CHALLENGING BLUE PERCEPTIONS: A GENDER LENS ON POST-HARVEST IN BLUE SWIMMING CRAB MODEL VILLAGES IN WESTERN VISAYAS, PHILIPPINES
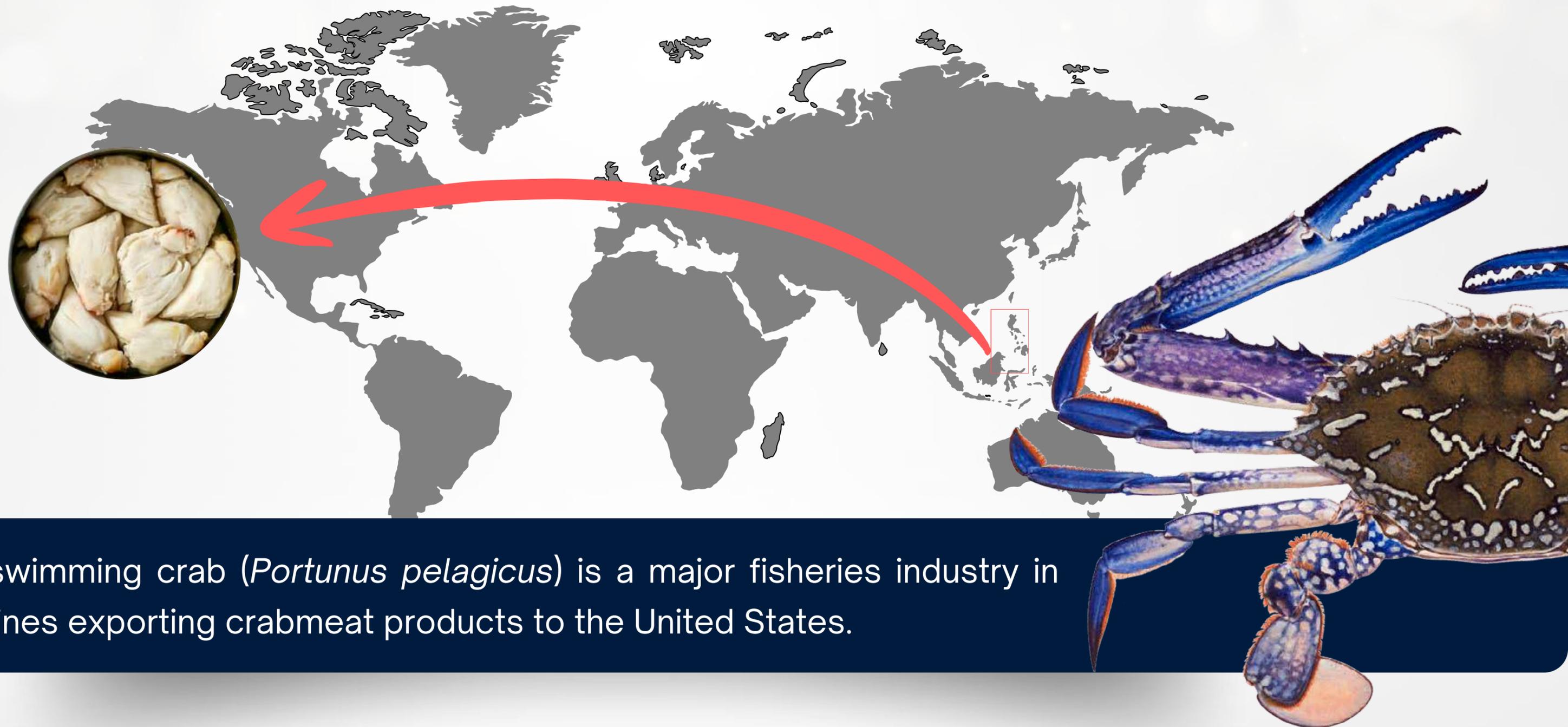
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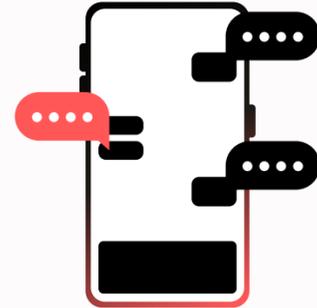
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Introduction

The blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) is a major fisheries industry in the Philippines exporting crabmeat products to the United States.
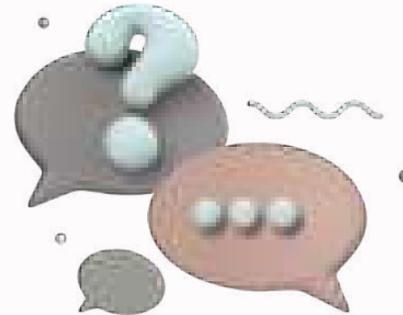
- The establishment of crab model villages is a targeted approach of the Blue Swimming Crab National Management Plan involving "champion" crab communities to promote sustainable practices and social equity among key players in the supply chain through participatory resource management.

