



Testing a gender transformative approach combined with a fish harvesting technology for women

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Afrina Choudhury, Fayzur Rahman, Cynthia McDougall, Froukje Kruissen, Julie Newton



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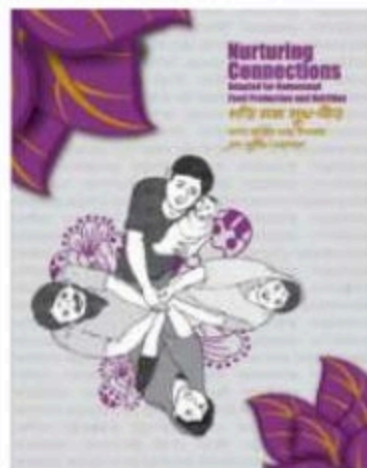
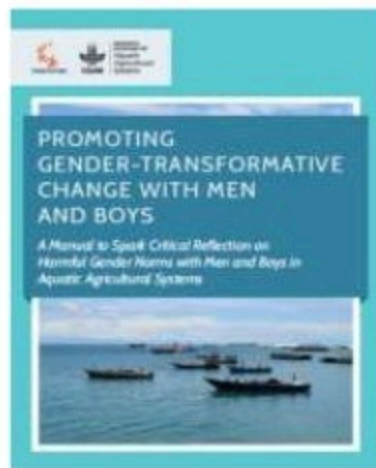
Background

- Under USAID-funded Aquaculture for Income and Nutrition (AIN) project in 18 villages in Barisal region, Southwest Bangladesh
- AIN engages with women to promote carp/tilapia+mola polyculture in homestead ponds
- Mola is rich in micronutrients
- Women don't usually catch fish (socio-cultural & technical reasons); rely on men
- Women find it difficult to catch mola (eg: nets not suitable for them or nets are not suitable to catch these small fish with)

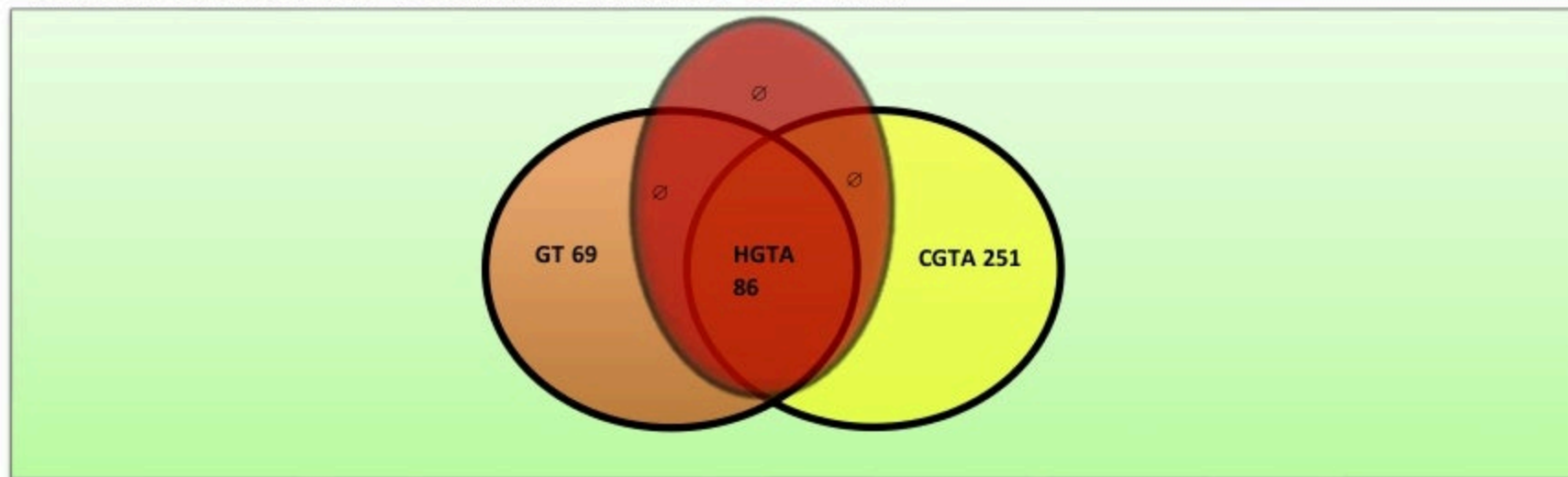


Project focus

- Piloted fish harvesting technology designed for women to enable frequent harvesting of nutrient-rich *mola* from homestead ponds
- Piloted social consciousness raising exercise to reduce normative barriers to women at household level
- Piloted community level social consciousness raising exercises to reduce normative barriers at community level



