

DIGITAL STORY TELLING OF WOMEN IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN NIGERIA: ASSESSMENT OF THEIR ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS USING SPECIFIC CASE STUDIES.

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INTRODUCTION

- In the Fisheries sector, men and women engage in distinct and often complementary activities that are strongly influenced by the social, cultural and economic context in which they live. Male -female relations vary greatly and are based on economic status, power relations and access to productive resources and services. (FAO 2016).
- According to the World Bank, Fisheries and Aquaculture value chains are diverse and often complex and dynamic systems, with men and women undertaking different and changing roles depending on local norms about resource access and control and mobility, type of technology involved, the extent of commercialisation and the product involved.

INTRODUCTION(CONTD).

- Gender refers not to women or men per se, but to the social relations between them that defines their roles. Gender roles are therefore not determined biologically but are constructed socially and can differ between cultures and environments (Dambatta et al (2016)).
- According to (FAO 2016), women constitute about half the population involved in Fisheries development activities and in some developing regions, have become important fish entrepreneurs who control significant amounts of money, finance a variety of fish-based enterprises, and generate substantial returns for households and communities.

INTRODUCTION(CONTD.)

- Fisheries and Aquaculture are key for food and nutrition security, and in Nigeria, play essential roles for socio-economic development. With the unprecedented growth of aquaculture and the diminishing fish harvests of recent years, aquaculture appears to be a promising route to achieve food and nutritional security in developing countries (FAO 2004).
- Despite, the current increase in aquaculture production in Nigeria, there is no available sex disaggregated data on employment in the aquaculture sector. (Dambatta et al 2016).

INTRODUCTION(CONTD)

- These women estimated at approximately 90 million, are often invisible to policy- makers who have traditionally assumed – mistakenly –that fisheries are largely a male domain (FAO 2016).
- Women play a key and vital role in the Fisheries value chain in Nigeria especially when we look at their involvement in the marine, artisanal and Aquaculture sub-sector of the Fisheries (Dambatta et al 2016).
- Women also play an important role in administration, Fisheries research, education and training as reflected by the number of female graduates employed in such fields. (Dambatta *et al* (2016).

OBJECTIVES

- To showcase women through their roles and contributions in Fisheries development in Nigeria,
- To investigate, and document policies and interventions targeted towards encouraging and empowering women in specific value-chains.
- To discuss their prospect for their overall sustainability within the economic space
- To suggest ways forward and next steps for women in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Pictorial representations are used with a blend of interviews, focused group discussions and key informants complemented with secondary data.
- The assessment of the roles and contributions of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture were based on specific case studies.
- Those interviewed were chosen based on their experience, involvement, investment, and the challenges they have overcome, as well as the opportunity they present for future development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria
- Questionnaires were also used.

RESULTS

The women interviewed were found to:

- Have faced common and varying challenges but have sterling qualities for survival and success
- Stand out amongst their peers in their areas of operation along the Fisheries and Aquaculture value chains in Nigeria.
- Contribute significantly to food security, foreign exchange earnings capacity building/ trainings, provision infrastructural facilities, and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nigeria.
- Our results are in conformity with global view on significant roles of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture that they play key roles in house hold livelihood and nutrition.
- There had been no specific gender support to women in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria.

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY 1: Fish Production (Industrial Trawling).

- One out of the surviving 13 fish trawling companies in Nigeria is solely owned and managed by a woman.
- She owns 19 out of 158 trawlers in the country.
- **Mrs. Mareena Samuel** is the Managing Director of Karflex Group (Karflex Fisheries Limited).



CASE STUDY 1(CONTD).

- She has over 23 years' experience in business, 14 of which are in commercial/Industrial Fishing.
- She continues to weather serious security challenges , the increasing cost of diesel to operate the fleet, and to power the cold storage and processing facilities.
- Motivated to stand out in a male dominated field.
- Motivated to contribute to the GDP of the country from the non-oil sector.

CASE STUDY 1(CONTD).

