

Future Direction of Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries Action, Research and Development

B. Meenakumari
Deputy Director General (Fisheries)
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
New Delhi

- Gender studies or research should essentially deal with the impacts of changes in social, cultural, political, technological and environmental spheres on the lives and livelihood of men and women and their equations within the family, community and society .
- The effects have both external and internal dimensions.
- Any change or shift in any one of the dimensions brings in issues of adjustments that have to be addressed.
- The fisheries sector is also similar in its scope as far as gender studies are concerned.



CRITICAL ISSUES

Technological changes in harvest and post harvest sectors of fisheries and aquaculture

- Impact of technological changes on resources access- will it have any impact on traditional fishing rights
 - Whether there will be any marginalisation of sections of fishers like fisherwomen (as has been seen in the case of mechanization and centralization of points of first sale) and small scale, subsistence fishers
 - Impact on market and trade arrangements
 - Impact on livelihoods and incomes
 - Impact on overall socio-economic status
 - Strategies to build capacities to face the challenges and utilise the opportunities that technological changes offer

Policy shifts

- Process of and approaches to policy formulation, including assessment of stakeholder participation in the policy making process
- Gender specific impact of policy changes or shifts, both quantitative and qualitative
 - On their spaces within the community and society
 - On their livelihoods - Livelihood changes (any change in existing livelihood scenario) or shifts (any change from existing livelihood scenario) and livelihood security
 - On their income and overall socio-economic status

Environmental changes

- Degradation of resources
- Climate change

Issues and challenges of the development debate

- Encroachment into their livelihoods spaces by development projects (Including tourism)

Research – systems and methodologies

- Gender disaggregated data about all levels in the sector (on the lines of VLS)
- Availability of information/data at micro and macro levels
- Tested and standardised methodologies for gender research/gender studies which are fisheries specific, including developing problem/issue specific framework for analysis
- Development of women centric technologies – especially in aquaculture
- Building research capabilities



Thank you