

GENDER ANALYSIS IN AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN: A CASE
STUDY OF TILAPIA CAGE CULTURE IN SAKHON NAKHON,
THAILAND

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Aquaculture sector has a significant contribution in Thai economy and employment. Male dominance in aquaculture persists due to the heavy work requirement in the farms. In recent years, however, there has been an increase in the participation of women in aquaculture, particularly smallholder and household based fish farming activities. In South East Asia, women carry out 42-80 % of all aquaculture activities (FAO, 2007).

There is difficulty in estimating how much women contribute to aquaculture development in Thailand, particularly in tilapia farming, where majority of systems are small scale and household based. In addition, there is a lack of information regarding gender roles in tilapia farming in Thailand, as few studies have been conducted on this topic. It has been observed though that women play an important role in the various nodes of the tilapia value chain. Tilapia production in Thailand is the highest among freshwater species in the country, with 90% of production supplying the domestic markets. In 2012, Thailand produced 153,311 tons of tilapia, 20% of which came from cage culture.

This case study was then conducted in order to (1) map the gender roles in small scale tilapia cage culture in Sakhon Nakhon, Thailand; (2) identify and analyze the role and activities of women and men in the tilapia grow-out stage, including the gender dimensions with respect to division of labor, decision making process, benefit sharing, and access to resources including knowledge and information, and; (3) to identify the gender issues, needs and opportunities in areas such as fish health, farm management, food quality, safety and marketing in tilapia cage aquaculture.

The case study is focused on thirty small-scale tilapia cage farming households in Sakhon Nakhon province, in the northeastern region of Thailand. Sakhon Nakhon is one of the provinces with a considerable number of small scale tilapia cage culture farms. There are an estimated 92 tilapia cage farms in this province, contributing 0.41% of tilapia production in Thailand in 2012. The study also involves collecting data from primary and secondary sources along with quantitative and qualitative information gathered from the respondents relevant to the tilapia value chain. In addition, in depth interviews will be conducted with six women engaged in tilapia cage culture activities to provide more understanding on how gender relations and dynamics in the households and communities are affected by their involvement in tilapia farming.