

GAF 201: Advanced Workshop on Gender Analysis in Aquaculture and Fisheries Research

Pre-Conference Workshop
September 30, 2025

Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand

**9TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
GENDER IN AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES**



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Nature-based Climate Solutions in
Aquaculture Food Systems in Asia-Pacific
(AQUADAPT)

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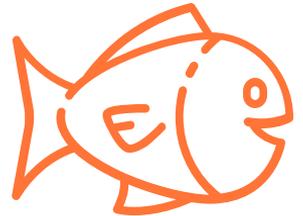
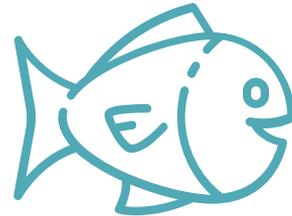


Dr. Meryl
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Agenda

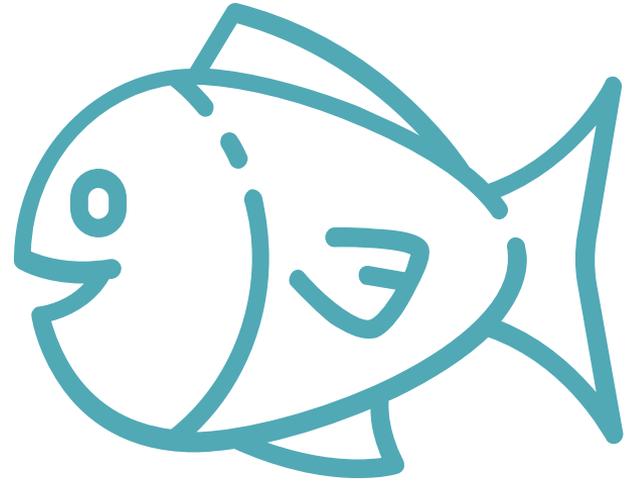
- Introductions – Who is here today?
- Part 1 - Designing Gender-Informed Household Studies
 - Key Concepts
 - Hands-on Exercise
 - Debrief/Discussion/Q&A
- Break
- Part II – Engendering Value Chains
 - Key Concepts
 - Hands-on Exercise
 - Debrief/Discussion/Q&A



Introductions – Who is here today?

1. Who is from
 - a. Government or UN agency
 - b. NGO
 - c. Academia, independent researcher?

2. Who is from
 - a. Africa
 - b. Asia/Pacific (incl Australia/NZ)
 - c. Europe
 - d. North and Latin America

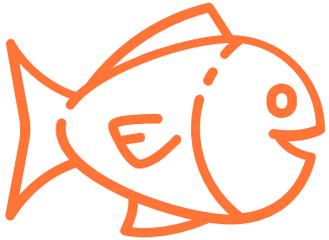


Part 1: Designing Gender-Informed Household Studies

Facilitators:
Kyoko Kusakabe
Holly Hapke



Objectives:



- Problematize the household
 - What are households, and how do they work?
 - What does “It’s done by the household” mean?
 - How do we capture the complexity of households in fisheries research and development work
- Introduce participants to feminist theories of the household and gendered models of household analysis
- Provide opportunity for hands-on work designing a gender-informed household study

Ice Breaker

- What is a household?
- Why we do use the household in fisheries research? What are we trying to understand?



What is a Household?



Conventional Theory:

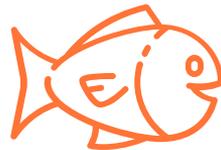
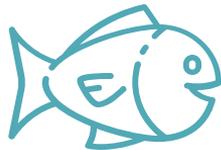
- Unitary: cohesive unit in which members pool resources, share resources, benefit equally, and *cooperate* for collective good;
- Assumed to be headed by men; female-headed household a “special case”
- Modeled as a single, rational actor (Becker 1981)
- Treated as a “firm” in economic analysis
- *Cooperative* bargaining models used to understand household decision-making (Manser and Brown 1980; McElroy and Horney 1981)

What is the problem of analyzing household as a unit? - What are the problems with these statements?

“Seaweed is a family business. All members of the family help each other to produce seaweed. We work together, benefit together.”

“Fisheries subsidies go to the household, since they share resources together.”

“We can interview the head of household for all household matters”



What is a Household?



Feminist Theories:

- An institution that produces and consumes global commodities while ensuring the social reproduction of laborers
- Sites of many economic and other choices - incl. market and *non*market activities, paid work, unpaid (care) work.
- A unit in which members *inequitably* pool and redistribute labor, resources, and livelihood strategies
- A space where love and responsibilities are intertwined with economic benefits (do not operate as a firm - parents do not discard children based on cost-benefit analysis)

Types of Households

- Monogamous, nuclear family
- Monogamous, joint or extended family, skip generation household
- Polygamous – (many forms)
- Female-headed (de jure/de facto) (Diverse - not all are poor)
- Same sex household
- Single person household
- No-family household
- Other?

How do we capture household complexity? How do we define and categorize households when they don't "fit" our categories for fisheries and aquaculture research?

