



Boosting **(Ensuring)** Children's Nutrition & Women's Livelihoods through Aquatic foods

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Resilient Coasts, Thriving Communities: A Sea of Solutions

18–19 August 2025, Kochi, Kerala, India; Government of Kerala & ADB



Wilssy Johnson

OUTLINE

- What women do?
- The link between women's work in fisheries and household nutritional security?
- What is changing?
- How can we boost (**ensure**) livelihood & nutritional security?



- **Vision:** To facilitate **sustainable** harvesting and total utilization of fishery resources through innovations in **harvest and postharvest technologies**.
- **Mission:** Ensure responsible harvesting of fishery resources through eco-friendly, energy efficient and economical means; ensure total utilization of the harvested fish through appropriate processing, value addition, packaging and waste utilization; **ensure food safety and nutritional security** to the consumer and minimize carbon and water foot print per unit volume; and to **ensure equitable benefits to the stakeholders, across the value chain**.

What women do?

- Women **critical to fish value chains**
- **Half the workforce** in fisheries and aquaculture
- Important contributors to **household incomes and nutritional security**
- **Prominent in post-harvest** and product transformation activities, such as processing and trade
- **Hidden** - Fish harvesting; pre-harvest work like net fabrication; cooking, care giving, community work (productive/ reproductive)



Fishing

- Hitherto unacknowledged; 19% of the workforce
- Reservoirs; Lakes/ rivers; Kole wetlands; Estuaries & Backwaters; Beels (floodplain wetlands) & ponds; Coastal creeks; Sea- eg: wild seaweed collection

- **Gleaning**
- **Coracle fishing**
- **Gill net fishing**
- **Community fishing**
- **Others- using locally fabricated, traditional gear**



Fisherwomen also do fishing without gear (hand picking) in shallow water bodies like, estuaries, lakes and ponds for fish clams, oysters and seaweeds. The sketching depicts a fisherwoman harvesting oysters by diving and handpicking and shucking out the oysters using local sickle.

Oyster shucking

Puthra Pravin

Post harvest

- **Sorting** at landing centre (declining presence)
- **Auctioning** (more men; very few women)



Trading

- Wholesale (not common)
- Retail (mostly women)
- Scale : large (mostly men) to small (mostly women)



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- Mode: formal and informal markets (physical), door-to-door, online

Processing

- traditional
(drying,
smoking,
fermenting)
- commercial
(seafood
processing)

