Project: *VicInAqua*
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VicInAqua

Integrated aquaculture based on sustainable water recirculating system for the Victoria Lake Basin

Deliverable 7.3
Roadmap for empowering women in the aquaculture sector

Revision: **1**
Due date: **31/03/2019**
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Lead contractor: **DALF**

Dissemination level		*VicInAqua*
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other program participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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Deliverable Administration & Summary					*VicInAqua*
Status	Final	**Due**	34	**Date**	31/03/2019
Author(s)	Susan Adhiambo (DALF), Joyce Okwara (DALF), Edwin Oyoo(DALF)				
Editor	Susan Adhiambo(DALF)				
DoA	Three roundtables were conducted in Kenya Uganda and Tanzania, the participants included representatives of women fisheries association Research institutions, government departments both regional and national government in the Fisheries sectors, universities, both local and international NGO's. The roundtables were organised to focus on four areas in all the three countries i.e the role of women in aquaculture, challenges faced, the skill gaps, knowledge on new technology with bias on RAS. A joint Skype was organised to square out the issues that were not clear. Gaps were identified and recommendations made and conclusions drawn. DALF then compiled the report on deliverable 7.3				
Comments					

Document change history			*VicInAqua*
V	**Date**	**Author**	**Description**
1.	7/1/2019	Joyce Okwara (DALF)	First version.
2.	20/3/2019	Susan Adhiambo (DALF), Edwin Oyoo(DALF)	Second version.
3.	13/05/2019	Susan Adhiambo, (DALF)	Final version

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Contents

This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No **689427**".

1. Abstract

The world has experienced a steady growth in the aquaculture sector over the years terming It the fastest growing food production sector. Including a gender perspective in value chain analysis and interventions is vital. In the Lake region, discrimination against women practicing aquaculture has been observed despite their contribution towards the practice. The roundtables conducted in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania seeks to address the socioeconomic support of gender equality through fostering better integration of women in aquaculture through participatory consultations. The report addresses the role of women, challenges and how they can be empowered to have better production in aquaculture, in addition the report outlines a road map to identify specific action items, priority measures for future implementation in the Lake Victoria Basin.

2. Deviation from the work plan

There was slight deviation because the deliverable was to be submitted by 31/3/2019 but some editing had to be done as advised by the project manager.

3 Introduction

3.1 General information on the role of gender in aquaculture

Aquaculture is the fastest growing sector of food production in the world however its income, food, and other benefits are neither evenly accessible nor distributed between women and men of different age and social groups who benefit from it. Including a gender perspective in value chain analysis and interventions is vital, for instance assessment of power structures, division of labour, welfare effects and empowerment. Gender here refers to the socially-constructed norms, roles, and behaviors for men and women in a society. It determines social expectations for men and women, as well as access to assets and resources, chain decision making, bargaining power, and control over benefits derived. Gender relations influence and intersect with cultural practices, domestic and social interactions, aspirations and material. Worldwide, fishery and aquaculture production activities provide revenues to an estimated 155 million people, of whom a substantial proportion is female. Women have assumed a leading role in the rapid growth of aquaculture (fish, shrimps, mussel, seaweed, crab fattening), with their participation along the aquaculture value chains (production, transforming, marketing) higher than in capture fisheries. Women and gender issues have been missing from key global normative fisheries and aquaculture policies. There have been, however, some promising turning points that highlight the way gender policy aids resilience in fishing communities. These include the 2003 European Commission funded IDDRA UK Cotonou workshop on 'Room to maneuver: Gender and coping strategies in the fisheries sector'; the FAO 2007 Gender Policies for Responsible Fisheries; and the May 2012 Zero Draft on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, which particularly addresses gender equity and equality.

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3.2 The role of gender in Lake Victoria region

Lake Victoria is a shared water resource between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. It is the second largest freshwater lake in the world with key socio-economic relevance for the region since it supports a population of about 30 million people, through large scale fishing, agriculture, local industries, tourism and related activities.

Within the Lake Victoria basin communities, Women are often discriminated and mostly relegated to domestic chores. However they have shown great potential that have made them vital stakeholders in fish farming. Their contribution is not restricted to gender segregated roles to which they are known to participate but also to masculine activities such as pond digging, grass cutting and fish harvesting. VicInAqua project aims at fostering gender equality and better intergration of women in aquaculture activities, encouraging women to undertake more role in aquaculture sector through round table discussion.

A total of 53 participants attended the round table discussions (Tanzania 17, Uganda 16 and Kenya 20), they were drawn from aquaculture associations, Research institutions, government departments both regional and national government in the Fisheries sectors, Both local and international NGO's. The general concept of VicInAqua project was introduced to the participants in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and reactions to the presentation were varied. Concerns expressed included controls of heavy metals in the water purification system and at which point the controls are managed. The issue of acceptability was a major concern and it was proposed that sensitization be very aggressive during and after the end of the project. The questions were then tackled and below were the responses;

4. The role of women in aquaculture in Kenya Uganda and Tanzania

The discussions in the three countries revealed that women were eager to participate in fish farming, and some were already engaged in the activity. In addition it was noted that women were involved along the fish farming value chain (hatchery management, farm management, feeding, marketing and processing), it was observed that women played a big role both at household and commercial .The meetings brain stormed on the typical social structures in the three countries and concluded that certain roles are automatically given to men and women for example selling, preparation and value addition were majorly women dominated. Unlike

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Central and Western Uganda, in the North, East and in Kenya, women mainly participate in digging of ponds for a pay but not as owners of the business.
The meeting categorized women roles depending on the following groupings;

a. Skilled, financially empowered woman who can own an enterprise.
b. The unskilled woman who works in the husband's/family farm.