Household Headship and Membership

- Who is the head? How do we know? What assumptions do we make? How do these impact our research?
 - Headship is often contested within household (Doss 2021)
 - Common presumption is that male is head; a woman is only head if there is no adult male present
 - ***But can there not be joint heads?!*** (Hapke 2001)
- Who counts as a member in household surveys? (Doss 2021)
 - Men remain present and head even if they migrate
 - If women migrate, they are not considered household members, let alone head

Intra-household Power Relations & Decision-making

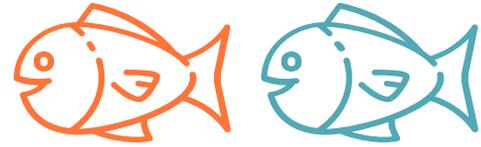
How are household choices decided? What power relations do they reflect? And what are the *implications* for individual members? (labor, technology, production, debt, etc.)

- Household members play different roles / expected to play different roles
- Household members have different access to and control over different resources
- Some members have access to and control over other members' resources (such as time, jewelry, etc.)
- Conflict, cooperation and negotiations among household members (e.g. cooperative conflict; bargaining with patriarchy)
- Violence is a manifestation of intra-household/-familial power relations and patriarchy

This brings us to two questions:

- *Why are we doing a household study? What is the purpose?*
- *What characteristics of the household are important for answering your research questions?*

Case Study Exercise



You are fisheries development officials charged with creating and implementing a fisheries development project in Village Moon. Before doing so, you need to conduct a study of the village, its households, and the gender situation to assess needs and impacts.



Instructions

1. Read the village description and your household scenario. (Note, there are 4.)
2. Brainstorm with your subgroup- As you read the household scenario, **What gender issues or dynamics come to mind? How would you design a household study to account for and/or probe these issues or dynamics? What questions would you ask to capture gender dimensions, power relations, and complexity of households? To whom? How?**
3. Now, share your ideas with the other subgroups in your group. **What additional insights emerge when other household scenarios are considered?**
4. From the group discussion, select the top 3-5 questions to ask or issues to consider and share with the whole group. **What got included, what got excluded in your discussion?**

Things to Consider

- What are the key issues in household and household headship?
- Who has access to and control of household assets and resources?
- Who should we target in interviewing?
- What are the villagers' needs in terms of fisheries development program? (differences by household members)
- What does the project officer need to consider if s/he is to design a development project?

- What are the key questions? What would you include in your survey?

Debrief/Discussion/Questions

- What did you observe or realize about gender while doing the exercise?
- What are the challenges in designing a gender-informed household study?
- What do we learn when households are the unit of analysis? What gets excluded? What are the advantages of household studies? What are their limitations?
- Is a household study the best approach for the assignment? What would be alternative units of analysis in a village study?

BREAK

Part 2: Gender-Informed Value Chain Analysis

Facilitators:

Holly Hapke

Tara Nair

Carmen Pedroza-Gutiérrez



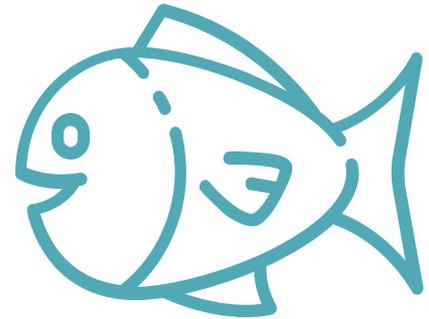
Objectives for Session

- Develop an understanding of how value chains are gendered, including intersectional dimensions of gender participation, inequality and power imbalances in VC governance
- Provide an approach for integrating gender analysis into value chain research



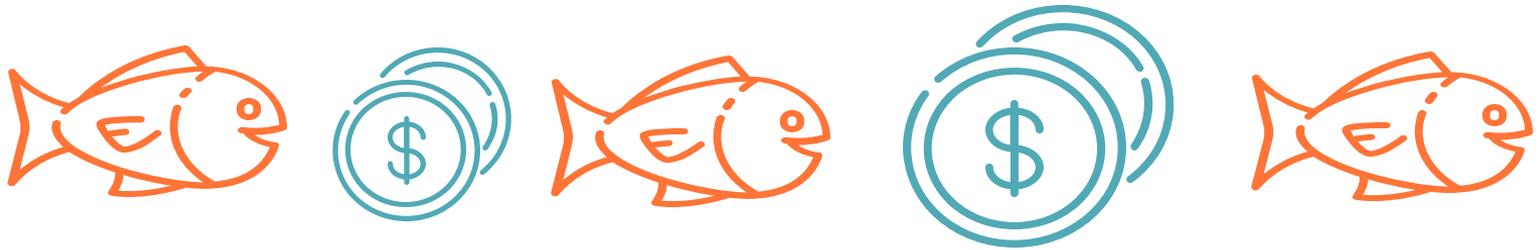
Agenda for Session

- Ice Breaker
- Key Concepts for Gender-Informed Value Chain Research
 - Social embeddedness
 - Labour Subsidies and Value Generation
 - Gender and Governance of Value Chains
- Breakout Group Exercise
- Debrief, Discussion, Questions



First an Ice Breaker

What does the term “value chain” bring to mind?



