UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS
FACULTY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

EAF 4SG

REBYC-III CLME+

GENDER FACT SHEET

Overview

Fisheries play a critical role in global food security, employment and economic development. However, gender inequalities persist throughout the sector. The UWI/FAO REBYC-III CLME+ and EAF4SG projects recognises that addressing these disparities are essential for sustainable and equitable fisheries management.

Key Facts

- Women make up approximately 50% of the global fisheries workforce when including post-harvest activities (FAO, 2022).
- In small-scale fisheries, women often engage in processing, marketing, and gleaning (shoreline collection), rather than fishing at sea.
- Women's work in fisheries is often unpaid, informal, and undervalued, particularly in processing and support roles.
- Decision-making roles in fisheries management are predominantly male-dominated.
- Women earn less than men in similar fisheries roles due to gender norms, unequal access to markets, and limited asset ownership.
- Women have limited access to resources such as boats, gear, financing, and training.
- Women's participation in fisheries governance and leadership remains low, especially in cooperatives and community-based organizations.

Challenges

- Cultural and social norms: Restrictive gender roles limit women's mobility, participation and access to fishing activities.
- Policy gaps: Fisheries policies often lack gender-specific provisions or disaggregate data by sex.
- Climate change impacts: Women are more vulnerable to environmental changes due to limited adaptive capacity and exclusion from climate resilience planning.
- Occupational health risks: Women face specific health issues from prolonged exposure to processing environments (e.g., smoke, chemicals).

Opportunities for Gender Equity

- Gender-responsive Policies: Mainstreaming gender in fisheries policies and management frameworks.
- Capacity building: Providing training, education and leadership programs for women in fisheries.
- Access to finance and technology: Supporting women with tools, credit, and modern technologies for value addition and business development.
- Data collection: Enhancing gender-disaggregated data collection for better planning and evaluation.
- Community engagement: Promoting inclusive governance that values women's knowledge and participation.

The REBYC-III CLME + and EAF4SG projects both integrate gender considerations as part of their holistic approaches to sustainable fisheries management. Here's how each project correlates gender and fisheries, and where their approaches align:

- Through the recognition of the critical roles of women play in post-harvest activities (e.g., processing, marketing).
- In the promotion of gender-sensitive stakeholder engagement, ensuring women participate in decision-making forums.
- Supporting capacity building for women in alternative livelihoods to reduce dependence on bycatch-related income.
- By encouraging gender-disaggregated data collection to better understand participation in the value chain.
- The promotion of gender equity as a cross-cutting objective, emphasising the empowerment of marginalised groups, especially women.
- Facilitating the participation of women in fisheries governance, co-management and capacity-building efforts.
- Supporting gender-responsive livelihood diversification and access to financial services, technology and education.
- Integrating gender into ecosystem-based management frameworks, recognising women's traditional ecological knowledge.

Conclusion

Both projects acknowledge the pivotal role of gender equity in achieving sustainable fisheries. Together, they demonstrate how ecosystem-based management and gender inclusivity can reinforce each other for more resilient and equitable fisheries systems.

UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS
FACULTY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

REBYC-III CLME+

EAF 4SG

Project Management Unit

Faculty of Food and Agriculture
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.
Tel: (868) 250-4907
Email: fisheries.proj@sta.uwi.edu
Website: www.ffaprojects.org