**Note on Issues to Consider for FAO Special Workshop on Future Directions for Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Action, Research and Development**

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**I. Conceptual Frameworks that Link Production to Post-Production Activities and Impacts**

Until relatively recently interventions in fisheries development have been fragmentary in two ways. First, an understanding of the physical science of fisheries has been disconnected from an understanding of the social dimensions of fisheries, i.e., the economic, political, cultural and social dimensions of fishing activities and fishing communities. Second, analysis and intervention in fisheries production has not been linked to an understanding of the relationship between fish harvesting and post-production activities (e.g., processing, marketing) and the impacts of interventions in the former on the latter. The emphasis of policy interventions on increasing output to meet emerging market demands at the national and international scale has often ignored the structure of and likely impact on local institutions for the processing and distribution of fish and fish products – even as a way of incorporating them into proposed development initiatives. With respect to gender, this has been a significant oversight, if not deliberate bias, since local gendered divisions of labor across the world’s fisheries often assign women to post-production activities.

Emerging research over the past decade or so that utilizes commodity (or value) chain analysis and analysis of gendered divisions of labor within the fisheries represents an important and innovative conceptual development that should constitute standard practice in economic analysis of fisheries and underlie policy intervention within the fisheries sector. Such analysis should be expanded and incorporate a gendered component to understand gendered divisions of labor at each node of commodity/value chains and how these shape outcomes and impacts of transformations within the commodity chain.

**II. Multi-scalar Framework**

The second dimension of analysis that is required is attention to geographic scale, i.e., an understanding of the manner in which economic processes unfold at the global, national, regional, local, household, and individual levels and the interconnections between each. That is, in what ways do national structures and policies and the state mediate global level trends and transformations and how do these then impact regions and locales within its jurisdiction? In what ways do local economic, political and cultural structures and institutions shape global and national trends and processes? In what ways are these gendered, and in what ways are men and women – either collectively or individually – impacted as a result?

**III. Conceptual/Analytical Focus on Livelihoods and Household Economies**

Third, while the utilization of commodity/value chain and gendered division of labor analysis represents an important innovation in our understanding of fish economies and the impact of economic transformations (such as globalization or state-led initiatives) on fishing communities and households in a given region, extending this analysis to questions of livelihood provides a more nuanced understanding of how economic processes impact households and individuals in particular ways. For example, we might ask what the implications of globalization for fisherfolk livelihoods are. In what ways do economic trends within the fisheries sector impact individual and household access to assets and activities that support livelihood strategies? To whom and under what circumstances do economic trends provide access and opportunity? For whom and under what circumstances do such trends create constraints? How do these differ for men and women? How do individuals and households forge strategies to adapt to and cope with macro-level trends and processes and institutional structures?

An understanding of the dynamics of household economies and the ways in which these are gendered are critical and must be incorporated in our understanding of livelihoods. Factors structuring the household economy and livelihood strategies pursued include current asset base (boat ownership/non-ownership), household size and composition (age, number and gender of members), education and skill levels, work identities & family ideologies, and entrepreneurial initiative (agency) shape the particular livelihood strategies individuals and households adopt. An understanding of both power relations within households and communities as well as the way particular individuals or groups of individuals are linked to fish economies is central to analyses of livelihood options, opportunities, and impacts. Understanding the diversity of experience and impact within general trends, patterns, and processes, hopefully can lead to more effective policy interventions.

**IV. Research Capacity in Gender Analysis**

The implementation of this analytical framework rests on the capacity of researchers working in various capacities within the fisheries sector to collect particular types of data and to analyze these data in particular ways. Research paradigms within the fisheries sector and in academic institutions training fisheries scientists/social scientists tend to privilege quantitative methods. Related to this is the shortage of social scientists working within the fisheries sector who possess solid skills in conducting gender analysis. While quantitative analysis certainly is a necessary component of fisheries research research, high quality gender analysis as outlined above requires qualitative data and a mixed method approach. Thus, gender mainstreaming in the fisheries also requires the development of research capacity in qualitative methods in general, and in gender analysis in particular. One the ways FAO could promote the mainstreaming of gender issues in the fisheries sector is to support the development of research capacity in these two areas.