

Intern Summary

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Internship/Thesis Research Title: IFITT Supply Chain: Changes In Stakeholders' Expectations and Relationships

Introduction:

The IFITT project focuses on developing traceability systems in small-scale tuna fisheries supply chains in Indonesia. When a fish is traceable, it can help ensure that improvements are made in the specific fishery or that it comes from legal sources. This internship analyzed data from three IFITT supply chains, in the form of a network analysis to identify and evaluate the changes in stakeholders' expectations and relationships since the start of the project in 2014 and its current status.

Internship Objectives:

The internship focused on three aspects: (i) documenting existing expectations and relationships in three IFITT value chains from semi-structured stakeholder interviews, (ii) evaluating change over time by comparing current situation to the baseline information collected in 2014 and (iii) documenting how the government perceives the information collected via the enumeration system.

Methods:

The data collection focused on building a network analysis database from interviews with stakeholders. Interviewees were supply chain actors (fishermen, suppliers, processors, exporters) and non-supply chain actors (local government and enumerators) from two villages in Maluku and one in Lombok (Figures 1 and 2). The Fair Trade program is active in the Maluku sites but not in the Lombok site.

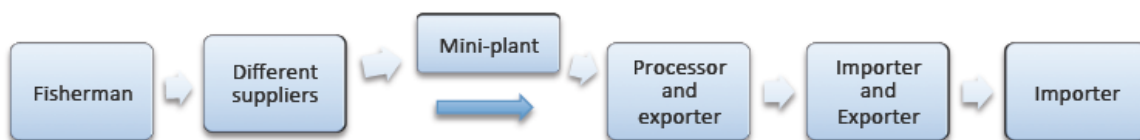


Fig. 1. Visualization of tuna supply chain in Maluku

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Fig. 2. Visualization of tuna supply chain in Lombok

A qualitative approach identifies the actor's experiences with traceability and enumeration/data collection activities (asking questions on daily activities, relation with the tuna supply chain, experiences with enumeration and traceability, and perception on future benefits of data). The quantitative approach utilizes ego-network maps (Figure 3), where the business network of the interviewee is drawn representing "focal actor" (interviewee) and its "alters", direction of information flow and experience with these "alters" graded on 1-5 scale.

