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Gendered aquaculture value chain study in Nigeria: where are women and men in the value chain?

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Overview

- Rationale for gender in aquatic food systems
- Research focus
- Value chain map with dominant gender illustrated
- Gendered participation in the value chain
- Fish input suppliers
- Fish farmers
- Fish traders
- Fish consumers
- Youth
- Covid-19 impact on value chain actors





Rationale for gender in aquatic food systems

- Gender equality and women's empowerment are globally recognized priorities, as enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 5.
- Fish agri-food systems are intersected by macro- and micro-patterns of social and gender inequalities and inequities (Rajaratnam et al. 2020).
- Invisibility of women in the AFS: Women participate in all parts of fish food systems, but are most visible in post-harvest processing and trade of fish.
- Important to understand the preferences, needs and wants in each of the gender types in AFS & knowledge ownership.
- Women experience a high degree of socioeconomic marginalization, poverty before even COVID-19 and thus require specific attention in COVID-19 responses to avoid responses worsening inequities (UN 2020).





Research focus

- **Research questions:** Who are the actors in the aquaculture value chain and how do women and men participate, engage, benefit from the sector? What opportunities are available for women, men and youth in the sector?
- **Methodology:** It is a mixed methods study. Quantitative survey: collected among men and women 673 respondents information (quantitative datasets from producers n=433; input supplier n=57; and market actors=183). Qualitative study: focus group discussions and key informant interviews were held among whole sellers, processors, consumers, retailers and input suppliers.
- **Place of study:** Ogun and Delta states
- **Conceptual framework:** Used gendered aquaculture value chain analysis and development analytical framework (Kruijssen, 2021), which helps to address the common pattern of “gender-blindness” in value chain analyses in aquaculture (Kruijssen et al.2018).

