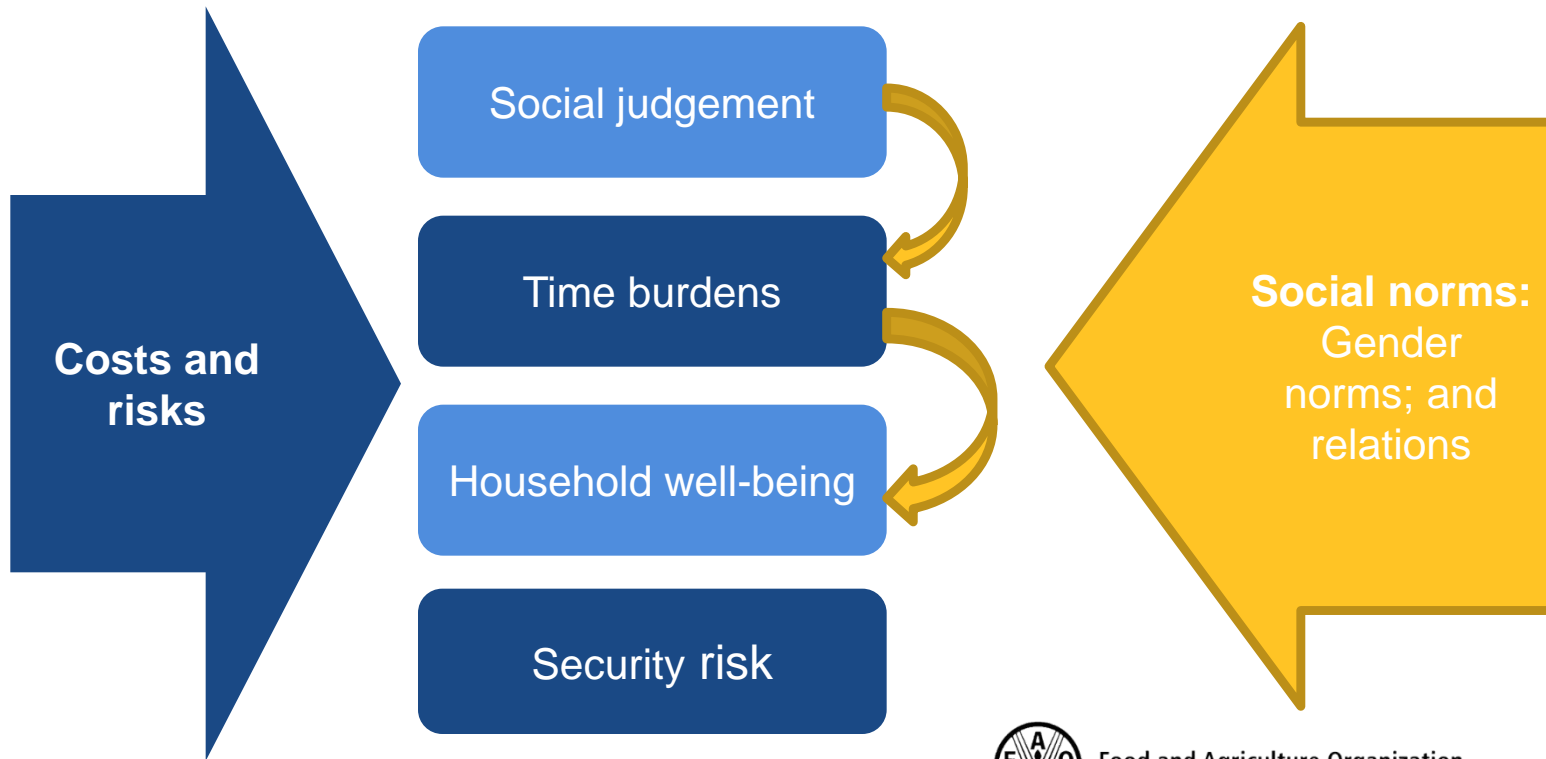
Finding: Positive outcomes of women's participation



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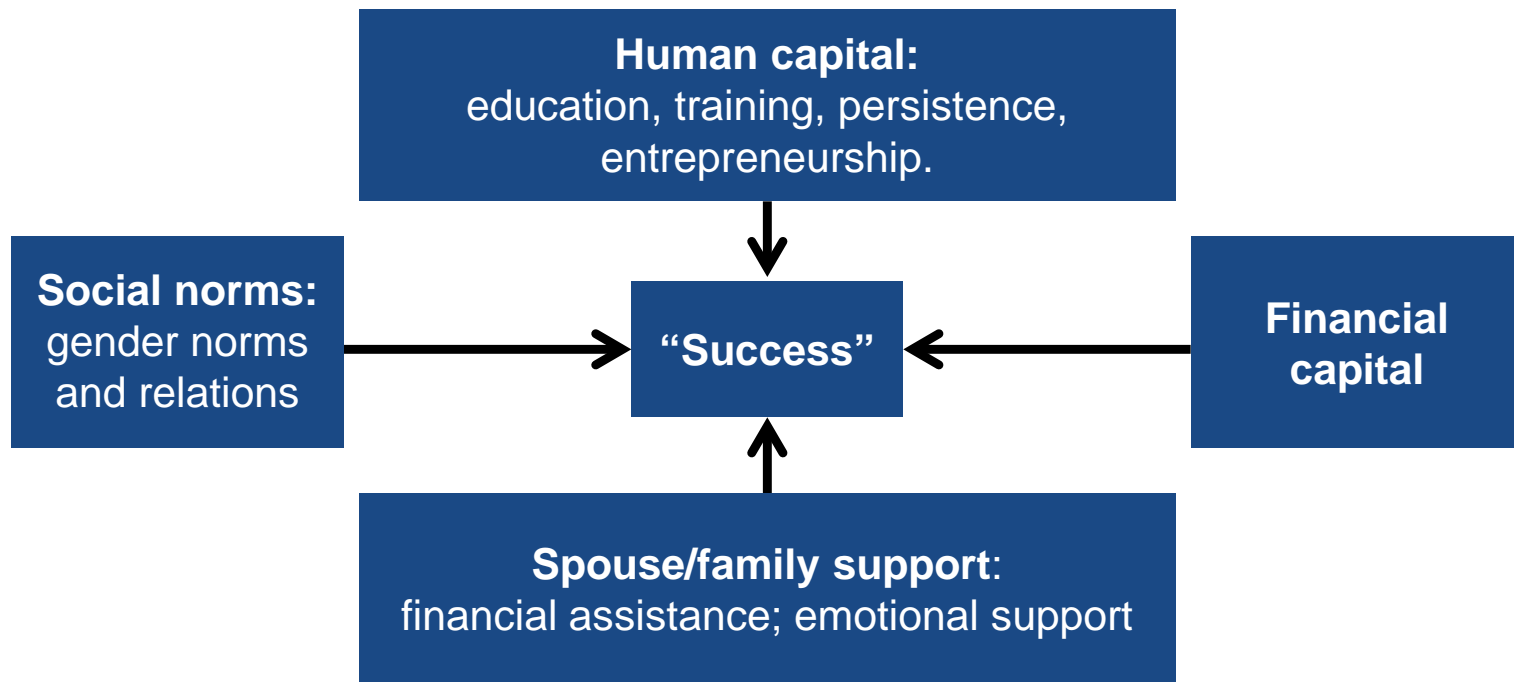
Finding: Negative outcomes of women's participation



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Finding: Enabling and constraining factors for success



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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



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Thank You



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RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Livestock and Fish



Shrimp farmers and workers;
milkfish business owners and
workers.