



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**Nation Religion King**

# **Cambodia Agriculture Survey 2023**

## **Report 4:**

### **Aquaculture & Capture Fishing**



National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning  
in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Fisheries.



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

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## Aquaculture and Capture Fishing

Aquaculture and capture fishing activity constitute an alternate or additional economic activity for household agricultural holdings in Cambodia. From the CAS 2023, it is estimated that 61,660 agricultural household holdings are involved in aquaculture activity while 444,190 agricultural household holdings are involved in capture fishing activity, and 16,020 agricultural household holdings were involved in both aquaculture and capture fishing activity. The zone with the largest number of households involved in aquaculture was the Plain Zone, with 49,000 household agricultural holdings reporting aquaculture activity. The zone with the largest number of households involved in capture fishing activity was the Tonle Sap Lake Zone, with 199,310 holdings reporting capture fishing activity.

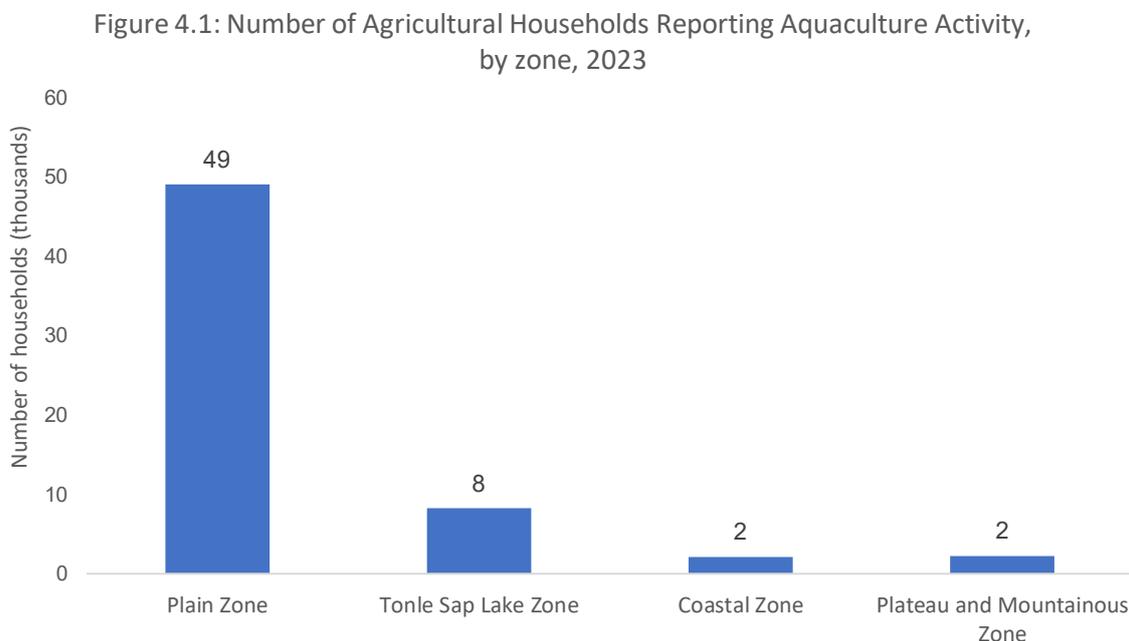
### Aquaculture



*The fishpond of a household holding in Siem Reap province. Source: MAFF photograph, 2023.*

