



Using a gender lens: Assessing an aquaculture project & exploring its influence on women & men in Odisha, India

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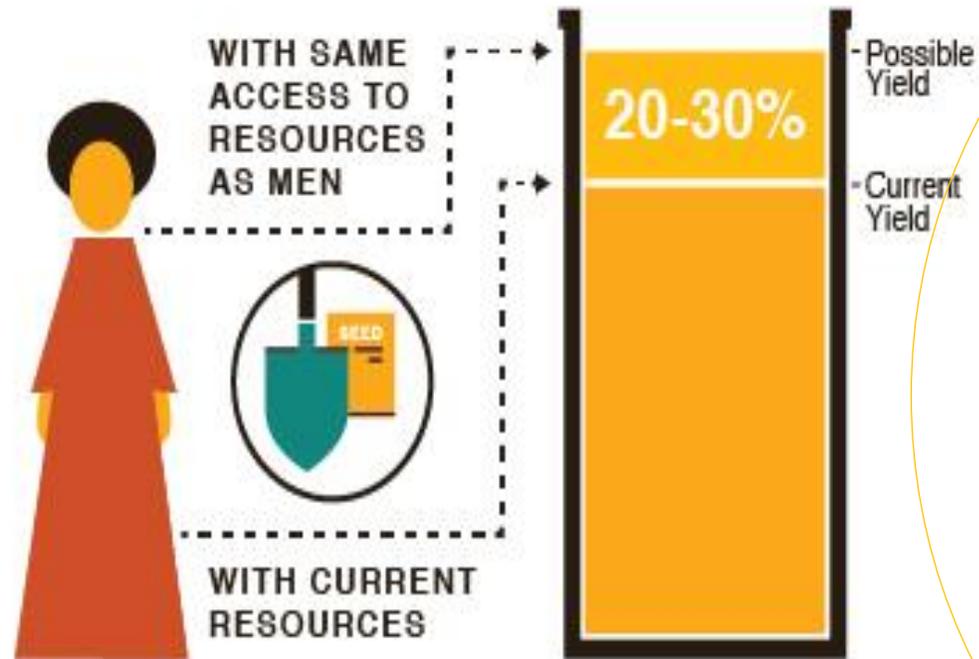
Background

The State of Odisha

- The total fish production: 413,000 t (2013-14)
- Overall (5 yrs: 2007/8 to 2012/13) increase in fish production – 63660 t; annual growth of 3%.
- Fish production from the inland fisheries resources has increased, the marine fish production declined during the period.
- The State Gov. of Odisha decided to increase the production to benefit its people in the state.
- Gender disparities are high in the State of Odisha, India (World Bank, 2016)

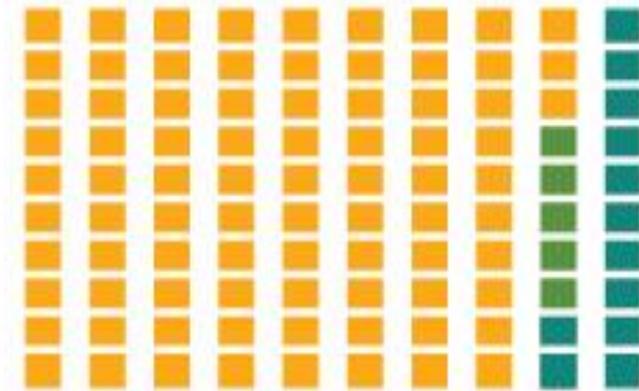
The importance of gender equality

If women had access to resources, on-farm yields could **INCREASE BY 20-30%**.



This extra output could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by

12-17%



Source: FAO, 2011

“ The increased role of women had a substantial impact on the increasing productivity and income from ponds...”

(Murshed-e-Jahan et al, 2010)

Why is this study important

What evidence is there that the current body of knowledge is sufficient?

or do we need to think and work in a different way?



