

from 200 to 300 kg per group (with 5 members) with a trade value of Rs.30,000/- to 50,000/-. The average trading price of fish ranges from Rs. 80 to 100 per kg even though the retail market prices are far higher than this amount. Most often, the fisherwomen have to compromise with the middlemen in price fixing so that they are always kept away from the 'profit making sector'. Proper interventions by the Government authorities, NGOs and academic institutions in maximizing the profits and formulating proper market strategies would bring positive changes in this sector

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### **Gender sensitive value chain selection: fish, banana and cinnamon, which provides best opportunities for women?**

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The main focus of the present study was to compare three selected value chains (fish, banana and cinnamon) and to identify women's status in each value chain as chain actor, activity integrator, chain partner and chain co-owner. The specific objectives were to select gender sensitive value chain/s and to develop empowerment strategies to enhance women's status in each value chain. Rapid market chain analysis was adopted and interviewer administered pre-tested questionnaires, in-depth interviews with key informants and focused group discussions were used as key data collection tools. Producers (farmers/fishermen) and intermediaries (auctioneers, traders, collectors, wholesalers, different retailers,

consumers etc.) of each value chain were considered for the sample as follows; 50 banana farmers and 50 intermediaries, 40 cinnamon farmers and 40 intermediaries, 25 fishermen and 75 intermediaries. Chain Empowerment Matrix was developed based on activities and power within the value chain, on activities and power within the household and within society as a whole. Chi-square test confirmed significant associations between gender and income for fish and cinnamon value chains. There was no significant association found between gender and income for banana value chain. Females involved in the fishery value chain were identified as chain actors and activity integrators while females attached to cinnamon value chain were recognized as activity integrators. Female participation in banana value chain was poor and consequently their status was not clearly defined. Fish and cinnamon value chains were discovered as gender sensitive value chains. Transform the traditional household caretaker role of women to business caretaker role through strong capacity building programs, develop chain partnerships through sensitization of men, encourage women's participation in decision-making through strengthening the organizational capacity of women's group, create opportunities to co-own enterprises through building direct linkages with other chain actors (including consumer markets) were identified as the empowerment strategies to enhance women's position in respective value chains.

#### GAF OR 13

### **Gender baselines in fisheries and aquaculture value chains in India: A systematic review**

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The lack of authentic data and information is often quoted as a reason for the formulation of policies and programs that are not completely in tune with the on-the-ground realities. Another factor could also be the dispersed nature of availability of information. This has also been pertinent to the discourse on gender in fisheries and aquaculture. Though it is now acknowledged the women play important roles in fisheries and aquaculture value chains, the continuing invisibility is partly due to lack of systematic collection of data and information that can further be used for policy formulation and programme implementation. This study is an attempt to collate information available in India on this important area. Systematic review approach was adopted for the study and the results were filtered based on the availability of the literature on each topic. The collected literature included research papers, published peer-reviewed articles, proceedings on seminars and symposia and other grey literature. The basic work for India was done as a part of the NACA - USAID Project 'Thematic Studies on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam'. Though the Project was based on the four lower Mekong countries, India coordinated the work and a similar exercise carried out for India too. The study was furthered through collaboration and information sharing with WorldFish, Malaysia.

## Women in inland fisheries - A rural livelihood option

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Worldwide, women in fishing communities have been recognized for their participation in fisheries and the role of women in inland fisheries is significant with millions participating in various activities along the dynamic capture fisheries and aquaculture supply chains. However, their involvement in fisheries is less visible than those of men and has often been overlooked in the development discourse. Women are involved not only in post-harvest activities but are also active in harvesting fish especially in large lakes, reservoirs and wetlands. Women in rural areas participate actively in the traditional fisheries sub-sector of the economy. A case study conducted among fishing tribe (*Rabhas*) in Ravabasti in Coochbehar district in the Northern part of West Bengal, where agriculture is their main livelihood and inland capture fisheries is a secondary income source and a supplementary source of protein for home consumption. About 75% of the tribal women were involved in fisheries at different levels such as fish harvesting, selling and processing and engaged in capture fisheries around the small streams, rivers, rivulets and wetlands. Fish capturing was mainly by hand made traps called *Jhakoi*, *Tapasi*, *Thusi*, *Burung* etc., Fish marketing was also mainly done by women, especially trading of smaller fishes while men were involved in trading large fishes. The fisherwomen groups were willing to learn new techniques to grow fish in their ponds. The crucial engagement of women in natural