

Gendered Livelihoods in the Global Fish-Food Economy:

A Comparative Study of Three
Fisherfolk Communities in
Kerala, India

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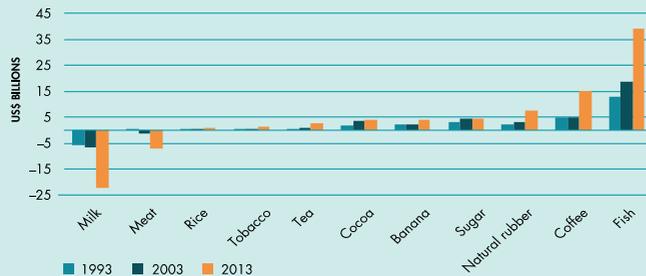
FIGURE 1

WORLD CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION



FIGURE 20

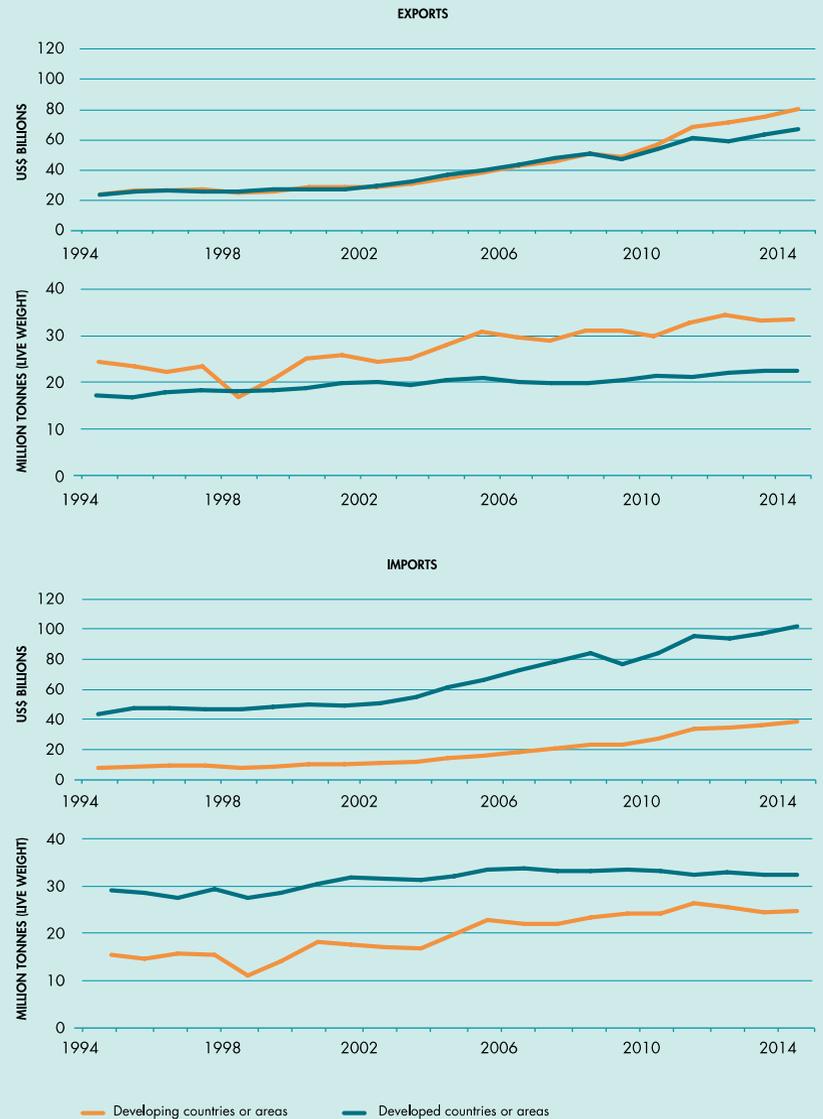
NET EXPORTS OF SELECTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

