

**Evaluation of women
fisherfolks in Nigeria in the
implementation of gender
equitable Small-Scale
Fisheries Guidelines.**

BY

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OUTLINE

- Introduction of Nigeria's Small-Scale Fisheries (SSFs).
- Governance of the SSFs: status and challenges.
- Focus on women fisherfolks - roles, responsibilities, limitations and opportunities.
- Glance at adoption of the SSF Guidelines in Nigeria, how much was accomplished *a priori*
- Pathway for women's role in SSF.

INTRODUCTION

- In Nigeria, SSF contribute over 75% of local fish production.
- Most significant in terms of social, economic and cultural contexts.
- Complex multi-species, multi-gear and data-poor.
- Highly informal and under-valued with very limited participation in decision-making.
- Lack of policy coherence, institutional coordination, and collaboration.

INTRODUCTION (Contd.)

- Women fisherfolks excluded from decision-making.
- Gender policy and mainstreaming not yet specifically adopted to SSF.
- Objective: highlight pathway for women inclusion in SSF implementation.

Status and Governance of small-scale fisheries: status and challenges.

- SSF is entrapped under Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture in the Min. of Agric.
- Governance involves both formal (government) and informal (traditional) institutions.
- Many SSFs are literally open – access, loosely managed by top-down system.
- Typologies of governance in Inland fisheries - communal ownership, mixed systems and collective action.
- Co- management was experimental practiced within a donor-funded project.

Focus on women fisherfolks - roles, responsibilities, limitations and opportunities.

Roles

- **Fishing** directly and indirectly with canoes in the coastal States of Nigeria.
- Pre and Post- harvest activities : net mending, bait setting, trap making (baskets);
- Fish processing: salting, smoking, sun-drying.
- Marketing of fish.

Responsibilities

- Provision of food and nutrition security.
- Caregivers to husbands, children and other members of the family.
- Increasing roles in supplementing household income.

Focus on women fisherfolks - roles, responsibilities, limitations and opportunities

Limitations

- Poor access to productive resources.
- Poor literacy, information access and awareness of their rights.
- Poorly developed market infrastructures, poor storage, and processing facilities.
- Restrictive socio-cultural norms and gender stereotypes.

Opportunities

- Maximize social capital.
- Multi-tasking; extra – sectoral fisheries activities for additional income.
- Women are organized into formal fish traders' associations.
- Projects and programmes are gender - sensitive.

SSF Guidelines Adoption and Implementation in Nigeria

- Formal acceptance and endorsement of SSF Guidelines by the Minister, FMARD.
- Official constitution of a National Committee for implementation of the Guidelines
- Formal letter of request to FAO for the sponsorship of stakeholders' meeting.

SSF Guidelines Adoption and Implementation in Nigeria

Prior to SSF Guidelines, Nigeria has accomplished some the objectives.

- Organized fishery co-operatives to access credit schemes and subsidized fishing inputs.
- Establishment of the 5 nautical miles non-trawling zone.
- Replacement of four stroke engine to reduce carbon emission.
- Ratification to key international conventions concerning child labor, social programs, Climate Change etc.

Pathway to facilitate women in SSF Guidelines implementation and monitoring

- Emphasis on Gender dis-aggregated data.
- Adapt and operationalize the gender policy in Agriculture (2016) to SSF.
- Support community leadership of women folks via capacity building in literacy, life and entrepreneurial skills etc.
- Bottom-up, gender sensitive and responsive approaches to engender plans and programmes.

Conclusions

Gender equity in governance:

- Elimination of discriminatory organization structure under which SSF exists.
- High priority on the realization of human rights of vulnerable and marginalized- women.
- Political will to challenge the status quo.
- SSF Guidelines workshops must address gender relations and strategic gender needs.
- Institutionalise protection of women user rights.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!