- However, there have been limited interventions introduced to crab post-harvest sector through gender lens. Hence, **this study examined the roles, work conditions, benefits and challenges faced by key players in the post-harvest sector**.

Methodology

SURVEY USING KOBO TOOLBOX
32 respondents

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KII)
processors and traders
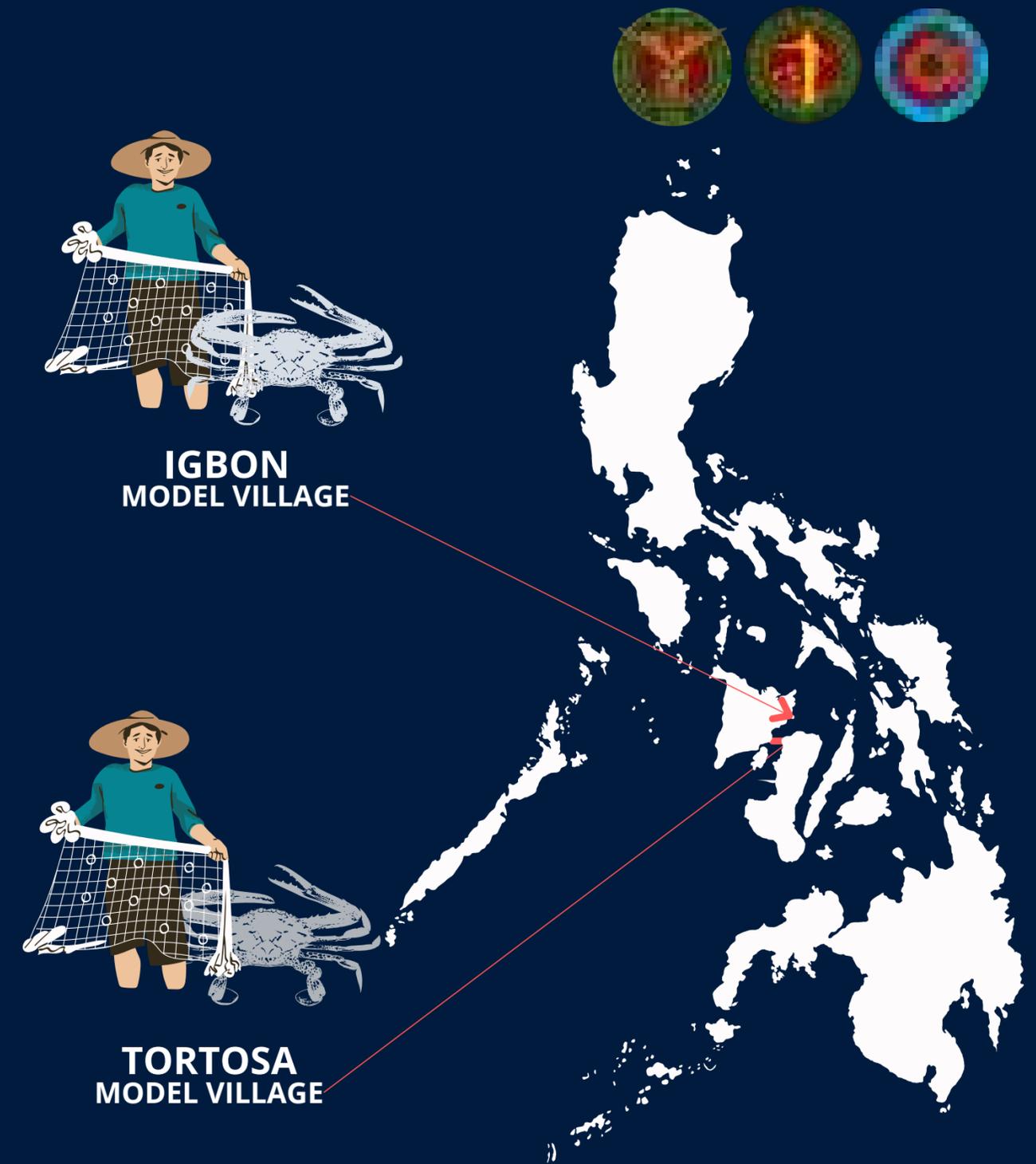
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

