

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS IN FISH FARMING: WORKSHOP DESIGN FOR THE ASEM AQUACULTURE PLATFORM GENDER WORK PACKAGE

Zumilah Zainalaludin,* Jariah Masud, Tengku Aizan T.A.Hamid, Mohamed Shariff and Ismail Abd Latif

Faculty of Human Ecology, UPM, University Putra Malaysia. zumilah@putra.upm.edu.my

Poverty is high in small scale fish farming communities. Men and women both play significant but usually different roles in aquaculture activities. However, women's roles in aquatic food production are usually invisible, and women have often been left out in training, policy formulation and implementation despite their significant roles. Addressing gender issues in fish farming communities can result in empowering both men and women towards sustainable development. The strength of the knowledge and skills of those facilitating change among poor fish farming families and community can be one of the contributing factors towards empowering the weakest stakeholders. Development strategies must take into consideration gender issues, particularly women's role, and women should be involved in the development process. This paper will provide an overview of a workshop to be held in Malaysia with the following objectives to: a) share country experiences and best practices on poverty eradication by addressing gender issues, b) increase knowledge and skills in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming, c) identify strategies to promote appropriate technologies and greater participation of vulnerable stakeholder groups, d) develop action plans to empower poor farmers and women in aquatic food production, and e) establish networking among workshop participants.

The workshop is one of the work packages under the AqASEM09, ASEM Aquaculture Platform. The workshop will adopt participatory and integrative approaches to enable full and effective participation. The main topics covered in the workshop will be poverty and gender issues in aquatic food production, empowerment of vulnerable groups, gender analysis tools and gender mainstreaming strategies. Workshop participants are expected to share best practices in poverty eradication and addressing gender issues among aquatic food production communities. In addition, participants will prepare action plans for their respective countries to implement. Papers presented during the workshop will be published for wider distribution for integrating gender issues in aquaculture. This presentation also aims to generate discussion on the workshop design.

Key words: fish farming communities, gender roles, gender in aquaculture