The meeting discovered that aquaculture trainings are male dominated and is mirrored in aquaculture personnel conducting extension services both in government and private sectors in the three countries.

5. Challenges facing women participating in fish farming

- The meetings concurred that the societies in the three countries seemed to have negative opinions on women in practical aquaculture, especially;
  - Within rural areas where women were not allowed to run family enterprises.
  - Many women fear to share/ seek help during challenges due to suppression and lack of self-confidence.
  - Women are traditionally not allowed to own land by buying or inheritance. This leaves them at the mercy of the men where majority resort to working for the men on the fish farms.
  - Cultural barriers; the community does not approve and promote certain activities by women e.g land ownership, entering into the pond/ lake to fish, etc .So in cases where cage fish farms are set near such islands, then a woman will never be part of that enterprise physically.
- Skills and knowledge: women lack or have limited access to knowledge and technologies because most trainings are predominantly attended by men. Even the fish courses are predominantly given to men.
- Security (theft of fish); a widow is more likely to experience fish theft than a man involved in fish farming.
- At the national level in the three countries, women claimed to have limitations in accessing bank loans since a number of them lack collaterals and subsidies do not often reach them. Markets are unpredictable while fish feeds are expensive.
- Access to quality inputs; fish inputs (feeds, nets, seed, etc.) are very expensive both for the urban and rural woman in the three countries.
- Marketing: in Kenya, presence of Chinese fish on the Kenyan market which is way cheaper than farmed fish has created heavy competition between the lake fish and farmed fish thus poor market.

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6. Skills required to build women's capacities in the fish farming sector

Participants listed a number of skills requirements in the fish farming sector. These are

- Fish feeding
- Ponds management
- Fish farming project management
- Fish farming records keeping
- Business skills like marketing, preservation, value addition.
- Entrepreneurship skills

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6. Challenges and Opportunities for women using RAS

It came out from the participants from the three countries that they did not understand much about RAS, however they gave the following challenges and opportunities based on VicInAqua presentation and the little knowledge they had as follows;

6.1 Challenges

- Limited skills and knowledge on how RAS operates;
- RAS plants are expensive to run taking into account limited size of capital investments that women own and difficulties in accessing bank loans
- Lack of reliable statistics on how to run RAS profitably
- Access to RAS equipment is not easy since some equipment are not found in the local environment rather one needs to buy from neighboring countries, e.g. Kenya (Nairobi). Inadequate initial capital to establish RAS
- Transfer of technology is expensive

6.2 RAS Opportunities

- Favourable to women because it doesn't require large pieces of land and can be done at home aside with the domestic chores (time saving) unlike pond systems.
- The technology looks safer for the women and will most likely be better embraced by culture and society especially as you don't have to step into the fish system.
- Will lead to increased food security at both household and country level at large since the production can be planned aligned with consumer/ market demand.
- Will offer employment opportunities overall the fish value chain.

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7. How to stimulate more women to participate in fish farming

1. Social cultural-Exerting pressure on society to bring forth perspective change in case of the demeaning cultural beliefs. This should be tackled through the cultural leaders (Kings, chiefs) as their word is held with high esteem and truth.
2. There is need for further capacity building for women on the new technologies eg RAS and MBR to enable them adapt the technologies and run them efficiently.
3. The policy makers in the three countries should priorities on formulating laws that encourage women to take aquaculture as a business eg women should also be allowed to own land in addition women should be sensitized on existing land policies.
4. Governments in Uganda and Tanzania should provide an enabling environment for women to access affordable credit eg in Kenya the government has introduced women enterprise fund which requires no collateral. This will enable women buy the required inputs for fish farming. The government should further give subsidies on inputs such as fish feeds and fingerlings. In addition, the government should formulate and implement strict regulation on fish feeds and fingerling qualities.
5. Women in aquaculture should form national associations eg in Uganda to enable them articulate their challenges in a structured manner. These can be escalated to the regional level where they can form regional women aquaculture association.

8. Conclusion

- Women play a great role in aquaculture sector but they do not have capacity to exploit their full potential
- Most women do not have knowledge on RAS however there is a great opportunity if their capacity is enhanced for instance access to finances.
- A well-coordinated approach should be adopted when handling the role of women in aquaculture so that all the aspects are handled for example socio-cultural skill development and land issues
- policy makers should formulate and implement gender friendly laws that encourage women participation in aquaculture

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9. APPENDIX

UGANDA

1. Uganda Women Fish Network (UWFN) UGANDA
2. National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
4. National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)
5. Fish Processing plants (Ssesse fish packers)
6. Makerere University
7. Fish farmers

TANZANIA

1. Regional Fisheries Aquaculture Section
2. Farmers
3. Kigoma District Council (Fisheries Office)
4. STIPRO
5. Mkombozi CBO

KENYA

1. Kenya Fisheries Service (KFS)
2. Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)
3. Lake Basin Development Authority (LBDA)
4. Department of Gender and youth affairs
5. Fish Farmers Association
6. Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI)
7. Kisumu Water and Sewerage Company (KIWASCO)
8. University
9. Department Of Agriculture Livestock and fisheries (DALF)
10. Kenya Association of Manufactures (KAM)

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