



Gender in commercial aquaculture in Bangladesh

Kwasek K., Kantor P., Belton B., Choudhury A., Rashid M.,
Phillips M.

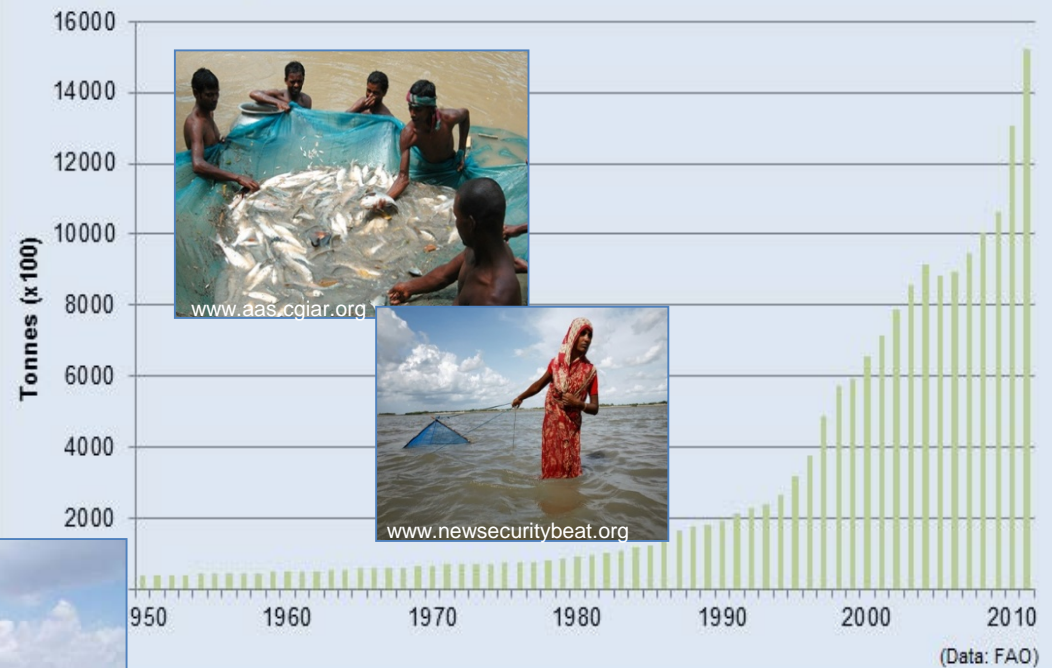


Research
Program on
Aquatic
Agricultural
Systems

Aquaculture in Bangladesh



Reported Aquaculture Production



Women in Aquaculture in Bangladesh

Homestead pond management

i.e. Feed preparation

Pond fertilization

Stocking

Harvesting



Women in Aquaculture in Bangladesh

- 20% increase in fish production due to women's participation (Shirajee et al. 2010)