Key Concepts

1. Social Embeddedness of Value Chains

Fish markets are not merely sites for the exchange of commodities; they are deeply embedded in social, cultural, and political institutions, norms, and practices operating at multiple scales. (Hapke, 2016)

Conventional versus Feminist Commodity (Value) Chain Analysis



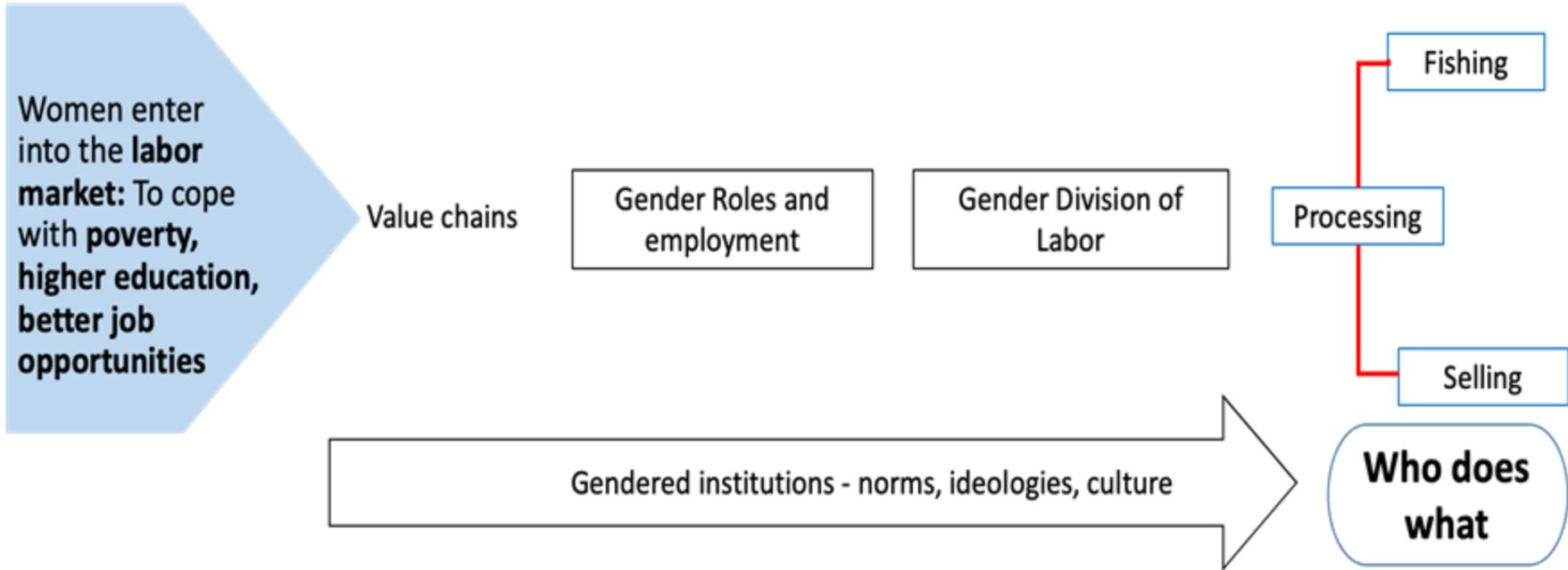
- Mechanistic focus on *things*, rather than people
- Treats waged labour as just a *cost*



Versus:

- *Networks* of labour and production *processes* rooted in gender and other social *inequalities*
- Attention to diverse forms of labour (paid/unpaid; formal/informal, etc.)
- Labour is a *social relationship*





Feminist Commodity (Value) Chain Analysis

- Identifies where women and men are the **key agents** in VC;
- Maps way paid and unpaid labour contribute to production and value in each node;
- Examines the way each node is embedded in gender power relations in households and economies;
- Asks questions about **material and non-material processes** that underlie the relations of production and exchange (see Dunaway 2001).

