

# SPECIAL REPORT

## Underscoring the Importance of Capacity Building Activities on Promoting Gender in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia

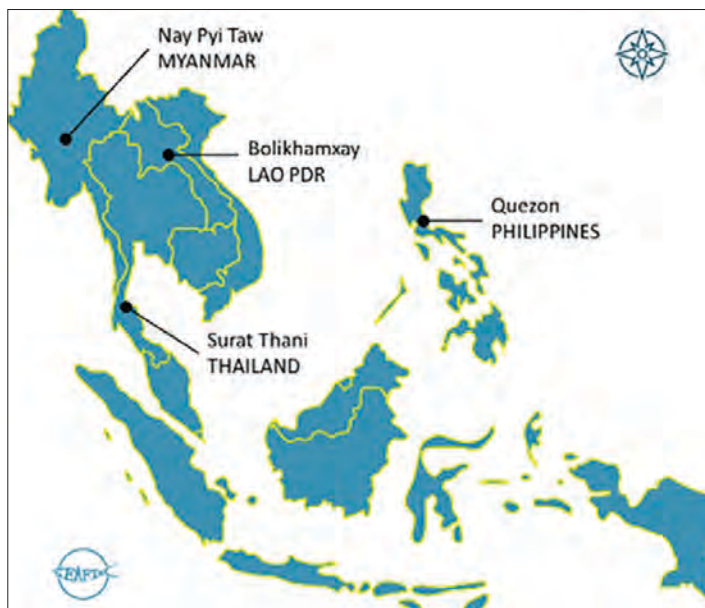
by SEAFDEC/TD

Gender equality and equity is one of the basic guiding principles of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). In order to support the promotion and implementation of the SSF Guidelines, SEAFDEC had made several initiatives on mainstreaming gender in the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the Southeast Asian region which include the development of SEAFDEC Gender Strategy and Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia (Practical Guide) as well as the conduct of several capacity building activities and gender studies in selected areas in the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). Currently, SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is implementing the project “Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia” to support the initiatives made by SEAFDEC, particularly the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy and Practical Guide. The objective of the Project is to improve and strengthen the gender dimension in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture value chain in Southeast Asia by identifying gender issues and appropriate interventions, promoting gender equality and equity in decision-making processes and organizations, fisheries technologies, and policies, and empowering women and men in small-scale fishing communities in sustaining their livelihoods.

With pilot sites located in the selected small-scale fisheries and aquaculture communities in four participating ASEAN Member States, namely: Lao PDR for inland aquaculture, Myanmar for inland capture fisheries, Philippines for marine capture fisheries, and Thailand for mariculture, the Project focuses on training on gender analysis, data collection, and data validation workshop, as indicated in the framework and recommendations of the Practical Guide. As part of capacity building activities, the training on gender analysis and data collection is intended for fisheries officers to strengthen their knowledge and capacity on gender integration; while the data validation workshop is meant for the key fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders to equip them with skills in verifying the collected data as well as to raise their awareness of gender concept.

### Capacity building activities

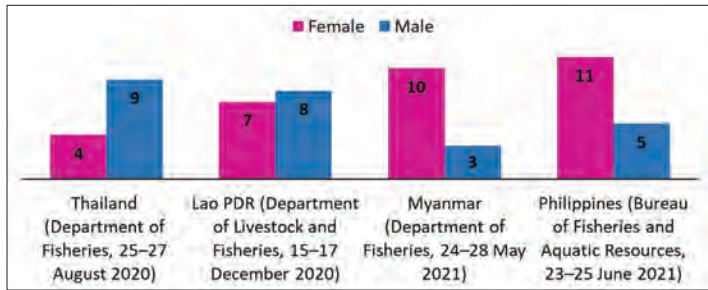
SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the fisheries agency of the respective participating countries organized the “Site Training for Enumerators on Gender Concept and Analysis and Development of a Data Collection Protocol,” where gender concepts and analysis were introduced to the participants. Subsequently, the questionnaire and data collection protocol for gender analysis in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture were developed by the participants with assistance from TD. The Training in Thailand was organized face-to-face; while the Trainings sessions in Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Philippines were also face-to-face for the local participants but supervisions by the staff from TD was carried out online because of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Location of pilot sites in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand*