Yet, women remain *invisible*



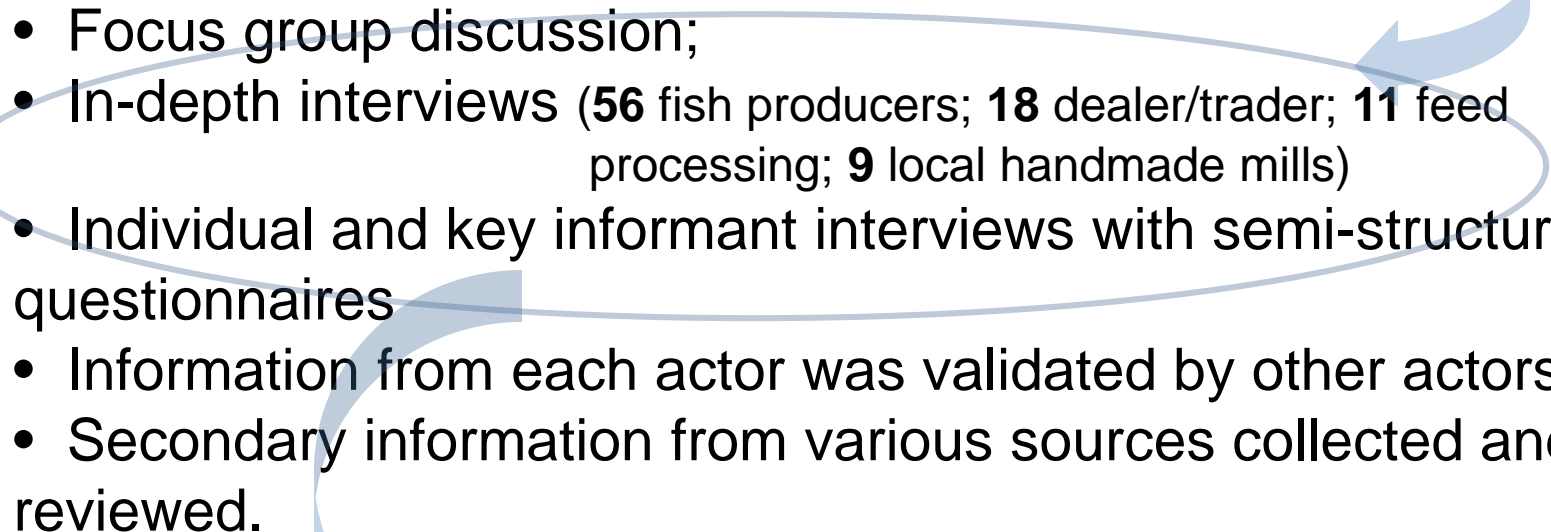
The Objectives

1. To assess ***where*** and ***how*** women are involved in commercial aquaculture in Bangladesh.
2. To provide recommendations on how to improve women's opportunities in aquaculture.
3. To identify remaining knowledge gaps regarding women's role in the commercial sector.

Methodology

2012 WorldFish/USAID “Feed the Future-Aquaculture” project :

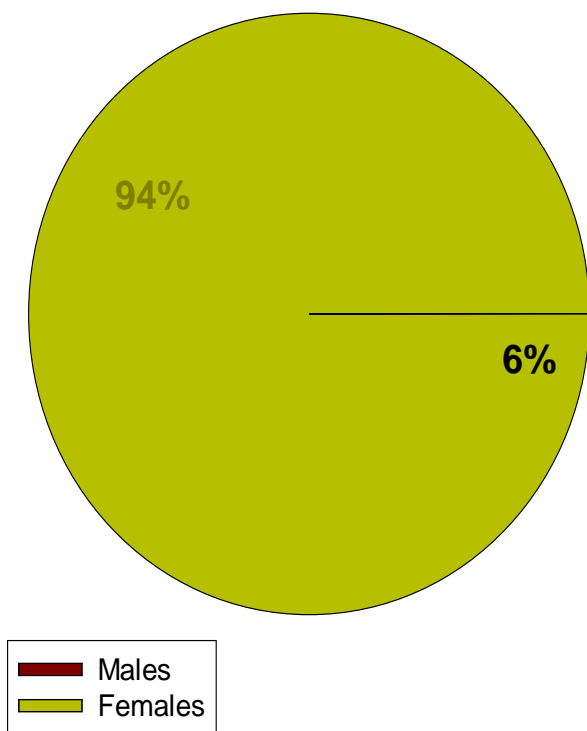
Assessment tools:

- Focus group discussion;
 - In-depth interviews (**56** fish producers; **18** dealer/trader; **11** feed processing; **9** local handmade mills)
 - Individual and key informant interviews with semi-structured questionnaires
 - Information from each actor was validated by other actors;
 - Secondary information from various sources collected and reviewed.
- 

