



Rice field fisheries in Cambodia: Enhancing women's leadership in managing RFF systems

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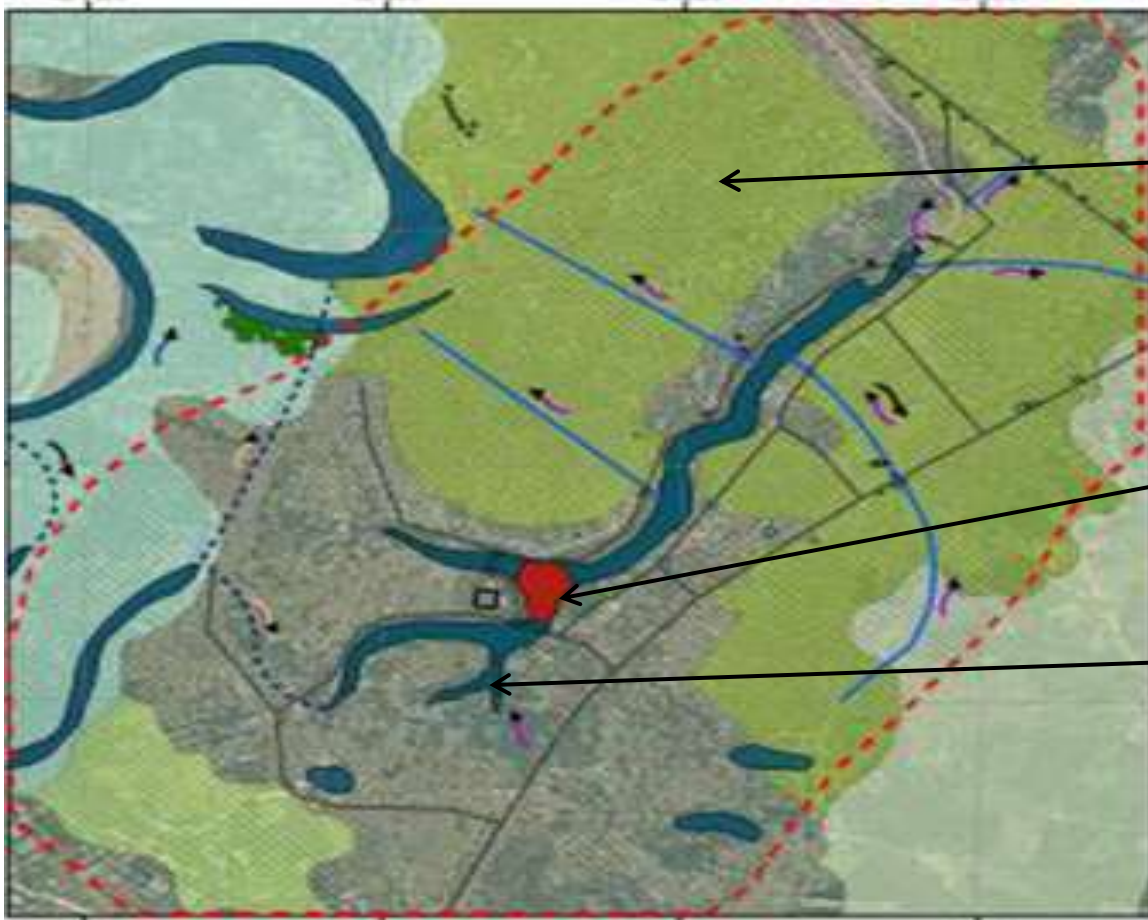
Outline of the Presentation

1. Rice Field Fisheries System
2. Project ultimate goal and key actions
3. Major challenges and key interventions to promoting women's leadership
4. Key results



What is Rice Field Fisheries System?