Interventions: Technical and Social



Gill net training (GT): $n=155$

Gender transformative strategies

- **HH GTA Pilot (HGTA):** $n=86$
- **Community GTA pilot (CGTA):** $n=337$

Research Question:

Overarching: What is the impact of combining a multi-scale gender transformative approach together with a women-targeted technology (i.e. gill net) on women's empowerment and on technology adoption?

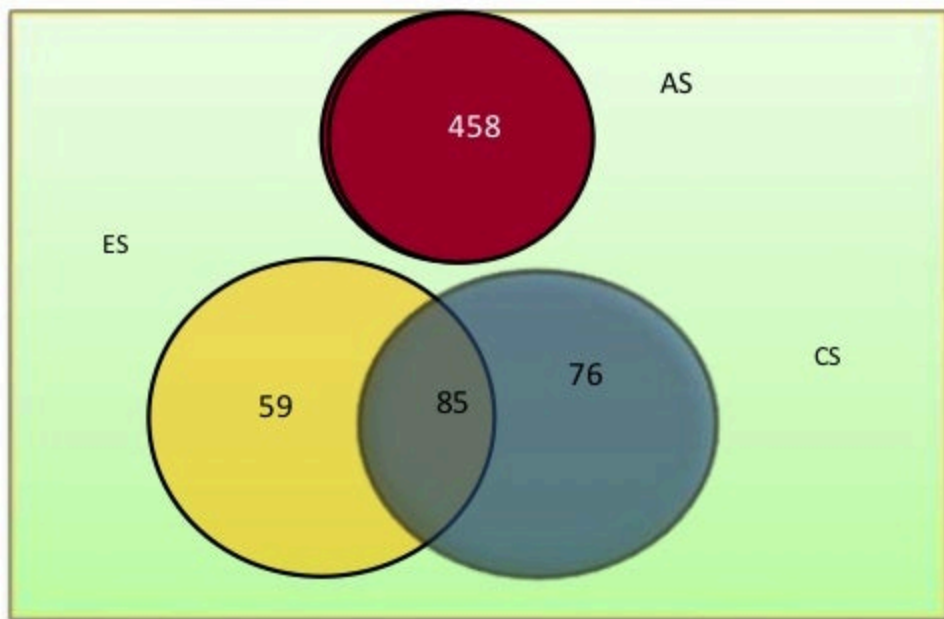
Intersectional dimensions: age, wealth status, marital status, years of marriage



We define **empowerment** as the *expansion of choice* and *strengthening of voice* through the transformation of power relations so women involved in gill-net technology have more control over their lives and futures. The **indicators for empowerment** chosen for analysis cover different dimensions of the GATES conceptual model of women's empowerment related to agency, resources and institutional structures

We define **technology adoption** as: the decision to apply an innovation and to continue using it (Rogers and Shoemaker, 1971). The **indicators for adoption** defined according to the domains of **technology uptake, technology outcome, benefits distribution, influencing and enabling factors of uptake.**

Evaluating gender Change



Study on empowerment impacts (ES): Baseline and endline that survey women farmers and their husband's
n=144 HH (women with spouse in some sections), all who received aquaculture training:

- Treatment:
86 with nets + HH GTA
- Control
58 nets only;

