

## **PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ON GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN AQUACULTURE IN THAILAND**

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Aquaculture in Thailand is primarily divided into three major categories: freshwater, coastal, and ornamental aquaculture. This sector plays a crucial role in the country's economy, food security and livelihoods, engaging a significant portion of the Thais people. According to updated farm registration data from the Department of Fisheries in 2025, approximately half a million individuals and enterprises are registered in both commercial and subsistence aquaculture, with women accounting for over 45% of these registrations. The substantial participation of women highlights gender as a critical factor for sustainable development in fisheries and aquaculture. Although gender and development issues have been addressed for more than two decades, the focus on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) remains insufficiently integrated within the national development action plan.

This preliminary reviewed existing national policies and strategic plans, analyzes sex-disaggregated aquaculture data, and summary resulted from survey on nature based solution in aquaculture faced by marginalized groups, including women, ethnic minorities, and the new generation to enter an aquaculture sector. By evaluating labor distribution, knowledge and resource access, and decision-making roles, the study identifies key gaps and opportunities to promote equitable participation through the advancement of aquaculture registration regulation. Findings nature based solution in aquaculture reveal persistent gender-based barriers, limited access to knowledge innovation and resource, and prevailing societal norms that restrict inclusive engagement. The study recommends policy reforms, capacity-building programs, and strengthened institutional support to enhance GESI integration in Thailand's aquaculture industry. Promoting inclusive practices is essential for achieving sustainable and equitable growth, ensuring that all stakeholders benefit from the sector's development.