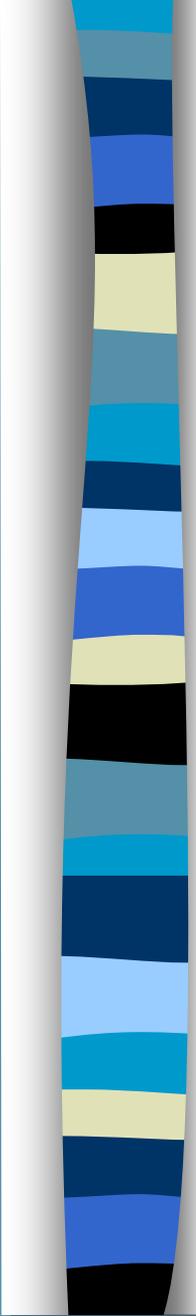


FAO. 2016. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016. Contributing to food security and nutrition for all*. Rome

FIGURE 19

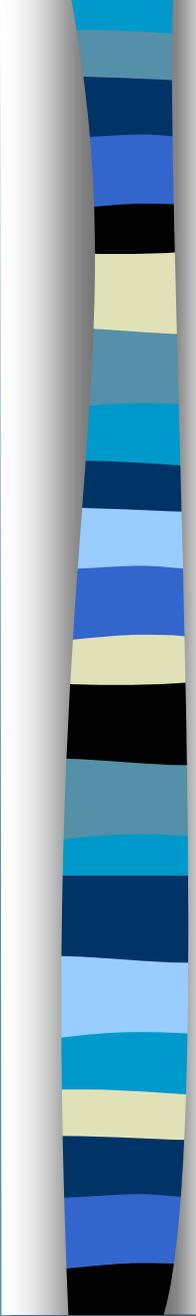
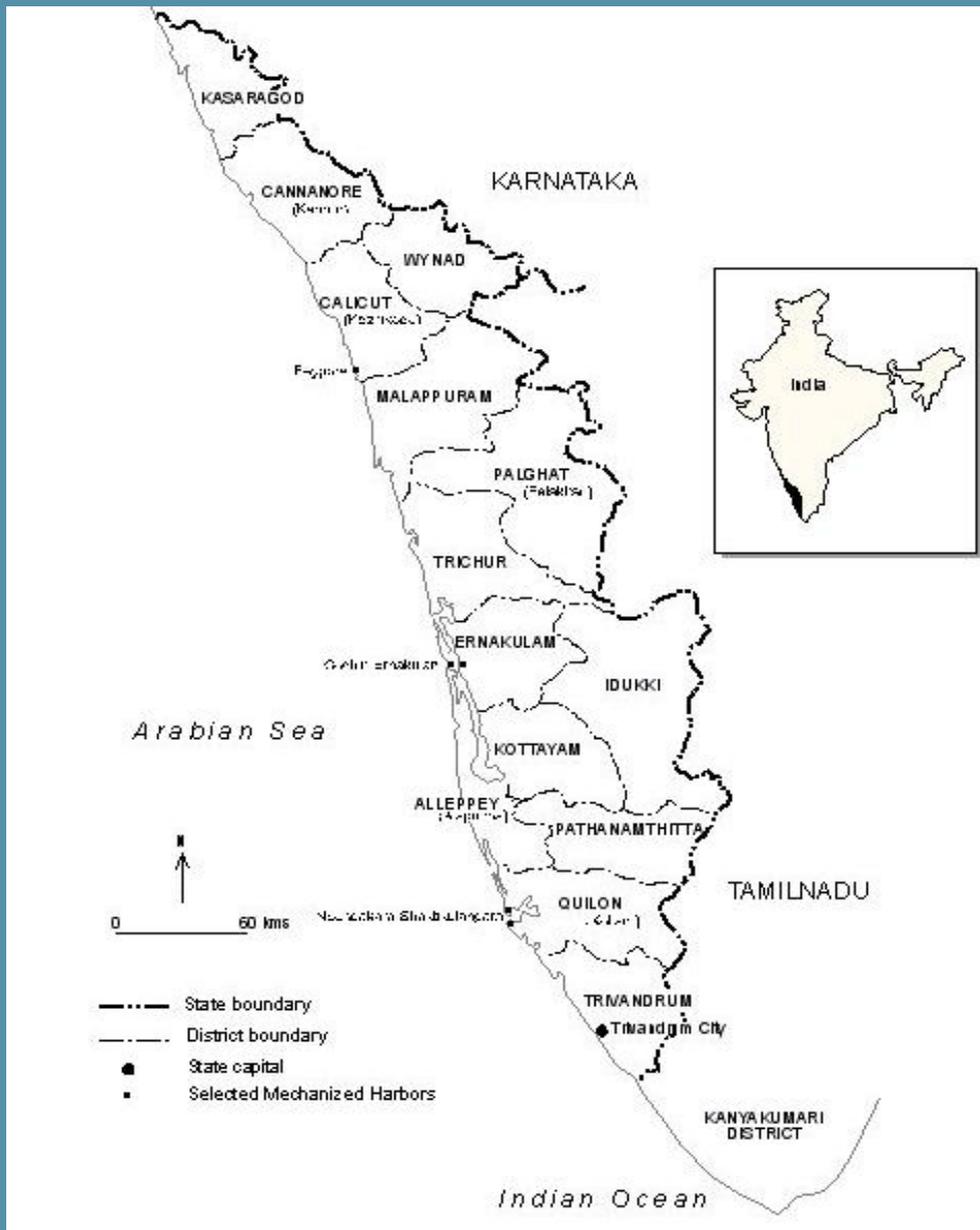
TRADE OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

