

WOMEN IN FISH VALUE CHAIN AND COLLECTIVE BUSINESS: CASE OF PROCESSED FISH TRADERS IN CAMBODIA

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Some of the many problems that women entrepreneurs face include their lack of capital, lack of access to market, and lack of negotiation power with other actors in the commodity chain. In order to overcome these problems, many women's enterprise development projects organize women into groups, so that they will be able to manage their business collectively. The paper questions why it is mostly for women that such collectivization is suggested and explores why and when they do not develop as expected. Through this exploration, the paper aims to uncover the gender bias as well as gendered constraints that women entrepreneurs have to organize and manage their businesses. It will take the case of fish processing. Fish is a special commodity that is different from other farming commodity, and how the particularity of the commodity shape women's business characteristics and constraints are also taken into consideration. The paper is based on literature review and small cases from fish processors around Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia.