

The study of gender and sustainable fisheries: A case study in Antigua and Barbuda  
(ジェンダーと持続可能な水産業に関する研究 –アンティグア・バーブーダの事例–)

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### 1. Introduction

In Antigua and Barbuda, one of the Eastern Caribbean countries, sustainable fisheries are particularly important as food and industry. Despite the mainstreaming of gender and fisheries in the world, Antigua and Barbuda has only one related research of Williams (1990), and the situation surrounding women has considerably changed for last 20 years. In addition, trends of international development programs in fisheries sector have shifted to co-management approaches to manage fishery resources and marine ecosystem for sustainable development. Women are one of the important factors to consider management and distribution of fishery resources, and for potential fishery development projects. Considering those situations, this study aims to explore the roles of women in fisheries in Antigua and Barbuda, and to suggest future perspective for sustainable fisheries, especially with regard to gender issues.

### 2. Methodology

Preliminary (from 13th January to 31th March in 2015) and main (from 1st December to 18th December 2015) surveys were conducted at a fish market at St. Johns and three main points of harbors. The preliminary survey's findings draw extensively on a mixed-methods approach, both participant observation and semi-structured interviews to 49 people. The preliminary survey was performed focusing on the contribution of women in fisheries sector. The main survey was conducted as structured interviews with the aid of questionnaires, in order to measure people's consciousness of gender's role, motivation to participate in projects, and to compare the outcomes with results from Williams (1990).

### 3. Results and Discussion

Results obtained from preliminary survey demonstrates women's high engagement in trading and processing sectors as vendors and scalers. In addition, significant difference was found between men and women in two question items: resistance to be fishers ( $p=0.014$ ) and motivation to attend project ( $p=0.005$ ). Results from the main survey indicated the possibility of expectation of women's leadership in response to significant difference in answer between men and women answers to questions about consciousness of gender's role. Also, compared to 1990, the number of women who get involved in harvesting sector is declining. Considering Antigua and Barbuda is preferable place for fisherwomen and fishing was one of the women's works, these outcomes are resulting in the effects of broader gender's roles and changing environment and economic realities.

### 4. Recommendations

Based upon the outcomes, this study suggests that potential development projects for sustainable fisheries are required to be designed with consideration of the gender characteristics and roles in fisheries sector.