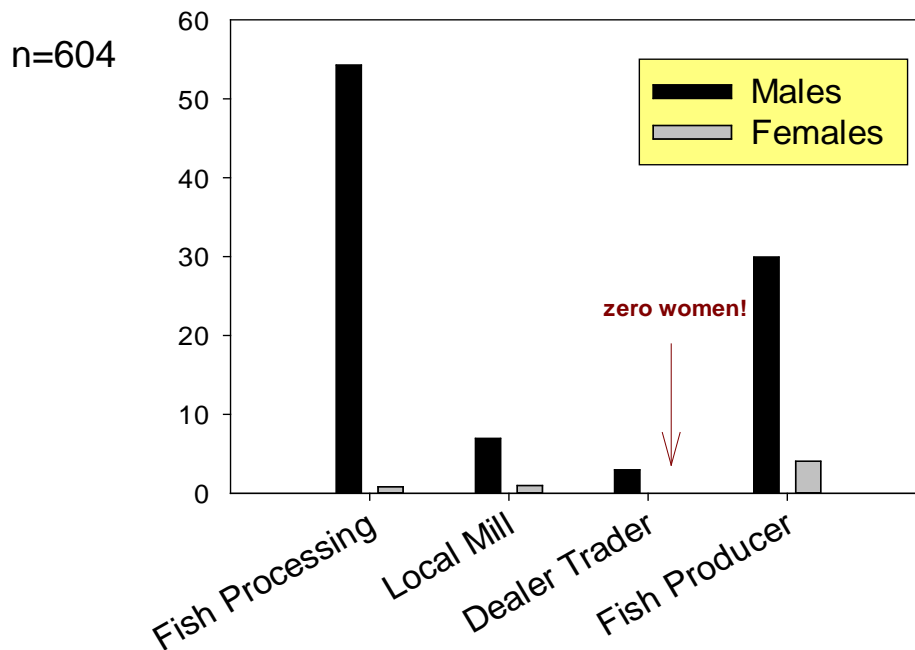
Sex disaggregated data

Results

Women and Men Employment in Aquaculture Value Chain in Bangladesh (% total workforce)



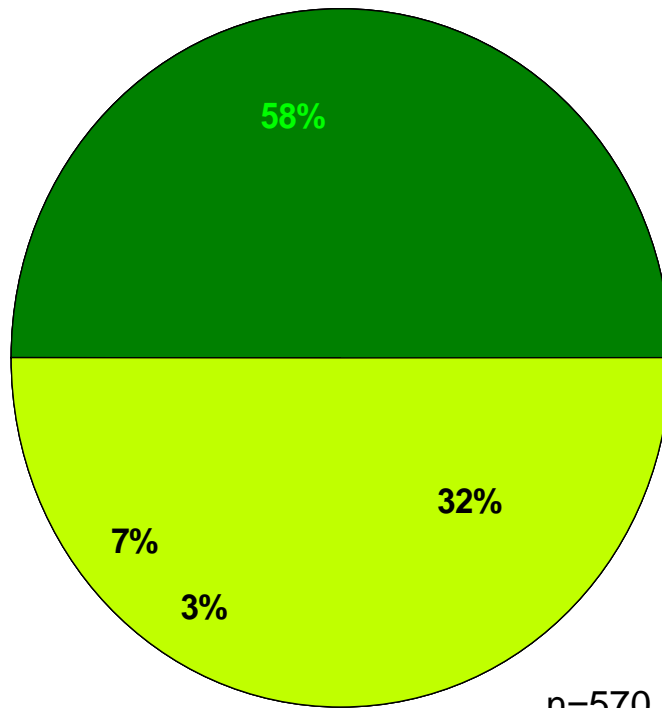
Gender in commercial aquaculture in Bangladesh (%)



