

GENDER ANALYSIS IN AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAIN IN CAMBODIA

Kao Sochivi*, Sovityea Kao and Srun Limsong

*Fisheries Administration, P.O. Box 582, #186, Norodom Blvd.,
Chamkamorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Email: kaosochivi@yahoo.com*

One of the four priority areas of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) on its Fifth Legislature of the Rectangular Strategy – Phase III and National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014 – 2018 is to promote livestock farming and aquaculture. The objective is to promote broader livestock farming and aquaculture through introduction of a policy framework based on value chain principle, and removing all the barriers to the development of this sector, taking into account issues such as food safety standards and market regulation functions especially sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. While this sector is being developed, the RGC also aims to eliminate gender disparities in wage employment, specifically in the agriculture, industry, and service sectors. The policy aims to improve livelihoods of rural communities, especially of poor women. Gender mainstreaming in rural and agricultural development programs will ensure that rural women in on-farm and off-farm activities are able to diversify their economic activities, increase their productivity, and expand their livelihoods. Migration of men seeking new job opportunities in other places has left women with children in the villages, which validates intense involvement of women in aquaculture activities particularly in the grow-out stage.

The limited study of gender in this sector and stage has affected the promotion of gender equality and development of women's needs and aspirations in aquaculture. Therefore, this study aims to map the gender roles in the selected aquaculture value chain; identify and analyze the roles and activities of women and men in the grow-out phase and analyze the gender dimensions; and identify the gender issues, needs and opportunities in farm management and Best Management Practices (BMP) initiatives.

The study was conducted in two provinces (Takeo and Kampong Speu), where freshwater aquaculture is being intensified. Both primary and secondary data are being collected. Quantitative and qualitative information were also collected from various respondents, which include aquaculture farmers, key informants, women and girls, and local authorities. A purposive sampling is used to select aquaculture farmers, with a sample size of 30 respondents per province. In-depth interviews with six women per province from aquaculture and fisheries systems will also be conducted. Comparative and descriptive analysis, as well as SWOT analysis will be applied to identify needs and aspirations of women in aquaculture development in the country.