



# Gender Mainstreaming Scenario in Inland Fisheries Sector of India – A Situation Analysis

Presented by

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**Indian Fisheries and  
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# Inland Fisheries in India

- Comprise water resources such as rivers, reservoirs, floodplain wetlands, lakes, derelict water bodies and tanks
  - 29,000 km rivers
  - 2,00,000 ha estuaries
  - 3,50,000 ha floodplain wetlands
  - 3.15 million ha reservoirs
- Multiple ownership of water bodies



TAJIKISTAN  
AFGHANISTAN  
PAKISTAN

# INDIA

## States and Union Territories



# Gender Mainstreaming in Inland Fisheries Sector in India

- A high proportion of female workforce is engaged in fisheries in inland sector in India
- Highlights differences in roles and responsibilities to understand how men, women and children interact
  - What they do
  - What they can do
  - What they are expected to do

# Participation of Women in Inland Fisheries Sector

- Fish selling
- Fish drying
- Fish grading
- Prawn seed collection
- Subsistence fishing for small fish
- Collection of shell fish
- Collection of dead shells
- Household fish processing
- Fish marketing

# Gender Roles and Responsibilities

- Women cannot allocate longer periods for active or full-time fishing with their burden of agricultural and household tasks
- Gender divisions in inland sector in India more culture and location specific
- Contribution of women fishers correspond to labour intensive, low input and low value fishing

# Situation Analysis

- A collection of methods that managers use to analyze an organization / sector's internal and external environment to understand the sector's capabilities, stakeholders and business environment
- Developed by Adele Clarke
- Qualitative empirical analysis for multi-sited ethnographic research

# Elements in Situation Analysis

- Product Situation
- Competitive Situation
- Distribution Situation
- Environmental Factors
- Opportunity and Issue Analysis

# Differences in Roles and Responsibilities

- Women engaged more in **reproductive** work (*work in household, raising children, cooking and cleaning which do not generate any income yet have impact on society*) than in **productive** work (*directly generating income*) and **community** work (*work and time devoted to political, religious and social work in organizations or community*) in contrast to men

- Policy
- Access to and Control Over Resources
  - Economic
  - Productive
  - Political
  - Time
- Research gap in addressing practical gender needs and strategic gender needs
- A huge necessity to study gender intersectionality owing to varied inland ethnography in India

# Where is the over-arching importance?

- Access to and control over resources including economic, productive, political and time varies across various inland fishing regions of the country
- Gender in inland fisheries policies not prioritized with other social issues
- Needs to re-learn from lessons in marine sector

# Is the mainstreaming concern gaining importance in inland policies?

- Need to re-examine at the contribution of research institutions, universities, NGOs, corporate sector, schools, village level institutions and public sector units such as banks in reaching inland mainstreaming issues to policy-makers
- How gender mainstreaming in inland sector can contribute to overall societal welfare in terms of gender

# Economic and Sociological Climate

- Inland fisheries often neglected in water resource planning and policies
- Necessity of changing pro-poor branding with gender studies in inland fisheries sector
- Issue of unorganized marketing in inland sector
- More difficult for management than managing aquaculture enterprises

# Opportunity and Issue Analysis

- Women fisher mainly adopted non-farm livelihood diversification activities in areas where fish stock declined
- Dearth of studies in inland fisheries supply chain on gender approach
- West Bengal and North-Eastern states register the highest fish consumption in the country



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HARYANA  
Chandigarh

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MAHARASHTRA  
Mumbai

TELANGANA  
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GOA  
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ANDHRA PRADESH  
Chennai

MAHE (Puducherry)

KAVARATTI

KERALA  
Thiruvananthapuram

PUDUCHERRY (Pondicherry)

KARAIKAL (Puducherry)

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**LEGEND**

- International Boundary
- State Boundary
- Country Capital
- State Capital

Map not to Scale

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# Trade

- Mainly domestic trading
- Involves considerable intermediaries resulting in less share of consumers' rupee to fishers
- Women traders in inland sector mostly marginalized
- Lack of supply of indigenous inland fish species in several places across eastern and north-eastern region of India

# Implications

- Redress the inability of data systems to capture the involvement of women in both harvest and non-harvest sectors
- Are the signals of where the mainstreaming scenario is heading being properly interpreted on time?
- An alarming indicator for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

# Future Goals

- Need to reduce information gap among women about fisheries extension schemes targeted for them
- Family approach rather than women-only approach
- More gender analysis to be conducted as the basis in gender mainstreaming

# Conclusion

- Gender roles in inland fisheries need to be better understood for
  - fisheries resource management
  - Conflict resolution
  - Catering to gaps in demand in fish supply in various pockets of the country
- Inland fisheries fulfills nutritional security of a considerable chunk of the nation's population



Thank  
you!