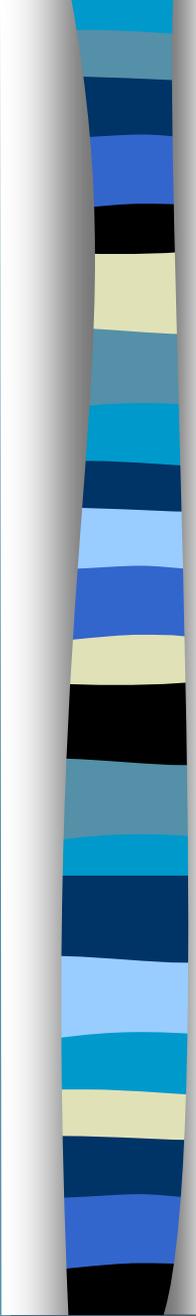




Research Questions:

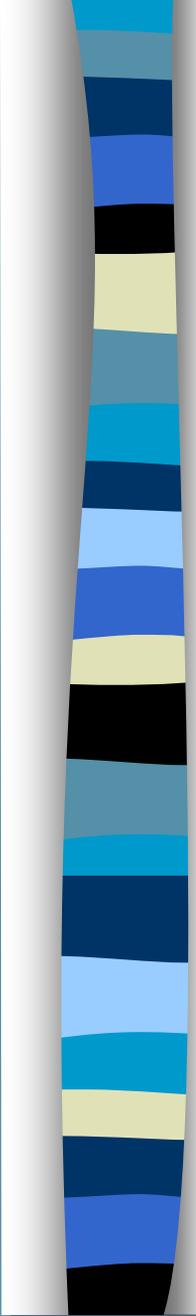
- * In what ways has globalization in the fisheries impacted fishing communities and livelihood opportunities?
- * How have these impacts differed for men and women in fisherfolk communities?
- * In what ways are fisherfolk households responding to these impacts, and what role does gender play in those responses?





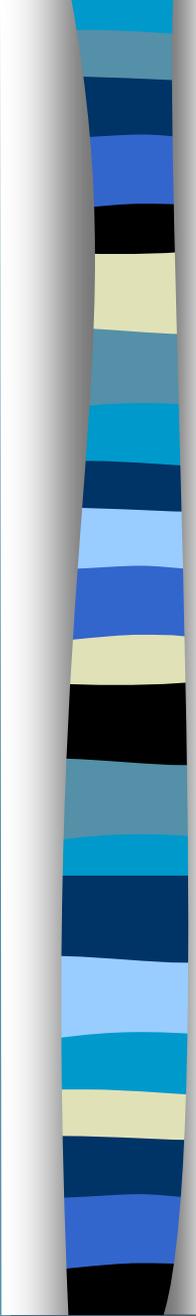
Globalization:

A set of trends and transformations through which local systems of fish production, processing and trade become increasingly organized and spatially integrated into global level trends & processes – the “Global Fish-Food Economy”



Argument:

Globalization in the fisheries plays out differently for men and women in different fishing communities as a result of different configurations of gender, work, culture, identity, and economy and the different ways households and communities are connected to fish economies at different scales.