Review of Past Studies

Aquaculture in small and backyard ponds

- Ideal for women
- Participation- minimize the cost of production

(Salim, Antony & Geetha, 2011)

Small-scale carp seed production through portable FRP hatchery

- Women SHGs - capable of handling the hatchery on their own after two weeks of training & produce fish seed.
- No challenges were highlighted

(Mohapatra et al. (2015)

Carp polyculture tech dissemination to strengthen livelihoods of women SHGs

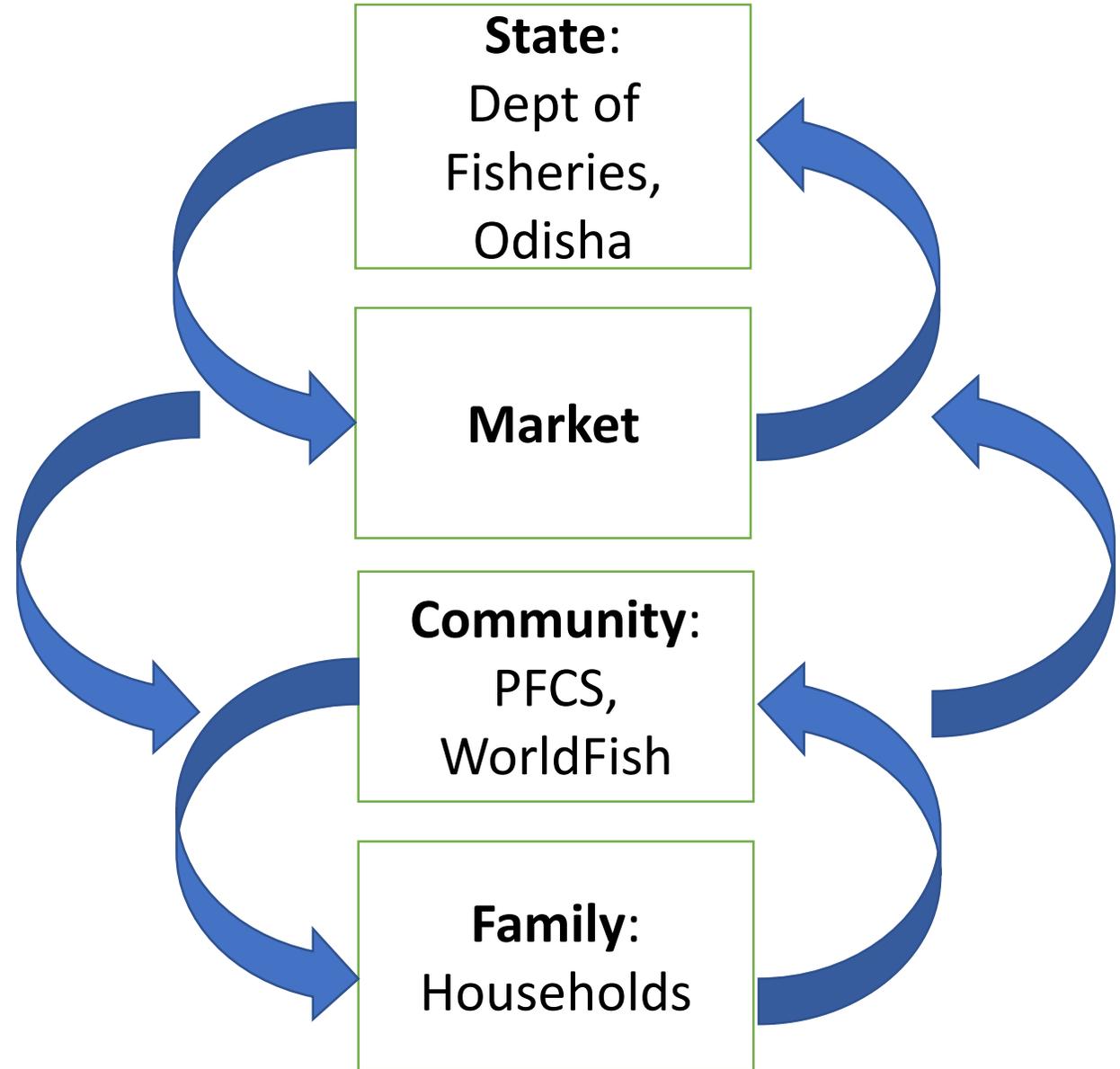
- Average prod. increased 110%
- Women actively involved in all of the process of the polyculture; increase fish yield; increase consumption of fish; improve nutritional status of family
- Poor technical knowledge deterred women's ability to farm fish

