

GENDER ANALYSIS IN AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN: A CASE
STUDY OF SMALL-SCALE SHRIMP AQUACULTURE IN
CHANTHABURI, THAILAND

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The aquaculture sector has a significant contribution to the Thai economy and employment. It is often considered as male dominant because of its exhaustive work involvement. However, at present, the extent of women's participation in aquaculture is significantly increasing. It is noteworthy that in South East Asia, women carry out 42-80 % of all aquaculture activities (FAO 2007).

There are not so many studies concerning gender roles in aquaculture in Thailand. Hence, it is difficult to estimate the role and contribution of women in aquaculture development in Thailand, although it has been noted that Thai women have been playing a significant role in the aquaculture value chains. A number of organizations including Thailand's Department of Fisheries have recognized the importance of gender equality and they continue to promote the inclusion of women in their projects. With shrimp culture as one of the major foreign exchange earners for Thailand, it is necessary to determine how much women are contributing to it and how shrimp culture benefits men and women producers.

The objectives of the case study were (1) to map the gender roles in small scale shrimp aquaculture in Chanthaburi, Thailand; (2) to identify and analyze the role and activities of women and men in the shrimp grow-out stage, including the gender dimensions with respect to division of labor, decision making process, benefit sharing, and access to resources including knowledge and information, and; (3) to identify the gender issues, needs and opportunities in areas such as fish health, farm management, food quality, safety and marketing in shrimp aquaculture.

The case study is focused on thirty small-scale shrimp farming households in Chanthaburi province, in the eastern region of Thailand. Chanthaburi is one of the top shrimp producing provinces in the country, contributing 13.34% in 2012 and 8.96% in 2013 of the total shrimp production of Thailand. The study also involves collecting data from primary and secondary sources along with quantitative and qualitative information gathered from the respondents relevant to the shrimp value chain. In addition, in depth interviews will be conducted with six women engaged in shrimp farming activities to provide more understanding on how gender relations and dynamics in the households and communities are affected by their involvement in shrimp culture.