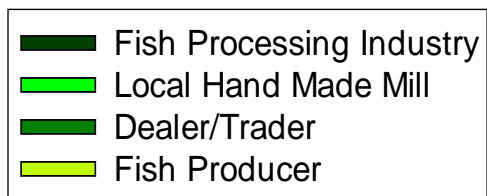
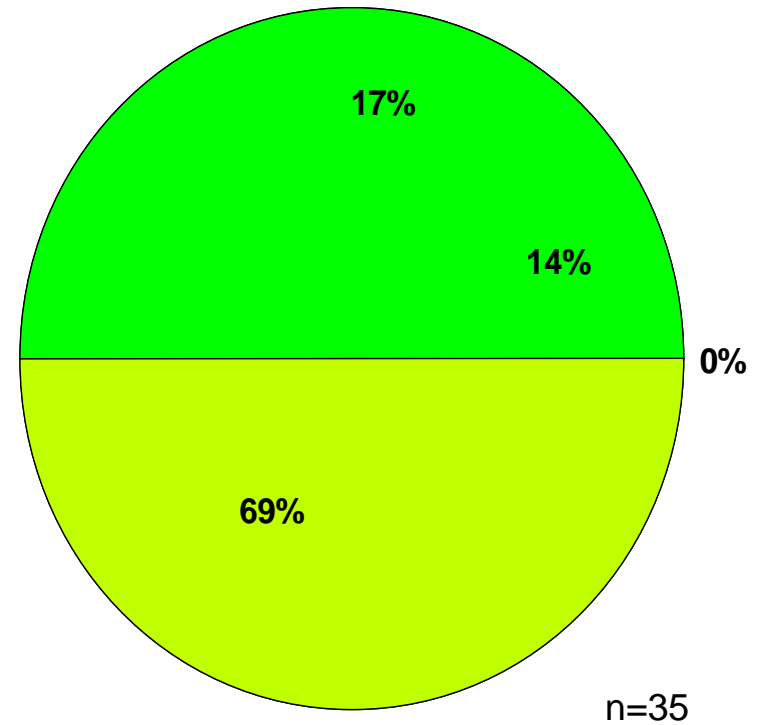
Results

(% total men/women employment)

MEN



WOMEN

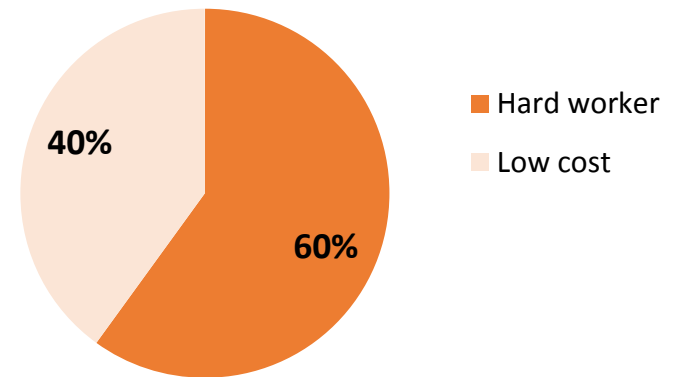


Results

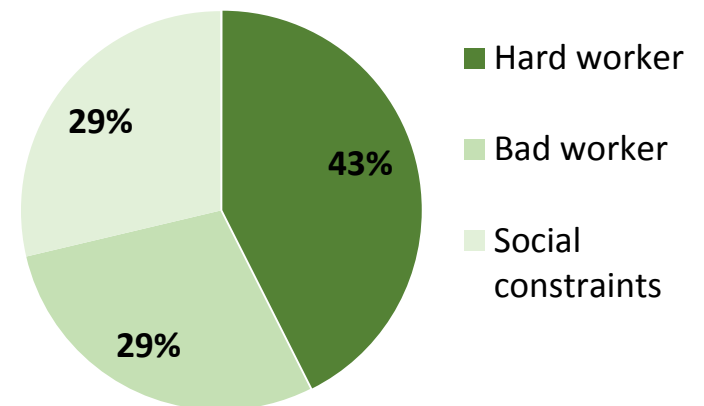
Benefits from women workers and plan for future employment of women

Are you planning to hire women employees in the future?	n	%
Yes	16	30
No	15	28
No women worker + No plan for employing women	23	43
Total	54	100

