

MONITORING WOMEN RICE-FISH FARMERS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WHILE IMPLEMENTING THE SCHEMA

Chollada Wongpanich

GeNA Gender in NbCS
Aquaculture

 **AIT**
Asian Institute of Technology

 **GAF**
Gender in Agriculture
and Markets Action

 **CIRD**
Cambodian Institute for Research and Development

 University of the Philippines
VISAYAS

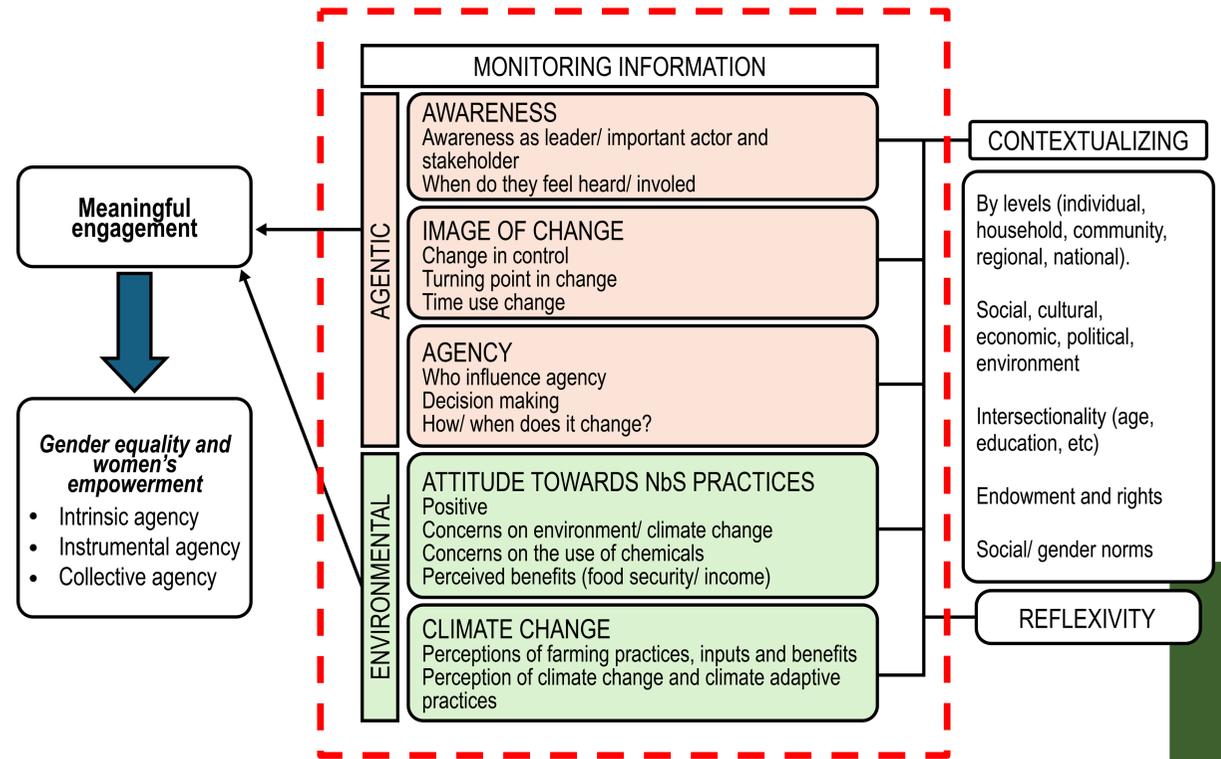


 **IDRC · CRDI**
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

In partnership with
 **Canada**

Recap

- ❖ **2 different contexts**
 - **District A** – Upland area / drought-prone, as it is located outside the irrigation zone.
 - **District B** – Within the irrigation zone, but flood-prone due to its basin-like topography.
- ❖ **Gender monitoring visits every two weeks** were conducted to ask questions across various domains.
- ❖ **1st round of monitoring visit** for all 5 domains has been completed



Preliminary observations

1. Water (management) is crucial for rice fish farming



District A (Phayakkhaphum Phisai) - located outside the irrigation area, farmers rely on rainwater. **Irregular or prolonged gaps in rainfall have impacted both rice and fish farming**



District B (Kosum Phisai) - located in the irrigation area, No worries about the water shortage. **Heavy rains and poor irrigation management can flood farmers' rice fields.**

Preliminary observations

2. Women farmers have no supportive space to try out

They wanted to try new methods → concerned about the high risks to their livelihoods → return to traditional practices.



Ex. Some felt reluctant to reduce or stop using chemicals in farming



Ex. Rice straw burning continues because it involves fewer steps and a shorter waiting time than plowing.

Barriers to accessing agricultural and aquaculture Technologies → make them fear to talk



Ex. Technologies such as weather forecast application, drones or fish breeding techniques (like hormone injection) are mostly used by men, while women have limited access to them

Preliminary observations

3. Regular visits keep them alert!

Women farmers are aware of / more prepared

- While waiting for the fish, they prepare natural fish feed and keeping the paddies filled with water.
- They take preventive measures, such as setting up nets or raising field embankments, before floods.



A - Duckweed



B- Making Fish sandwich



C- Making Fish feed in bag



Farmers **set up nets** to prevent fish from escaping from the rice fields when the water comes

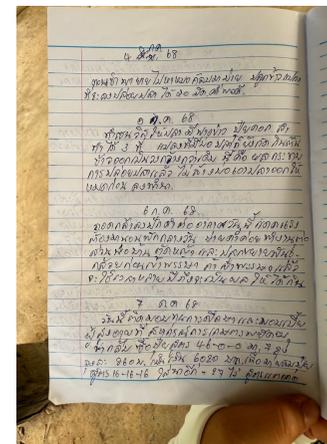
Preliminary observations

4. The GeNA project as a sandbox for women farmers

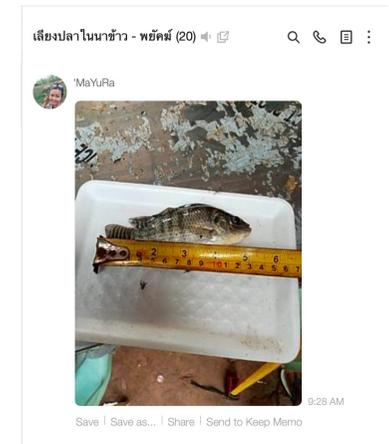
- **Leaning new skills/techniques:** Water quality checks, Comparing raising fish techniques (rice field vs. pond fish-raising)
- **Changing daily routines:** Take more time in the field, Keeping diaries, updating fish status
- **Emotional engagement:** Happiness & Concern for fish
- **Communication:** Family discussions; interacting with researcher & DoF staffs; following advice



She was afraid that the fish would be hot, so she made a roof for the fish to swim under to escape the sun.



Writing diary



Observing fish