



Gender role in development of small-scale shrimp farming and recent challenges in the coastal region of Bangladesh



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Presentation outline

- Introduction to the shrimp sector in Bangladesh
- Contribution to the economy
- Gender role in shrimp value chain
- Recent challenges
- Project intervention through DOF & UNIDO
- Evaluation of gender focused training program for farmer couples and female farmers



Introduction to shrimp sector

- 246,198 ha area under shrimp culture (3.36% of net cultivated area of the country and 60.47% of net cultivated area of 4 coastal districts)
- Two shrimp species are mainly cultured Black Tiger shrimp (*Peneaus monodon*) and Giant Fresh Water shrimp (*Macrobrachium rogenbergii*)
- Rapid fragmentation of large farms in to smallholders (Average farm size 1.12 ha)
- 0.22 million farms across the coastal belt
- Massive structural changes in the landscape through impoundment of private land
- Created significant employment & income in the rural area



Contribution to the economy

- Significant growth of backward and forward linkage enterprises rather dispersed in other parts of the country
- Impoundment allowed integrated farming of rice, shrimp and finfish
- 82044 MT shrimp (53% BT, 37% FW, 10% other) produced in 2010
- 51599 MT shrimp exported in 2010
- Second largest source of export earning after RMG contributing 487 million US\$ from shrimp export in 2010



Gender role in the shrimp value chain

- Unlike agriculture and livestock, the involvement of women in aquaculture still new in Bangladesh
- Traditional role of women in wild PL collection supposed to be still contributing 50% FW shrimp PL supply
- 80% of the processing workers in shrimp processing factories are women
- Being rapid transition of large scale shrimp farms in to small-scale (80% farms are less than 0.5 ha), women (family labor) involvement are increasing particularly in FW shrimp farming
- Involvement include: pond preparation, dyke repair, bottom cleaning, PL stocking (buying, acclimatizing and releasing), feed collection, feed preparation and feeding, growth monitoring, record keeping, guarding, harvesting and dyke cropping





Recent challenges

- Both production and profitability from shrimp farming decreasing, Average production 250 kg/ha/year
- Economic recession caused less demand and price fall in the international market
- Evolving new market standards, food safety and quality aspects by the importing countries
- RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed) notifications increased for exported shrimp consignments from Bangladesh



Recent challenges contd.

Number of RASFF notifications





Interventions to face the challenges

- Initiatives to strengthen the capacity of DOF in good aquaculture practices (GAP) and inspecting the shrimp and seafood products through technical assistance from UNIDO through BQSP
- Possible source of contaminations: adulterated feed, VMP, organic manure and residue from rice field in shrimp
- Inspection capacity strengthened and lab facilities upgraded
- Traceability frame-work developed & and farmers trained on Traceability & GAP (**usually without targeting women**)
- WID component initiated pilot training on GAP for (i) Farmer couples (ii) Female farmers
- Developed a training manual, TOT and undertook gender focused GAP training *in-situ* for farmer couples and female farmers



Monitoring & post-project evaluation

- Selection of stakeholders, sites & locations targeted objectively
- Follow-up training & visit continued, encouraged mobile phone for trouble shooting
- Group formation & leadership among the women encouraged
- Method demonstration and result demonstration encouraged with small prizes

Evaluation methods

- Personal interview
- Group discussions
- Farm visit & record checking



Group discussion activities evaluating training impact of couple group, Khulna





Results

Female farmers

- From the baseline of (14%), 36% women farmer made profit after training
- About 70% trained women remembered major topic discussed, 60% noted major points, 70% started record keeping and 50% could showed training materials given.

Limitations for female farmrs

- Difficult to convince husbands about GAP
- Active participation discouraged by husband/grandmother
- Land title/ownership act as barrier to take as entrepreneurship



Farmer couples

- 50% of the farming couple following GAP and made profit
- Majority of trained couple (wife and husband) remembered major topic discussed, 40% husband noted major points, 65% started record keeping and 40% could showed training materials given.
- Some cases (20%) wives are revealed more caring about profit making and record keeping

Limitations for farmer couples

- Husband tend to dominate both in discussion and practical training and evaluation reveled less change in KSA among wives

Advantages for farmers couples

- Mutual understanding of important topics revealed effective way of GAP compliance with necessary record keeping.
- Respect to wives role and contribution becomes easy within the family.



Conclusions & Recommendations

Conclusion

- Couple training appeared more effective compared to only female training in compliance of GAP in small-scale shrimp farming. But in both the cases the women participants feel better empowered to meet PGN and SGN on top of able to contribute positively in a national economic challenge.

Recommendations

- Farmer couple should be selected through TNA and for more motivated couples
- Wife and husband should trained separately to avoid husband dominance as well as wives reluctance.
- GAP training should be calendared to match major farming steps and season
- The training manual should be used by DOF throughout the country to bring family ownership in the farming system



Female farmer training on small-scale shrimp farming & gender in village primary school, Bagerhat



Female farmer training on small-scale shrimp farming & gender in village school, Bagerhat



Couple training in Hindu village, Khulna



Couple training at a village, Khulna



Trainer showing how to identify male and female shrimp



A proud shrimp farmer showing his harvest, Khulna



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Training Manual on
Women in Small-scale Golda Farming

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THANK YOU

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