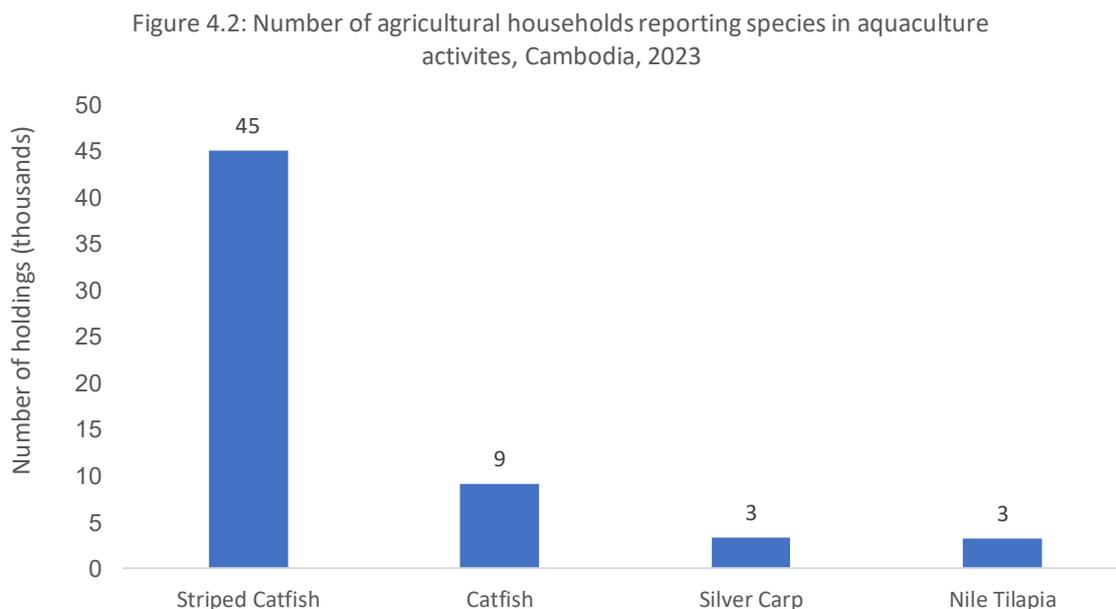
Aquaculture refers to the cultivation, under controlled conditions, of aquatic products in seas, lakes, rivers, swamps, ponds, paddy fields or other bodies of water. Of the different categories of aquaculture activity covered in the CAS, including pond, pen, cage, paddy field, culvert/tank/drum/aquariums, hatchery/nursery, or other aquaculture activity, the most prevalent activity was pond aquaculture with 54,310 agricultural holdings reporting it. An estimated 4,160 holdings were involved in aquaculture involving culvert/tank/drum/aquarium. The total area devoted to aquaculture in household agricultural holdings was estimated to be

1,440 hectares. The Plain Zone reported the largest area devoted to aquaculture activities, with 1,040 hectares devoted to it.



Source: CAS 2023

Agricultural households raise a variety of species in their aquaculture, the most common species are Striped Catfish (raised by an estimated 45,000 households and Catfish (raised by an estimated 9,100 households). Silver Carp, Nile Tilapia and striped snakehead are other species raised by household holdings.



