Gender Analysis and Monitoring Change Among Seaweed Farmers in San Dionisio, Iloilo, Philippines (GeNA Pilot Site)

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GeNA Gender in NbCS Aquaculture
AIT Asian Institute of Technology
GAF Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section
CIRD Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development
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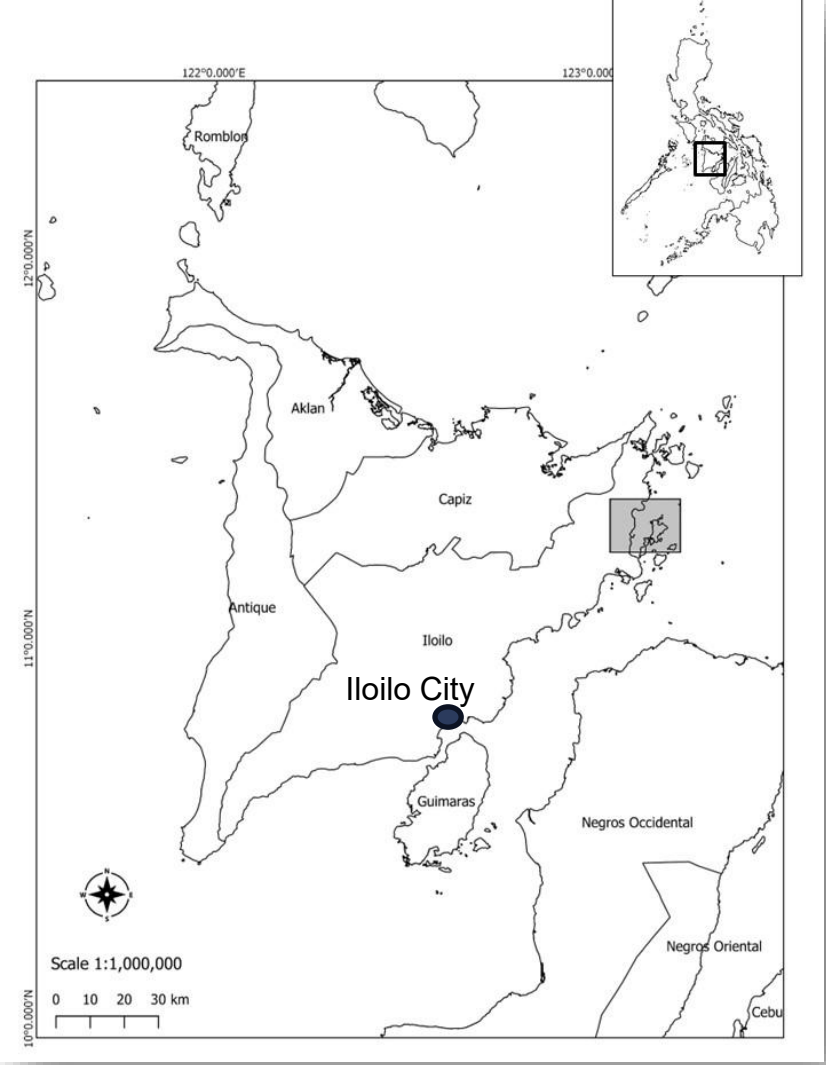

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The Pilot Site: San Dionisio, Iloilo, Philippines

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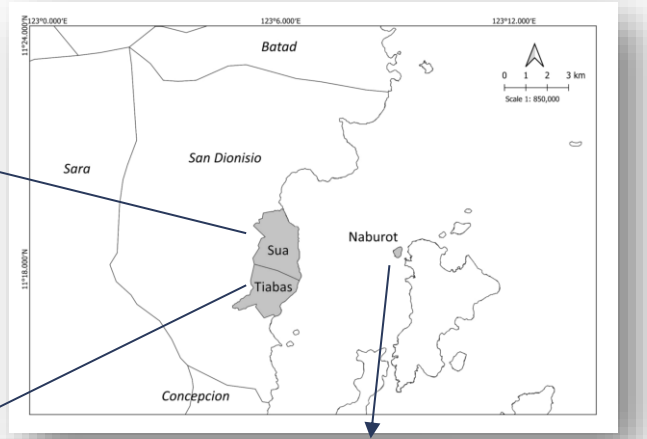
The Pilot Site: San Dionisio, Iloilo, Philippines

Site 3 – Barangay Sua (mainland)



Site 2 – Barangay Tiabas (mainland)

Site 1 - Barangay Naborot (island)

Common seaweed varieties : Eucheuma cottonii and Eucheuma spinosum.

