GENDER IN PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF BANGUS AT CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, CEBU, PHILIPPINES

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Cebu Technological University (CTU) has four Fishery campuses strategically located in the island of Cebu, Philippines. The main focus of aquaculture technology in these campuses is milkfish, locally known as bangus, cultivated in more than ten hectares of fish pond. Gender roles in CTU milkfish production, utilization, and extension services were the foci of this study. Male workers composed 90% of the workforce, doing pond preparation and milkfish production, while 10% were female, who were tenders of hatchery laboratory-in-tanks, and were engaged in feeding of grow-out ponds. An all-women group was worked on utilization of milkfish into fish nuggets and fish sticks. They also processed milkfish into soft-boned, relleno, and boneless. These technologies were transferred to the community. In was noted that before the transfer, all the women vendors studied used to sell raw milkfish at prevailing price. As an effect of the technology transfer, 60% of these women vendors practiced milkfish processing at home, thus, adding value to the milkfish that can be sold at a higher price. The university's continuing extension program of milkfish farming and utilization had influenced the community to adapt the technology and optimize production of milkfish through value-added processes at farm and at home. Men and women undertake distinctly different roles in milkfish production and utilization in Cebu.