Fish value chain in Lake Chapala

Subsistence value chain



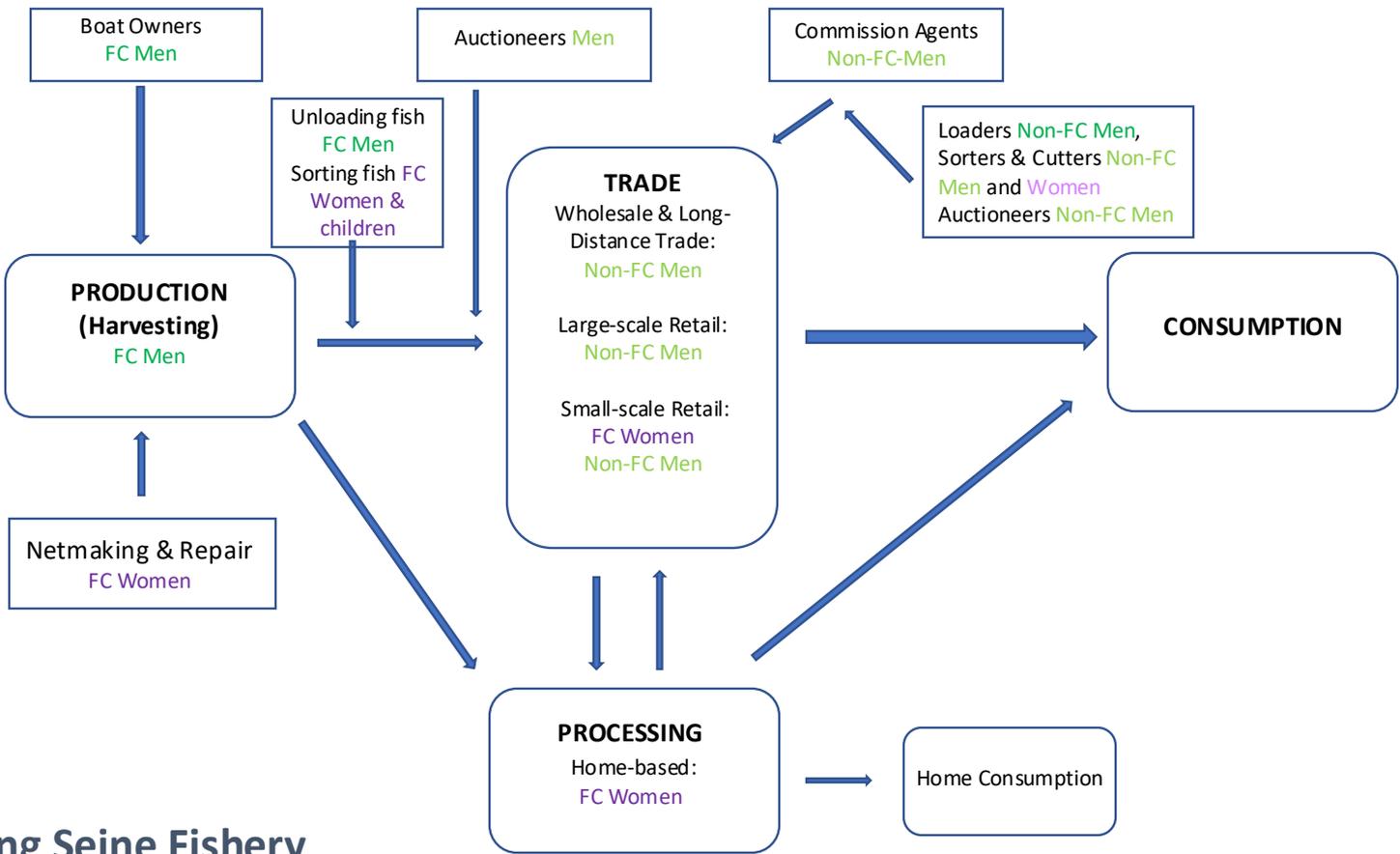
Middlemen

Value addition process

Long commercial value chain

Fish from other water bodies



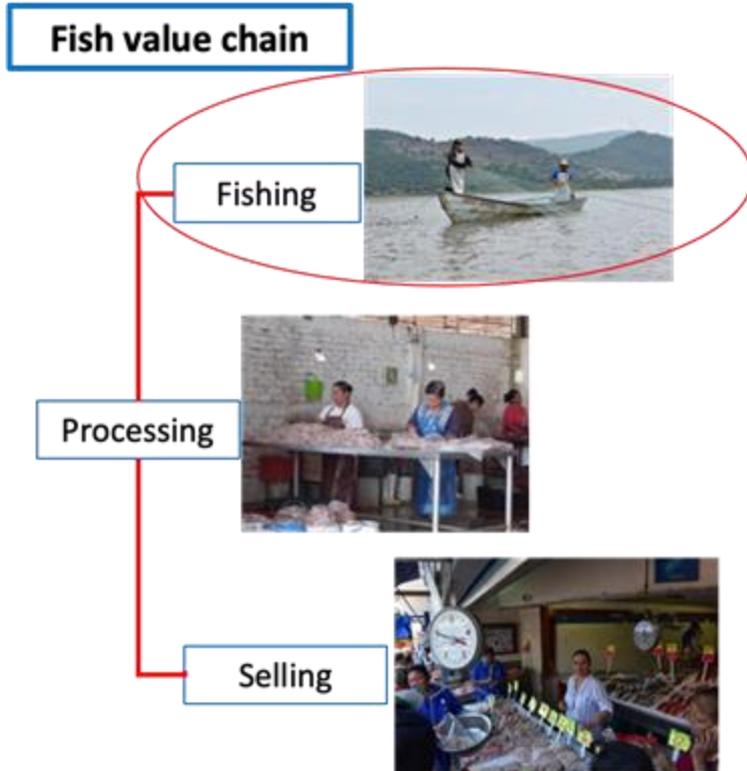


FC = Fishing Community

Kerala Ring Seine Fishery

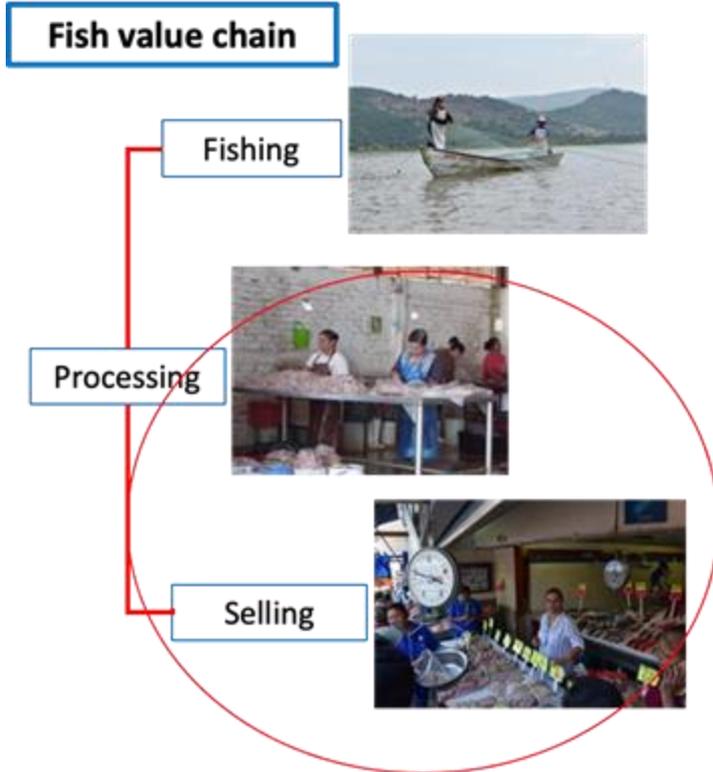
Source: Adapted from Gopal et al. 2023

Fishing



- Top/highest income earning activity of the FVC
- Lowest women's participation
- Women often see selves as helpers, not fishers
- Access to and control over assets is crucial for equal decision-making
- Research questions to ask:
 - How do local gender norms allow or limit women's ability to fish?
 - Do women fishers participate in high income earning fisheries, or are those limited to men? Why?
 - What are the implications for women's limited participation for the household and local economy?

Post-harvest:



- Women relegated to roles related to their domestic responsibilities: processing (food preparation) and selling fish (provisioning)
- Women considered suitable for processing roles: meticulousness, patience, keen eye for detail
- Capital and mobility/less
- Research question to ask:
 - What are the economic benefits of women's work in processing and trade for the local economy?

Questions to Engender Value Chains

- Where and why are women concentrated at particular points of the chain and men at others?
 - How do gender norms and ideologies shape economic roles (“men’s work”, “women’s work”) and access to resources and opportunities?
 - Men viewed as main income earners; women do domestic activities and are “secondary earners” (“Myth of Male Breadwinner”)
 - “Women are better suited” - “Nimble Fingers” argument
 - Flexible employment to drive down labour costs
- Under what conditions do women enter the labour market?
 - Economic desperation or a choice?
 - Are they family labour/self-employed/wage labour; low-wage/high-salary?
- Why do women receive lower wage rates/rewards?
 - Are they viewed as “cheap” and compliant labour force by employers?
 - Do they possess lower/training education? Why?
 - Are they culturally de-valued? Are women paid less because they are women?



Key Concepts

2. Labour subsidies and generation of value

How does women's work function as a concealed subsidy for other actors?

- *Women add the most invisible value by carrying out the most labour intensive work post-harvest (cleaning, drying, preserving)*
- *They are treated as "family labor" or paid piecemeal – undervaluation of work*
- *Men dominate the surplus generating nodes of the chain (trading)*
- *Typically over 90% of profits accrue to the nodes dominated by men*