02 Highlights of Gender Analysis

The study participants

	Survey	FGD
Women SW farmers	160	20
Men SW farmers	140	11
Men	49	-
Women	49	-
Data collection: April 1 to May 17, 2025		

02 Highlights of Gender Analysis

Profile of seaweed farmers who participated in the survey			
	Women n=160	Men n= 140	All N=300
Age (mean)	45.43	46.17	45.77
Years in School (mean)	9.18	8.52	8.87
Native of the barangay (%)	70.63	75.71	73.00
No. of years in the barangay (mean)	38.01	39.24	38.58
age start seaweed farming (mean)	34.7	34.74	34.37
Trained on seaweed farming (%)	37.50	33.57	35.67
Member of a seaweed farmers organization (%)	99.38	99.29	99.33

Similar profile

02 Highlights of Gender Analysis

Income profile of seaweed farmers who participated in the survey			
	Women n=160	Men n= 140	All N=300
SWF as primary income source	67.50	26.43	48.33
SWF as secondary income source	27.50	62.86	61.40
Seaweed as tertiary income source	5.00	10.71	48.94
Income from seaweed farming	3,914.93	4311.62	4100.68
% of SWF income to total personal income (mean)	65.29	38.51	52.75
Total personal income (mean, in pesos)	10,259.86	14,309.260	12,155.90

Women

Less sources of income than the men
68% have SWF as primary source of income
Have lower income from seaweed than men
Have lower personal income than men

Men

More sources of income than the women
63% have SWF as secondary source of income
Have higher income from seaweed than women
Have higher personal income than women

02 Highlights of Gender Analysis

Farming profile of the seaweed farmers who participated in the survey		
	Women n=160	Men n= 140
Number of plots	2.10	2.37
Plot size	1133.29	1383.24
Location of plots	Most near the shore	Farther from the shore

Women

Smaller plot size than men
Near the shore --- accessible
- "seaweed is heavy"
- "do not know how to swim"
- no boat

Reliance on experience in seaweed production

Men

Bigger plot size than women
Farther from shore -
- can lift heavy load
- can swim
- has boat

Reliance on experience in seaweed production.

02 Highlights of Gender Analysis

Delivers and Sells Seaweed To Buyer						
	Women n=160		Men n= 140		All N=300	
	Delivers	Sells	Delivers	Sells	Delivers	Sells
Man, adult	41.88	50.63	55.00	75.71	48.00	62.33
Woman, adult	32.5	51.25	10.71	25.71	22.33	39.33
Boy, child	2.50	1.88	2.86	3.57	2.67	2.67
Girl, child	-	-	0.71	0.71	0.33	0.33
Man, senior	6.88	7.50	10.71	14.29	8.67	10.67
Woman, senior	8.75	11.25	1.43	2.14	5.33	7.00

Men dominate delivery and selling activities.

- involve lifting of heavy seaweed and use of motorcycle for deliveries

02 Highlights of Gender Analysis

Activities that requires physical strength such as installing posts, piling of rocks, weighing, and hauling during planting, harvesting, selling

Activities that requires patience and meticulousness such as planting, cutting, maintenance, and harvesting

03 Preparing for the Monitoring

- Selected 35 women farmers using a criteria
- Visited each women selected to secure their consent and willingness to participate in the monitoring
- Prepared the monitoring questions for each domain
- Trained the monitor

03 Preparing for the Monitoring

Conducted training-workshop on data recording/record keeping (August 30, 2025)-- introduced 7 forms

03 Preparing for the Monitoring

Conducted seminar on biosecurity and reduction of postharvest losses (September 13, 2025)

04 Round 1: Monitoring

Sept 3 to 7 -- climate change and attitudes toward NBCs practices

Sept 17 to 22 -- awareness, agency, image of change

05 Lessons from first round of monitoring

1. **More time spent with the women led to knowing more information on their beliefs, practices, and challenges**

   For example:

   - Challenge: Fish feasts on seaweeds affecting the growth of the seaweeds
   - Salinity: rainwater affects seaweed growth and health
   - Insurance: did not renew their insurance; deemed useless for ignoring their damage claims and the season for farming has just started.
   - Practices: There are farmers who are also buyers (acting as brokers) and have direct contact with the wholesalers.

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Lessons from monitong

2. Enabled the use of other research methods like observation

The Monitor

- can directly observe their ways of life and how farmers spend their time inside the house and in their seaweed farms.
- witnessed the transaction between two farmers: one farmer buying from the other farmer (participant) for planting purposes. A support they have for each other.
- Visit to the seaweed farm can observe first-hand their plants, their line and stakes, how they tie the seedlings, the various varieties they plant, and many more.

05 Lessons from monitoring

3. Allows knowing changes in the community that have potential impact on their seaweed production

- Monitor saw the new stores in barangays Sua and Tiaban that now sells seaweed production inputs and being managed by the seaweed associations .

DOLE-Assisted Livelihood Projects in Barangays Tiabas and Brgy. Sua

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Lessons from monitoring

4. **Allows use of other methods can also can help the women in managing their livelihood.**

The introduction of record keeping using seven forms as part of the monitoring seem to have positive effect on the women.

Record keeping is absent among the farmers. During the workshop, they had realizations on their production, sales, costs, and use of their income from seaweed because they see the numbers

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Lessons from monitoring

5. Deeper connection with the study participants

The monitor and the seaweed farmers become more comfortable with each other, prompting them to share more and answer the monitoring questions more comprehensively.

The women farmers expressed that they are surprised that they are given importance with the monitoring. They value the monitoring.

The monitor feels the respect even of seaweed farmers not being monitored.

05

Lessons from monitoring

6. Voluminous and rich data for encoding and analyses

- Qualitative data collected is big. It is easy to get lost with the data. But systematic organization and timely transcription and encoding is helpful.

06 Next Steps

Monitoring	Until July 2026
(Seminar on crop insurance on	October 11
Other Intervention activities -- Financial Literacy -- Others	Date to be Determined

Thank you

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