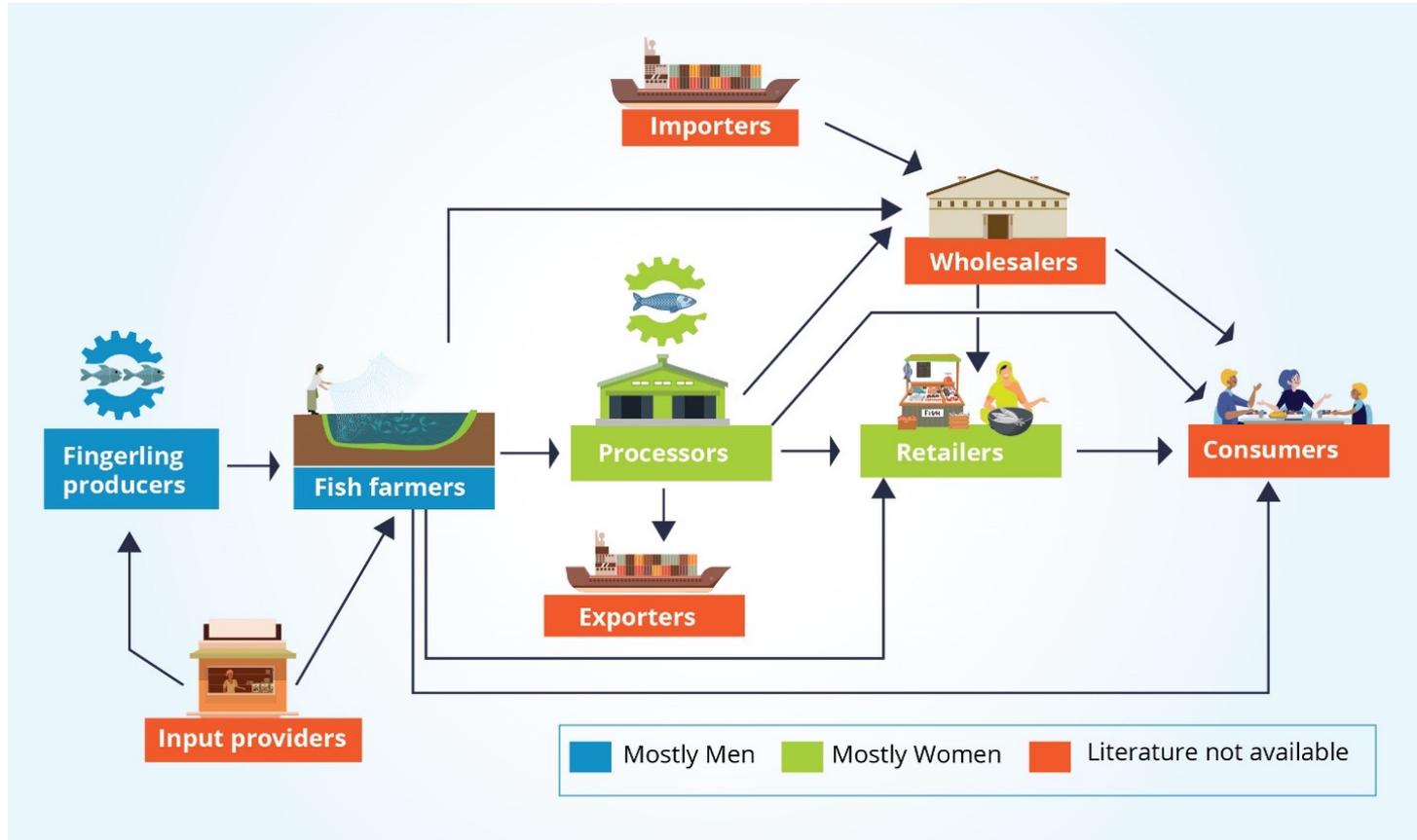




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Value chain map with dominant gender illustrated



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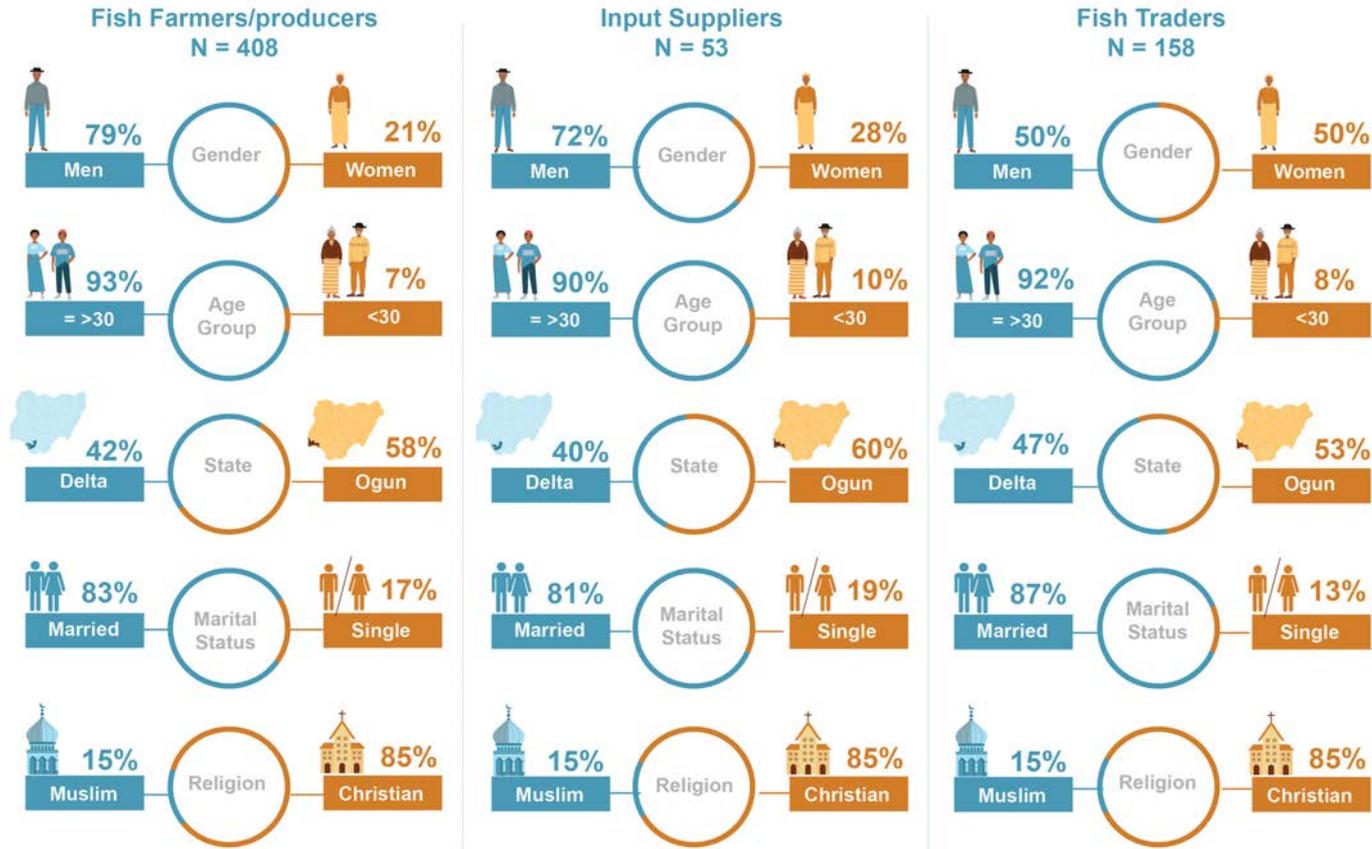
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Gendered participation in the value chain