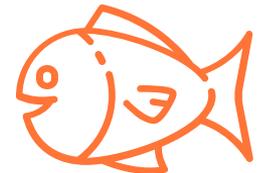
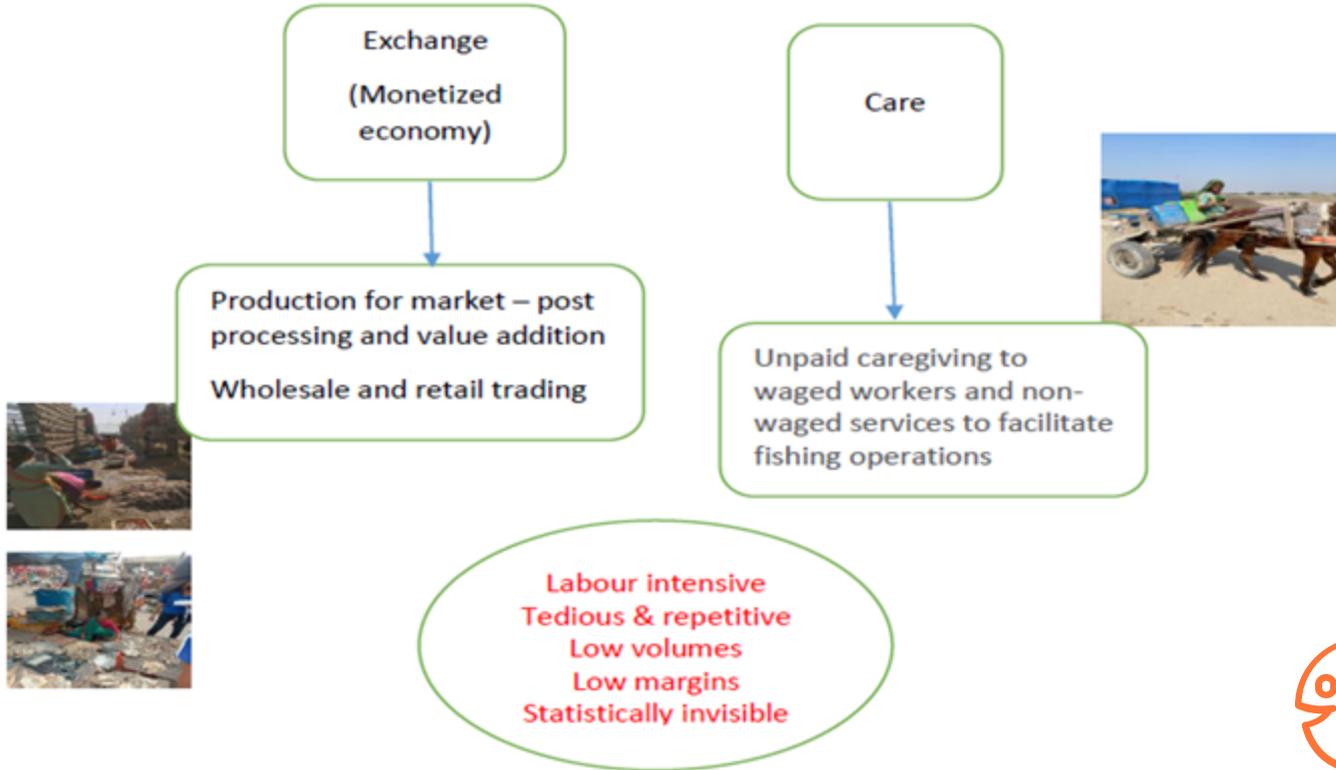


An Illustrative example

Fish	Bombay Duck (Harpado Nehereus)	
	Cost of fishing	Rs. 100000
Size of catch considered for the analysis	1500 kg	
Transportation exp to drying yard	Rs. 110	\$ 1.4
Labour cost for cleaning and drying	Rs. 1500	\$ 2
Dried fish produced	250 kg (6:1)	
Price of dried fish (processor to trader)	Rs. 450	\$
Total value (processor)	Rs.112500	\$ 150
Net value	Rs.110890	\$ 148
Margin	Rs.10890	\$ 14
Wholesaler to retailer (unit price)	Rs.500	\$
Total value (wholesaler)	Rs. 125000	\$ 167
Expenses	Rs. 1500	\$ 2
Net value	Rs.123500	\$ 165
Margin	Rs.11000	\$ 14
Retailer to consumer (unit price)	Rs.550	\$
Total value (retailer)	Rs.137500	\$ 184
Expense	Rs. 1500	\$ 2
Net value	Rs.136000	\$ 182
Margin	12500	\$ 16
Women workers share in value	4%	



