

GENDER IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESEARCH IN INDIA

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Gender is now globally recognized as an area that has to be specifically looked into from the policy to the grassroots implementation of programmes, schemes and projects. The 3rd Millennium Development Goal seeks to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. In the fisheries sector, as in many traditional occupations, there is high degree of specialization or division of labour, there are other related factors like differential access to resources, technology, family roles, participation decision making etc. This also varies across different socio-cultural milieus. Specific coping and adaptation strategies for both men and women are required in the context of dynamic changes that are taking place in the sector. Slow but definite exclusion of women from many spheres is becoming part of the process. There is need for greater understanding of the roles as well as the processes of change for arriving at participatory solutions and building capacities.

Numerous gender focused studies and programs are being undertaken in the eight fisheries institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as well as other Fisheries related Institutions are being undertaken to recognize and emulate women's roles in the fishing community. This presentation will give a brief report on the research and other gender focused work in the fisheries research institutes under ICAR and how the concept of gender in fisheries has been incorporated in to the mainstream research activities. It also examines the major constraints in expanding the research in gender in fisheries and aquaculture sector in India and discusses a future roadmap for the same.