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Fish input suppliers

- **Fish seed & feed** - most of the clients are men and their business is mostly related to aquaculture. Payments for the inputs are made using cash or mobile money and the terms of payment do not differ by gender. These producers do not give their supplies on credit.
- **Training & extension** – service providers give loans to fish producers & traders (with interest from 0-15%). These loans are typically requested at the start of fish production cycle.
- **Roles and labour**
 - Women and men are both able to conduct all activities except for lifting/carrying of feeds and other raw materials which are reported by some to be only performed by men;
 - Needy women perform hard labor which men typically do (i.e. lifting/carrying feeds and other materials);
 - Women are not engaged in hatchery, because it is time consuming and needs full focus on the work and it is capital intensive; and
 - Women who do perform roles which are similar to men (especially in running businesses) are able to do so because of their family support, awareness and education.





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Asset ownership in NGN-input suppliers

	Overall Sample	Gender		State		Age Categories	
		Male	Female	Ogun State	Delta State	<30 years	>30 years
 Land	1,002,321	1,054,318	811,667	1,034,773	883,333	417,500	1,099,792
 Buildings and shops	3,257,187	3,463,750	2,637,500	3,293,928	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,316,538
 Transportation Assets	2,250,5323	2,428,322	1,539,375	2,525,261	2,525,261	1,744,500	1,744,500 2,306,758
 Equipment	175,108	206,521	95,529	234,941	83,934	228,231	169,574
Total	4,206,544	5,209,373	1,866,045	3,347,578	3,349,579	3,980,340	4,230,107



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Profitability – input suppliers

ITEM	Overall Sample	Gender		State		Age Categories	
		Male	Female	Ogun State	Delta State	<30 years	>30 years
Revenue	10,216,143	9,812,989	11,237,466	10,335,687	10,033,980	3,260,000	10,940,741
Cost of inputs	8,658,604	8,174,316	9,885,467	8,586,250	8,768,857	2,440,000	9,306,375
Total Monthly Variable Costs	95,245	104,866	69,113	87,667	110,555	104,666	94,460
Total Depreciation	109,406	130,053	57,100	138,556	64,986	164,361	103,681
Taxes and Interests							
Interests on loan	12,060	15,559	3,194	19,395	883		13,316
Taxes and permits	3,433	3,881	590	3,576	417	7,951	2,719
Total Costs	9,054,945	8,591,784	10,163,762	8,894,093	9,300,053	2,728,119	9,713,990
Profitability							
Gross Income	1,284,089	1,074,411	1,601,159		800,934	697,158	1,345,227
Net Profits	 1,161,198	 1,221,205	 1,009,181	 1,441,594	 733,928	 531,881	 1,226,752



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Farming

- **Gender division of labor** - both women and men perform similar task in farming except for pond digging (which are performed by men).
- **Community network** – organizations provide information (e.g. information on price, production method, sources of feed and seeds, share equipment, and knowledge on new technologies) for people engaged in aquaculture; women and men are both able to lead these organizations.
- **Challenges** – theft, credit/loan providers who impose unreasonable requirements (i.e. do not consider the time needed by farmers and the repayment amount).



