

Gender and women in fisheries and aquaculture



Aquaculture is the **fastest growing food-producing sector** in the world and generates significant employment opportunities¹



Women account for **19%** of all people engaged in the primary sector of **fisheries and aquaculture**, and around **50%** of those involved in the whole sector, including value chain activities such as **processing and trading**²



Predominant gender and socio-religious **norms limit women's ability** to engage and benefit fully from various aquaculture and capacity-development opportunities³



A **fish powder** developed by WorldFish researchers has had significant benefits for **child and maternal health** in areas where dietary diversity is low

The **lack of gender-disaggregated data** in fisheries hinders the development of gender-sensitive policies and planning⁴



Engagement in **aquaculture** has been shown to increase women's economic empowerment as well as their **self-esteem, confidence and respect** from their families³



There is evidence that **gender-transformative approaches** are more effective than gender-accommodative approaches in **changing gender norms** and women's intra-household **decision-making powers**⁶



Women's **involvement in aquaculture** production has been linked to **increasing productivity and income** from fish ponds⁵



Sources:

- ¹ Kruijssen, F. et al. 2017. Gender and aquaculture value chains: A review of key issues and implications for research. *Aquaculture*, online first 28 Dec (open access).
- ² FAO. 2016. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016. Contributing to food security and nutrition for all*. Rome. 200 pp.
- ³ FAO. 2017. *Women's empowerment in aquaculture in Bangladesh and Indonesia: Insights from four case studies*.
- ⁴ Weeratunge, N. et al. 2010. Gleaner, fisher, trader, processor: Understanding gendered employment in fisheries and aquaculture. *Fish and Fisheries*, 11(4), 405-420.
- ⁵ Murshed-e-Jahan, K. et al. 2010. The impacts of aquaculture development on food security: lessons from Bangladesh. *Aquaculture Research*, 41(4), 481-495.
- ⁶ Cole, S.M. et al. 2017. Changes in intra-household decision-making powers: Effects of a gender-transformative approach in savings groups in the Barotse Floodplain, Zambia. In review.