

PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN SPOUSES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR OF TAIWAN

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This paper summarizes the results of questionnaire interviews of foreign spouses living in six Taiwanese fishing villages. The questions addressed issues on how they earn their living and household details. It also asked the interviewees their ages, their duration of stay in Taiwan, country of origin, citizenship, number of children, age of children and whether they live with their husband's extended families.

The main motivations of their work are to pay for their children's education. Other motivations include paying for household expenses, learning new skills and making new friends. The types of work they do include the propagation and culture of sweet fish, grouper, small abalone, marine and freshwater prawns, oyster and algae. They also collect fry of milkfish, eel, crab from the coast. They engage in post harvest activities such as sea food processing of squid balls and fish fillet. Some of them conduct businesses in imports or exports of fish fry. The income of foreign spouses working as employee ranges from NT\$ 8,000 to NT\$ 25,000 (NT \$30 = US\$ 1) per month and income of the family business with assistance from foreign spouses is about NT\$160,000. Most of their income is used for household expenses and some deposited in savings account, with a few sending their earnings as remittances to their home country of origin.