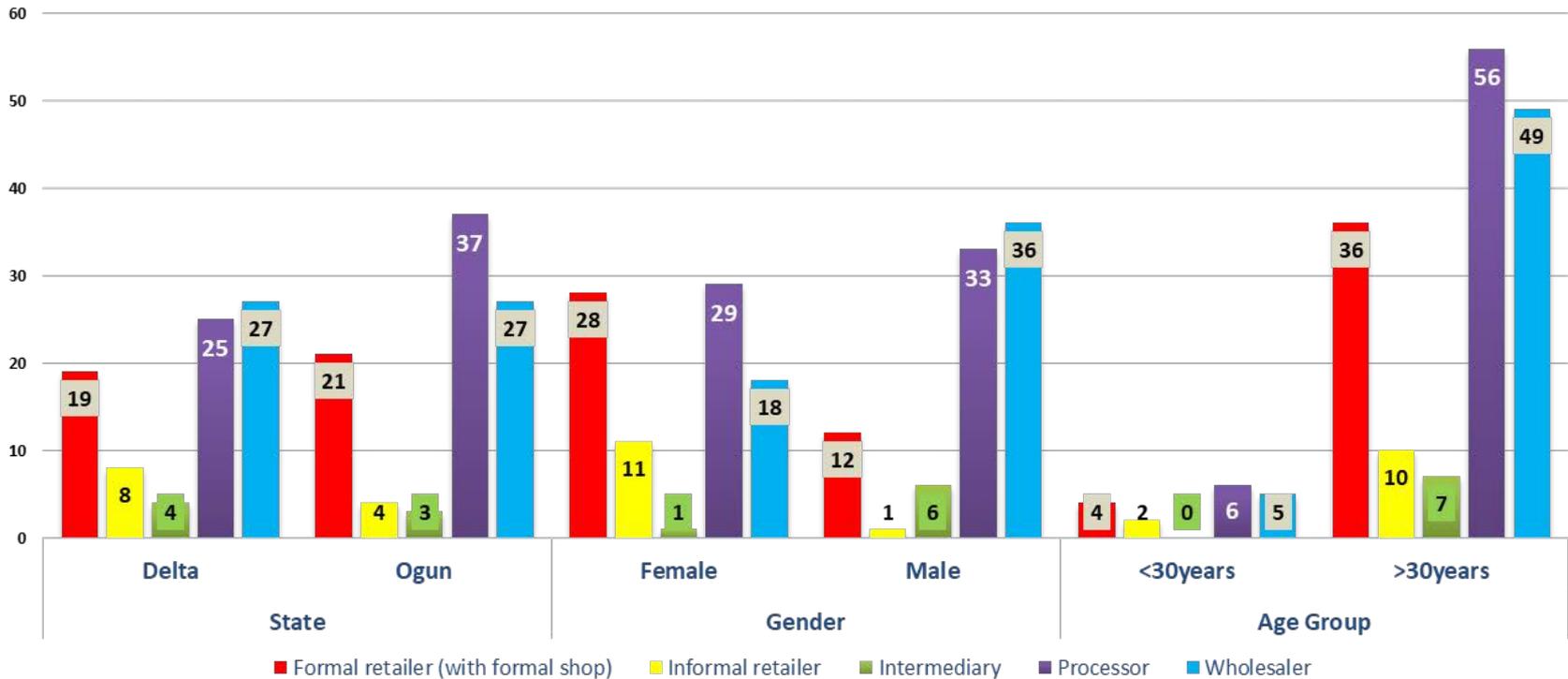


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Fish traders

Gender Distribution of Fish Traders



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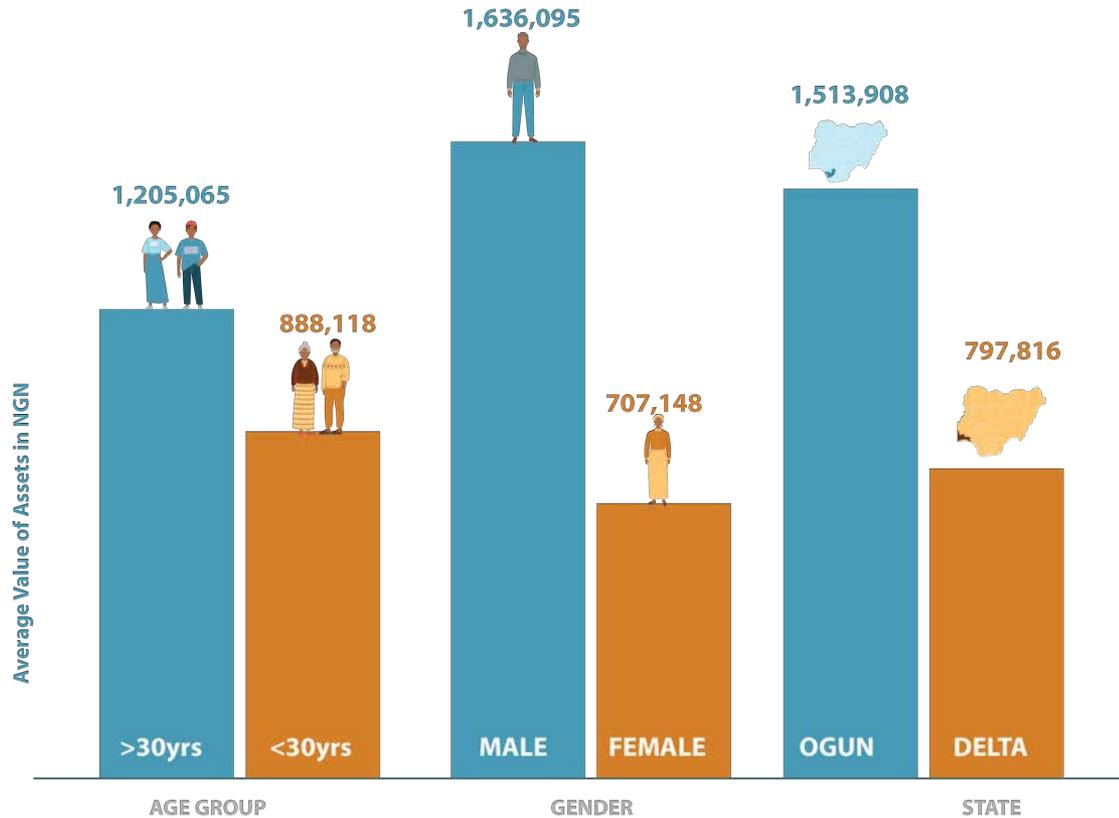


