



WorldFish, IDEA project Bangladesh & Pro-WEFI

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Workshop on Project Level Women's Empowerment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Index (Pro-WEFI) tool

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Presentation Overview

1. Get to know more about WorldFish.

2. Why focus on Bangladesh?

3. Get to know more about the IDEA project

4. Gender research in IDEA project

5. Project Level Women's Empowerment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Index (Pro-WEFI) tool for validation

A woman wearing a bright orange sari with a black floral pattern and a red bindi on her forehead is smiling broadly. She is holding a large metal bowl filled with small, silvery fish. The background shows a pond with green foliage and a net structure, suggesting a fish farming or aquaculture setting.

1. Get to know more about WorldFish

WorldFish

- Worldfish is a non-profit, international research and innovation organisation dedicated to reducing hunger, malnutrition and poverty in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.
- It has existed for over 45 years, working on sustainable aquaculture and fisheries.
- The headquarters are in Penang, Malaysia
- WorldFish operates in 11 countries:
 - Africa: Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and Nigeria
 - Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, India, and Timor-Leste
 - Pacific: Solomon Islands



2. Why focus on Bangladesh?


Bangladesh

Bangladesh is the fifth largest producer of aquatic foods in the world (FAO, 2017; Murphy et al., 2020).

Fish is the main source of animal protein contributing to about 60 percent of total animal protein intake, especially to poor rural households (Shamsuzzaman et al. 2020; Dey et al. 2008).

The importance of fish in Bangladesh cannot be over-emphasized, given the fact that 4.27 million households in Bangladesh (20% of rural inhabitants), own and operate at least one fish pond (Choudhury and McDougall, 2017).

In terms of consumption, the per capita fish consumption in Bangladesh is 18.1 kg/year and on average 13 percent of household's total expenditure is attributed to fish consumption (Apu et al. 2014). The fisheries sector, including aquaculture, provides employment to 17.8 million people, out of which women constitute 1.4 million people.

A woman in a red and orange sari and a young boy are holding large fish. The woman is on the left, looking down at her fish. The boy is on the right, also looking at his fish. In the background, another person is visible near a body of water, and there are some fish on the ground. The scene is outdoors, likely in a rural or agricultural setting.

3. Get to know more about IDEA project

IDEA project

- Aquaculture: increasing income, diversifying diets, and empowering women in Bangladesh and Nigeria.
- It is a 50-month duration project (4 years and 2 months)
- Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- It focuses on delivering 5 key results:
 1. *Increased productivity and diversity of fish production systems.*
 2. *Improved smallholder access to quality inputs and services.*
 3. *Improved market linkages.*
 4. *Improved dietary diversity and consumption.*
 5. *Women's empowerment.*



4. Gender research in the IDEA project

Pathways towards change to bring about gender equality in Bangladesh

Activities

Gender mainstreaming approaches (GMA):

1. Credit access and financial literacy.
2. Provide technical, non-technical support to identified women entrepreneurs.
3. TOT: Gender integration into technical production trainings with LSPs, TMSS and BRAC, who later on provide the training to farmers.
4. Means of livelihoods for landless women through acquiring government ponds

Gender transformative approaches (GTA):

1. GTA exercise with farmers groups
2. GTA: Use of digital platform to share messages on gender, markets, aquaculture and nutrition

Outputs

1. Credit access and knowledge about finance and book-keeping.
2. Technical, farm inputs and financial support for women entrepreneurs, becomes available and linkage to forward and backward market.
3. Women's needs in aquaculture are accommodated
4. Women's aquaculture farmers groups are formed and they are involved in aquaculture

Perception, behavioral change and sensitization

Outcomes

1. Increased income level
2. Increased household dietary diversity, nutrition and health .
3. Greater voice and decision making for women
4. Increased access to and control over assets and resources

Gender social norms and attitudes: improve time and labor burdens of unpaid work for women.

Recognition of women's productive work in aquaculture.

Impact

Women's empowerment, collective action and improved dietary diversity

Enabling environment

Objective:
Increasing income, diversifying diets and advance women's empowerment and collective action to tackle food insecurity and poverty through their involvement in aquaculture



5. Project level Women's Empowerment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Index (Pro-WEFI) tool for validation

Pro-WEFI

This proposed research is to use an adapted version of the Pro-WEAI tool in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture (Pro-WEFI). The tool will incorporate the Health and Nutrition Module to measure preliminary changes in women's empowerment and nutrition outcomes of the IDEA project intervention.

The research will help us to:

- Identify preliminary changes in women's empowerment and nutrition (measured before and during the interventions).
- Understand the empowerment-nutrition pathways enacted and factors which enable or constrain this.
- Determine if there are any unintended consequences for women that are increasingly involved in aquaculture.



Study Design

- Quantitative tool: Pro-WEFI+HN (to measure Women's Empowerment & Nutrition).
- Qualitative tools: SSIs & FGDs (explain quant results – project affects Women's Empowerment & Nutrition, unintended consequences & to contextualize the index scores).



Sample size

IDEA project study arms that will be sampled for the quantitative study

Table 1: Quantitative Study Respondents

No.	Study arms	No. of women respondents	No. of men respondents	Total
1	Aquaculture + Nutrition + Gender training	125	125	250
2	Aquaculture training (landless women)	20	20	40
3	GTA training (ie. forum theatre)	30	30	60
4	Control group	35	35	70
Total		210	210	420



Thank You

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