- She saw the need to cater for, motivate, encourage, and meet the needs of women by a fellow woman who understands their pain and difficulties in sourcing for fish products the proceeds of which they use for the upkeep of their families.
- 98% of Registered Fish Agents/distributors in Karflex Company, are women.





CASE STUDY 1 (CONTD).

- Mrs Samuel during a Quality Control inspection of her facilities by Federal Department of Fisheries(FDF) Inspectors.
- Discussing with Assistant Director of Fisheries (FDF) Mrs O. Oladosu.
- Mrs Samuel addressing members of staff and fish distributors/agents.

STUDY CASE 1(CONTD)

- Her company provides a wide variety of job opportunities
- She contributes to the national economy through the generation of foreign exchange from international trade and export of fish products
- Enhances and empowers women in the fishing industry, to improve the economic situation of their household and improve their standard of living .
- Total investment(vessels, export cold rooms, machinery and plants about 5Billion Naira. (\$ 139,275,766.00).



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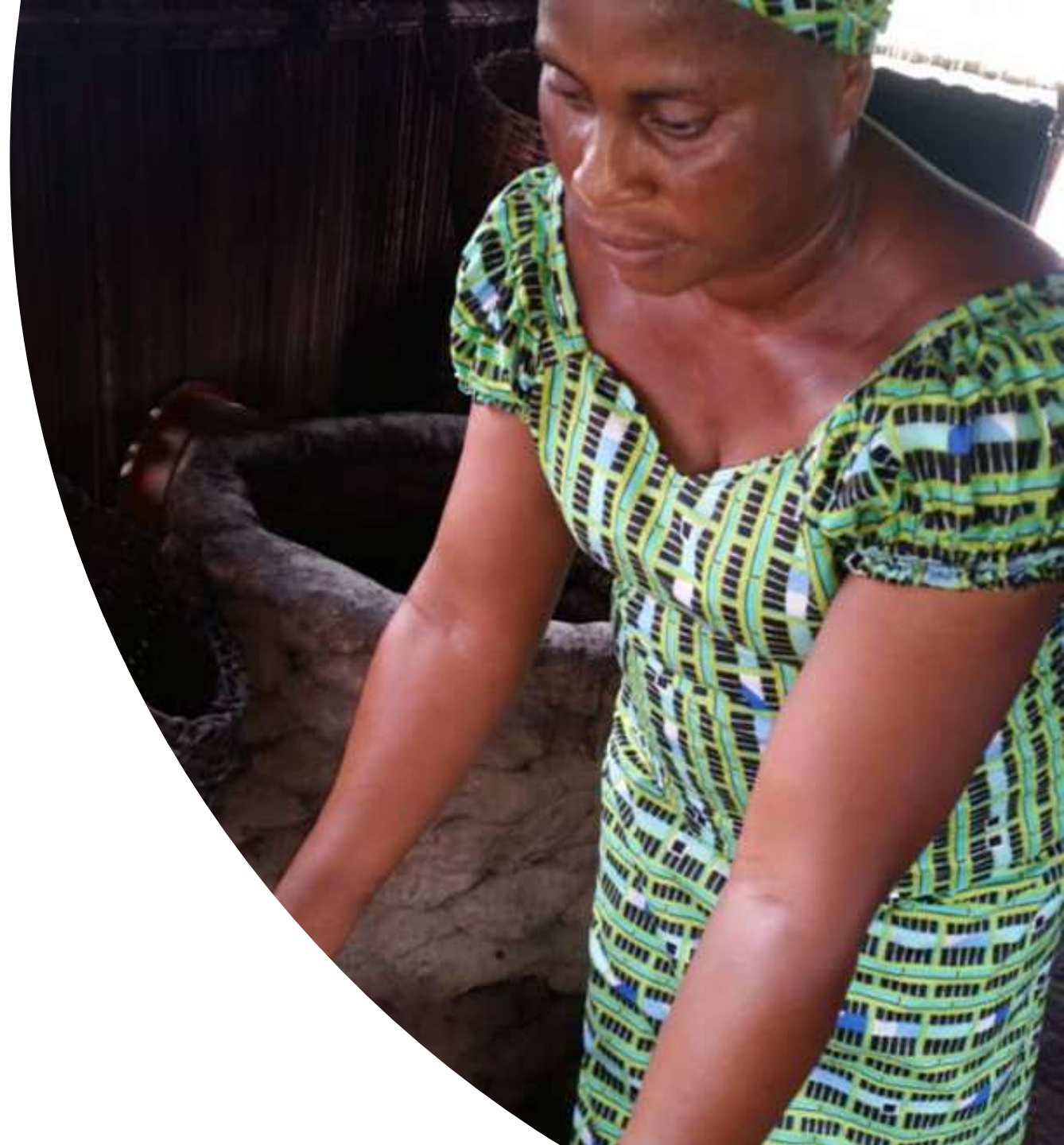
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CASE STUDY 2 :Small Scale Fisheries (Marketing).

