ENHANCING WOMEN’S ROLE IN FISHING COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA: A GENDER PERSPECTIVE
Outline of presentation

- Profile of women’s in the fishing sector
- Women’s concern
- Empowering women in fishing sector
Profile of Women in the Fishing Sector
Distribution of Fishermen's Wife Age

**Age Group**

- **36-45**: 32%
- **26-35**: 20%
- **15-25**: 4%
- **<15**: 3%
- **>66**: 2%
- **56-65**: 11%
- **46-55**: 28%
Educational Attainment

- No formal Education, 5,782, 31%
- Primary school, 5,740, 31%
- Lower secondary, 3,475, 19%
- Upper secondary, 3,088, 17%
- Cert/Dip/college/tertiary, 108, 1%

Sendi Report, 2007/08
## Types of Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of courses</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food processing</strong></td>
<td>Fish floss (serunding ikan), fish cake, fish ball, fish crackers (keropok), surimi, nugget, sausage, grilled fish</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing</strong></td>
<td>Marketing the group’s products</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Quality control</strong></td>
<td>Good Manufacturing Products (GMP), to ensure cleanliness during food production and good management of premise</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Image Building</strong></td>
<td>Customer delight, in terms of appearance, language and ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Machine operator</strong></td>
<td>Operating machine used in the food processing</td>
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WOMEN’S CONCERNS
Women’s Concerns

- Life depend on the catch from sea. Seasonal nature of the catch need to have fish processing facilities
- Lack of access to basic infrastructure
- Limited employment opportunities due to isolation
- Difficult to marker produce due to lack of affordable transportation
- Have skills such as cooking, sewing, craft agriculture but no capital and limited market.
- Female headed households have to go out to the sea to support own living
- Willing to work to improve their livelihood
ENHANCING WOMEN’S ROLES
Women’s Role

- Reproductive roles:
  - Access to basic services
  - Support system family care
  - Access to household technology

- Community roles
  - Leadership and soft skills

- Productive roles:
Value Chain in Fishing

- Breeding
- Fishing gear Maintenance
- Fishing
- Sales
- Fresh (Consumers)
- Processed food
- Cooking
- Sales
- Waste Mgmt
- Direct selling
- Middlemen
- Technology Managerial Financial Advisory
- Feed, Seedling
- Other Inputs
Women Entrepreneurial Development

- **Income Generating Program**
  - **Survival**
  - **Micro enterprise**
  - **Self Employed Program**
  - **Women/family Entrepreneurial Program**
  - **Small Enterprise**
  - **Small/Community Enterprise**

- **High Income**
- **Middle Income**
- **Low Income**
- **Poor**
Common Constraints Faced by Women Entrepreneurs

- Financial: lack access to credit. Very poor had micro credit while non poor depend on own saving
- Accessibility to training: location and duration
- Marketing limitation
- Quality control/legal requirement
- Lack of appropriate technology
- Lack managerial and technical skills
Enhancing Women’s Productive Roles

- Upgrading their traditional subsistence activities such as fish processing, preservation and fermentation into income-generating production.
- Activities in aquaculture such as collection of fish fries, prawn seeds etc., stocking of the pond, feeding and poultry-rearing (chicken and duck) by the fishponds.
- Promoting home-based cottages industries such as batik making, weaving, silver making, basket making, sewing, local handicrafts and other agro-based industries such as fruit preservation, copra and coconut-oil making.
- Agro tourism
Product distinction: market niche
Concentrate on activities with lowest capital, skill entry and labour intensive.

Home-based, individual or small group activities

Making beef floss
Or workshop beside their house
Appropriate technology
Managerial and technical skills
Conclusions

- Increase productivity and efficiency in productive and reproductive roles will enhance women’s role in the society.
- Women have the potential to contribute significantly to improving families’ level of living.
- Gender sensitive policies and programs are prerequisite to WED efforts.
- Political will and commitment from all parties needed.