

**BEHIND THE NUMBERS: GENDERED PERSPECTIVES ON LABOR IN SEA
CUCUMBER FARMING IN VIETNAM**

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Sea cucumber farming in Vietnam relies on small, family-based workforces where both men and women play important but unequal roles. Men are most often responsible for management, security, and harvesting, while women contribute significantly through daily farm tasks and especially processing, often in connection with local women's groups. Despite these essential contributions, women's roles remain less visible and under-recognized, raising questions about how aquaculture research and development can better integrate gender perspectives to strengthen both livelihoods and project outcomes.