Source: CAS 2023

## Capture Fishing

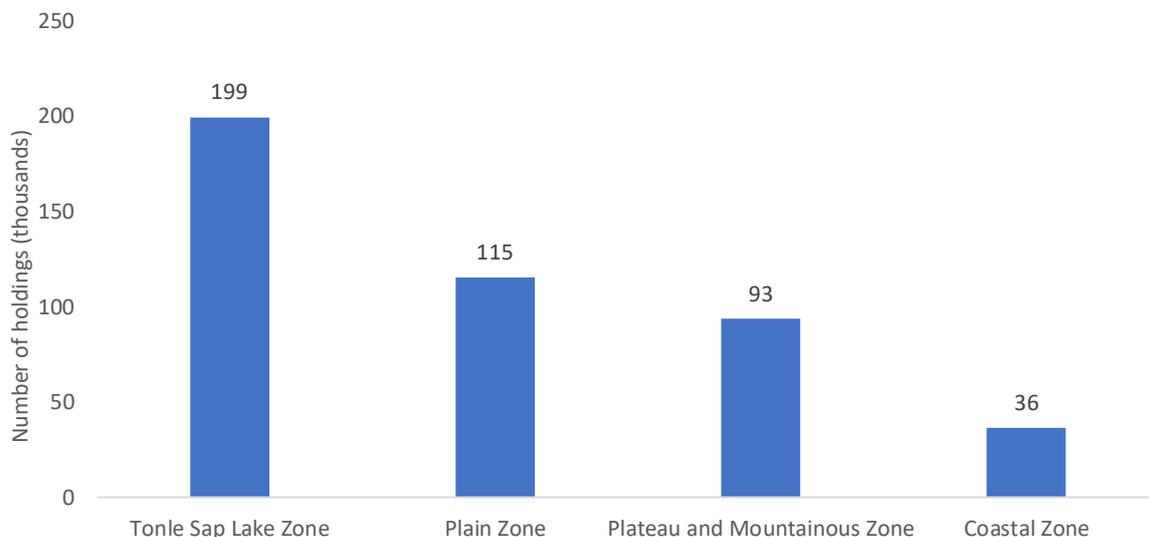


*A fisherman inspecting his cast net catch in Kandal province. Source: MAFF photograph, 2023.*

For the CAS, capture fishing activity was categorized as river or lake (freshwater), rice field (freshwater), sea (marine water) or estuary (brackish water). Capture fishing included catching fish and other sea or river species with or without the use of boats or specialized equipment.

In the 2023 reference period (from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023), the Tonle Sap Lake zone had the highest number of household agricultural holdings reporting capture fishing activities with an estimated 199,000 households involved in the activity. The Plain zone had an estimated 115,000 household holdings reporting capture fishing and the Plateau and Mountains region and Coastal zones had an estimated 93,000 and 36,000 household holdings involved respectively.

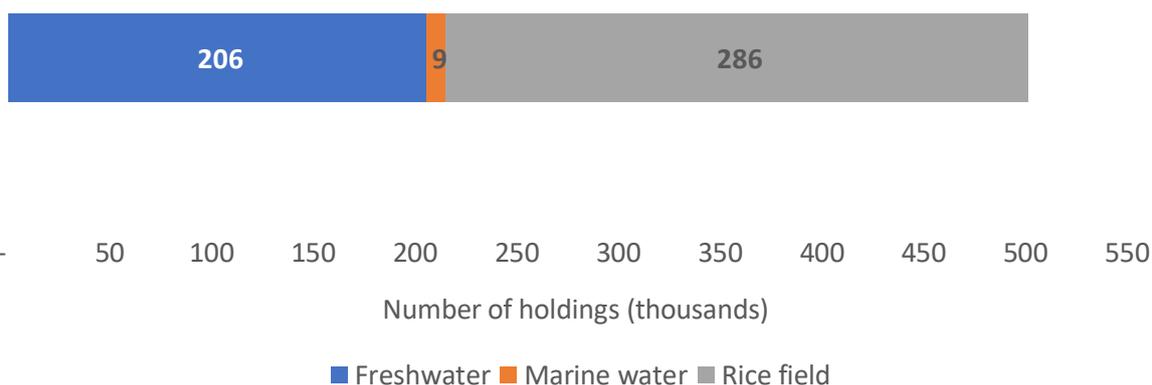
Figure 4.3 : Number of holdings reporting capture fishing activities, by zone, 2023



Source: CAS 2023

Capture fishing activities were reported by household holdings to occur mostly within rivers or lakes (206,000 household holdings) and in rice fields (286,000 household holdings). Comparatively few household holdings report capture fishing within marine water (9,000 household holdings).

Figure 4.4: Capture fishing, number of household agricultural holdings involved by activity, Cambodia, 2023

