



Tropentag, September 9-11, 2020, virtual conference

“Food and nutrition security and its resilience
to global crises”

African Women in the Subsistence and Capture Fisheries

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Abstract

Fisheries provide jobs, foods and livelihood for many African families. Women play important role as workers in the agriculture and in the subsistence and small-scale fishery. In the case of Africa, women involved in fishing as a mean of subsistence and devoted their efforts to the wellbeing of the family. Women participate in the fishery value chains, as their roles were mainly dedicated to fish handling, grading and small-scale home based processing. Uneducated women are involved in the lower levels of the fishery value chains. Educated women are involved in the higher levels of the fishery value chains getting higher benefits. Women in different fishing area, country and region are investing in processing equipment and they are responsible for fish purchasing, processing, and retailing. The fishing communities have minimal facilities for children's health care and education. Capture fisheries have been shrinking in many part of Africa and women's involvement in fisheries been decreasing. In many cases, women has been leaving the fishing industry in order to find another secure job to sustain family livelihood. The objective of this paper is to identify the women's role in capture fishery and family livelihood in Africa.

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Keywords: Africa, family, gender, livelihood, small-scale fishery capture fishery, the subsistence, value chains, women