

Women in fisheries and aquaculture in Nigeria: Introducing the bootstrap in the roadmap

By

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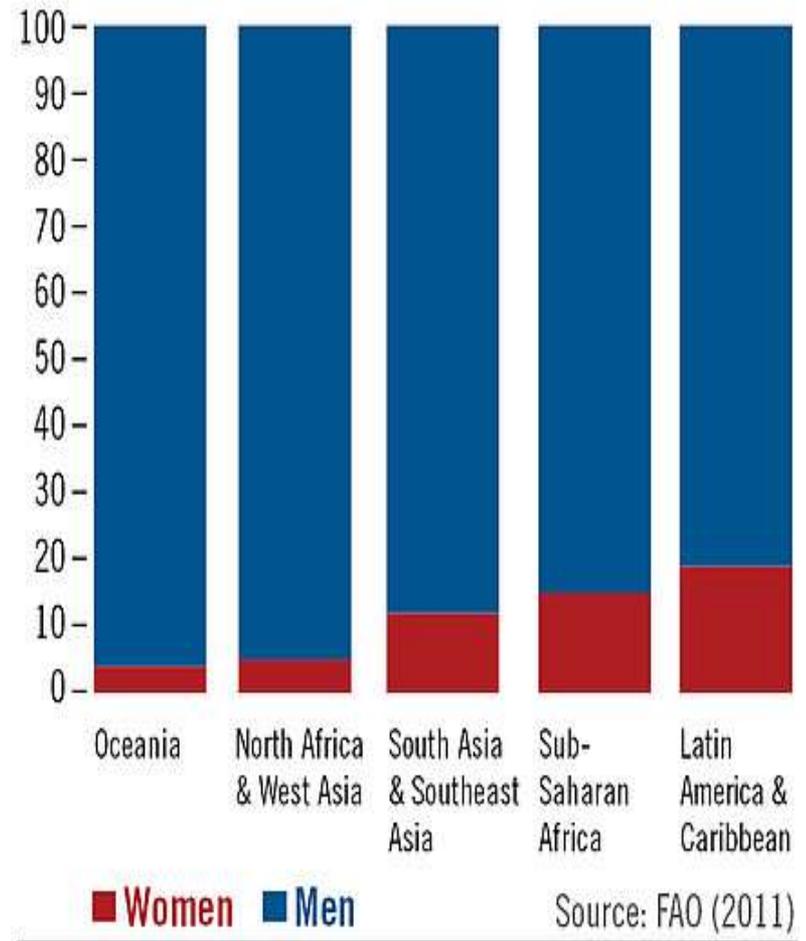
Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries: Expanding the Horizons