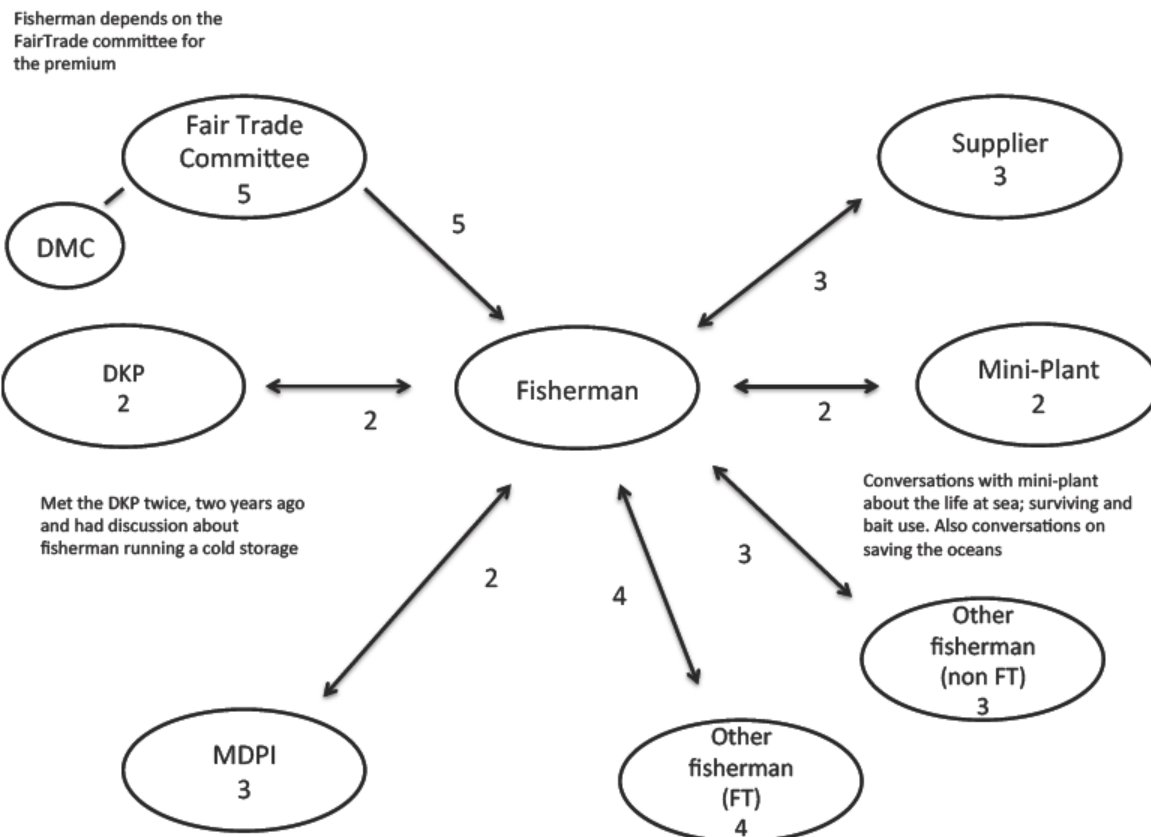


Fig. 3. Example of an ego-network

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Results:

The following changes are noticed when comparing the data of the 2014 network analysis with the situation encountered in 2016:

Changes in stakeholders' expectations:

- The fishing community recognises the premium benefits from Fair Trade, as well as a general feeling of being empowered and united. In 2014 many of the fishermen did not know what Fair Trade was, nor what to expect from it.
- The Indonesian government increasingly recognizes the value of traceability data as it becomes more important in global import and export requirements, and to aid in policy-making.
- In 2014, fishermen expected to use enumeration data as input for decisions on where and when to fish to increase their operation efficiency. However by 2016, the fishermen are still not using the data to inform their daily fishing activities. They also do not get updates after Data Management Committee (DMCs) meetings, where regulation issues and data are discussed.

Changes in stakeholder's relationships:

- Enumerators scored high in the 2016 network drawings. Their presence is highly valued by the fishermen in Maluku, giving them a feeling of security that the grading and scaling of fish will be transparent.
- Fair Trade and MDPI caused the relationships between fishermen to be more unified.
- The presence of permanent suppliers ensures that there will be buyers for the fish, compared to 2014 when suppliers come-and-go.

Interest of government actors operating in policy-making on information collected via enumeration:

- Provincial level government uses enumeration data as a basis for national regulations and licenses, and also to crosscheck data provided from other actors. Information related to overfishing, Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing are of great relevance.

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- District/village governments do not recognize the value of this data.

Discussion and conclusions:

The challenges towards optimizing a full chain data gathering system in the IFITT project include:

1. Missing link in information flow from DMCs to fishermen
2. Fishermen and suppliers are not always clear why data collection is collected, due to unclear/absence of links to the Fair Trade premium, enumerator's support, and information about tuna stocks and management.
3. Low interest in data collection and traceability among fishermen and suppliers in Lombok since no direct benefits are perceived
4. Data collection and DMCs in Lombok need to continue after MDPI funding stops.
5. Tally-O processor-based traceability system still doesn't work as it designed.
6. Stakeholders in Maluku often confuse MDPI with Fair Trade, not knowing which organization is responsible for which activity.

Follow-up steps for MDPI:

- Raise awareness among fishermen and suppliers on the rationale behind enumeration and traceability practices. The importance of data gathering should be explained by means of using local sustainability indicators to which local actors attach value (e.g. as clean beaches, safe environment for children).
- Organize follow-up meetings in the villages after DMCs, where relevant information (e.g. monthly catches according to regions and weight, amount of ETP species caught) are presented to fishermen and suppliers.
- MDPI should invest in visibility by continuously communicating on what they are doing (e.g. raising awareness that enumerators in Maluku are part of MDPI).