

The objective of gender integration in aquaculture and fisheries is to harness and maximise the respective skills of men and women toward optimal productivity, quality of life and food and nutrition security.

While economic empowerment would be an end goal on a road map to gender integration in aquaculture and fisheries, it hinges on social empowerment, including decision-making power to access and benefit from opportunities for income security at a minimum and wealth creation at a maximum.

"...Placing gender on the aquaculture agenda requires a coalition of gender champions, informed researchers, expert networks and policy advocates..."

(Expert Panel VII.3, Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010).

The intersection of livelihood marginality with gender-specific disadvantages and other forms of social marginality compounds women's vulnerability.

"... Gender tackles issues related to power and inequity in the treatment of men and women. Because women in fishing communities are often more disadvantaged and vulnerable than men and many forms of social, political and economic marginalization are gender specific, engaging in gender equality efforts generally means supporting and empowering women whilst working with men..."

(Bennet, E., Valletee, R.H., Mäiga, K.J. & Medhard, M. (eds.). 2004).



GENDER in AQUACULTURE and FISHERIES



9th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum





THEME

I. Gender and fish supply chains

- i. Gender and well-being in fishing and aquaculture communities
- ii. Gendered issues for supply chain workers

II. Gendered responses to change in aquaculture and fisheries

- i. The gendered dynamics and impacts of natural disasters
- ii. The gendered impacts of climate change and societal change

III. Engendering fisheries and aquaculture policies and governance

- i. Gender disaggregated data and information
- ii. Engendering research and policy advocacy
- iii. Gender in global fisheries and aquaculture normative products

the theme 'Changing Tradition: First Global Look at the Gender Dimensions of Fisheries', delegates considered the impact of HIV and AIDS, globalisation and trade on women, and worked towards making the conceptual shift from 'women in fisheries' to 'gender and fisheries'. At the 8th Asian Fisheries Forum in 2007, the **2nd Global Symposium on Gender and Fisheries** had the theme 'Gender and Fisheries: Solutions through Gender Research' and addressed (1) gender issues in inland and coastal resource management and aquaculture, (2) income, fish processing, trade, globalization and WTO, (3) nutrition and human health, (4) gender mainstreaming in fisheries research and development projects and (5) models for successful fishing/fish farming families/communities.

This **3rd Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries**, during the 9th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum, is jointly sponsored with FAO. It offers a wide range of papers tackling three major themes on gender dimensions in the fish supply chains, changes in aquaculture and policies and governance. There will be keynote, oral and poster presentations (about 55) as well as posters and videos.

The AFS women/gender symposia followed from a previous 'Women in Fisheries' photo competition held in 1995 during the 4th Asian Fisheries Forum, sponsored by PADEK, a Cambodian non-government aid agency and two earlier PADEK-led women in fisheries workshops in 1994 and 1996. These events focused on women's major contributions to fisheries in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam and recommended that an Asian symposium be held.

The **first symposium** on 'Women in Fisheries' was held in 1998 at the 5th Asian Fisheries Forum and the **second symposium** in 2001, at the 6th Asian Fisheries Forum.

In 2004, during the **1st Global Symposium on Gender and Fisheries** at the 7th Asian Fisheries Forum, with



**3rd Global Symposium on
Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries**

PROSPECTUS

The fish sector (capture fisheries and aquaculture) is an important source of income and livelihoods for millions of people around the world. Employment in the sector grew substantially during the last three decades with 2008 estimates of 44.9 million people directly engaged, full time or more frequently, part time. This figure represented 3.5 percent of the 1.3 billion economically active people in the broad agriculture sector worldwide. Majority of fishers and aquaculturists are in developing countries, mainly in Asia.

Recent developments all demonstrated the growing attention to and focus on gender issues:

- creation of the UN Women by the UN General Assembly (2010)
- WIF Workshop – Recasting the Net: Defining a Gender Agenda for Sustaining Life and Livelihoods in Fishing Communities (2010, India)
- Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010 (Thailand)
- launch of the FAO State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011: *Women in Agriculture – Closing the Gender Gap for Development*
- 3rd Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (2011, China)

Integrating a gender focus in the fisheries and aquaculture sector helps us in our efforts to support productivity increases in aquaculture and small-scale fisheries activities, throughout the value chain, and thereby enhance responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources in a manner that would make an appreciable contribution to household and national well-being, food security and poverty alleviation.

Purpose: To generate strategic ideas and actions that could be used to develop a 'road map' for future directions on gender in aquaculture and fisheries.

Product: The expected output of the special workshop will be a report containing the outcomes (highlights of issues, conclusions, recommendations and future actions for gender in aquaculture and fisheries) of the workshop including the collated responses on 3-5 critical areas/issues, that will provide guidance towards moving forward the gender in aquaculture and fisheries agenda.

Process: Prior to the workshop, invitees will be requested to submit a short narrative on 3-5 critical areas/issues which need to be addressed concerning gender in aquaculture and fisheries. The responses will be collected by the Workshop Secretariat; a summary will be presented during the workshop. A set of key questions will be used as basis for the brainstorming session.

Participation: Taking advantage of key experts assembled for the Asian Fisheries Society 3rd Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF3), the Special Workshop will be attended by representatives from government, IGOs, NGOs and academe.



Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP)

The RFLP sets out to strengthen capacity among participating small-scale fishing communities and their supporting institutions in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. By doing so the RFLP seeks to improve the livelihoods of fisher folk and their families while fostering more sustainable fisheries resources management practices.

The four-year (2009 – 2013) programme is funded by the Kingdom of Spain and implemented by FAO in close collaboration with national authorities in participating countries.

What does RFLP hope to achieve? RFLP has six key areas of activity and will seek to create the following:

1. Co-management mechanisms for sustainable utilization of fishery resources
2. Measures to improve safety
3. Improved quality of fishery products and market chains
4. Diversified income opportunities for fisher families
5. Better access to microfinance services
6. Increased sharing of knowledge



Who are the main beneficiaries? The primary beneficiaries of RFLP are: coastal fishers, processors, traders and their families, their organizations and their communities, including the local authorities. In addition, the project will target government organizations and institutions responsible for the administration, management and development of coastal fisheries at local, district/province and national levels.

3rd Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF 3) 9th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum 21-23 April 2011 Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai, China	
Organizing Committee	
Chair: Meryl Williams	Vice-Chair: Melba Reantaso, Choo Poh Sze
Members: Rosario H Asong, Katia Frangoudes, Kibria Ghulam, Mafaniso Hara, Hisashi Kurokura, Kyoko Kusakabe, M. C. Nandeesh, Marilyn Porter, Ida Siason, Katherine Snyder, Kripa Vasant, Nireka Weeratunge, Stella Williams, Sijie Xu, Veikila Vuki, Yinghua Xu	

Future Directions for Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Action, Research and Development: A Special Workshop 23-24 April 2011 Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai, China	
Workshop Secretariat	
FAO ¹ Rebecca Metzner Melba B. Reantaso Nandini Gunewardena	Asian Fisheries Society Meryl Williams Ida Siason Choo Poh Sze

¹Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GAF3: <http://genderaquafish.org/>
 FAO: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/16605/en>
 RFLP: <http://www.rflp.org/gender>

A Commitment to Gender

The important role women play in the fisheries sector (especially in post-harvest and marketing) often goes unrecognized. RFLP understands that for fisheries resource management to be successful, it must be linked to other dimensions of the fish supply chain. RFLP therefore works to ensure that both women and men, young and old, will benefit from programme activities. Special efforts will also be devoted to the involvement of women in decision-making processes within the sector.



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Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southeast Asia (RFLP)