

# Women and Post-harvest issues in Small-scale fisheries in Africa

IYAFA – AFRICA Workshop – 15-18 Feb, 2023

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# Outline

- VG-SSF and post-harvest issues
- VG-SSF on gender and women
- Women in the post-harvest fish value chain
- Issues impacting on women
- Women' potentials and securing better livelihoods
- Women organizing
- What is yet to be done

## VG-SSF on the Value chain, Post-harvest and Trade

- Value-chain actors as part of relevant decision making processes in the SSF
- Recognizing that sometimes unequal power relations exist between value chain actors and sometimes the vulnerable and marginalized groups may need special support
- Recognize the role women play in the SSF
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- Be flexible and adaptive to changes in species, products, markets and climate variability

## VG-SSF on Gender and women

- Recognizing the vital role of women in small-scale fisheries, equal rights and opportunities should be promoted
- Gender mainstreaming
- Gender equality – sensitive to cultural contexts
- Women to organize autonomously
- Compliance: Improving women's status

# Women in the post-harvest fish value chain

- **The gender narrative:**
  - Moving beyond recognition to active appreciation
  - Numbers versus transformative change
  - ***Realities:*** Diversity ... and Intersectionality – participation in post-harvest activities
  - Capital, Age, Marital status
- **Activities - How can they survive?**
  - Porters-Labourers 'wabebaji'
  - Processors
  - [harvester and ] Marketing
    - Traders
  - Transporters

## Labourers-Porters

- Carrying catches at landing site, or auctions.
  - From boats to auctions, drying sites
  - a daily engagement, paid per load one carries.
- Increasing, Seasonal
- Easy entry,
  - Regulated – through registration
  - by BMUs or Landing site Dikos
- Laborious
- Gender norms – *women and work*
- Competitive -



# Processing



- Mostly small-scale processing using traditional drying/smoking/salting technologies.
- Boiling 'dagaa' = preferred by traders (Feb 10, 2023)
  - Labour intensive, health, environmentally demanding
  - Market substantial – traders from DRC in Zanzibar
    - Women employ male labourers (fuelwood)
- Drying
  - Strategies vary with technologies
- Processing methods influence quality and incomes





# Trading



- Harvesters for sale
  - Direct harvesting for sale –
    - Finfish Octopus, Molluscs
  - Owners (some) of vessels, gear
  - Contractors – access to produce for sale
- Mostly Small-scale fish mongers:
  - or road-side fish vending
- Purchase fish directly at auctions
  - Large-sized fish (tuna) apportioned into smaller portions
  - home consumption, usually after frying
- Fish traders: Agents for big traders, hotels
  - Capital (a few)
  - Exporters





# Transporters

- Transport produce from landing sites to inland and other markets
  - Access to Transportation facilities - costly
- Small-scale traders – use public transport
- Club together and hire vehicles - *dagaa* trade to Dar es Salaam



# Issues

## Household food security

## Compliant to environmental destruction

- Women purchase juveniles, silent on Dynamite/destruction

## Decent work

- Poor infrastructure – eg Landing site infrastructure

## Competition

- *'May the best person win'*
  - Access to produce - scramble
  - Buyers/Traders with more resources are usually privileged by auctioneers .. They offer higher bids ... most often these are male
- Energy demanding activities, need to be mobile –
  - hence demand able-bodied individuals
  - Age – forces retirement – Most unprepared and hence end in poverty

## Issues (continued)

- Dignity
  - Poor Landing site infrastructure
  - The woman in me, *hapa kazi tu*
- Declining catches,
  - lack of alternatives –
  - succumbing to GBV/SEA
- Operating spaces
  - Cluster in small spaces
  - Taxed on entry at landing sites even if no fish
    - Bagamoyo TShs 500/- as wait for fishers
- Post-harvest losses
  - Poor processing facilities – poor quality of produce/fish, low prices
  - Inadequate access to cold storage facilities for better prices
    - Somanga – few women do



# Women' potentials and securing better livelihoods

- Empowerment through control of entire value chain
  - Linking harvest and post-harvest functions
  - Mtwara women – own vessel, fish and sell
- Value addition – packaging processed sardines (Lake Victoria, Kunduchi Marine)
  - Mostly resourced Individual women –
    - promote groups/companies
- Technologies to improve market information for better access and value
- Promoting Alternative but related investments
  - Cold storage
  - Micro-Credit – Wakala (Airtel, Voda, Tigo)

# Women organizing

- Associations for Self-support and Voice
- TAWFA – Tanzania Women Fishworkers Association – 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019
  - Chapters: Marine waters, Inland fisheries
  - SSF responsive
  - BUT = *Voice*? Or good name for government?
- Women's processors' platforms –
  - Which voice? Access to products
  - Sustaining where products come from?
- Not only policy recognition but also policy facilitation

# Conclusions for policy

- African States have advanced a number of gender and women-sensitive programmes
  - Varied achievements
- Increasingly deconstructing the 'invisibility discourse, harnessing women's potentials,
  - Not only gender disaggregation, but also diversity data in women
- Social and gender constraints and inequalities are being appreciated
  - BUT needs: Vulnerable women, sex/fish OR fish/sex
- Access to improved technologies (post-harvest) is promoted
  - Nutrition and food security
  - But who has access?
- Challenging gender social norms that subdue women
  - Supporting Women's agency
  - through campaigns
  - Challenging GBV by action, Community laws



# Policy

- Enhance women's access to improved technologies (post-harvest) is promoted
  - Nutrition and food security
  - But who has access?
- Alternatives for income
  - Post-harvest waste into industry – Tanga – chicken feed

# Opportunities for women and men

- Policy issues
  - Promoting interest-free loans/credit
  - Ensuring – demarcation 'processing zones' – spaces
  - Reducing taxation
- Empowering for effective participation in co-management
- Mobilization and organizing women
- Women participating in effective management of resources
  - Anti-Destruction of fisheries – destruction of their post-harvest benefits
- Introducing/promoting social security schemes (WAVUVI Scheme)
  - life insurance
  - old-age pensions

Ahsante sana

Thank you

Merci beaucoup