REGIONAL FISHERIES LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA (RFLP)

GENDER ISSUES OF THE FISHERY COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF VIETNAM

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Introduction
Methodology
Findings
Conclusion and policy implications
INTRODUCTION

Coastal Central region

- **Crowded population** and mainly living in rural areas
- **High vulnerability:**
  - Natural disasters: typhoons, floods, droughts
  - Poor resource endowment (low land area per capita, sand land infertility),
- **Under-developed infrastructure**

- **High incidence of poverty, most of them are women**
- **Environmental degradation**
- **Lagged behind and low-transferred economy**
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

✓ Assess the existing gender relations related to economic position such as the division of labour between men and women, income, access to resources and benefits.

✓ Identifying the factors that influence or determine the women’s access to resources and benefits, their participation in the social network and rural organizations.

✓ Identifying the possible policy to improve the gender issues of the fishery communities in the Central region.
Qualitative assessment:
Participatory gender assessment
Using several tools of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA): trend analysis, day-time use analysis, social mapping, Venn diagram, life-line, and ranking matrices.

Various relevant stakeholders at multi levels
- Farmers groups
- Villages
- Commune
- District
- Province
STUDY SITES

QuangTri: 5 communes

Thua Thien Hue: 5 communes

Quang Nam: 6 communes
FINDINGS

1. Human capital

Family size:
More crowded family (6prs vs 4.3prs)
High frequency of the families have more than three children, WHY?
Traditional culture beliefs give overestimated value to the men who are mainly responsible for fishing – the main income source of the majority of the households
Every couple, husband in particular wants to have a boy

Overload to women for both birth giving and housework
 Longer working day: 12-14 hours vs 9-10 hours
1. Human capital (cont.)

Education and access to training:
Low literacy: 80% is under secondary
About 10-15% of labor force is illiteracy, most of them are women
Majority of children stop their study earlier for involving in earning living, girls in particular
Higher dropout rate for girls since their parents give priority to the boys
Over 80% at the age of working do not have professional trainings and women have fewer access to the trainings
FINDINGS

2. Access to resources

Big challenge due to open access to sea and lagoon
  Rapid increase in a number of boats and fishing nets
  Destructive fishing equipments
  Overfishing
  Low awareness about community-based as well as co-management mechanisms

Low financial and physical capitals
Voice of women is low for the sharing property rights since men often take more power in decision making
Women have more access to credit but they are lack of knowledge to manage loans
3. Access to social capital

Rate of households participating into social networks (%)

Women Union and Farmers Association are the most important organizations in the study sites.
FINDINGS

3. Access to social capital (cont.)

Major benefits gained from participation at WU and FA related activities (% of surveyed households)

- Encouragement and sympathy
- Learning from each other
- Study tour
- Sharing experience
- Credit
- Trainings
- Gifts
- Others

Their participation are passive and not regular
FINDINGS

3. Access to social capital (cont.)

Women rarely participate the meetings organized by the villages, communes
  No place for women in traditional beliefs
  Women’s voice is less respected by men
  Meetings are often at night, not suitable for women

Low rate of women represented in the organizations at various levels: village, commune, district and province
# FINDINGS

## 4. Main income generation activities

| 1. Fishing | 4.2. Sea product trade |
| 1.1. Onshore | 4.3. Input trade |
| 1.2. Offshore | **5. Processing** |
| 1.3. River and lagoon | 5.1. Fish sauce |
| **2. Aquaculture** | 5.2. Dried fish |
| 2.1. Shrimp | **6. Service** |
| 2.2. Fish | 6.1. Tourism |
| **3. Agriculture** | 6.2. Transportation, repair, milling |
| 3.2. Husbandry: pig, chicken, duck, cow | **8. Migration** |
| **4. Trade** | |
| 4.1. Miscellaneous trade | |
FINDINGS

4. Main income generation activities (cont)

Fishing is the most important, but very risky

Natural disasters: many fishermen were annually killed Chanchu killed 257 fishermen, some villages became widow ones.

Fishermen high aware about regulation on safety at sea, but they are bad practice.

Fish output gradually decrease, but cost for fishing increase rapidly

Aquaculture is new emerging, but very risky too

Unsustainable practice

Widespread of disease

Unstable market

Limited alternative income activities
FINDINGS

4. Labor division b/w men and women

Women are fewer opportunities to work in some activities because they are considered as bad luck
FINDINGS

5. Income contributed by men and women

Women’s income is lower, although their working day is longer.

   Fewer opportunities to work in fishing and aquaculture which could generate high income.

Most women’s income is from trade, processing, husbandry and services.

Women’s income of the better-off households is much more higher than that of the poor women.
**FINDINGS**

*Important level of the income generation activities to the better-off households in Duy Hai commune*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Contribution to household income (1000VND/year)</th>
<th>% contributed to total income</th>
<th>Level*</th>
<th>(%) contributed by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Fishing (boat owner)</td>
<td>100.000 - 150.000</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Trade</td>
<td>120.000 - 150.000</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Sea product wholesale</td>
<td>100.000 - 150.000</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Processing</td>
<td>150.000 - 250.000</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Migration</td>
<td>5.000 - 10.000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note*: form 1 = very important to 5 = least important important
## FINDINGS

### Important level of the income generation activities to the average households in Duy Hai commune

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Contribution to household income (1000VND/year)</th>
<th>% contributed to total income</th>
<th>Level*</th>
<th>(%) contributed by Men</th>
<th>(%) contributed by Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fishing (small boat owner, sharing)</td>
<td>40.000 - 50.000</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Small collector</td>
<td>25.000 - 30.000</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Small trade</td>
<td>15.000 - 20.000</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Small scale processing</td>
<td>10.000 - 20.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Agriculture</td>
<td>20.000 - 30.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Hired labor</td>
<td>40.000 - 50.000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Others</td>
<td>20.000 – 30.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** form 1 = very important to 5 = least important
## FINDINGS

**Important level of the income generation activities to the poor households in Duy Hai commune**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Contribution to household income (1000VND/year)</th>
<th>% contributed to total income</th>
<th>Level*</th>
<th>(%) contributed by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Petty trade</td>
<td>5.000 - 10.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20    80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hired labor</td>
<td>15.000 - 20.000</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80    20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Others (any work)</td>
<td>10.000 - 15.000</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>30    70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Agriculture</td>
<td>5.000 – 10.000</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30    70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** form 1=very important to 5= least important
- Thanks to high growth of economy and support policies introduced by government, the socio-economic opportunities are significantly improved for both men and women.

- There are many disadvantages to women.
  Intangible barriers are existing: traditional beliefs, stereotypes, rural institutions…

Women have less access to and control over resources such as education, healthcare, information, technology, land and social capital.

Due to burden of housework, traditional beliefs, women have fewer opportunities to work in the higher income generating activities. The alternative income activities are limited, most of women are underemployment.

Lower women’s income makes their position low, their voice is not respected by men.
1. More innovative solutions for better access to education, health care, social services, professional trainings for alternative jobs;

2. Gender mainstreaming should be taken account in rural development policies related to access to resources, income generation, development planning and trainings and decision making process;

3) More support policies for women in economic activities such as credit, trainings on starting new business, business skills and transferring technology;

4) Raising awareness about gender for local authorities.
Hope and smile forward future
Thank you