(De et al. (2012)

Missing:

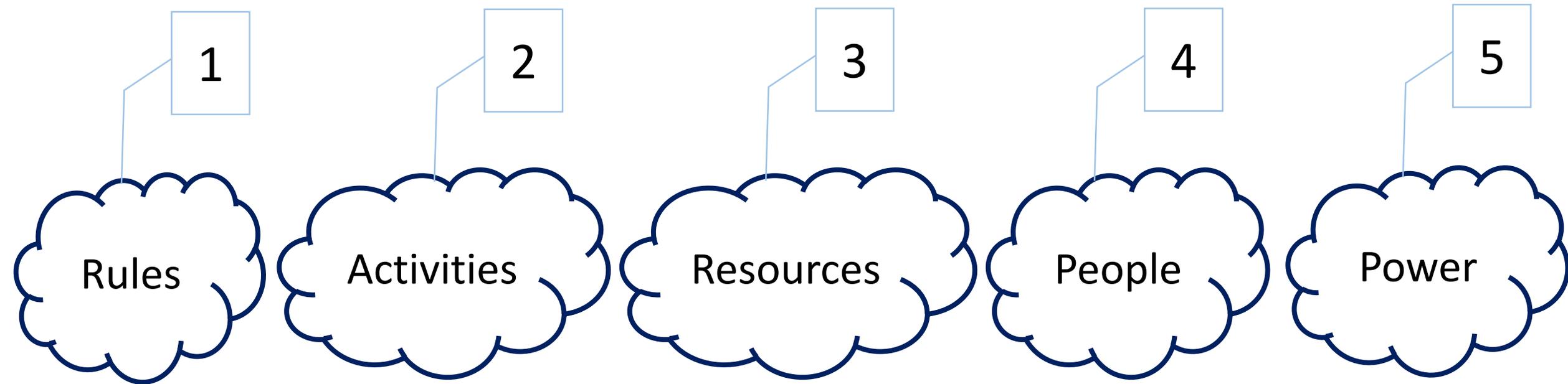
- Gender issues these women beneficiaries may face
- Women's roles and responsibilities
- Women's ability to participate in and benefit from interventions