Attitude Survey (AS): Before & after gender attitude surveys with community

n= 458 men and women from 18 villages

- Treatment, n=251, Control, n=207

Consumption Study (CS) : Assessing weekly adoption and impact on consumption

n= 161 women respondents

- Treatment, n= 95
- Control, n=66

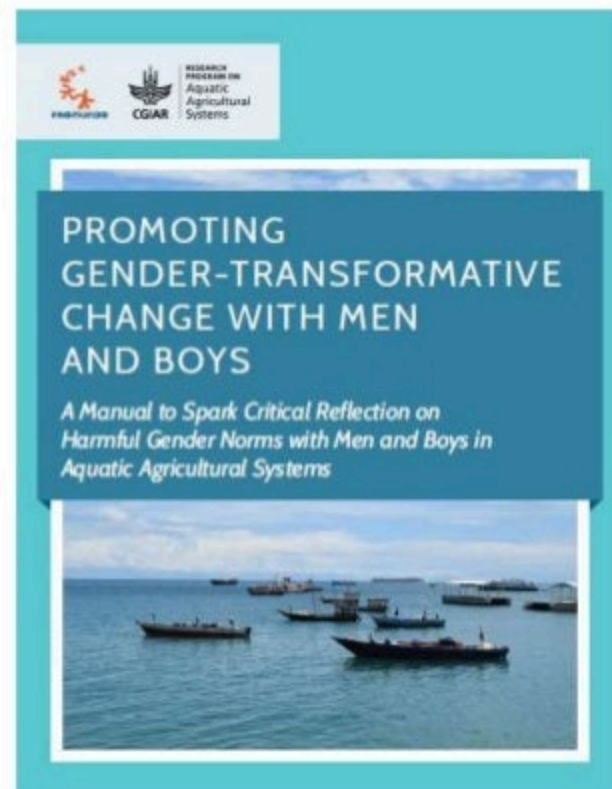
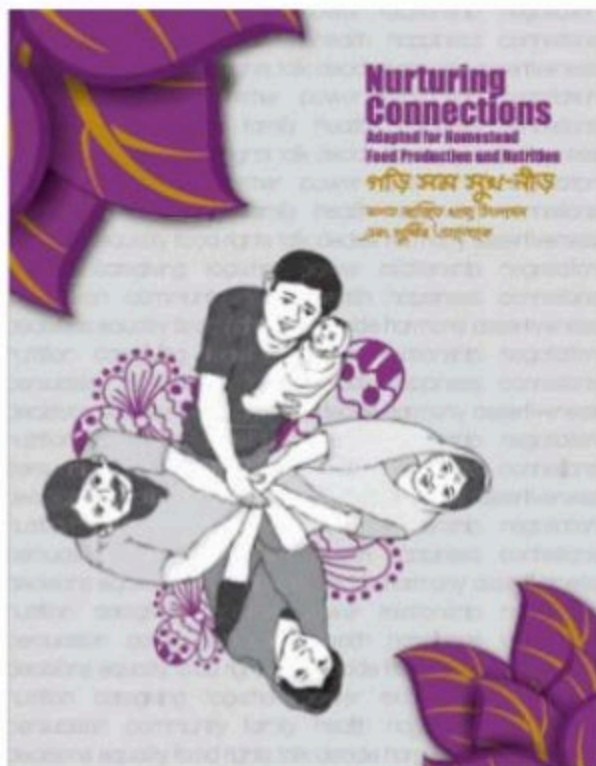
Main evaluation tools (Adapted WEAI, WEFI and gender scales)

Elements of Empowerment (GATES conceptual model)	Dimensions	Empowerment +Attitude Survey
Resources	Critical consciousness	Self-efficacy
		Self-confidence
	Assets	Land & ponds
		Credit
		Time allocation
Institutional Structure	Family, Community	Gendered perceptions
		Mobility
Agency	Decision making	Decision making
	Leadership	Leadership
	Collective action	Group membership