- In Small Scale Fisheries, women empower men with canoes, nets, hooks and cash for their needs to go to sea in return for the catch. The women whose livelihood is fish marketing, are motivated by the hope that one day they will be able to export their products by themselves for better earnings.
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CASE STUDY 2: Small Scale Fisheries(Marketing).

- **Madam Oluwakemi, Ganiat Olorode** is a business woman involved in buying fresh fish in bulk from fishermen which she sells both fresh and in processed form to the retailers.
- Marketing of fish and fish products is an inherited business that started from her fourth ancestral generation.



CASE STUDY 2 (CONTD).

- Trained by her mother, her strong motivation is being able to sell to the elite outside her rural communities
- Fish marketing is her only source of livelihood. She supports fishermen with their needs.
- In the last seven years has bought three canoes, nets, hooks and supplied for fishermen in return for their catch.
- There are several opportunities in the industry where exportation of produce is a potential.

CASE STUDY 2(CONTD).

- This has not been possible because there is no support from Government to the industry.
- Government aids go to party members, relatives and friends that are not in the industry.
- There is no special support for her as a woman.
- She runs a sole proprietorship business therefore she partakes in all activities involved in the day to day running of the business.
- She manages 5 employees.



CASE 2 (CONTD)

- Pictures showing different activities during offloading of catch at the landing site, Ikosi beach, Ikorodu. Lagos State Nigeria.

CASE STUDY 3: Processed Fish and Fisheries Products for export.

- Frijay Consults, another female-owned company has been the only one with European Union (EU) certification and approval to export processed non-aquaculture fish and fisheries products to the EU.



CASE STUDY 3: Processed Fish and Fisheries Products for export.

- **Mrs Fridjah Uwhereka** is into value addition and product development of fish and fish products for export. Products include smoked whole fish, fish chunks, oils, flakes and sausages.



CASE STUDY 3 (CONTD).

- She took up the challenge of smoking fish correctly after she read a journal on the ban on Nigerian fish products into the EU.
- She collaborated with Government organisations in improving smoking kilns to produce products that meet the EU specification.
- Only fish processor from Nigeria to have supplied the United Nations with fish and fisheries products in Mali, Sudan and Central African Republic.
- She has not received any support from the Government. She did her findings alone and lost a lot of money in the process. All her discoveries were through self-effort.

CASE STUDY 3(CONTD).

- Women involved in direct small-scale fish production or as traders have been trained by the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AwFishnet) Nigeria Chapter (of which she is the Coordinator) on sanitation and hygienic handling of fish and fish products.
- Her investment profile is estimated at N60 Million (\$167,130.00)



CASE STUDY 3:
Women being trained in fish
processing fish.

CASE STUDY 4: Wholesome fresh and frozen products.

- Processing and value addition of wholesome fresh frozen products and export of Head-on shrimps for almost 30 years from Nigeria
- This has been under the direct supervision of another woman, an employee of a big company with the largest number of fishing trawlers in Nigeria.



CASE STUDY 4: Wholesome fresh and frozen products.

- **Mrs Benedette Okonkwo**, a microbiologist in the field of quality control.
- She has achieved the development of over 30 fresh frozen products.
- Conducts regular trainings for 50 processors and 950 Sea going crew members of her company.



