

Gender theory and practice in an international partnership on the social economy of dried fish

Derek Johnson and the Dried Fish Matters team

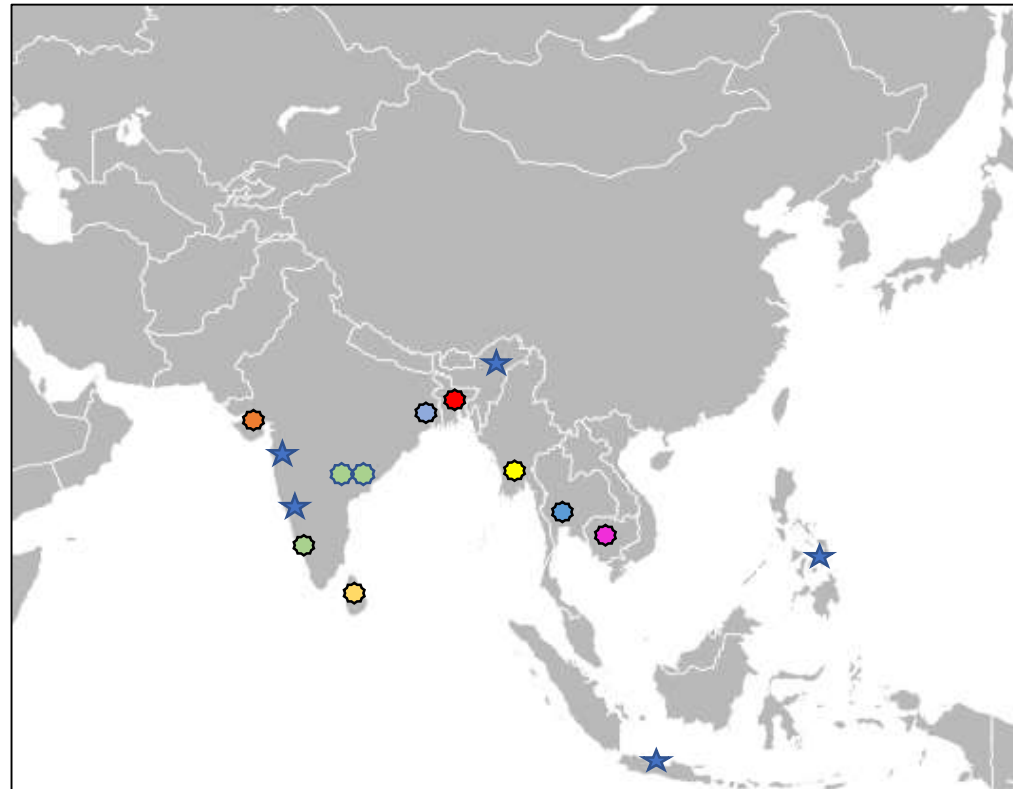
GAF8

November 21, 2022

The DFM Project

Dried Fish Matters: Mapping the Social Economy of Dried Fish in South and Southeast Asia for Enhanced Wellbeing and Nutrition

8 years in
6+ countries



DFM participants

21+ partners 50+ collaborators 5+ allied projects c.30 students



What is dried fish for DFM?



Why does dried fish matter?

Importance:

- **Economic:** portable, lasting, low cost
 - Availability, accessibility, stability
- Critical to **nutrition** security in South and Southeast Asia as complementary food
 - Utilization
- **Cultural**
 - Agency
- **Ecological:** way to manage glut catches
 - sustainability

But dried fish is neglected



How does DFM aim to address this neglect?

Dried Fish Matters: Mapping the Social Economy of Dried Fish in South and Southeast Asia for Enhanced Wellbeing and Nutrition

Four components:

1. Mapping of dried fish value chains across region
2. Studies of rich socio-economic variability
3. Food and nutrition contribution of dried fish
4. Development and policy interventions around dried fish

Gender and feminist theory in DFM

Theory and practice implications for the project

Gender, feminist theory, and social economy in DFM

Social economy: economic relations are social, political, and context-specific

- DFM addresses this through value, wellbeing, power
- Inspirations:
 - political economy
 - food systems
 - social ecological systems
 - economic anthropology and geography
 - new institutional economics
 - Interactive governance
 - feminist approaches

Gender, feminist theory, and social economy in DFM

Gendered commodity chains in fisheries (e.g. Dunaway 2013; Hapke 2018)

- Fisheries are more than just harvesting
- Work is gendered
- Women's work is productive and reproductive
- Women's work often overlooked and/or undervalued for broader systemic reasons
- Women and men's involvement and status complicated by intersectional identities and positionalities

All essential to understanding social economies of dried fish

W. A. Dunaway. *Gendered Commodity Chains: Seeing Women's Work and Households in Global Production*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2013.

Hapke, Holly M., and Devan Ayyankeri. 'Gendered Livelihoods in the Global Fish-Food Economy: A Comparative Study of Three Fisherfolk Communities in Kerala, India'. *Maritime Studies* 17, no. 2 (1 October 2018): 133–43. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40152-018-0105-9>.

Gender and feminist practice in DFM

1. Advocating policy sensitive to gender diversity in social economies of dried fish
2. *Aspiration* to greater reflexivity and inclusion in project direction

DFM panel structure

Slot today	Focus	Discussion?
11:30 to 1:00	Sri Lanka and Bangladesh	No
14:00 to 15:30	India	Yes
16:00 to 17:30	Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar	Yes