IGBON
MODEL VILLAGE
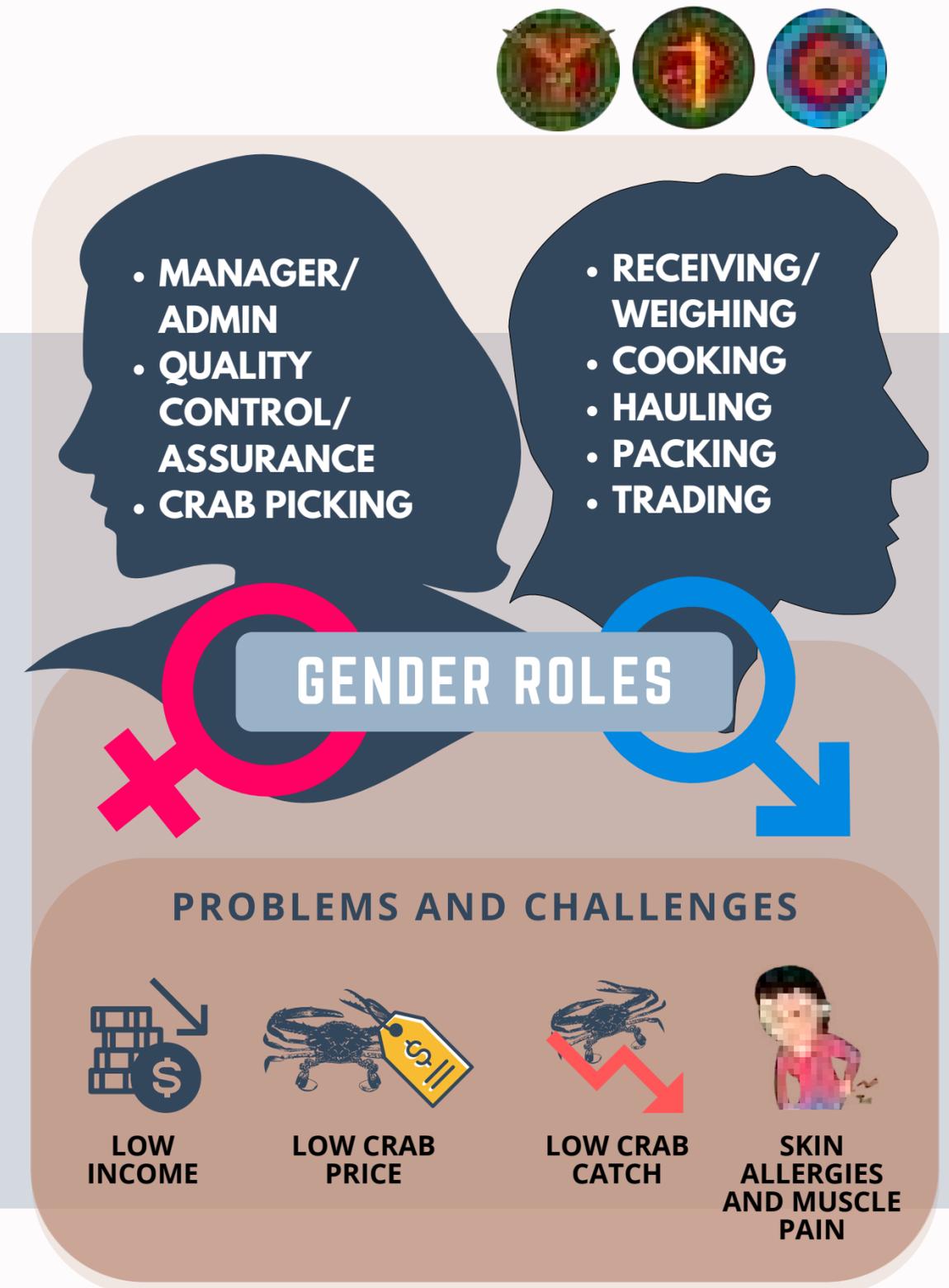
TORTOSA
MODEL VILLAGE

Figure 1. Study site

Results and Discussion

- Post-harvest sector was dominated by women

- Notably, quality control and quality assurance in picking plants were mostly overseen by women.

- Men were usually found to perform heavy workloads such as cooking, hauling, packing, and trading of crabs.
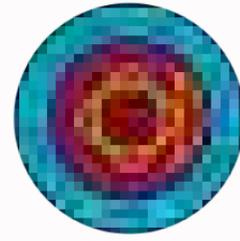
Results and Discussion

- In terms of labor rates, crab pickers were paid based on their outputs while crab cookers, haulers, and packers were paid in fixed rates – making women receive less stable income than men.

- Moreover, the men and women of the blue swimming crab industry faced pressing issues that require long-term solutions to effectively boost socio-economic transformation in crab model villages.

THANK YOU