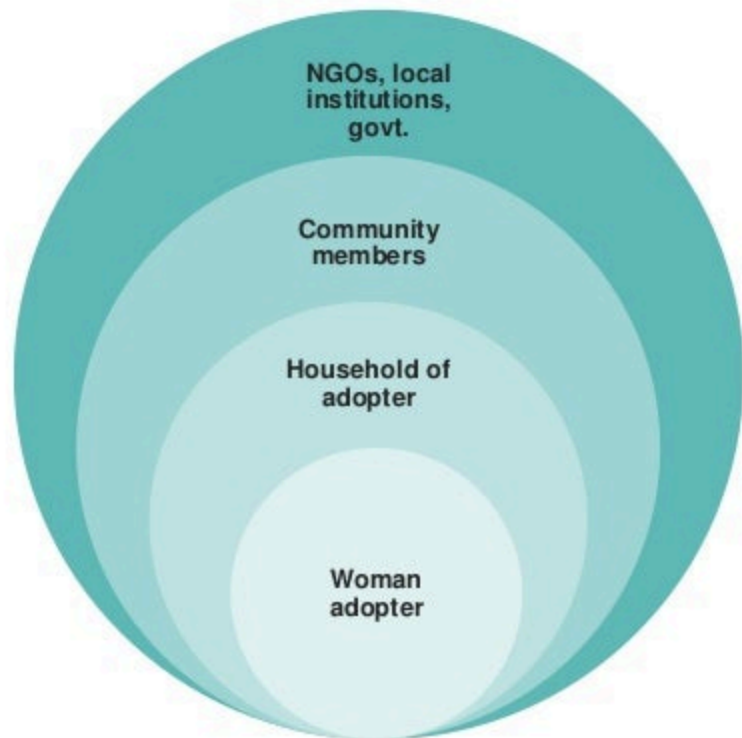


Social Consciousness Raising Exercises

Manuals



Multi-scale GTA approach used



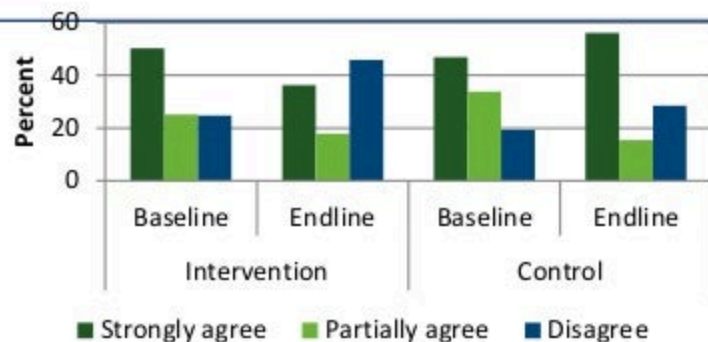
At the **household level**, tools used include 'hopes & fears', demonstrating and building trust, 'power hierarchies', access to nutrition, obstacles to change, 'who decides', and exploring gendered behavior.

At the **community level**, tools used include 'hopes & fears', 'looking at our attitudes', 'acting like a man/woman', 'how will we empower each other', gender equality solutions, 'the man box' (masculinities) and a historical timeline of gender changes.

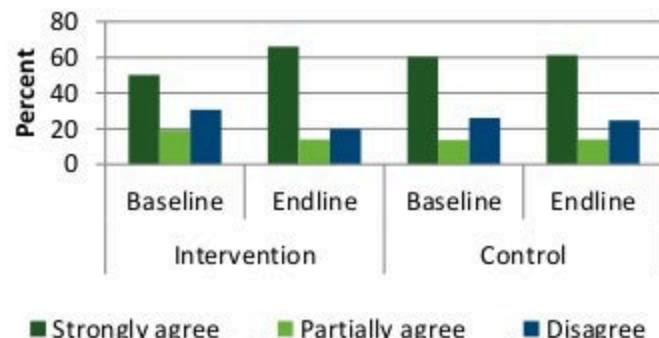
Promundo	Nurturing Connections
<p data-bbox="267 179 997 322">Theory of change: Changes focused on: Gender transformation takes place through women and men</p> <ol data-bbox="267 322 997 781" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="267 322 997 477">1. Learning through questioning and critical reflection on gender norms to develop new attitudes and skills<li data-bbox="267 477 997 632">2. Rehearse equitable and non-violent attitudes and behaviours in a comfortable space<li data-bbox="267 632 997 781">3. Internalize new gender attitudes and norm and apply these through their own relationships and lives	<p data-bbox="997 179 1721 270">Theory of change: Changes focused on: Gender transformation takes place through:</p> <ol data-bbox="997 270 1721 575" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="997 270 1721 379">1. Behaviour change is a process that requires internalizing of new concepts<li data-bbox="997 379 1721 489">2. Gender norms are driven by community norms and group dynamics<li data-bbox="997 489 1721 575">3. Adults learn best through action and experience.

Preliminary findings: Bangladesh

- GTA integration has helped explore and address the social and gender attitudes and beliefs that prescribe women's roles
- Technologies conducive for women +GTA strategies can prompt independent involvement and decision making
- Women report the positive influence the involvement of their spouse, family and community members had on their adoption
- Data show positive change in empowerment outcomes especially aquaculture-related decision making, consumption, gender attitudes and self-efficacy



Only men have valuable knowledge and experience needed for managing aquaculture resources



Either a man or a woman could successfully operate or manage a fish pond

Thank You



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