

Lens on *Gender* in Oyster Farming and Grouper Fish Farming in Vietnam



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Nature of Project

ACIAR project assessment of impact of funding and assistance regarding social impact of **Oyster Farming** (Ben Sen Province North Vietnam) and **Grouper fish farming** (Cam Ranh area in South Central Vietnam). Research was through lens of voices of Oyster farmers & Grouper Fish farmers

When: June 2018

Gender: Although most fish farmers spoke of women, the questions were inclusive to include perceptions for not just females

Photovoice method

- *Photovoice* method gives cameras and diaries to participants to take images and write comments for questions on loosely constructed themes
- Authentic first hand data
- Simple and cheap to conduct
- Provides a voice to decision makers



Study questions

- Although there were 7 study questions in two studies **1) Oyster farming** **2) Grouper Fish farming**, these were the two on gender:

*What is the extent of **gender equality** (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Oyster farming (or Grouper Fish farming) in your community*

What does womens' empowerment (or not) look like in your community?

Note: one question was women specific, the other question was not gender specific. However gender was mentioned across a number of answers

What is good about Grouper Fish farming in your community



Grouper grading: This required much labour work involving both men and women and creating jobs for the local people

How is your community more/less sustainable since Grouper Fish farming began?



Women are offered this kind of job. However this is a hard job so less women than men. (Note woman in red doing lighter & less lifting job and more patience

How has Grouper Fish farming impacted on you?

Opportunities for women through aquaculture



Woman feeding grouper. Culture of grouper brings income for family

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What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Oyster farming in your community



Men and women are equally responsible for the job.

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Grouper Fish farming in your community



'Water treatment for pond 'anyone can do it''

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in oyster farming in your community



'Both men and women are engrossed and excited'.

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Grouper fish farming in your community



'Preparing trash fish for grouper fingerlings. Checking the grouper fingerlings health and ability to absorb food when newly released to pond. It is also a job women can do'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in oyster farming in your community



'Oyster farming requires not high level qualification but good health, women can do physically appropriate works'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Grouper Fish farming in your community



'Feeding of groupers. The raising of grouper needs a bit of knowledge & techniques, but can create jobs for men and women and young people'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Oyster farming in your community



'Despite strenuous works, farmers work supportively in harmony regardless of genders'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Grouper Fish farming in your community



'Fertilising algae. Gender equality is not a big issue in grouper families. Men and women are equal and they equally have to have technical skills'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Oyster farming in your community



‘Oyster farming provides jobs for both men and women’

What does womens' empowerment (or not) look like in Grouper Fish farming in your community



'Feeding trash fish for Groupers 'anyone can do it'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Oyster farming in your community



'A woman is collecting oysters. Oyster farming workload is equally assigned for men and women'

What does womens' empowerment (or not) look like in Grouper Fish farming in your community?



'Feeding groupers. Creating equal opportunities for men and women'

What does womens' empowerment (or not) look like in Oyster farming in your community?



'Oyster farming provides women stable jobs and aquatic production knowledge'

What does womens' empowerment (or not) look like in Grouper Fish farming in your community?