Reasons for Increasing Number of Women in Fish Production

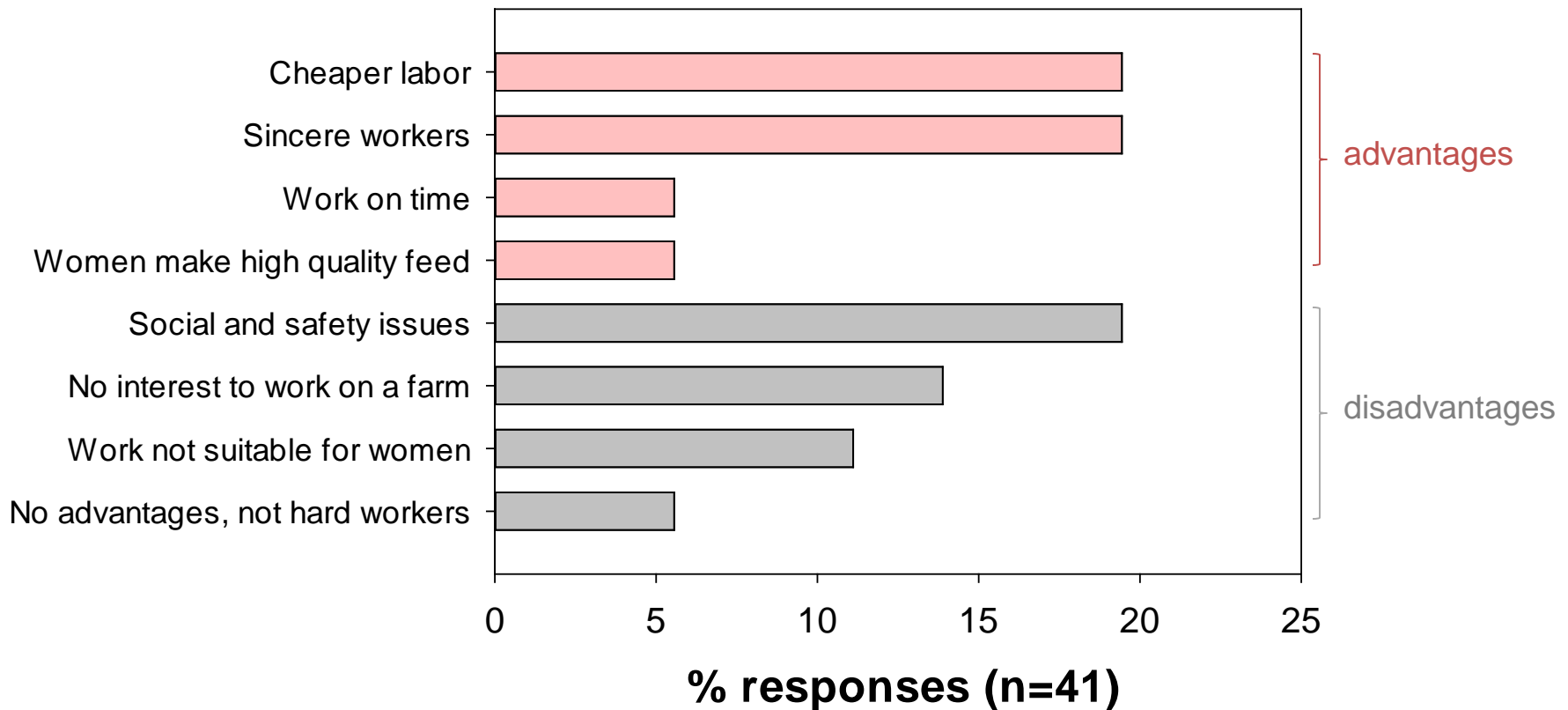


Reasons for No Further Employment of Women in Fish Production



Results

Perceived advantages/disadvantages of women employment in fish production



Conclusions

1. Women participation in commercial aquaculture is **scarce**.
2. Women are appreciated employees in aquaculture in Bangladesh.

Yet,

3. Total of 70% fish producers have no interest in women employment in the future (safety, social constraints, etc.).
4. Sex disaggregated data is very limited.

Future research

- Do men and women have **equal access** to jobs in commercial fish production sector? Feed sector?
- What are the *barriers*?
- What are the effects of **gender imbalance**?
- What makes the already involved women employees undertake jobs in the commercial sector?

<http://www.worldfishcenter.org/featured/gender-equality-now>

Thank you



**Research
Program on
Aquatic
Agricultural
Systems**