



SUCCESSFUL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES: CASE STUDIES FROM NIGERIA AND SELECTED WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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Introduction

- Aquaculture as an industry that is in the stage of revolution is the fastest growing food production system contributing to employment generation, improved food and nutrition security and livelihood all over the world.
- It plays an essential role for socio-economic development.

Introduction Cont'

- Women account for about 50% of the workforce in small-scale fisheries, particularly in processing and trade. However, the sector is facing challenges such as: declining fisheries resources; degraded aquatic habitats;
- About 27.3 % of the people engaged in Aquaculture and Fisheries are women, with marked differences in their share among Fishers (3.6 %), Processors (58 %) and Aquaculture workers (4 %) (FAO, 2014)

Introduction Cont'

- According to WorldFish 2018, Fisheries is a major economic sector, estimated to employ over 8.6 million people directly and a further 19.6 million indirectly, 70 percent of whom are women.
- All over the world, women contribute in multiple ways to the production, processing, marketing and management of fish and other living aquatic resources.
- In the fishing communities, women participate actively in fisheries and also play a part in the maintenance of their families

Introduction Cont'

- African women according to Odili *et al.* (2012) have the highest female participation rate in agriculture of all regions in the world.
- It is also important to note that women comprise about 43% of the global agricultural labor force, especially in developing countries. Their contribution to agricultural output is undoubtedly extremely significant, as women produce 60-80% of food in agriculture. FAO (2011)

Justification of study

- However, this important role is difficult to quantify with some level of accuracy (FAO, 2011) and their contributions remain largely invisible and undocumented, even though they are important workforce in the fishery sectors globally.
- Sex-disaggregated statistics that could track the performance of women in aquaculture and fisheries are scarce, and therefore women's presence, influence and interests are invisible.
- Also, Women's opportunities in aquaculture have not kept pace with the rapid growth of the sector.

Justification of study Cont'

- Over the years, there had been great insinuations that women are not making any success in the field of aquaculture and fisheries because of the many limitations / constraints been faced as a result of their gender.
- Their contributions are under rated, flagging their reproductive activities above their productive activities.
- These constraints are not peculiar to the field of aquaculture and fisheries alone. Despite the challenges, a number of women have been able to break through the barriers or constraints and are making substantial contributions in their spheres of operation.
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Objective of study

- This paper will therefore show case some of the women that have made significant impact along the value chain of aquaculture and Fisheries under the following headings: Processor, Producer, Marketer (marketing and distribution), Input supply, Logistics, fish feed production/sales and supply, active fishing in the ocean, Institution / Policy, Export, Academia (education, and training), Research, Advocacy and Sea food.

Map of Nigeria, Ghana, Mali and Sierra Leone the study sites



Methodology

- The respondents were purposively selected from across Nigeria Ghana, Mali and Sierra Leone using a combination of data collection methods (questionnaire, interview, focus group, farm visit, telephone call, email) using Snow ball technique.
- The questionnaire was used to elucidate information on their various activities. Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the data collected.

Result and Discussion

- It is only Nigeria that has all the listed actors while Mali has the least. This is because aquaculture in Mali is in her infant stage. Large water bodies for fishing is also restricted to some regions. Mali is a land lock state
- The result obtained so far show that more women are involved in processing and value addition than in other areas in Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone
- The representation of women in fish production, Logistics, Export, and active fishing in ocean is low
- Their activities were limited by non- availability/ poor access to required resources and gender bias thus affecting overall performance and productivity as the use of production resources is key to high productivity and profits.

Conclusion

- The available result shows that women are making giant strides as entrepreneurs in their activities along the aquaculture and fisheries value chain but the reportage is poor.
- All hope is not lost in the journey of women making great strides in being entrepreneurs in aquaculture and fisheries. There is the need for more support so that more women will be assisted to aim and climb higher, breaking all barriers.
- The need for gender disaggregated data can not be overemphasised so that womens' contribution to overall GDP can also be obtained

- The project is on going to be able to capture as many women as possible

- Thank
you