Consist of 3 agro-ecological domains



Rice Field



Community Fish Refuge

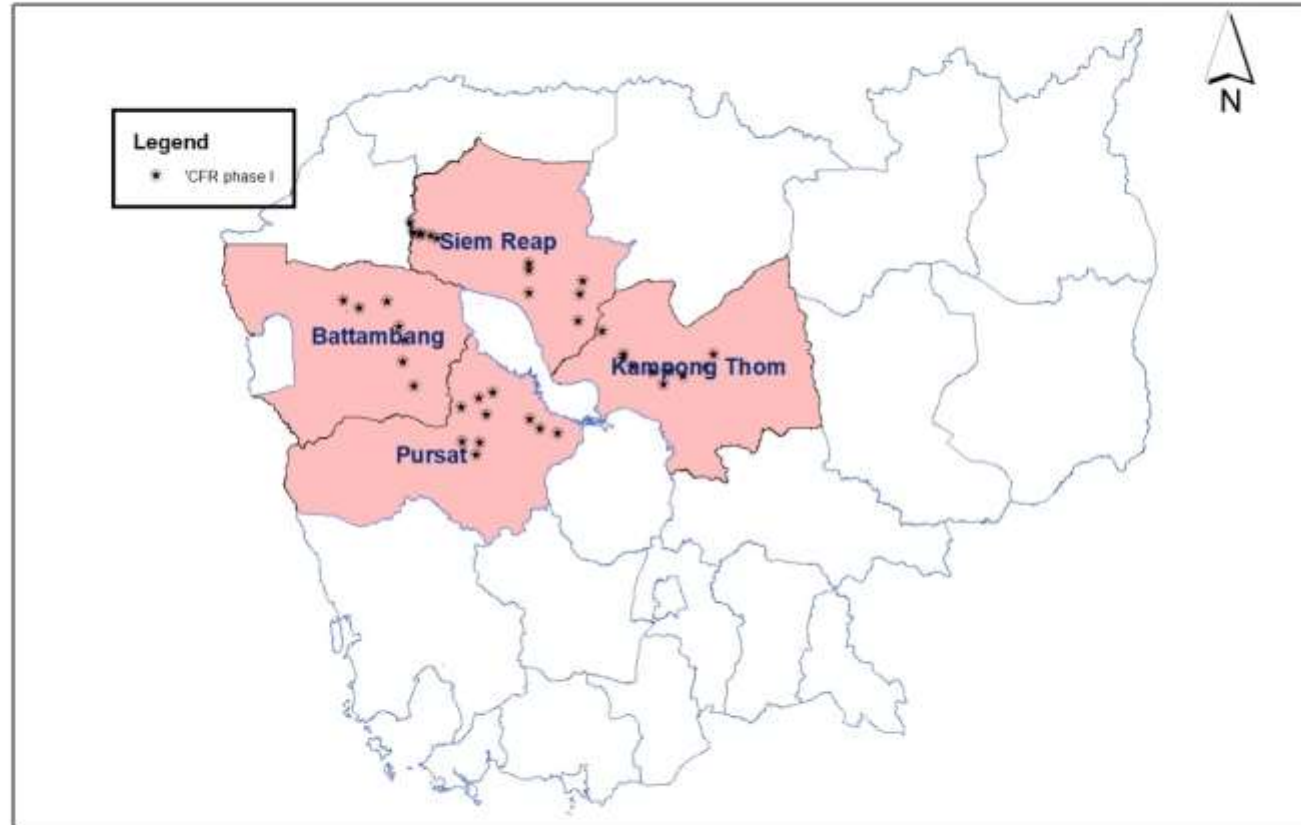


Connecting waterways



Rice field fisheries refers to the capture of wild fish and other aquatic animals (OAA) from the flooded rice field environment and associated waterways--- canals, river channels, or streams.

Project target maps and ultimate goal



To improved food and nutritional security of poor and vulnerable rural households in the Tonle Sap floodplain region in Cambodia, through enhancing natural productivity of fish and other aquatic animals in rice field fishery System.



Key actions of the project

Physical improvements of CFR environment



Increasing community engagement & institutional capacity



Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning



What barriers do women face at various levels?



- Women have many household tasks to perform, based on daily activity assessment exercise.
- Women hesitate to join in public works because they feel they have lack of capacities, experience and other related skills.
- Social and cultural constraints and lack support from the family member.
- Rules, regulations, guidelines, election criteria and other relevant tools have limited women's participation in the development process.
- Limited public appreciation and lack of encouragement for women leadership achievements.
- The commitment of the management of most relevant institutions or agencies on promoting women leadership is weak, no budget.

What has the project done to address the barriers?



Household level:

Family visioning & action plan development in relation to hygiene and sanitation



Give opportunity to implement action plans



Follow up and review



Facilitate exchange visit and HH faire

Executive committee level (institution) level:

Community visioning & action plans for increasing fish productivity



Give opportunity to implement action plans



Follow up and review in participatory way



Conduct lessons sharing workshop

What is our research question?



Can (1) Household Visioning and (2) Community Visioning and Action Plans:

(a) reduce women's workload at the household level

(b) facilitate women's leadership in Committees

(c) improve practice of sanitation and hygiene at the household level

(d) contribute to enhancing productivity of fish?

What has been done by the project at household level?



Example HH visioning session to reduce woman workload during planning stage.

Example of result after family members share tasks among (husband and wife)



View of Mr Phea Phean's house before sharing roles with his wife

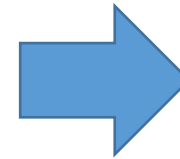
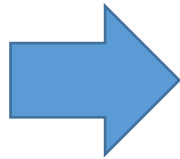


View of Mr Phea Phean's house after sharing roles with his wife



What has been done at community level?

- ❑ **Women and men collectively participated in developing community visions, defining possible action plans to address RFF issues**
- ❑ **Women's ideas and decisions were included in all stages of project cycle management: the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation.**
(two different colors of card for man and woman to prioritize their needs and decision makings)





Monitoring

- ❑ Number of men and women participating in the project at household and committee level (we call this **Gender Process**)
- ❑ Behavior change of men and women at both households and CFR committee level (**Gender Outcome**).

Result to date: a) reduce women's workload at the household level

Based on our monitoring with 20 HHs, most households show:

- reduction of the women's workload,
- men take an average of 2 additional household tasks.

Sharing roles between husband & wife



Women earn extra income because of the role sharing.



Result to date: b) women's leadership in Committees



Year of implementation	2013	2015
Total target areas	40 CFRs	40 CFRs
Total CFR executive committee members	381	434
Total males	352	369
Total females	29	65
% of female executive committee members	7.6 %	15 %
Amount of fund raised by CFR committees (\$)	825	31,267



Result to date: c) use of nutrition and sanitation and hygiene practices

Based on our monitoring with 20 HHs, most households show:

- Feeding small fish to families and their children
- Hand washing stations are established and move chicken and pig pen away from kitchen.

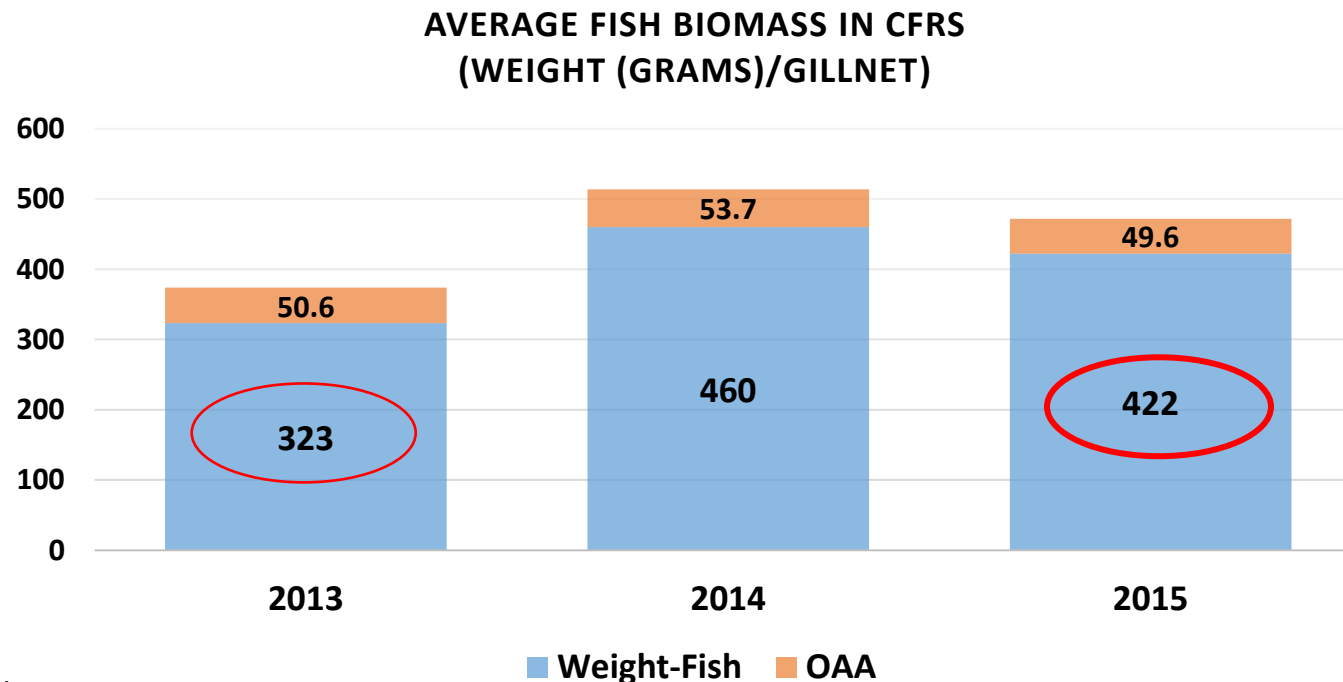


These outcomes are related to sharing of household roles between husband and wife.