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Introduction

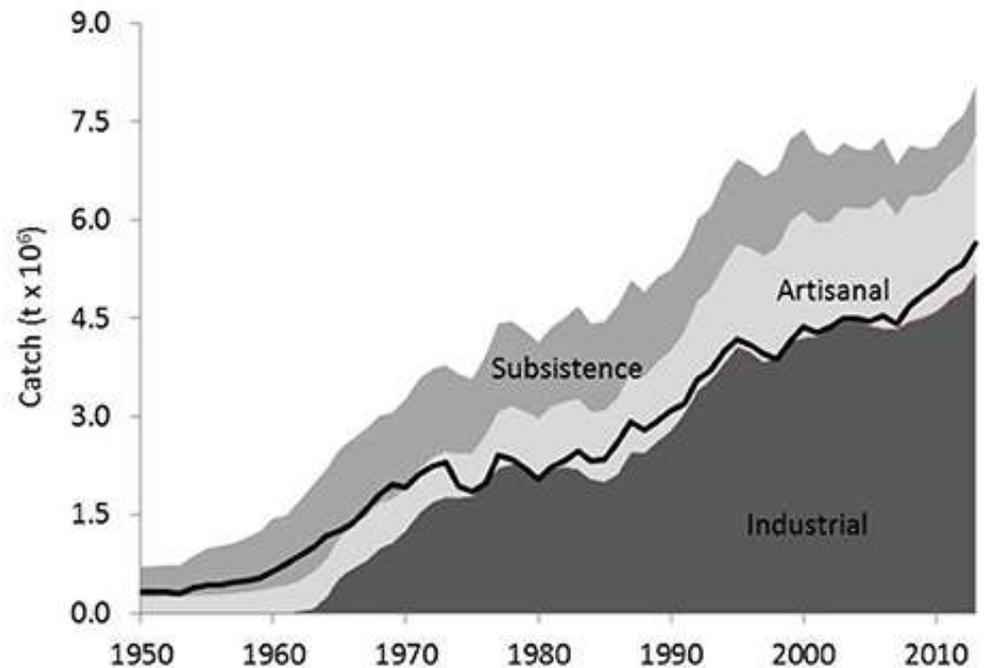
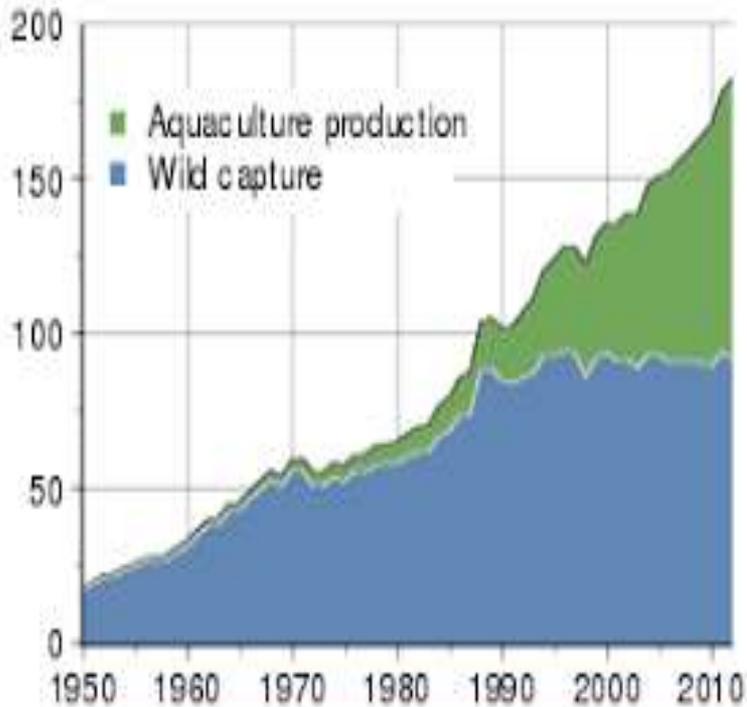
- Nigeria's fisheries sector is gender biased in terms of prominence in participation
- The female counterparts play the second-fiddle role of processing and marketing while depending on the male counterparts for major decisions

Share of female agricultural holders



Introduction

The duo of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are enormous contributors to food fish, income and employment to numerous households and also empower women around the world.



Materials and Methods



Case studies covering selected sections of the Nigerian nation, namely; Cross River, Akwa Ibom, and Lagos States, were considered a representation of the situation on ground.

Materials and Methods

- In this study, frame survey, field observations, structured interview using questionnaire in focus group discussion-setting and community-relations key informants were used
- We sought to know what roles women played in the aquaculture ventures and small-scale fisheries in the area. Questions on ownership, access to resources, decision-making/policy, and their concerns were discussed
- We also reviewed available literature and extracted secondary data for evaluation

Results

- Results obtained showed similar trends in both aquaculture and the small-scale fisheries sectors
- In the aquaculture sector, women did not own farms, except for joint-family ventures
- In the small-scale fisheries sector, women played greater role. The fishery on gastropod and bivalve molluscs were exclusively for women, whose exploitation is by gleaning
- Women were also responsible for the processing and marketing of harvested fish, constituting what are known in local parlance as fish mongers
- Women did not own fishing boats/canoes, fishing nets and other fishing equipment/gear

Discussion

- Culturally determined role-sharing or division of labour
- Lack of finance hindering women
- Lack of access to credit facility
- Poor policy framework

Discussion

- Recent administrations in Nigeria have modified credit policies to be more gender sensitive, allowing women access without the apron-string of male counterparts; that is, equal opportunity
- Women should take initiative; invest and grow the fisheries/aquaculture business; take responsibilities and define roles for themselves; should not rely on men or wait for assigned roles
- Improved participation of women to harness the opportunity of cooperative membership to fund their fisheries business is encouraged
- Nigerian women are encouraged to maximize the policy interventions currently available and network for improved productivity

**Thank you for the
attention**