

GENDERED PERSPECTIVE ON CO-MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF FISHERIES RESOURCES: ROLES AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

L.K. Tyagi*, A.S. Bisht and Amar Pal

*National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR)
Canal Ring Road, Telibagh, P.O. Dilkusha, Lucknow-226 002
Email: tyagilk@gmail.com*

Women play a critical, but often undervalued role in fishing communities. Of late, there has been an increased awareness of gender issues in fisheries. Several studies have been conducted and tools and methodologies developed to analyse the contributions of women to the fisheries sector. All these efforts have put gender as an important agenda in the research, development and policy discourses in fisheries. Roles played and constraints perceived/experienced by women fisher folks at various stages of fisheries and aquaculture value chains including production, marketing, processing, value addition, etc., have been the major focus of analysis in the early studies conducted. Can women play an equally significant role in improving the management of fisheries resources and prove a valuable support system at the grassroots level for planning and effectively implementing conservation measures too? If yes, how? What could be its implications for management of fisheries resources? Can women's greater involvement in fisheries resource management lead to sustainable resource uses? Drawing mainly from review of literature, and few observations from field studies conducted in freshwater fisheries in India, the paper intends to bring these questions in the mainstream of discussion on gender in fisheries. An attempt has also been made to identify major priority areas for researchers in this emerging field.