

Special Initiative "One World - No Hunger" (SEWOH) Global Programme Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

Newsletter #5

08.07.2021

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 5th issue of the **Global Programme Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture newsletter**.

Traditions and cultural norms are diverse in our project countries - just as the role of women in the fish value chain. But what is actually the role of women when it comes to fisheries and aquaculture? How do they generate income for themselves and their families? Where are potentials to challenge the persistent roles and perceptions?

The **Global Programme Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture** wants to share **success stories** from and with women to inspire and inform you about our ongoing projects.

Enjoy reading!

The Communication Team

In this issue you will find updates from:

Madagascar



Zambia



Cambodia



Mauritania



Malawi



Uganda





Women in Fisheries & Aquaculture

Our Achievements



22.900

additional jobs for women in the fish value chain are created



6.400

women participated in trainings on sustainable aquaculture and fisheries



45.500.000 €

income are generated by women working in the fisheries and aquaculture sector



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Madagascar

Promoting the inclusion of women in fish farming cooperatives



Since 2015, the cooperative union Tilapia de l'Est (TDE) has been promoting tilapia aquaculture for small-scale producers on the east coast of Madagascar. Of the nearly 400 cooperative members over 30 % are women. In Madagascar, men are traditionally heads of household. Therefore, women have been followed up closely by TDE to ensure that they can also engage in the profitable tilapia production.

Women's access to land and start-up capital for pond digging is a crucial requirement for starting a fish farming business with TDE. Trainings in tilapia farming are adapted to times and needs relevant for both women and men. Today, women's production levels and income in the cooperative are similar to men's. Female members of the cooperative also have very low drop-out rates from TDE. In many cases, female members have also been elected as finance responsables in

the TDE cooperatives. This is in line with traditional Malagasy values, where women are quite autonomous and usually responsible for the household budget in families. To reach the aim of 40 % women in cooperative functions such as president, vice-president and secretary, they receive training on formal organization, leadership and entrepreneurship. All the members of the cooperatives are also trained in how to involve more women in the cooperatives.

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Fish farmer of TDE with her harvest

© Sabina Wolf / GIZ

Zambia

From the net to the plate – Women move Zambia’s fish



Zambia’s fish value chain is complex and yet poorly understood. Fish changes hands many times between harvest and consumption, supporting livelihoods at each step. The different players along the value chain range from fish farmers and fishers, to processors, transporters and traders. Traditionally, most fish producers are men, while women process and trade the fish.

The SEWOH Fish for Food Security project in Zambia is embarking on a study in Eastern and Luapula province. It aims to map out the fish value chain actors and examine gender differences in profits and losses between male and female traders. The study will also examine how fish harvested from small dam fisheries in Eastern Province and fish grown in ponds

in Luapula Province enter the wider fish value chain.

Understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by female and male value chain actors supports the project’s goal to increase the supply of fish that is accessible for the food-insecure population, in a way that also reduces gender disparities.

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Fish traders are selling dried fish at Mwela Market, Samfya (Lake Bangweulu, Luapula Province)

© Jason Mulikita / GIZ

Cambodia

Encouraging female fisheries managers



Traditional gender roles often restrict women in Cambodia to housework. Parents limit their access to education, expect daughters to help at home and to gain income. As a result, many women in Cambodia lack management skills and rarely occupy decision-making positions.

This also applies to Community Fish Refuges (CFRs), managed by local committees. Although women participate actively in meetings, there are currently none on any of the ten committees supported by the SEWOH project Sustainable Aquaculture and CFR Management (SAFR).

Discussions with local women highlight, which aspects of CFRs are important to them. Many earn their living through fishing, often alone. If CFRs are situated close to their villages, this increases their safety while fishing.

Hak Rem, a young woman from the Salavisai community, would like to be part of the local committee: *"I firmly believe that women can fish in the rice*

fields too. So it is necessary that women play an active role in planning and managing this community resource."

She wants to show that women - just like men - can contribute to the development of the community.

SAFR aims to increase the proportion of women on CFR committees to at least 30%. Women could be involved actively in management or take on tasks such as financial accounting, workshop coordination, and organisation of meetings. The project collaborates with WorldFish, the Organization for the Development of Cambodian Women, and the government's fisheries administration to achieve this goal.

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CFR community meeting © Samonn Mith / GIZ

Mauritania

The cornerstone of fish consumption in Mauritania



The Mauritanian fisheries sector plays an essential role for the economic development and food security in the Sahelian country. And women are key to the success of the sector.

Female fish sellers await the pirogues, the colourful artisanal west African fishing boats, with their catches at the landing sites. They then sell them either directly at the ports, take it to smaller markets or sell it to almost exclusively female fish transformers who gut the fish, dry it or grind it. Some women even transform and sell their products at a large scale. Governmental inspectors that validate the catch and hygiene along the value chain are more and more often also female. While men transport fisheries products to all parts of the vast country, women sell it at village and town markets and prepare

nutritious fish dishes on these markets, in homes and in restaurants.