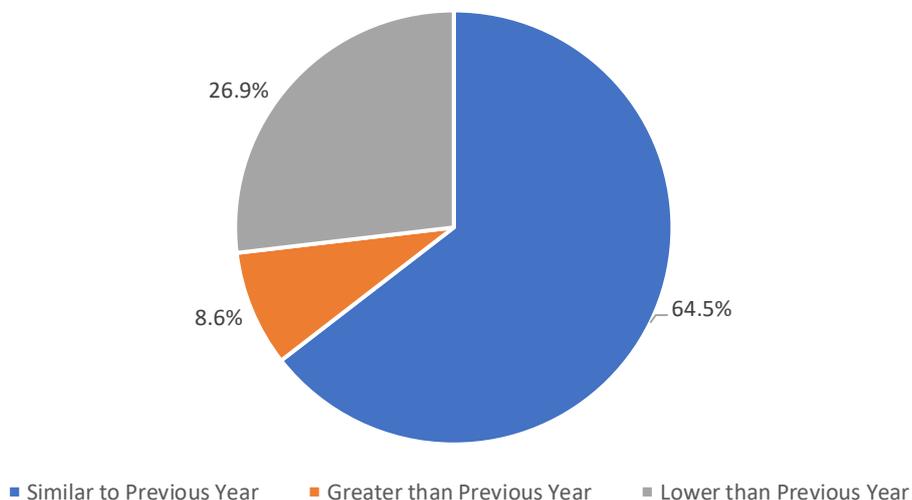


Source: CAS 2023

The total catch reported for fish totalled 357 million kilograms in Cambodia in 2023. Respondents reporting capture fishing within the survey were asked to compare their holdings catch in 2023 to their catch in the previous reference period. More than half of the respondents (64.5%) reported a similar catch to the previous year. However, only 8.6%

reported a catch greater than the previous year whilst 26.9% reported a catch lower than the previous year.

Figure 4.5: Comparison of current year fish catch to previous year fish catch, household agricultural holdings, Cambodia, 2023

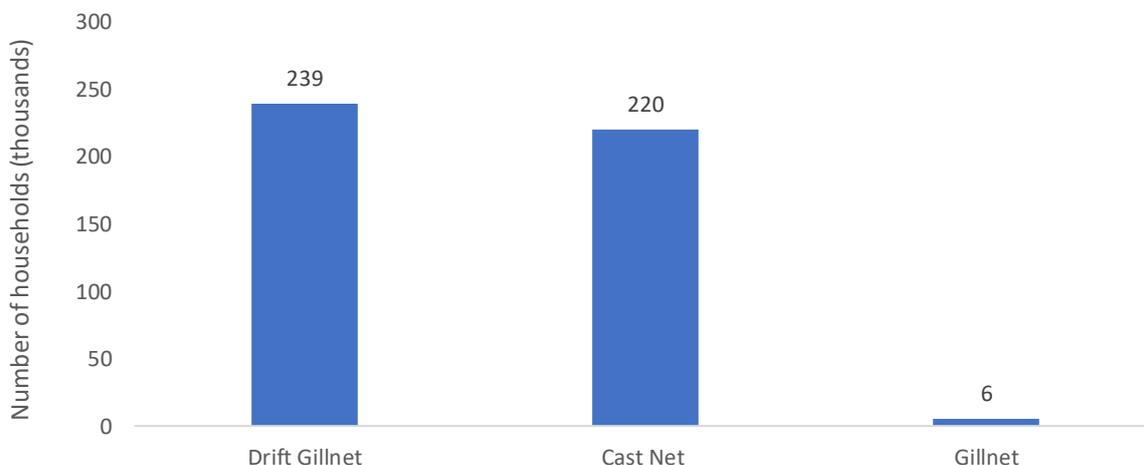


Source: CAS 2023

The CAS collected data on multiple species caught including fish, crabs, snails and eel. 78 % of the holdings who reported capture fishing activity captured fish (430,920 household holdings), 14% captured crabs (76,530 household holdings), 6% captured snails (34,060 household holdings) and 1% captured eels (5,600 household holdings).

Various types of fishing equipment are used in Cambodia. The CAS estimates how many households use each type of equipment in their fishing activities. The equipment used most by holdings was a drift gillnet reported to be used by an estimated 239,000 household holdings. Cast nets (219,800 holdings), and Gillnet (5,500 holdings) were other commonly used equipment.

Figure 4.6: Number of agricultural households reporting of fishing equipment, Cambodia, 2023



Source: CAS 2023