Result to date: a) enhancing productivity of fish?

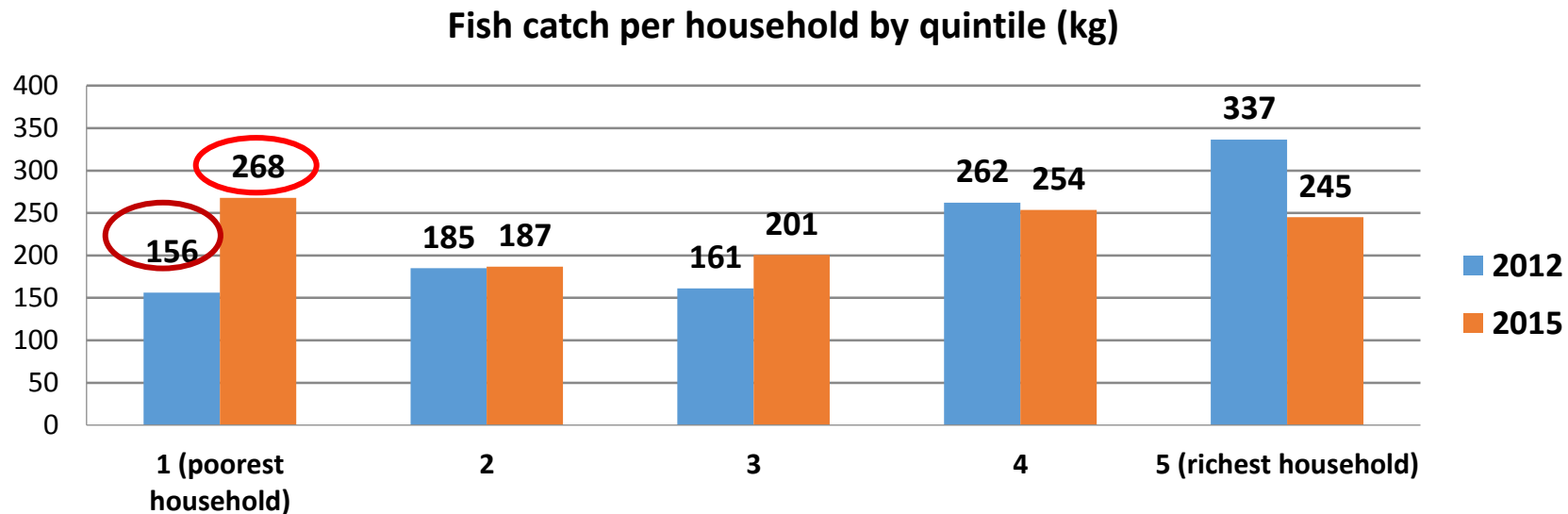
- ❑ Average fish biomass increased by 30.7% between 2013-2015.
- ❑ This is despite severe drought in 2015 (the worst since 1979), which caused lower fish productivity throughout the country.





Result to date: d) enhancing productivity of fish?

- ❑ Average HH fish catch increased by 9% from 211kg in 2012 to 230 kg in 2015.
- ❑ More importantly, HHs in the poorest quintile increased fish catch by 71%, while the catch by richer households declined.
- ❑ This shows that project interventions are pro-poor and benefited predominantly the poorer households who relied more on fish from rice fields for food and income.



Women CFR committee leads in fund raising to managing CFR



Small indigenous fish species

indigenous fish species



Home vegetable garden using water from CFR.



Safe drinking water get water from CFR



Hygienic and diversity food for children



Thank you



Enhancing women leadership to manage RFF Systems is really contribute to increase fund raised, improve habitat of RFF, and increase fish productivity. CFR/RFF provides multiple benefits to community people, especially the poor (fish, OAA, vegetables and safe drinking water etc.)