

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: THE CASE OF WOMEN FISH-DRIERS OF TANAUAN, LEYTE, PHILIPPINES

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Changes in the weather conditions have been observed to produce impacts on the various aspects of the lives of fishers and their livelihoods. The women fish driers are directly affected. Sun drying has become shorter because of the high surface temperature. However, the occurrences of rains have become unpredictable at times that drying fish takes longer days than usual. Worse, when it results to spoiled fish in cases when the rains do not stop for three to four days. The net effects of these phenomena dictate production levels, hence, the woman-fish drier's incomes and contribution to family economic well-being.

This case study looks into the perceptions and adaptive behaviors of women fish driers from the Central Philippines. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KII) and ocular inspections of the area were conducted.

Results showed that generally, women have observed changes in the weather conditions but they are not aware of its causes as well as link them to their livelihoods. They are experiencing the effects on the costs and volumes of production of dried fish but they are not able to relate these to climate change. Women-fish driers seem to respond to the effects of climate change on a day-to-day basis. They now recognize their needs for alternative livelihoods because of climate change. But there is also a need for advocacy on climate change impacts, mitigation, and adaptation strategies.