The Subsidy of Care



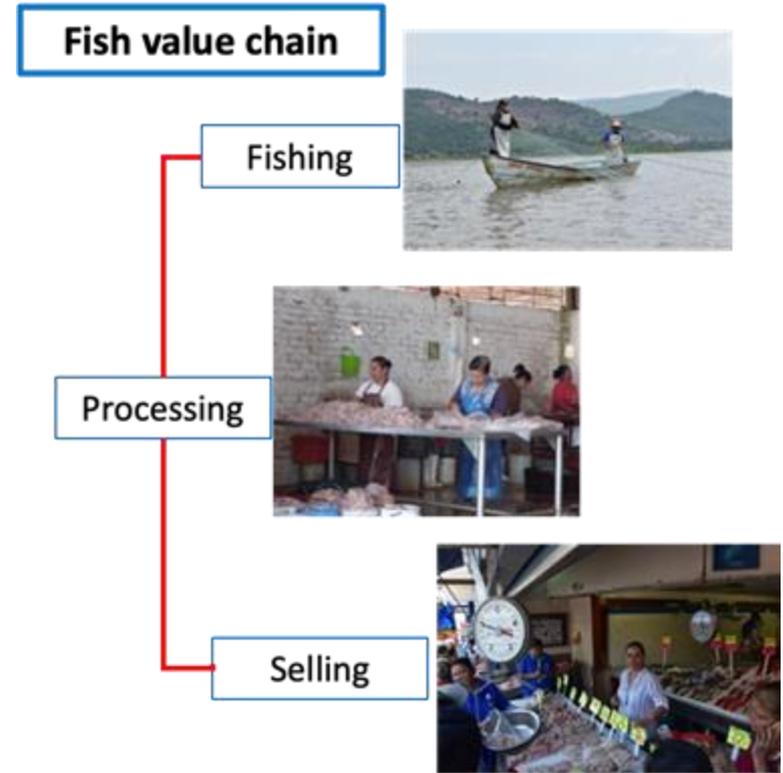
Key Concepts

3. Gender and Governance in Value Chains

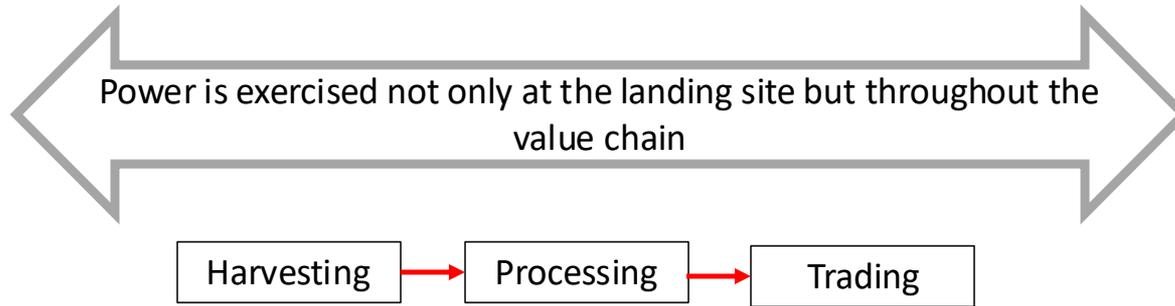
*Where power relations and
structures come into play along
Value Chains in SSF*

Governance and Gendered Institutions

- Value chain governance refers to who has decision-making power and how benefits are distributed along the chain.
- Gendered institutions influence in the distributions of benefits along the chain.
- Limited access to the institutions where decisions are taking place
- Small-scale fisheries are subject to *various governing institutions operating at different levels with different objectives*, which are present in each link of the value chain.