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Asset ownership among fish traders

Gender Distribution of Average Value of Asset Ownership by Fish Traders





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Profitability received by fish traders

	Overall Sample	Gender		State		Age Categories	
		Male	Female	Ogun State	Delta State	<30 years	>30 years
Sales	2,769,121	3,713,337	2,016,138	3,685,220	1,620,361	1,959,733	2,843,833
Cost of buying Fish	2,532,055	3,393,338	1,701,170	3,470,321	1,461,469	1,746,286	2,603,956
Total Ave. Consumable Costs	123,252	138,065	108,962	12,065	119,010	127,202	122,891
Total Depreciation	9,362	12,794	6,712	12,065	6,998	7,955	9,858
Taxes and Interests							
Interests on loan	4,674	2,440	7,476	7,941	577	0	2,125
Taxes and permits	5,479	8,301	1,670	5,479	0	5,105	5,791
TOTAL COSTS	2,655,104	3,551,198	1,821,874	3,620,090	1,588,071	1,882,059	2,743,194
Profitability							
Gross Income	461,268	549,599	390,828	566,848	328,875	515,104	456,299
Net Profits							
	432,822	527,710	379,067	543,157	321,946	508,773	432,822



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Fish consumers

- **Frequency of purchase** - most stated that they bought fish 2 times or 3 times per week because they prefer fresh food (although the price can be more expensive) every time; some informants bought fish in bulk for the consumption for the whole month.
- **Species** – African catfish, Mackerel, Sardine, Tilapia
- **What they look for?** – taste and flesh; some prefer fish with big head/size; prefer well packaged fish which are dried/frozen; well processed fish; shops needs to be clean and salesperson be pleasant.
- **Where they buy?** – prefer to access markets with large variety of fish, which are closest to their homes and place where fish are cheaper.





Youth

- **Aspirations** - most of them aim to have more number of ponds and have larger area of land to develop for their aquaculture business in the next five to ten years; aim to expand their businesses into other states in their country as well as engaging in other nodes as well along the aquaculture value chain; some are interested to produce other food products such as livestock and poultry.
- **Challenges** - lack of capital, education (i.e., ability to keep proper records of activities) **Opportunities for youth in aquaculture** –men tend to predominate in production activities while women are mostly engaged in processing and marketing; ability to take up any of the activities in aquaculture was reported to be determined by their capacity (especially knowledge and finance/capital).
- **Other factors** - unemployment; young women were reported to get married after their schooling years.





Covid-19 impact on value chain actors

- **Input suppliers and service actors** - restricted mobility; cost of transportation increased together with the lack of availability of fuel: made it difficult for those who are transporting goods to run their business.
- **Fish farmers** – scarcity of raw materials for feed production; high price of needed materials; lack of cash; some had to sell their properties to survive.
- **Wholesalers** – lower fish farmers made it hard to get supply at reasonable price; price of fish increased
- **Consumers** – many bought less quantity of fish due to increase in price after the pandemic; some reported no changes in quantity.





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THANK YOU

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