

FROM THE LAKE TO THE PLATE: ASSESSING GENDER VULNERABILITIES THROUGHOUT THE FISHERIES CHAIN

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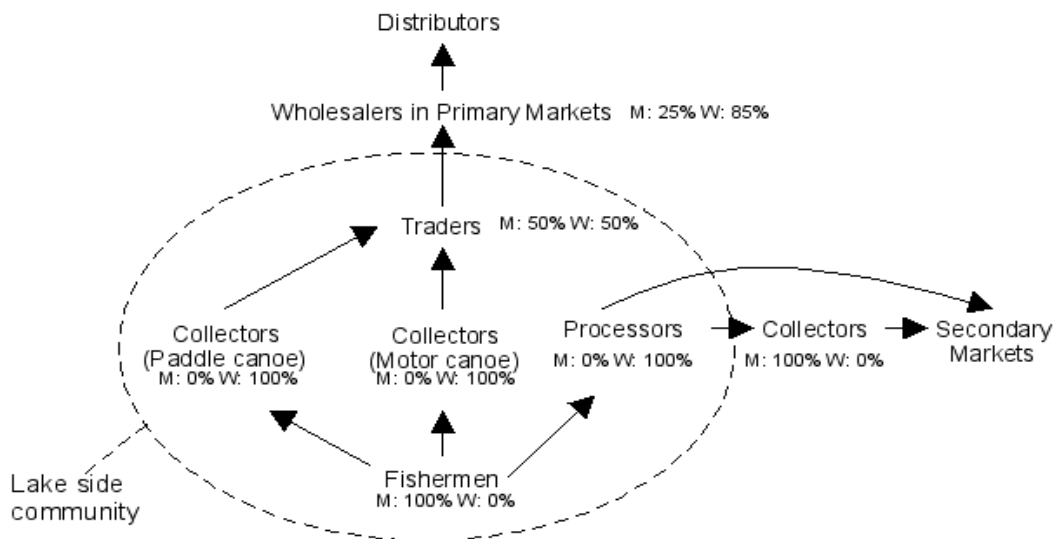
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This paper provides evidence on the effectiveness of gender analysis in leading to community change and reduced gender inequities, based on a case study carried out within fishing communities on Lake Sélingué, Mali. The analysis provides insight into issues that need to be addressed to move beyond the focus on women to a focus on gender and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods at a community level. However, gender analysis within the community only provides one important aspect of gender relations. This study illustrates that it is necessary to study the gender relations throughout the marketing chain, which necessarily takes you out of the community and into market networks (Figure 1). This is particularly important with fisheries, given that the sector is increasingly market driven and where vulnerabilities throughout the chain can cascade down to impact those at the production level. This paper therefore provides a gender analysis throughout the fisheries chain i.e. from lake to plate, and identifies actions at the local, meso and macro level to support gender equity.

Figure. Schematic representation of the fresh fisheries chain, Lake Sélingué, Mali



Note: proportions of men (M) and women (W) are indicated at percentages next to different actors in the chain.