

**GENDER AND CLIMATE VULNERABILITY IN SMALL-SCALE AQUACULTURE
IN THE PHILIPPINES AND CAMBODIA: EARLY LESSONS FROM THE
PHILCAM PROJECT**

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The challenge to researchers in action-based research from planning to design, to implementation, monitoring and evaluation is not only to have technical capabilities to harness the potential of nature-based solutions to achieve a more resilient and sustainable aquaculture food system but also to have understanding on the gender needs of the target individuals, households and/or communities and to be able to address these needs, ultimately providing meaningful and sustainable change in people's lives. Commonly assuming that research interventions will have equal impacts on all genders often resulted in failure of numerous projects to improve people's lives. The AQUADAPT PhilCam project aims to provide evidence of inclusive, nature-based climate solutions in small-scale aquaculture in its five pilot sites in the Philippines and Cambodia.

This presentation will discuss gender and climate vulnerability in the context of small-scale aquaculture communities in the Philippines and Cambodia. It will present case studies and share its innovative approach in making project interventions both technically feasible and socially inclusive. Enabling its field researchers, most of whom have no social science background, to understand and appreciate gender integration in the project have equipped them to collect and analyze gendered data; asking simple questions about the differential situation, practices, and needs of women and men project stakeholders. Some of these questions include: who does what activities? Who owns or accesses what resources? Who decides? Who benefits from project interventions? And what does this mean for climate vulnerability or resilience? The analysis illustrates a variety of gendered barriers in the aquaculture sector as well as opportunities for gender responsive nature-based climate solutions across contexts.