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## **DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE IN NORTH VIETNAM: INFLUENCE ON THE LIVING STANDARDS AND GENDER DIVISION OF FAMILY LABOR**

**Caulier Henri<sup>1</sup>, Tran Thi Thap Hieu<sup>2\*</sup>, Tran Thi Nang Thu<sup>2</sup>, Nguyen Thi Dien<sup>2</sup>, Philippe Lebailly<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Gembloux Agro BioTech, University of Liège, Belgium.

<sup>3</sup> Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Hanoi, Vietnam.

\* Email: [thap.hieu@gmail.com](mailto:thap.hieu@gmail.com)

During previous years, along with the overall development of Vietnam, the fisheries sector has made great progress in terms of output and has remained as a very important sector of Vietnam's economy. The average growth rate of this sector has been 7.9% per year - contributing greatly to the industrialization and modernization of the agriculture and rural sectors of the country. Since 2006, Vietnam has been globally ranked among the top 10 leading exporting countries in fisheries.

To cope with these new circumstances, the aquaculture sector must grow while reducing emissions and pollution. Moreover, the value they generate should be distributed fairly, in order to improve the living conditions of producers, while the risks must be shared among all stakeholders. In this context, it will be also appropriate to conduct specific research including gender analysis of aquaculture value chain.

The main objective of this paper is to present the main results of a field research conducted in the northern Vietnam and related to a specific fresh water aquaculture production system. The multidisciplinary research was conducted jointly with Vietnam National University of Agriculture and Gembloux AgroBioTech (University of Liège – Belgium) and located in Hai Chau commune, Nam Dinh province. The presentation focuses on data collected from 45 farms and related socio-economic profiles of them. Particular attention will be linked to the importance of aquaculture in the income generated in comparison with rice. The authors also describe some gender issues with a specific attention to the division of family labor.