

# BEYOND TARGETTING WOMEN: ENHANCING GENDER INTEGRATION IN AQUACULTURE RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

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Aquaculture accounts for about a third of the total fish production in Bangladesh and is expanding rapidly. Development agencies see enhancing aquaculture productivity as an important means of improving food and livelihood security. One means through which they aim to achieve this goal is through providing more opportunities for women to participate in the sector. The focus on women's participation is a response to studies that have demonstrated that if women participate in agriculture or aquaculture and have access to resources and influence decision making processes then productivity and nutrition can be improved. However, the basis for these claims, the pathways through which the improvements are achieved (including through linkages to services, information and upstream and downstream value chain actors), and the benefits and consequences for equity and gender relations, all need to be critically reviewed. This paper seeks to provide this critical examination for aquaculture in the Bangladesh context. It examines how gender has been integrated into aquaculture research and practice in Bangladesh since the late 1990s, from technology design to its delivery, and how this affects technology adoption and the distribution of benefits from its use. The paper's key focus areas are: how gender integration in aquaculture research and technology dissemination in Bangladesh has changed over time; how gender relations affect the adoption, use and distribution of benefits from different aquaculture technologies; and the gender-responsiveness of different approaches to the delivery of aquaculture technologies, including the role of value chains and the packages of services offered to support uptake.

To answer these questions this paper compiles learning from: a review of existing literature, interviews with key informants involved in the sector in Bangladesh, and evidence from a focused piece of primary research exploring an identified gap in the literature that will guide WorldFish's future gender integration practice. All of this information will contribute to understanding how to enhance family livelihood and food security through providing more and better opportunities for women's sustained and equitable participation in aquaculture, both within and outside of the homestead.