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**A COUNTRY REVIEW ON WOMEN IN FISHERIES
COMPONENT OF THE DFMR**

BY

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**PAPER PRESENTED TO
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1.0

INTRODUCTION

In Papua New Guinea, the participation of Women in Fisheries activities has been minimal, at best secondary to that of man has been regarded as the provider and protection of the family. Women potential contribution to well being of the family as to be economic development has thus remained under-utilized and this particularly evident in fisheries and related development activities.

Only recently DFMR took serious consideration to include women in its development programmes. Women's participation in fisheries activities have been recognized essential on-going process of economic development and active participation will benefit greatly with women playing vital and decisive role.

The Resource Development, Women in Fisheries component in recent months has been working on projects for promoting Women in Fisheries, a potential for generating income opportunities at the community level.

The component is already active in or motivated towards particular goals recommended such as:

- (a) The ability to create income opportunities for women in coastal rural coastal communities.
- (b) Increase nutritional habits in areas where nutritional levels are low.
- (c) Improve living standards.

2.0

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FISHERIES

At least from the two major surveys carried out in Papua New Guinea to ascertain the functions assumed by women in fisheries sector is mainly in the post harvest area (handling, processing and marketing - see Table 1).

- (a) Fish production, especially fish captive in Port Moresby area, collection and processing of beche-de-mer, collecting crabs, diving for mollusc and fishing on shore for small fish.
- (b) Handling of fish, preservation and processing.
- (c) Fish marketing.
- (d) Net mending and light gear repair work.

The pattern of support recommended by all the surveys emphasized training, markets, interdepartment co-operation, fisheries data, monitoring and evaluation and how best can it be incooperated and not only aimed at helping the development of the role of women in fisheries but also to be seen as appropriate to the whole fishery.

2.1 Training

Three Regional Training Programme planned for women in fish processing and marketing in Papua New Guinea have been funded by ICOD through the South Pacific Commission, are as follows:

- (a) Papua Region Workshop - completed, 1989
- (b) New Guinea Islands Workshop - will be from 2nd-13th September, 1991
- (c) Momase Region Workshop - 22nd June - 3rd July, 1992.

2.2 Marketing

Women will be taught also how to be business managers during the workshop and also be encouraged to set up a market led strategie within themselves to help sell their fishery products if determine.

2.3 Women in Fisheries Advisory Committee

The establishment of the WIFAD is established close links between women's activities and the DFMR Women in Fisheries Programme. The committee is to co-ordinate and advise on all matters relating to WIF. (See attachment of WIFAC.)

2.4 Small Fisherwomen Credit Scheme

A 12,000 (CDN\$) has been allocated from the total contribution from ICOD, SPC of Women in Fisheries Programme to enable women to get involve in small projects in post harvest areas.

The scheme will be established in October, 1991, and in the meantime, research are being done between SPC Women in Fisheries Programme and DFMR Women in Fisheries Component on the guidelines to established the revolving fund.

Attachments

Table 1 *The Role of Women in Fisheries based on survey done.*

Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee (WIFAC)

Logical Framework for Women in Fisheries, PNG.

September 1991 to April 1993 (under ICOD present funding and MOU between DFMR and SPC).

WOMEN IN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 1: WOMEN-IN-FISHERIES SURVEYS UNDERTAKEN IN PNG

Year	Undertaken by	Location	No. of Villages	Women's Roles Identified	Remarks
1982	Josephides, ESCAP/FAO	Sepik - Keram	2	Mainly salting; some capture (tilapias)	Major conclusions: (a) marketing was women's main involvement. (b) market structure (transport and ph technology) was the constraint to community development.
		Angoram	2		
		Daugo Is. (Hula Community)		Marketing; diving for mollusca bivalves and octopus for domestic consumption.	
1990	Hunting-Fishtech, Commonwealth Secretariat	East New Britain	4 (Vunamami Kanavia; Lunga-lunga; Caltex)	Post-harvest; some activity in bech-de-mer.	Despite claims that fishing is the major income earning activity, actual fishing was minimal. Support should be in market development, post-harvest, training and extension.
		Manus (Ahus Is. Pitiliu Is. Hawaii Is.)	3	Fish smoking and trading in smoked and fresh fish.	
		Milne Bay (Mutu'uwa; Sagarai; East Cape.)	3	Fish marketing, drying, collecting of mud crab.	
					Crucial development intervention is low-cost transport. In Mutu'uwa ice and storage was best option; in Sagarai, transport to market and storage for crabs; in East Cape, improvements in processing techniques suggested.

WOMEN IN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

Year	Undertaken by	Location	No. of Villages	Women's Roles Identified	Remarks
-	-	Western Province	2 (Parama, Mabudawan.)	Crab fishing; collection and drying of beche-de-mer. Women "too shy" to market fish.	Heavy reliance on crab and lobster fishing, with Daru as major market. Preferred Preferred female extension workers to offer training. Transport was main problem.
1990	Wararu, DFMR ¹	Milne Bay Province - Alotau - East Cape - Misima	(undetermined)	Buying/selling of fresh fish.	ICOD to fund a small-scale fisheries project for women (K52,000) for storage equipment, ice boxes and driers.
		Oro Province - Urban - Eroro - Emo	(undetermined)	Buying/selling of fresh fish and smoked fish; collection and processing of beche-de-mer from Harvey Bay in Emo.	
1989	Wararu DFMR ² simple	Central Province - Abau - Rigo - Hiri - Kairuku	(undetermined)	Assist in fish capture, e.g. setting and hauling of gill nets, light fishing, handling, shellfish collection. Clean, gut, market the fish; smoking, some net mending.	Need for improved skills in fish capture, handling, processing, marketing.

1 Wararu, Welete 1990. Special Field Trip Report on Milne Bay and Oro Provinces, 20-31 May 1991, DFMR. (Inter Office Memorandum.)

2 Wararu, Welete 1989. A Survey Report on the Role of Women in Fisheries Activities in the Central Province, 25 May-3 June 1989, DFMR.

WOMEN IN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the Committee is to establish closer links between women's activities and the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Women in Fisheries Programme. The Committee will also co-ordinate and advise on matters relating to Women in Fisheries.

1. To provide advisory support to DFMR for effective implementation of the programme.
2. To strengthen and establish a network for the effective delivery of information and training to fisherwomen.
3. To screen and approve smallscale fisheries projects for funding through the established credit scheme.
4. To encourage enhanced co-ordination and integration of programmes and resources within agencies concerned with the interest of promoting fish handling, processing and marketing.
5. The Committee will be made up of approximately 10 agencies either directly or indirectly involved in any women programmes.
6. The South Pacific Commission shall be represented in all Advisory Committee Meetings.
7. The composition of the Committee will be from:
 - (a) Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources
 - (b) Department of Home Affairs and Youth
 - (c) Department of Health
 - (d) Department of Finance and Planning
 - (e) South Pacific Commission
 - (f) Non-Government Agencies like; the representative from the NCW, Papuan Regional Secretariate, FPSP, USAID and Peace Corp.
8. The Committee will meet on quarterly basis to discuss the progress of Women in Fisheries Activity. The 1st meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 30th October, 1991.