

THE GLOBAL AND LOCAL MARKETS OF *Penaeus monodon* IN BOHOL ISLAND, PHILIPPINES: GENDER ROLE IN HACCP IMPLEMENTATION

Cecilio S. Baga* and Corazon P. Macachor

Cebu Technological University, Main Campus, R. Palma St., Cebu City, Philippines. csbaga@yahoo.com

Penaeus monodon is one of the most common species of farmed crustaceans in the Philippines. It found global and local market through a prawn processing plant in Bohol Island which has been implementing Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) practices. The university researchers of Cebu Technological University facilitated the HACCP certification of the prawn processing plant from 2004 until 2006. They assisted on the preparation of plant set-up, standards of practice, hazard analysis worksheet, and HACCP Plan toward registration. Gender role in HACCP implementation was assessed and was revisited in 2010. The study investigated the gender roles in prawn processing and marketing, where the gender division of labour was most prominent. Results confirmed that in prawn processing, 80% of workers were young female; most are in the age bracket of 18 to 21 (64%) and 25-30 (34%). These women were the core workers in implementing HACCP practices. Among these women who were involved in post-harvest activities of the plant, 50% of them were engaged in other entrepreneurial activities after work/shift, like local marketing of processed prawn which failed to meet the export quality. 30% of them were engaged in gardening, small-scale farming, and household chores, and the other 20% were confined to household activities after work. Men, who composed of 20% of the workforce, were engaged in lifting/transferring of processed prawn to and from conveyor. All men workers were engaged in farming and cattle-raising after their work/shift. Although all employees worked in an eight-hour shift, only 10% were regular/permanent workers, 10% provisional, while 80% (60% women and 20% men) were “on-call” or contractual-basis employees. They were called to work when there was enough harvest. Fifty percent of the respondents seemed to like the idea of working in a HACCP certified plant, and they wanted their children to follow the trade they are engaged in. The other 50% wanted their children to be engaged in other professional jobs, because they feel that they are stuck in this “on-call” job because of their lack of higher education – within the range of Grade 6 – 10. It is recommended that continuing education for women workers be introduced in HACCP-based processing plant in order to keep a constant supply of trained workforce for post harvest activities of diversified fishery products, other than prawn processing.

Key words: Postharvest, Cebu Technological University, prawn processing