The Framework:

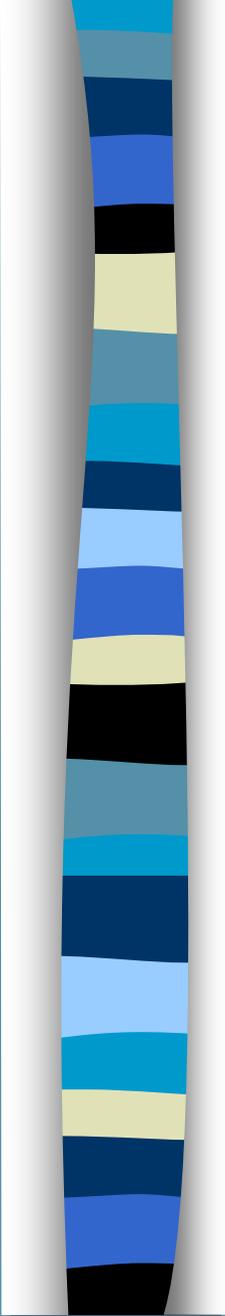
* Informed by:

- Feminist Commodity (Value) Chain Analysis (Ramamurthy 2000; Dunaway 2001)
- Livelihoods Analysis (Ellis 2000; Salagrama 2006)
- Feminist Household Economy Analysis (Friedman 1978; Hart 1992; Nelson & Smith 1998)

* Multi-Scale in approach:

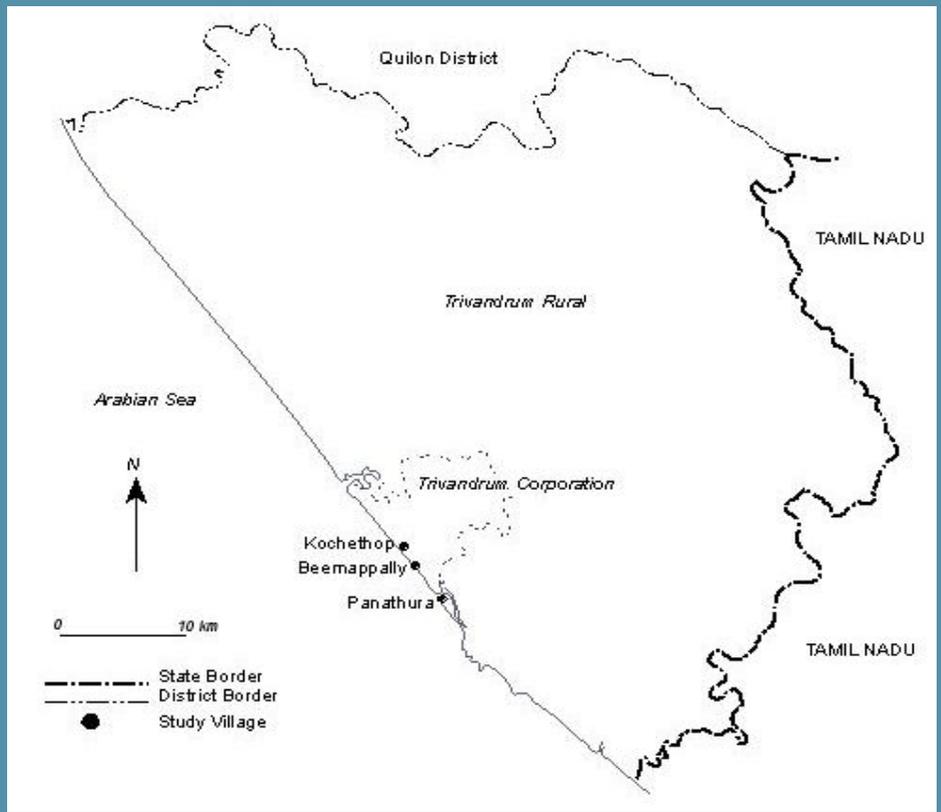
- How states and locales are situated in the “Global Fish Food Economy” and mediate global economic processes

