Gender Roles in Aquaculture in Malaysia: Exploratory Study in Kuala Besut, Terengganu, Malaysia

- Tengku Aizan T.A.Hamid
- Jariah Masud
- Zumilah Zainallaluddin
- Mohamed Shariff

University Putra Malaysia
Background

- Malaysia high income county by 2020
- Fishing sector - key food security of nation for main source of protein
- Aquaculture potential growth sector under Third National Agriculture policy
- Mainly men’s role - women also play active role
Objectives of presentation

- To share experience in data collection to understand the gender roles in aquaculture activities
- Highlight findings on gender roles in household and aquaculture activities
Methodology

• No data on gender role in aquaculture

• Provide field officers understanding on gender role in aquaculture

• Further discussion with officers to develop questionnaire for study:

  • i) cage    ii) pond    iii) off shore fishing

• Questionnaire comprised of socio economic background & activity profile
Data collection

• Questionnaire was developed

• Malaysia Fishery Development Board branch, Besut, Terengganu help collect data

• 200 member of branch help collect data - June 2011
The respondents

275 men & women

- 147 married men
- 93 married women
- 35 married pond operators
- 51 married cage operators
Profile of the Respondents

- Male
- Female

Age Distribution:
- <30
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60+

Education Level:
- Primary
- Secondary
- Upper Secondary
- College
- University
Domestic Roles

- Family financial management
- Bill payment
- Meeting family need
- Disciplining
- Caring for the family
- House cleaning
- Help in school work

- Wife
- Husband
Public Sphere

- Community activities
- Going to mosque
- Parent teacher association
- Meeting teachers
- Banking
- Earning Income
- Buying food

Legend:
- Wife
- Husband
Husband and Wife Perception of Wife’s Role in Cage Culture

- Buying seed: Husband 2.0, Wife 20.0
- Transferring the fish from hatchery: Husband 2.0, Wife 20.0
- Preparing feed: Husband 0.0, Wife 10.0
- Buying feed: Husband 2.0, Wife 22.0
- Feeding: Husband 2.0, Wife 22.0
- Checking diseases: Husband 2.0, Wife 16.0
Husband and Wife Perception of Wife’s Role in Cage Culture

- Repair equipments: Wife 20.00, Husband 2.00
- Post harvest maintenance: Wife 20.00, Husband 2.00
- Cleaning of cage: Wife 20.00, Husband 2.00
- Cage maintenance: Wife 20.00, Husband 2.00
- Selling fish: Wife 14.00, Husband 0.00
- Draining water: Wife 10.00, Husband 0.00
- Harvesting: Wife 20.00, Husband 2.00
- Administer medication: Wife 16.00, Husband 2.00

Wife
Husband
Women’s Perception of Their Roles in Fish Ponds

- Medication: 17.6%
- Checking for diseases: 17.6%
- Feeding: 17.6%
- Buying feed: 20.6%
- Preparing feed: 8.8%
- Transfering the fish from hatchery: 17.6%
- Buying seed: 20.6%
Harvesting
Draining water
Maintaining pond
Cleaning pond
Post harvest maintenance
Harvesting pond-selling fish
Conclusions

• Husband & wife have similar perception of role of women in domestic sphere

• Discrepancies between husband and wife regarding roles in aquaculture

• Only one husband perceived his wife’s involvement in pond & cage operation
Conclusions

• More women indicated their involvement in pond & cage operation

• Further research needed for clearer picture of men & women’s involvement

• Knowing who does what in aquaculture can guide strategies for efficient technology transfer
Thank you.