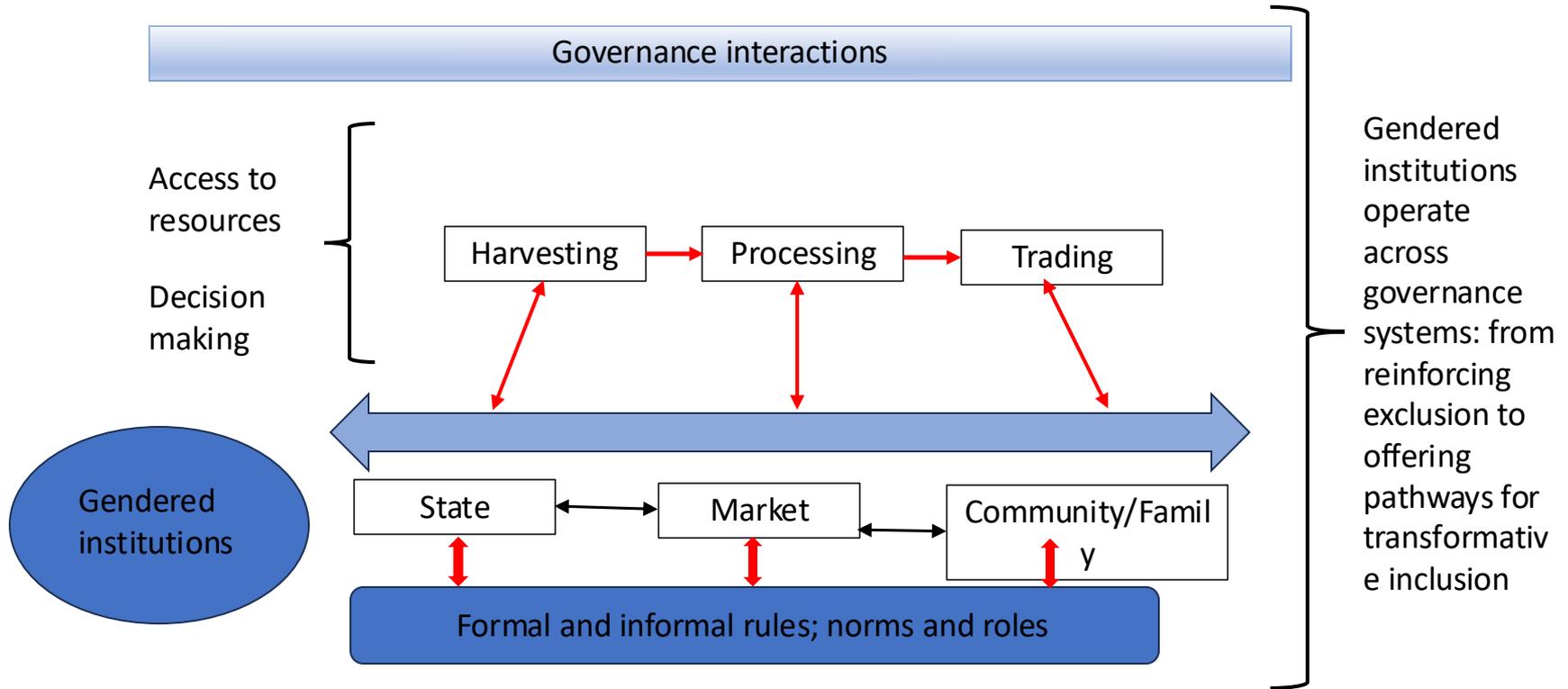


Value Chains and Governance Interactions



- Governance institutions are **gendered: NOT gender neutral**.
- They structure access, roles, and benefits unequally, through the construction of norms and practices that reproduce unequal power relations.

Governance and Gendered Institutions



Gender Dimension of Governance

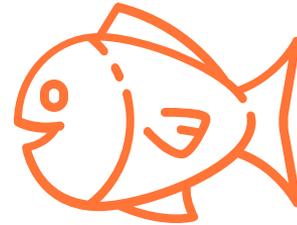
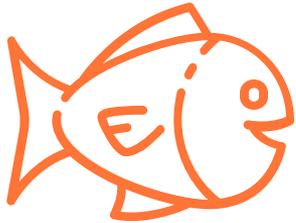
- Because **institutions are gendered**, women's contributions—especially in post-harvest and trade—are often **invisible or undervalued**, while decision-making arenas remain dominated by **men**.
- Women navigate governance institutions via **kinship** and **informal networks** but **remain marginalized** because rules and norms privilege male actors.



Research questions about governance and gendered institutions...

- How can (lack of) access to formal decision making institutions affect women's livelihoods?
- How can gendered institutions be the key to gender inequality and reinforce or perpetuate the gender gap?
- How do formal and informal gendered institutions shape access to resources, labor roles, and decision-making opportunities within small-scale fisheries value chains?
- In what ways can fisheries governance reforms transform gendered institutions to promote more equitable participation and distribution of benefits among women and men?

Questions/Comments?



Case Study Exercise:

The Shrimp Industry of Alpha

1. Elect a rapporteur
- 2a. Imagine and map the shrimp value chain for Country Alpha from a gender-informed perspective. Include the full range of activities, including ancillary activities, types of production (capture/aquaculture), and all actors (paid/unpaid) in the chain. [labour subsidies] Consider also how the shrimp value chain might connect to value chains for other fish species. [governance]
- 2b. What questions do you need to ask to understand gender dynamics and decision-making within the value chain? What makes gender a significant focus of analysis in the shrimp industry of Country Alpha? How can we use this value chain map to understand other dynamics/developments in this fishery?
3. Report work to group - share one “takeaway” from the exercise

Debrief/Discussion/Questions

- What makes gender a significant focus of analysis in the shrimp industry of Country Alpha?
- How can we use this value chain map to understand other dynamics/developments in this fishery?
- Drawing on your context, what policies might have the effect of including or excluding various actors from the value chain?
- What is the benefit of including women in fisheries decision-making/institutions?
- How can we transform gender institutions towards gender inequality?
- Why do rules and regulations have to be gender inclusive and specific?

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Other Resources: Agriculture

WEAI (Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index) Resource Center <https://weai.ifpri.info/>
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GAFS GAF Training Materials and Resources

GAF-101 Training Workshops

- 2016: GAF 101 – 1-Day Training Workshop GAF 101: Theorizing Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries Research, conducted by Marilyn Porter, Holly Hapke, Susana Siar, Kyoko Kusakabe @ GAF6, Bangkok, 3 August 2016 - [Link](#)
- 2018: Special GAF 101 workshop II: Using “Intersectionality” in Research on Gender and Fisheries and Aquaculture by Marilyn Porter, Holly Hapke and Kyoko Kusakabe - [Link](#)
- 2022: GAF 101 Training-Workshop: Gender Analysis in Aquaculture and Fisheries Social Science Research (AFSSRN, GAFS), convened by Neha W. Qureshi and Paul Ramirez- [Link-A](#) (all slide decks), [Link-B](#) (101 workshop programme)
- 2024: IIFET Pre-Conference Workshop – “Integrating Gender into Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and Trade Research” by Holly Hapke, Carmen Pedroza-Gutiérrez, Cynthia McDougall, Kyoko Kusakabe, Tara Nair, Meryl Williams - [Link](#)

GAFS GAF Training Materials and Resources

GAF7 Training Resources

- 2018: *GAF training materials on theorising gender, intersectionality and gender rapid appraisals. “Gender Research in Fisheries and Aquaculture: A Training Handbook.”* USAID, Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section, Asian Fisheries Society, and SEAFDEC. [Download](#)
- 2018: *Photovoice manual. “Photovoice: Researching gender in aquaculture and fisheries through the camera lens.”* Dr Janine Pierce: Special Workshop 1: GAF7 manual. Aquaculture without Frontiers Australia, University of South Australia. [Download](#)