

WOMEN LEADER IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE GROUP IN THAILAND



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JARIYA SORNKLIANG¹, MALASRI KHUMSRI², MS. WANNA THAWINWAN², MS. TAMOLWAN RAWENG², SUPHALAK RUAYLAP², NARAKORN SOMWANTHANA²
RATANA TIAYE¹ AND KRIT PHUSIRIMONGKOI¹

¹TRAINING DEPARTMENT, SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

²DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, THAILAND

INTRODUCTION



- Women's roles in the fisheries value chain include gear maintenance, sorting, processing, gleaning, and marketing.
- Raring for women to go fishing in the sea made women fail to recognize themselves as fishers; therefore, there is a lack of participation of women in fisheries management
- Especially in the decision-making process.
- Looking through the gender lens, women and men have the same ability to do everything, and women can be leaders for all kinds of institutions.
- In Thailand, fisheries management groups are composed of women who are group leaders

Study sites

Study sites in Thailand



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Two study sites in Thailand

Aquatic Bank Group

At Sub Somboon village, Thung
Changhan sub-district, Nonsuwan
district, Buriram Province



Fisher's group at Kaoyod village,
Tambon Pak Nam, Mueang Rayong
District, Rayong Province



Objective and Methodology

To understand the roles and background of women leaders in successful fisheries and aquaculture management groups



Sub Somboon Aquatic Animal Food Bank for inland fisheries



Kayoed Small scale Fisher's Group for coastal fishing

The study was conducted in 2020–2021 through the focus group discussion with the officers and members of the fisheries management groups

Results: Sub Somboon Aquatic Animal Food Bank in Buri Ram Province



- Sub Somboon Aquatic Animal Food Bank in Buri Ram Province was initiated in 2017 with support from the Department of Fisheries, Thailand (DOF).
- The Aquatic Animal Food Bank is the big pond in the village; therefore, group activities are fishing and fish hatchery for the community's food security.
- The income is from fishing by villagers who want to fish must pay the fee, and it is spent on hatcheries and shared with members at the end of every year.
- Award from Thai government for good Participation group in 2018

Results: Sub Somboon Aquatic Animal Food Bank in Buri Ram Province

- The group committee is composed of 14 people (6 women and 8 men) and 65 members.
- Women is the leader of the group
- Activities that generate income for the group are fishing, fish hatchery, and fish processing
- The group has a system of sharing to maintain activities and allocate the benefit to member
- Currently, there are 302 shares in the group (one share equals THB100 or USD3)



The roles and background of women leaders



- ▶ The leader of the group is a woman who is also the head of the village,
- ▶ She has a bachelor's degree)
- ▶ She involves in two groups of Women in Sub Somboon village are Women career group and the Women Roles group, which is aimed at empowering women in the village.
- ▶ She got the price of Engaged Citizen from the government

Results: Kaoyod small-scale fisher group in Rayong Province

- ▶ Kaoyod small-scale fisher group in Rayong Province was established in 2014 for resource enhancement through crab bank.
- ▶ The group committee is composed of 15 people (4 women and 11 men) and 60 members (34 men and 26 women).
- ▶ This community group is very strong and successful in fisheries management and improving people's livelihood.



Results: Kaoyod small-scale fisher group in Rayong Province



Group's activities

- Saving
- Conservation: Crab bank, Fish house, conservation zone, installing the fish aggregated device, fish releasing, and learning center
- Boat maintenance
- Tourism and events(boat racing, fishing and Crab eating competition)
- Fish selling



Results: Kaoyod small-scale fisher group in Rayong Province



- ▶ The group leader is the daughter of the previous group leader.
- ▶ When her father was the leader of the group, she assisted him in many activities, especially when the group members started saving money.
- ▶ Since then, the group members have known her ability and requested her to be the group leader even though she is not a fisher.
- ▶ Under her leadership, Kaoyod small-scale fisher group has become a popular tourist spot, and the marketplace where women sell their fish and fishery products has improved.

Conclusions and Recommendation

- ▶ This study showed that women could be good leaders of the fishers group.
- ▶ Both groups are continuing their activities under the leadership of women.
- ▶ The key to the success of both group management was the high-level participation of women and having a strong group leader.
- ▶ Women were accepted to be the leaders in the fishers' groups in Thailand because of their high education and family background.
- ▶ Both women leaders intend to develop and support their respective groups in the long-term for sustainable utilization of fishery resources as well as inspire and empower other women to be involved in the fisheries management groups.
- ▶ The dissemination of information on the capabilities of women based on their knowledge and experiences is crucial to encourage more women to participate in the decision-making process.

Thank you for your kind attention

