



Promoting women's empowerment and gender equality in Myanmar fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors

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Acknowledgement

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Background

Fisheries in Myanmar

- In the top 15 fish producing nations
- Fish highest consumption animal protein
- Poorest households and landless, reliant on capture fisheries for food and income
- Developing aquaculture sector

WorldFish Myanmar

- Small scale aquaculture (SSA) and small scale fisheries (SSF)
- Different regions, socio-economic, agro-ecologies
- Poverty alleviation through increasing productivity and income
- Improved food and nutrition security

Gender ?

- Knowledge gap
- Gender dimensions in fisheries and aquaculture > gender benchmarking study
- Gender for equitable development, project outcomes and beyond

Study Aim

To assess and understand the existing gender norms, social relations and innovations that may influence the WorldFish program outcomes

- Households and communities level
 - MyCulture and MyNutrition projects + future project proposals and program design

Sites

- Conducted April and June 2016
- Two regions, Delta and Central dry zone
- Four villages



Method

Desk analysis and community profile

GENNOVATE (CGIAR) qualitative methods and tools package

- Focus group discussions (16 FDG, 8 women, 8 men in each FDG, total 102)
- Group interviews (4 total, 14 men, 9 women)
- Key informant interviews (32 total, 16 women, 16 men)

Tools

- Village/community profile
- Ladder of life
- Capacities for innovations
- Innovation pathways
- Individual life story

Additional modules

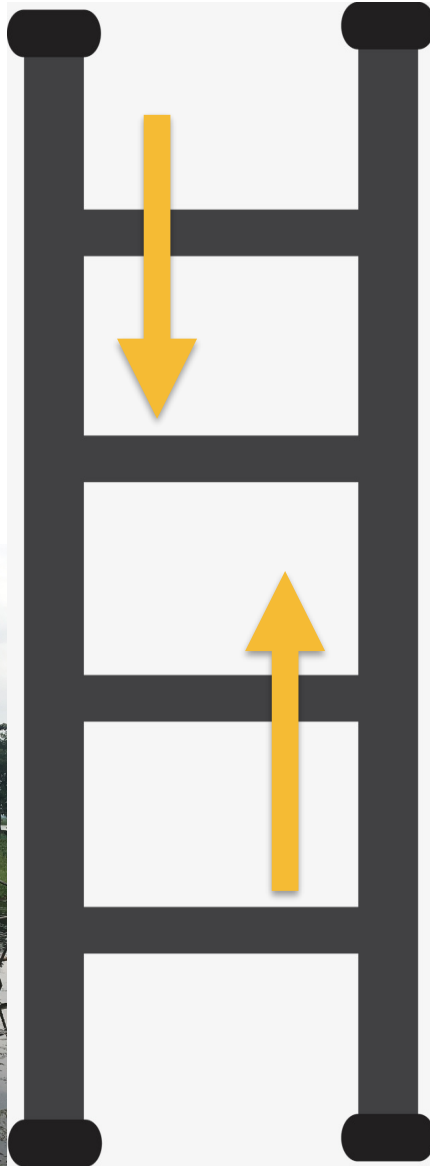
- Food choice and distribution
- Wealth ranking
- Seasonal calendar

Data analysis

- Thick descriptives and thematic techniques
- Coded in Nvivo

Locally adapted

Contextual descriptors of poverty levels, norms and social constructs



Key Findings - Income

- Large gender disparity in income
- Women paid 25 – 60% less for the same type of jobs (agriculture and non agriculture sectors)

“... Men get more earning as they have to use more energy for the works”.

Poor women’s FGD in Yin Ma Pin 2016

“...the earning is different due to the performance and type of works”.

Poor men FGD in Meikitila, 2016

Key Findings



- “Headed households”
- Communities identify Female Headed Households (FHH) differently
 - FHH are not only single, divorced or widowed women: the physical absence of husbands
 - But also Male heads are incapable of leading the HH (age, sickness/alcoholism)
- Formally, these women are not recognized as the household head
- **Consequently many interventions by pass these group of women**



Gender norms around farming and fishing roles in Myanmar

Fisheries & aquaculture perceived as a male domain (by men and women)

Consequently, in most SSA development work men are the focus of the interventions.

Though, women carry out the routine management of fish farming, their contributions often overlooked

Women

- Feeding fish, and mending nets
- Selling fish & fish processing
- Occasionally also catch the fish

Men

- Mostly responsible for fishing, preparation of ponds & stocking
- Men entitled to control over important assets, hence, decision on adoption of livelihood options SSA is the responsibility of male

Implications

- Acceptability and opportunity of women in post harvest production and value addition
- Womens work undervalued;
Unseen informal work, unseen SSA roles,
disparity in pay for the same work





Ways forward





Thank You



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<http://gender.cgiar.org/themes/gennovate/>

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