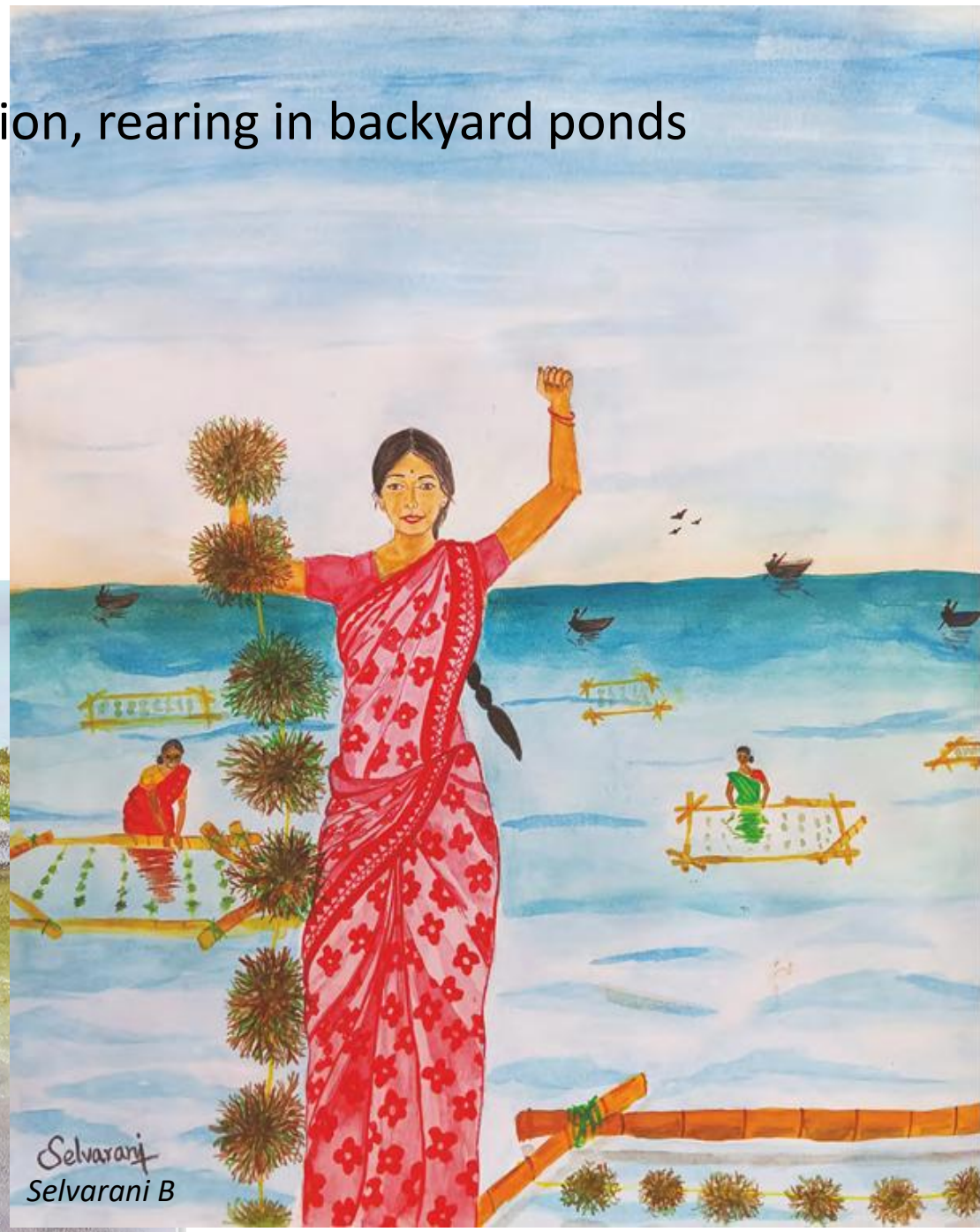


Aquaculture

- Traditionally – seed collection, rearing in backyard ponds
- Culture –finfish, shell fish, ornamental fish, seaweed
- Technology; Capacity building; State support through schemes

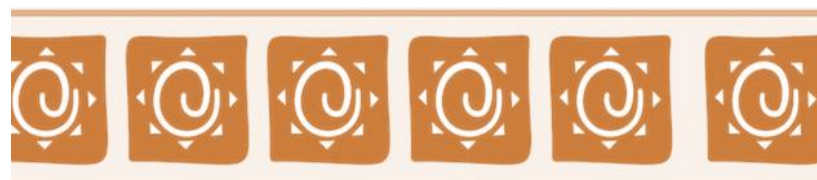


Manjula Anand



Selvarani
Selvarani B

The Link to nutrition



“We can’t afford to buy choice fishes in the market. So the best of what we catch, we consume at home.”

(Mrs. V, 50 yrs, goes fishing with her mother and other female relatives)

