







Gender role in development of small-scale shrimp farming and recent challenges in the coastal region of Bangladesh



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Presentation outline

- Introduction to the shrimp sector in Bangladesh
- Contribution to the economy
- Gender role in shrimp value chain
- Recent challenges
- Project intervention through DOF & UNIDO
- Evaluation of gender focused training program for farmer couples and female farmers











Introduction to shrimp sector

- 246,198 ha area under shrimp culture (3.36% of net cultivated area of the country and 60.47% of net cultivated area of 4 coastal districts)
- Two shrimp species are mainly cultured Black Tiger shrimp (*Peneaus monodon*) and Giant Fresh Water shrimp (*Macrobrachium rogenbergii*)
- Rapid fragmentation of large farms in to smallholders (Average farm size 1.12 ha)
- 0.22 million farms across the coastal belt
- Massive structural changes in the landscape through impoundment of private land
- Created significant employment & income in the rural area











Contribution to the economy

- Significant growth of backward and forward linkage enterprises rather dispersed in other parts of the country
- Impoundment allowed integrated farming of rice, shrimp and finfish
- 82044 MT shrimp (53% BT, 37% FW, 10% other) produced in 2010
- 51599 MT shrimp exported in 2010
- Second largest source of export earning after RMG contributing 487 million US\$ from shrimp export in 2010









Gender role in the shrimp value chain

- Unlike agriculture and livestock, the involvement of women in aquaculture still new in Bangladesh
- Traditional role of women in wild PL collection supposed to be still contributing 50% FW shrimp PL supply
- 80% of the processing workers in shrimp processing factories are women
- Being rapid transition of large scale shrimp farms in to small-scale (80% farms are less than 0.5 ha), women (family labor) involvement are increasing particularly in FW shrimp farming
- Involvement include: pond preparation, dyke repair, bottom cleaning, PL stocking (buying, acclimatizing and releasing), feed collection, feed preparation and feeding, growth monitoring, record keeping, guarding, harvesting and dyke cropping



















Recent challenges

- Both production and profitability from shrimp farming decreasing, Average production 250 kg/ha/year
- Economic recession caused less demand and price fall in the international market
- Eevolving new market standards, food safety and quality aspects by the importing countries
- RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food & Feed) notifications increased for exported shrimp consignments from Bangladesh



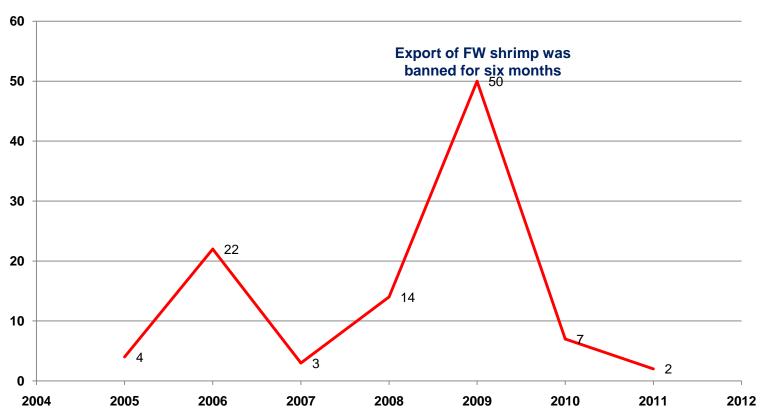






Recent challenges contd.

Number of RASFF notifications











Interventions to face the challenges

- Initiatives to strengthen the capacity of DOF in good aquaculture practices (GAP) and inspecting the shrimp and seafood products through technical assistance from UNIDO through BQSP
- Possible source of contaminations: adulterated feed, VMP, organic manure and residue from rice field in shrimp
- Inspection capacity strengthened and lab facilities upgraded
- Traceability frame-work developed & and farmers trained on Traceability & GAP (usually without targeting women)
- WID component initiated pilot training on GAP for (i) Famer couples (ii) Female farmers
- Developed a training manual, TOT and undertook gender focused GAP training in-situ for farmer couples and female farmers











Monitoring & post-project evaluation

- Selection of stakeholders, sites & locations targeted objectively
- Follow-up training & visit continued, encouraged mobile phone for trouble shooting
- Group formation & leadership among the women encouraged
- Method demonstration and result demonstration encouraged with small prizes

Evaluation methods

- Personal interview
- Group discussions
- Farm visit & record checking









Group discussion activities evaluating training impact of couple group, Khulna











Results

Female farmers

- From the baseline of (14%), 36% women farmer made profit after training
- About 70% trained women remembered major topic discussed, 60% noted major points, 70% started record keeping and 50% could showed training materials given.

Limitations for female farmrs

- Difficult to convince husbands about GAP
- Active participation discouraged by husband/grandmother
- Land title/ownership act as barrier to take as entrepreneurship









Farmer couples

- 50% of the farming couple following GAP and made profit
- Majority of trained couple (wife and husband) remembered major topic discussed, 40% husband noted major points, 65% started record keeping and 40% could showed training materials given.
- Some cases (20%) wives are revealed more caring about profit making and record keeping

Limitations for farmer couples

 Husband tend to dominate both in discussion and practical training and evaluation reveled less change in KSA among wives

Advantages for farmers couples

- Mutual understanding of important topics revealed effective way of GAP compliance with necessary record keeping.
- Respect to wives role and contribution becomes easy within the family.







Conclusions & Recommendations

Conclusion

 Couple training appeared more effective compared to only female training in compliance of GAP in small-scale shrimp farming. But in both the cases the women participants feel better empowered to meet PGN and SGN on top of able to contribute positively in a national economic challenge.

Recommendations

- Farmer couple should be selected through TNA and for more motivated couples
- Wife and husband should trained separately to avoid husband dominance as well as wives reluctance.
- GAP training should be calendared to match major farming steps and season
- The training manual should be used by DOF throughout the country to bring family ownership in the farming system









Female farmer training on small-scale shrimp farming & gender in village primary school, Bagerhat











Female farmer training on small-scale shrimp farming & gender in village school, Bagerhat





















Couple training at a village, Khulna











Trainer showing how to identify male and female shrimp









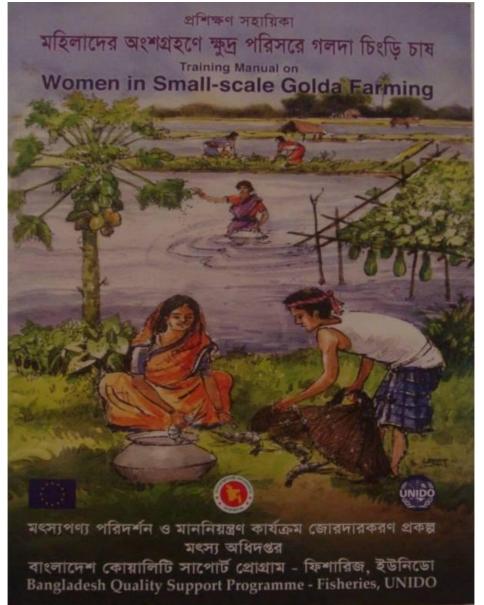
A proud shrimp farmer showing his harvest, Khulna



















THANK YOU