These activities require a high level of adaptability, negotiating skills and hygiene practices. Their contribution is therefore decisive for the successful functioning of the entire Mauritanian fisheries value chain and the consumption of fish. To support these women, SEWOH Promopêche has been organising laboratory training missions to Tunisia for governmental inspectors as well as hygiene and quality trainings along the value chain in Mauritania.

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ONISPA inspector doing a hygiene assessment of a fisheries product

© Alena Göbel / GIZ

Malawi

Amplifying equal power and joint farm management in aquaculture



Social norms in Malawi expect women to restrict their contribution to household welfare and home management. Over time, this has resulted in an absence of women involvement in leadership roles and income-generating activities including fish farming.

The SEWOH Aquaculture Value Chain Project Malawi (AVCP) has incorporated a gender transformative approach in fish farmer trainings. The approach allows for defining and highlighting the significant role of women in fish farming and marketing, including family-managed fish farms. Usually, women in family-managed farms are involved in fish stocking, feeding and pond maintenance, while men decide about finances and fish sales. After farmers participated in trainings of the AVCP project, they now acknowledge that women have - just like men - a substantial role in the overall farm management activities from pond construction,

harvesting to sales and financial decision making at household level.

"I'm glad I have a supportive partner who does not limit my role to being a stay-at-home-wife. My involvement on the farm has enabled me to appreciate how my husband and I have grown as fish farmers but also inspired a lot of other families in our community" mentioned one of the training participants, Rose Grey Sports, in Phalombe district, Malawi.

Appreciated by many, AVCP plans to scale up this approach by training its staff and more partners who are actively involved in extension services.

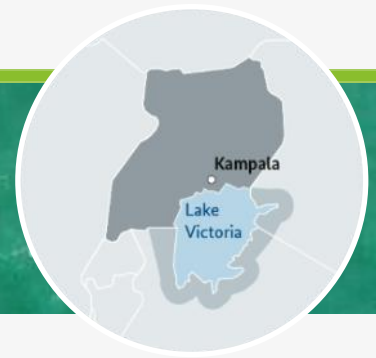
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Rose Grey Sports and her husband Charles Sports holding a record keeping book for fish farming from AVCP © Mbumba Chalira / GIZ-AVCP

Uganda

Modern smoking kilns for more gender equality



In Uganda, many cultural beliefs and social norms prevent women from actively engaging in fishing and decision making. Fishermen believe that finding a woman on their way to the fishing grounds or having a woman on a fishing boat is bad luck and will decrease the fish catch. Taking care of the household and children also does not leave the time to go fishing. Therefore, women are mainly involved in fish processing and trade.

Traditionally, fish is smoked over open fires which produce harmful smoke and need a lot of wood and attention. However, women generally lack the capital as well as access to credit to buy modern kilns to smoke their fish. This makes it almost impossible to compete in the fish processing business as they continue to suffer losses as fish gets spoilt.

Working together helps to even out some of the economic disadvantages. Ugandan women have therefore organised themselves in groups, led by the Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT). The SEWOH Responsible Fisheries Business Chains Project (RFBCP) provided five of these groups with modern fish smoking kilns. Smoking fish with these has several advantages. It is less labour-intensive, and women use the time gained to take care of

their children and family. The modern kilns are eco-friendly and save more than 40 % energy because they use less wood during the smoking process.

Najjuma Judith from Bugula KWDT group is proud of her fish: *"Modern smoking kilns produce high-quality tasty smoked fish, with reduced cancer-causing compounds, which gives us a competitive advantage at the local markets."* From their group savings, women plan to partially finance the procurement of larger stoves to accommodate larger quantities of fish.

To further increase their sales success, RFBCP plans to offer business development training and advisory services to 2,000 enterprises along the fisheries value chain. A quarter of them will be women from KWDT.



Traditional smoking kiln (left photo), women from KWDT remove smoked fish from a modern smoking kiln (right photo)

© Rose Basooma / GIZ-RFBCP

Multimedia

Click on the photos to watch the videos



Learn more about our Sustainable Aquaculture Project in Madagascar! It contributes to the development of the sector by promoting pond-based aquaculture, rice-fish farming, and improving framework conditions.



In order to sustainably manage fisheries, we must know how the resource is exploited. Watch how Promopêche supports the first sale certificate and its digitization in Mauritania.



Hygiene controls and standards are essential for a prosperous value chain! Watch how Promopêche supports consumer protection in Mauritania.



A fisheries inspector in Uganda inspects the fishing boats and nets before the boat can be licensed.



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