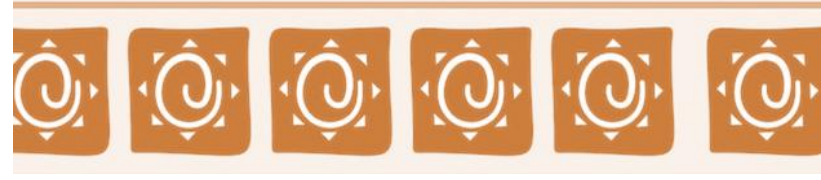


Photo: ICAR-CIFT, Kochi

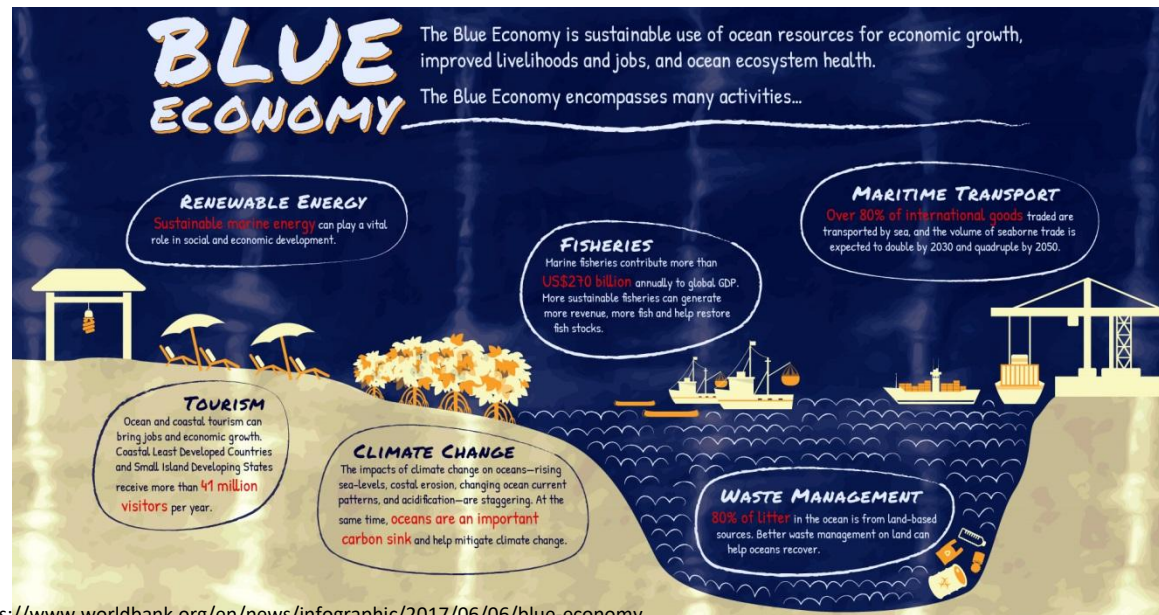
- Dried fish – nutrient rich, amenable to long term storage, ensures nutrition for family, source of income during lean fishing season
- Small scale fishing or aquaculture – gleaning, backyard ponds, community fishing etc.



What's changing



- How women's work is changing is linked to how fisheries and aquaculture is changing
- Traditional, small scale – modernized, larger scale, technology and capital intensive fisheries and aquaculture
- Eg: Ring seine





Sheela Maradi

Boosting /Ensuring Livelihoods {& Nutrition}

- Shift focus **from targets to equitable outcomes & processes** than can ensure this
 - NbCS in aquaculture - gender monitoring schema : capture process rather than just outputs
 - World Fish Project on *Nutritional Development Through Fish and Fish-Based Products* : Inclusion of Dried Small Fish in the ICDS Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha
 - Product development, standardization and supply



- Gender sensitization
 - technology development, policy making, program implementation
- Sharing best practices
 - Convergence models
 - Networking and collectivization
- Formalization of work to reduce gender data gaps



Sui Anand

- Paintings in this presentation from “***Women in Fisheries – through the eyes of artists.***” Waves of Art, Bay of Bengal Intergovernmental Organization & Arnawas Vasudev Charities.
- Several sketches in the publication were by artists who participated in a special event organized jointly by BOBP and ICAR-CIFT on 28.10.2022 as part of the GAF8 - 8th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries (November 2022, Kochi, organised by GAFS of AFS, ICAR-CIFT & SOFTI).
- The publication also includes the contributions from eminent subject matter specialists and artists from South Asian countries.
- <https://www.bobpigo.org/pages/view/Waves-of-Art-2>

THANK YOU

