

An assessment of women's participation in aquaculture in southwest region of Bangladesh

Introduction

Aquaculture has an important role in the *income generation* and poverty alleviation as well as household nutrition of rural people in Bangladesh. Rural women in Bangladesh are now playing a substantial role in aquaculture, but their role is not often acknowledged and documented.

- The purpose of the present study is to *assess the level of women participation in different aquaculture* like homestead aquaculture, commercial fish culture and commercial shrimp culture in some selected areas of southwest Bangladesh.

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Methodology

- Direct observation
- Household survey (Questionnaire survey)
- Focus group discussion
- Key informants interview

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Results

- Women in 65% households were involved in aquaculture along with their male counterparts, among them 48% played active role and 17% played less active role.
- Women were more involved in homestead aquaculture (30%) than commercial fish culture (23%) and commercial shrimp culture (12%).
- Women frequently participated in stocking, feeding of fish, monitoring of ponds and partial harvesting with maximum involvement in application of feed.

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Conclusion

- Education, motivation, need-based training, credit facilities and access to quality inputs have the potentials to increase women's participation in all types of aquaculture production and management.
- Homestead aquaculture paved the way for enhanced participation of women in aquaculture.