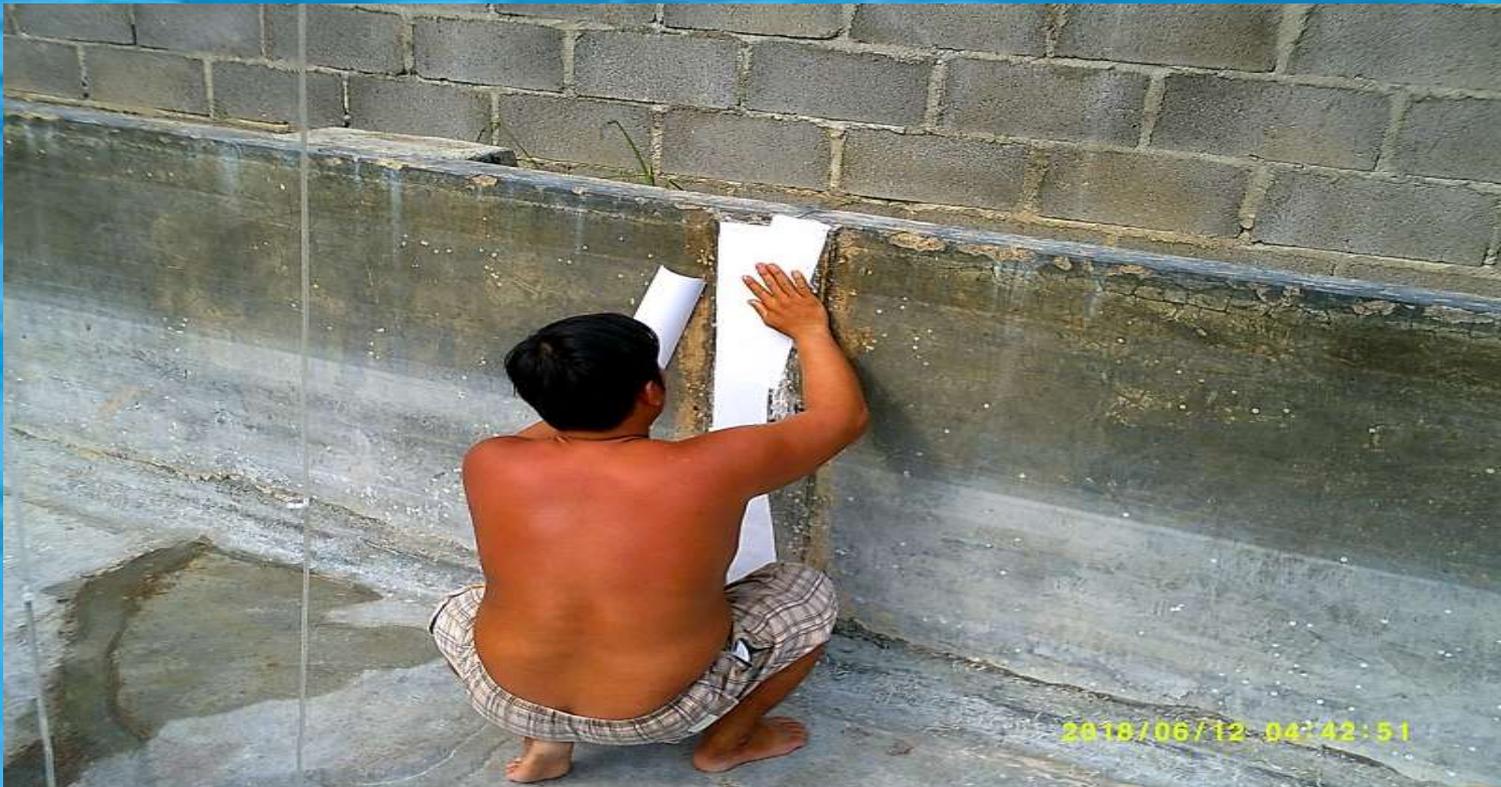
‘Colleague who graduated and now instructing next generation as lecturer on live feed’

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Oyster farming in your community



'A peaceful morning at Na San harbour of Ban Sen commune. Workers are going to the farms Both men and women have jobs due to oyster farming'

What does womens' empowerment (or not) look like in Grouper Fish farming in your community?



'Maintenance of fish pond. Women can also participate'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker) in Oyster farming in your community?



'Vehicles for transferring oyster farmers to work. Oyster farming provides local households stable jobs, which are equally assigned to men, women and youngsters. My wife, son and daughter also participate in the farming'

What is the extent of gender equality (types of jobs, roles, level of worker)

Grouper farmers:

Men and women equal

Women can also do it

Equal opportunities

Equality not an issue

'Anyone can do it'

Jobs for all

Some knowledge and skills

but not too much

Gender equality not an issue

A job women can do

Jobs for men, women, young people

Oyster farmers

Equal assigning of work

Men & women equally responsible

Harmony

Both men & women have stable jobs

High education not needed

Physically appropriate work for women

Jobs equally assigned

Both men & women engrossed & excited

What does womens' empowerment (or not) look like in your community?

This question did not get many responses(difficult question)

Grouper farmers

**University graduate
now training others
(woman)**



Oyster farmers

**Empowerment
Stable jobs & knowledge**



Overall gender findings



- Women have an equal place & value in both *Oyster farming and grouper fish farming*
- Gender equality not considered an issue
- *Harmony in working together*
- Equally assigned jobs
- *Empowerment*
- Job opportunities for low training and simple skills through to university trained educators

Gratitude

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Gender opportunities are an important aspect of community development



*Ensure you have captured what was learnt, that it is **reported, shared, used as a benchmark** for comparison & best practice: **Photovoice** enables this with community voice*