

Gender and Fisheries

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A sustainable and equitable development in the fisheries sector can only be reached through the integration of all stakeholders

Picture n°1: fish selling

1. History and international Policies



- **70ies**
Approach: Improving the living conditions of women
- **70ies and 80ies**
Approach: Women and development
- **80ies**
Approach: Gender and development



- **Declaration of Rio (1992)**
Women play an important role in the management of natural resources.
- **Agenda 21 (1992)**
Chapter 24 – Women and sustainable development
- **Johannesburg**
Governments have to include gender for a sustainable development
- **Millenium Development Goal, Nr.3 (2000)**
Promoting gender equality and empowering women

2.Examples of the Role of Women in Fisheries



- **Westafrica**
In Westafrica 80 % of fish and seafood is sold by women
- **India**
In India 60 % of workers in fish processing companies are young women
- Burkina Faso
- In Burkina Faso 14% of fishers are Women



Picture n°2: Woman activities in fisheries sector

3. Role of Women in Fisheries in Burkina Faso



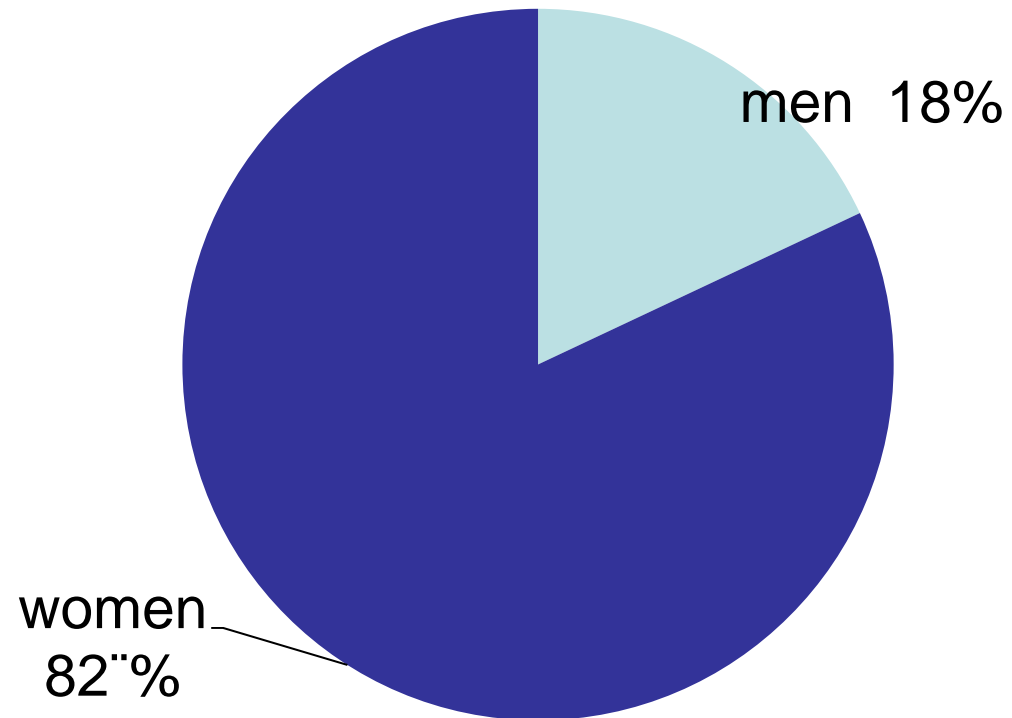
- In Burkina Faso we counted:
- 32 699 fishermen among whom 14 % of women
- - 2 983 transformers among which 82 % of women;
- - 3 375 wholesale fish merchants among whom 54 % of women;
- - 2 309 storekeepers of smoked fish among whom 66 % of women



- Men and women complement each other in fisheries activities
- Women quite often use simple equipment for fishing
- In aquaculture women are in charge of feeding and harvesting the fish and crustacean, and in processing and selling fish and crustacean



I women and men in the fish processing in Burkina





- Women are charged with many different tasks which require competence and time, and also being on the ground e.g. production and repairing of nets; processing and selling of fish
- Traditional roles limit and restrict the actions of women
- Women are also limited in their time and mobility through their responsibilities for raising the children and for the household activities



Picture n°4: fish processing

4. Cultural Context



- The cultural context, the assignment of traditional roles, perceptions and stereotypes about women influence behavior, create barriers and perpetuate beliefs that affect the participation of women in the fishery
- Research with regard to catching fish procedures and marketing
- Research is often insensitive to gender issues
- Men are privileged in the collection of research data
- Little disaggregated data

5.Susfish – Results I



- Organization of a workshop to integrate gender within the SUSFISH project
- Approach to facilitate an awareness raising session “Maquis des Sciences ” on gender and scientific research ”with “Association des Femmes Scientifiques”
- Integration of gender principles in data collection tools
- Contribution in conducting studies that will enhance the role of women in fisheries

Susfish – Results II



- Project development strategy of gender mainstreaming in fisheries
- Fundraising to facilitate women's participation in the research process
- Elaboration of an article in order to improve the visibility of gender in fishery.

6. Preoccupations



- HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS PARTICULARLY WOMAN IN THE GOVERNANCE OF FISHERIES?
- HOW CAN RESEARCH BETTER CONTRIBUTE TO VALUE VULNERABLE GROUPS AND PARTICULARLY WOMAN 'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES.?

7. Recommendations



- Improving access to resources and employment
- Strengthening skills of women
- Lighten duties and tasks for women
- Facilitating participation in decision-making
- Good communication strategy (radio, newsletter, etc.)
- Contribute through financial support to the organization of workshops and trainings of young people and women in the fishery sector by collaborating with governments, NGOs and the private sector

Conclusion



Taking gender into account in these different topics leads to research whose quality and usefulness are improved since it takes into consideration the whole population and not an extrapolated sample on the basis of observations obtained only from one of the two sexes.