CASE STUDY 5: Largest Fish Market Lagos State.

- The Ijora fish market is the largest fish market in Lagos State and one of the largest in the country.
- A large complex where women are the major main actors and owners of the cold storage facilities.
- There are about 5000 traders in Ijora
 - 4000 of them are women
- There are 200 cold storage facilities, 150 of which are functional, out of which over 80% are owned by women.

CASE STUDY 5(CONTD).

- Women control the local fish markets and are distributors for trawling and frozen fish importing companies.
 - These unique positions have been held over the years.
- The sector specific problems encountered are:
 - Irregular power supply for their cold-rooms leading to huge financial losses due to quality loss of products,
 - Exposure of these women to fraud and loss of trading capital because of their ambition to outwit/outsmart each other.



CASE STUDY 5: Activities at Ijora market.

CASE 6: Aquaculture Fish Farm Estate.

- The Fish Farm Estate of 265 ponds is owned as a family venture co-managed by a woman as Vice Chairman.
- The private farm estate has been able to secure a 100-million-Naira Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) loan to boost the production of fish in the country.



CASE 6: Aquaculture Fish Farm Estate.

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- Other women owned- ponds exist within the estate under different cooperative groups.
 - They have equal opportunities to access loans under the Federal Government of Nigeria CBN Anchor Borrowers' Scheme (CBN 2016).





CASE STUDY 6

- Mrs. Oluwakemi Elizabeth Olubodun,, is the vice chairman of Glorious Beulah Farms Company Ltd, a leading private fish farm company
- The company specializes in the following areas:
 - Fingerlings and juveniles' production
 - Fish processing and value addition;
 - Feed milling
 - World class trainings in general fish farming, pond construction
 - Consultancy services



CASE STUDY 6

- Other achievements:
 - Supply of processed fish for the Ogun State home grown school feeding programme.
 - Capacity building for 1,000 fish farmers in Osun state for anchor borrowers' programme
 - Completed farm settlement in Ekiti state for youth empowerment
 - Completed fish farm set-up in Landmark University, Omu Aran Kwara State, Nigeria.
 - Supply of juveniles and fingerlings to fish farm settlements for youth empowerment
 - Training sessions



CASE STUDY 7: Fish Feed Production.

- A woman also heads one of the very first large indigenous fish feeds producing companies in Ibadan, Oyo State,
- She develops quality standards and ensures competitive advantage even over imported feeds and at lower costs.
- Current Production output is 25,000tons per annum.



CASE STUDY 7: Fish Feed Production.

- **Oluseyi Adeleke-Ige** has vast knowledge about fish breeding, growing of fish, farm management and feed production.
- She has empowered herself through continuous learning and engagement and mentorship under the Aquaculture Industry and renown world business leaders like Koffi Annan, Rob Kiers, Knut Nesse and other business leaders



CASE STUDY 7

- The opportunities are significant,
 - Providing protein for human consumption,
 - employment opportunities
- The industry is still developing and by the time Nigeria becomes solely dependent on locally produced fish, the benefit of the industry will be of interest and attraction to government, investors, researchers, individuals and even tertiary institutions.



CASE STUDY 7(CONTD)

- The only support from Government has been in the introduction of quota for imported frozen fish which helped the aquaculture sector to grow.
- There is no special support because she is a woman.



CASE STUDY 8: Women in Policy Formulation and Implementation.

- Women were also interviewed on their roles in education, policy formulation and implementation. The results showed a global trend of increasing participation of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture Policies in Nigeria.
- Fish farming was introduced to Nigeria by the colonial masters in the early 50s leading to the establishment of Regional Fisheries all headed by men.
- The Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research(NIOMR); Kainji Lake Research Institute and Lake Chad Research Institute now National Institute of Fresh Water Fisheries Research, had been headed by men.

CASE STUDY 8(CONTD).