The Study Lens



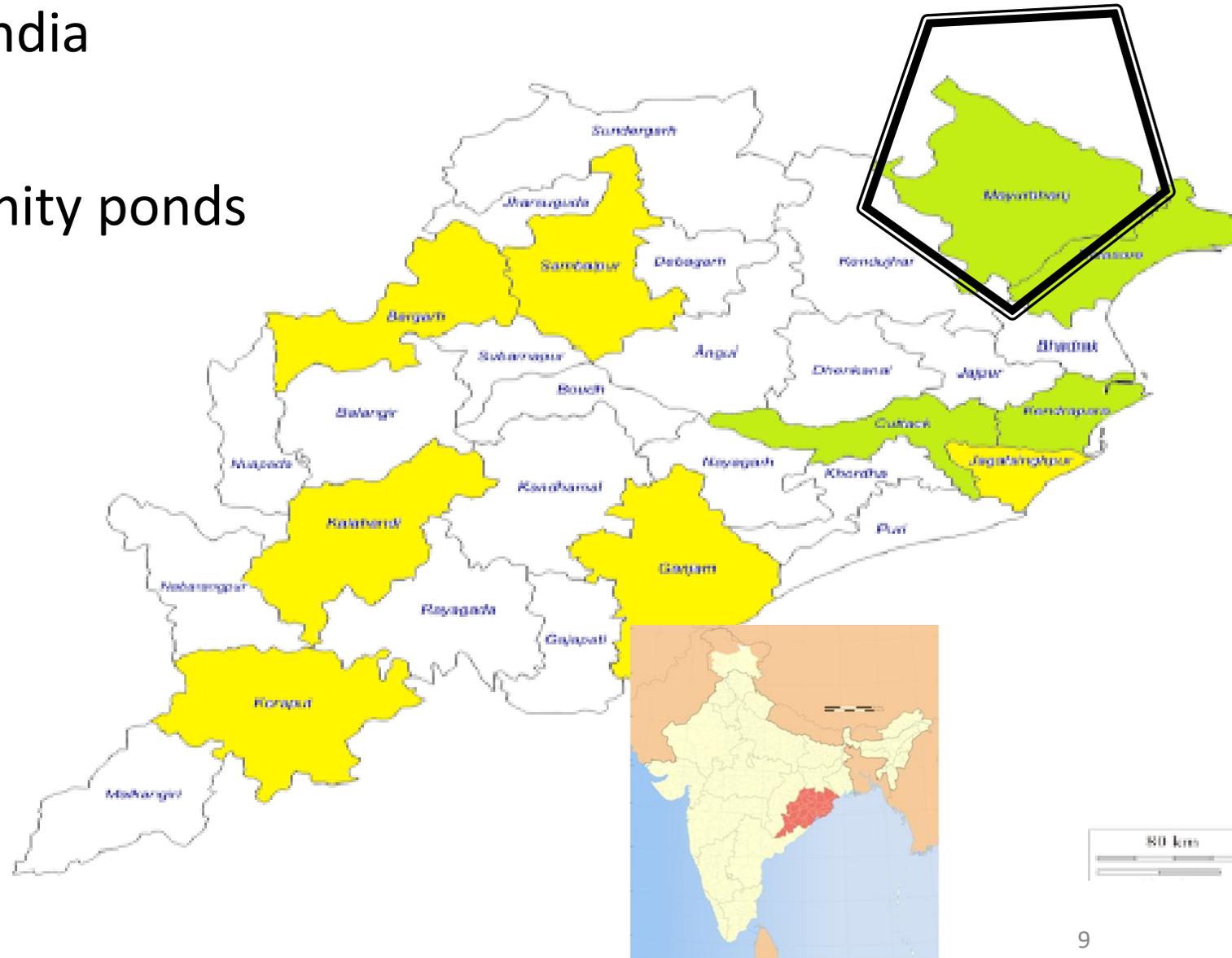
5 Dimensions of institutional social relationship

By Kabeer, 1994



The Project

- **Geo:** 10 districts in Odisha, India
- **Fish:** Carp & Mola
- **System:** Backyard & Community ponds
- Inputs & Training
- Targets women beneficiaries



Project Assessment - Gender

Method:

Interviews with Project Manager and Field Officer

Reviewed project documents

Areas of Assessment:

1. Background & Justification
2. Expected Accomplishment/Goal
3. Purpose/Objective
4. Target Beneficiaries
5. Activities

Areas of Assessment:

6. Indicators
7. Implementation Strategy
8. M&E
9. Risks
10. Budget

What we found

What is working:

- Sex-disaggregated data

What could be strengthened:

- Design
- Focus on the increasing the number of women
- Targeting & selecting beneficiaries
- Training of women & men farmers
- Gender assessment & training

Gender Scoping

Methodology

- 2 communities in Mayurbanj district, Odisha
- Backyard pond & community pond
- Team: 2 women & 2 men field workers
- Language: English – Odia – English
- FGDs & Interviews
- Translation & transcription & analysis

Themes

- Gender roles & responsibilities
- Enabling & constraining factors
- Decision making
- Access to & control over resources