* “Local Divisions of Labor” (Jarosz 1996)



Methodology

- * Multi-local e Strategy
- * Observation
- * In-depth Interviews
- * Household surveys



Local Gender Divisions of Labor



Fisheries Development in Kerala

- * State-led
- * Modern, mechanized technology to take advantage of global markets for shrimp/seafood
- * Fishermen welfare



Fisheries Development in Kerala

Outcomes:

1. Geographical shift: centralized landing sites & night landings
2. Sectoral split and differentiation
3. Over capitalization, overfishing & ecological crisis in artisanal sector



4. Bulk Landings



5. Commercialization & Stratification of Market Networks – new geography of fish marketing

6. Decline in old, emergence of new processing industries

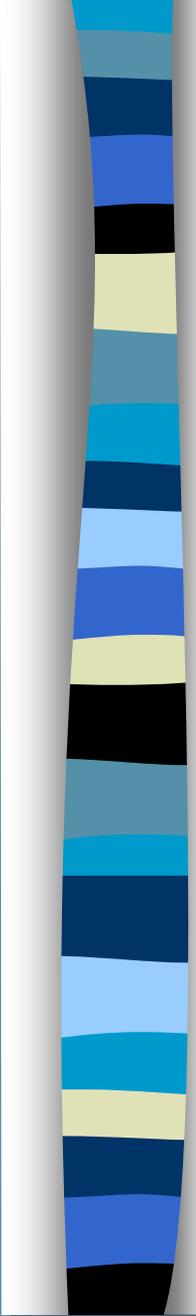
Gendered Impacts

* Production:

- Overfishing, declining harvests for artisanal sector, declining incomes from men's work

- 1) attempts to intensify effort
- 2) migration for work
- 3) second jobs in B & P
- 4) education/new employment
- 5) new labor & boat ownership arrangements

*

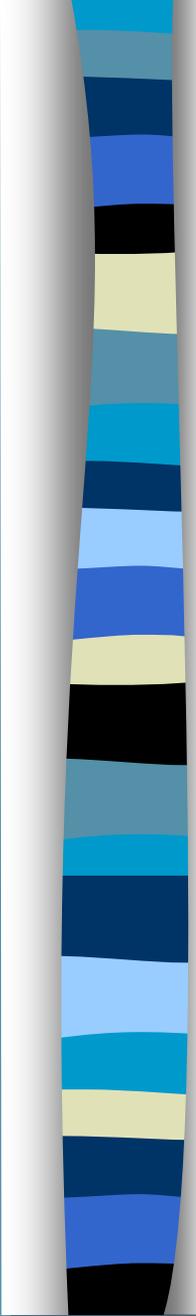


* Processing:

- Traditional industries in decline
- New processing industries have emerged (frozen shrimp)
- New employment opportunities for women, but...

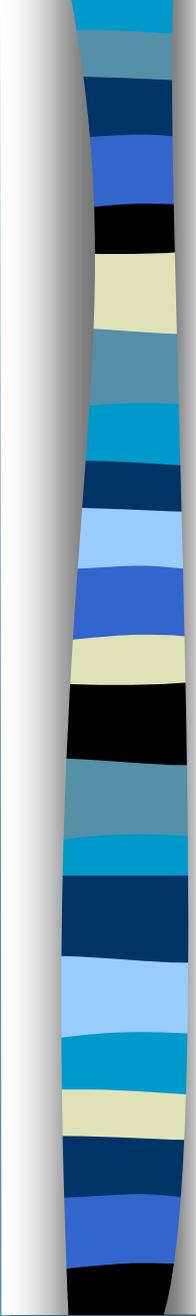
- * **Di stri buti on: Opportuni ti es and constraints**
- * **Net making/repair: work replaced by machine-made nylon nets**





Observations/Conclusions

- * Reliance on men and women's work in fish economy in Christian villages but increased dependence on women's work in Christian villages
- * Coir production
- * Migration to Middle East & Housewifization in Muslim & Hindu villages
- * Diversification & mobility out of fishing – all villages



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