Women in Policy Formulation and Implementation

- The Federal Department of Fisheries today is the highest administrative authority for Fisheries and Aquaculture development in Nigeria.
- In the 42 years of existence, the department has had 12 Directors with one serving twice making 13 Directors technically. Out of these, only one has been a female.
- Out of the 36 States of Nigeria establishing authorities over Fisheries and Aquaculture, Lagos State is unique as the only State Fisheries Department that has had all women Directors since her establishment in 1968.
- Lagos State has recorded tremendous developments in Fisheries and Aquaculture and is strategic to fisheries development in Nigeria in a multifaceted way.

POLICY INTERVENTIONS TARGETED AT WOMEN

- The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) provides against discrimination because of race, class, creed, sex, religion and other variables.
- There are no documented policies on actual gender equality or consideration in Nigeria. There was an attempt to increase women's participation in governance by the 30% affirmation that came into being between 2008-2009 as a statement.
- This affirmation was used by the National Fish Association of Nigeria in Abuja in July 2018 to elect 4 women out of 19 executive members, by deliberate effort.

POLICY INTERVENTIONS TARGETED AT WOMEN

- The Apex Non -Governmental Organisation Fisheries Society of Nigeria in existence since 1976 has 9 National Presidents and only one was female 2006-2010.
- Leadership positions to virtually all Fisheries and Aquaculture associations and societies are contested for and filled through elections. Often, women do not actively participate in these elections to the topmost positions.

POLICY INTERVENTIONS TO WOMEN (CONTD)

- The National Commission for Women was created in 1989 and later became a full fledged Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in 2012.
- The gender unit was created in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) in 2012.
- Under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA), the Aquaculture Value chain (AVC), Growth Enhancement Support Scheme, (GESS) inputs such as starter packs, fish fingerlings, fish feeds, and mobile fish tanks, and trainings in fish production were open to both men and women.

POLICY INTERVENTIONS TO WOMEN (CONTD)

- The Livelihood Improvement on Family Enterprise (LIFE) of the FMARD caters for women in small businesses to help meet some of the expenses on the home front.
- The Bank of Industry (BOI) launched an interest free loan for women artisans, market women, and small holder farmers under the National Women Empowerment Fund (NAWEF) Intervention Scheme by the Federal Government
- The Access Bank of Nigeria, in partnership with the Fisheries Society of Nigeria, trained women in fisheries on how to access bank loans using securities other than landed property, such as jewellery.

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

- Our results are in conformity with the global view on significant roles of women in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Over 80% of the women profiled in the study were pioneers or the very first in their chosen field along the value chain of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria.
- The significant contributions of these women have not been given the deserved attention.
- The study has shown that women possess more knowledge on some important aspects of the Fisheries and Aquaculture value chains than men in Nigeria. In fresh frozen processing and value addition for shrimps and frozen products handled mostly by women there had not been a single rejection in more than 30 years.

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

- Our findings are in conformity with FAO (2016) that, for the roles of women in fisheries, comprehensive accurate sex-disaggregated statistics are lacking, and this gap must be filled as the first step in gender mainstreaming at the policy level.

What therefore are the overall sustainability of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture within the economic space of Nigeria.?

- When women are made visible changes take place.
 - The success stories of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture need to be told utilising every form of communication.
 - The women have enumerated common challenges faced and which must be given the necessary attention and solution.
 - A major challenge was the invisible wall faced by women operating in a male dominated environment.
 - The women have said that it takes determination, integrity, boldness and being very stern to train men who often are all married.

What therefore are the overall sustainability of women in Fisheries and Aquaculture within the economic space of Nigeria.?

- A challenge and concern is the preferential treatment men receive in the same field when dealing with government officials who are often men.
- To achieve success therefore, they had had to put in their best with a lot of determination and quoting one of them “No compromises”.

Recommendations

- **Immediate steps:** Adoption of all resolutions on mainstreaming gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture development to be backed up as a legal instrument or policy; collection of gender -disaggregation data to show the direct contributions of women to Fisheries and Aquaculture development in Nigeria.
- **Future steps:** A plan of action for these women to share their experiences at organised fora to train and empower other women in the industry; and their challenges addressed.
- Government should provide grants to women in such categories as incentives to expand their scope, operations and encourage better women participation in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria.

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