What we found from scoping

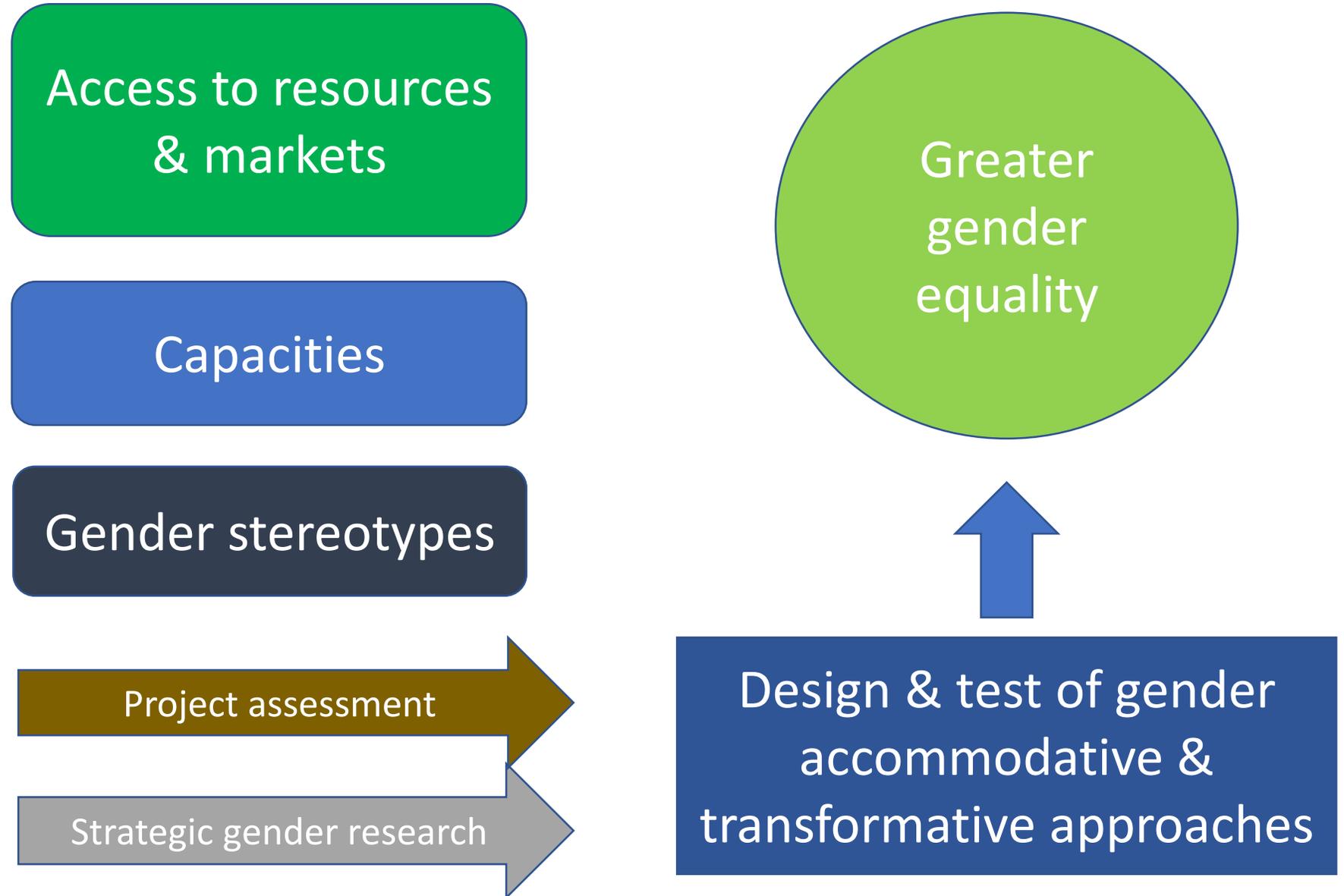
Positive early outcomes

- Less time & labour intensive
- Respect, reduced stress, self-satisfaction, consumption

Challenges and constraints

- Lack of access to:
 - Market
 - Harvesting materials
 - Infrastructure & storage facilities
 - Aquaculture knowledge & skills
 - Financial capacity
 - Resources & markets
- Harmful norms & behavior:
 - Gender stereotypes
 - Domestic violence

Key implications for the project



Thank You



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Fish