Evaluation of women fisherfolks in Nigeria in the implementation of gender equitable Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines.

BY
Foluke Areola and Kafayat Fakoya
OUTLINE

• Introduction of Nigeria’s Small-Scale Fisheries (SSFs).
• Governance of the SSFs: status and challenges.
• Focus on women fisherfolks - roles, responsibilities, limitations and opportunities.
• Glance at adoption of the SSF Guidelines in Nigeria, how much was accomplished \textit{a priori}.
• Pathway for women’s role in SSF.
In Nigeria, SSF contribute over 75% of local fish production. Most significant in terms of social, economic and cultural contexts. Complex multi-species, multi-gear and data-poor. Highly informal and under-valued with very limited participation in decision-making. Lack of policy coherence, institutional coordination, and collaboration.
INTRODUCTION (Contd.)

• Women fisherfolks excluded from decision-making.
• Gender policy and mainstreaming not yet specifically adopted to SSF.
• Objective: highlight pathway for women inclusion in SSF implementation.
Status and Governance of small-scale fisheries: status and challenges.

- SSF is entrapped under Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture in the Min. of Agric.
- Governance involves both formal (government) and informal (traditional) institutions.
- Many SSFs are literally open – access, loosely managed by top-down system.
- Typologies of governance in Inland fisheries - communal ownership, mixed systems and collective action.
- Co-management was experimental practiced within a donor-funded project.
Focus on women fisherfolks - roles, responsibilities, limitations and opportunities.

**Roles**

- **Fishing** directly and indirectly with canoes in the coastal States of Nigeria.
- Pre and Post-harvest activities: net mending, bait setting, trap making (baskets);
- Fish processing: salting, smoking, sun-drying.
- Marketing of fish.

**Responsibilities**

- Provision of food and nutrition security.
- Caregivers to husbands, children and other members of the family.
- Increasing roles in supplementing household income.
Focus on women fisherfolks - roles, responsibilities, limitations and opportunities

Limitations
- Poor access to productive resources.
- Poor literacy, information access and awareness of their rights.
- Poorly developed market infrastructures, poor storage, and processing facilities.
- Restrictive socio-cultural norms and gender stereotypes.

Opportunities
- Maximize social capital.
- Multi-tasking; extra – sectoral fisheries activities for additional income.
- Women are organized into formal fish traders' associations.
- Projects and programmes are gender - sensitive.
SSF Guidelines Adoption and Implementation in Nigeria

• Formal acceptance and endorsement of SSF Guidelines by the Minister, FMARD.

• Official constitution of a National Committee for implementation of the Guidelines

• Formal letter of request to FAO for the sponsorship of stakeholders’ meeting.
SSF Guidelines Adoption and Implementation in Nigeria

Prior to SSF Guidelines, Nigeria has accomplished some of these objectives:

• Organized fishery co-operatives to access credit schemes and subsidized fishing inputs.

• Establishment of the 5 nautical miles non-trawling zone.

• Replacement of four stroke engine to reduce carbon emission.

• Ratification to key international conventions concerning child labor, social programs, Climate Change etc.
Pathway to facilitate women in SSF Guidelines implementation and monitoring

• Emphasis on Gender dis-aggregated data.
• Adapt and operationalize the gender policy in Agriculture (2016) to SSF.
• Support community leadership of women folks via capacity building in literacy, life and entrepreneurial skills etc.
• Bottom-up, gender sensitive and responsive approaches to engender plans and programmes.
Conclusions

Gender equity in governance:

• Elimination of discriminatory organization structure under which SSF exists.
• High priority on the realization of human rights of vulnerable and marginalized- women.
• Political will to challenge the status quo.
• SSF Guidelines workshops must address gender relations and strategic gender needs.
• Institutionalise protection of women user rights.
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!