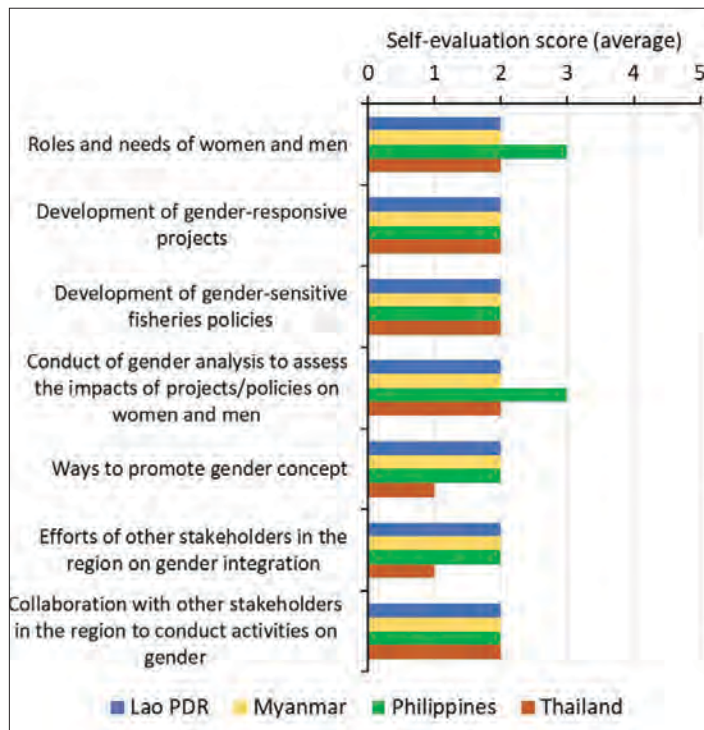
*Capacity building activities in Thailand (above) and Lao PDR (below)*



Number of participants in the Site Training for Enumerators on Gender Concept and Analysis and Development of a Data Collection Protocol

Before and after the Training, the fisheries officers who attend the Training have to self-evaluate their knowledge and capacity to integrate gender in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. At the onset, the participants are also tasked to assess their respective knowledge of different gender perspectives. At the end of the training, the participants are also asked to evaluate their personal capacity based on what they have learned from the Training.

For the pre-Training evaluation, majority of the participants indicated that they possess a bit of knowledge of gender perspectives but they do not know how to put it into practice. There were some who have limited knowledge of the ways of promoting gender concepts as well as of the efforts of other stakeholders in the region on gender integration. Nevertheless, participants who have a bit of knowledge of the roles and needs

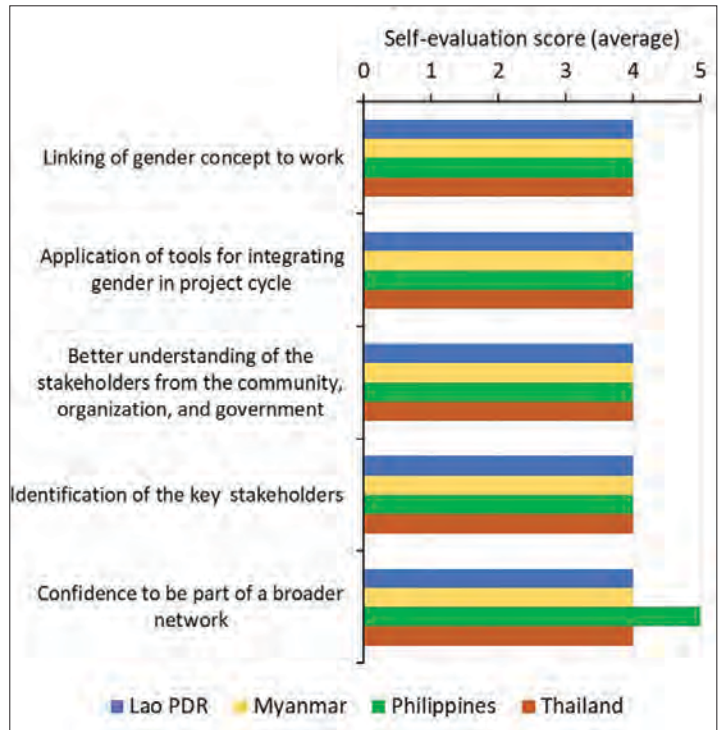


Self-evaluation score: 1 = No knowledge; 2 = A bit of knowledge but do not know how to put it into practice; 3 = A bit of knowledge and apply it when required; 4 = A lot of knowledge and confident to promote and seek opportunity to apply it; 5 = A lot of knowledge and always prioritize to apply it

Pre-training evaluation of knowledge of gender perspectives in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture

of women and men and how to conduct gender analysis stated that they apply these when required. The results generally indicated the need to conduct more awareness raising and capacity building activities to promote gender integration in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

On the other hand, the post-Training evaluation results exhibited the effectiveness of the Training, as the fisheries officers said that their knowledge had been enhanced and they believed that their capacity to integrate gender in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture had been improved. Some participants also said that they have gained greater confidence to be part of a broader network outside their locality or country.



Self-evaluation score: 1 = Strongly disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Neutral; 4 = Agree; 5 = Strongly agree

Post-training evaluation of knowledge of gender perspectives in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture

## Way Forward

The period of implementation of the Project is supposed to be during 2020–2021. However, the conduct of the remaining Project activities was extended until 2022 due to the constraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. When the Project activities in all pilot sites are completed, a regional workshop would be organized among the SEAFDEC Member Countries to present the Project results and the lessons learned. The results of the Project, particularly the gender analysis in pilot sites, would also be used in validating the recommendations, methods, and tools of the Practical Guide, after which the finalized Practical Guide would be made available for public use.

