



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Thematic Studies on 'Gender in Aquaculture in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam'

Arlene Nietes-Satapornvanit¹, Cherdsak Virapat¹, Nikita Gopal², and Gladys Villacorta³

¹Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific; ²CIFTA/ICAR, India; ³USAID/MARKET

Presented at the
5th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF5)
12-15 November 2014, Lucknow, India



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Project Details

- a component of MARKET Project
(Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade)
- Promotes more sustainable and efficient use of aquaculture and fishery resources
- ASEAN region emphasizing LMI countries



Project Objectives

Gather information

Raise awareness

Advocate

for improved:

- recognition of gender roles
- policies and programs in aquaculture

for sustainable and responsible development

Thematic Areas

- Aquatic health management
- Environmental governance
- Aquaculture improvement projects/
better management practices/standards
- Feed management

Constraint: lack of data on specific themes

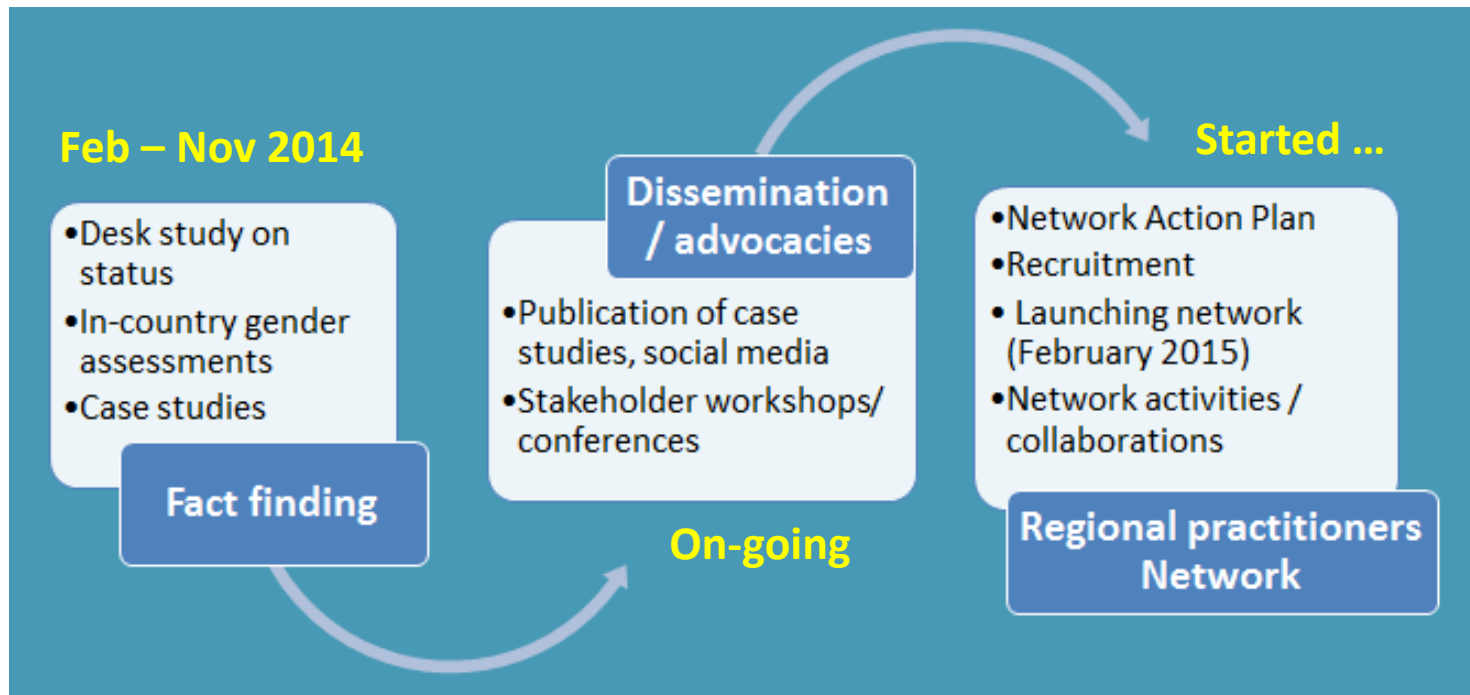


Project Activities

1. **Gender assessment** for commercially important species in selected ASEAN countries
2. **Develop case studies** focusing on gender aspects of selected aquaculture value chains
3. **Dissemination and presentation** of findings and recommendations to relevant stakeholders
4. **Develop** a regional gender in aquaculture practitioner **network**



Project Milestones



Improved recognition of gender roles through more gender-sensitive policies and programs for sustainable aquaculture development

Project Locations & Partners

Desk study team:
Gender Assessment

Department of Fisheries

- Gender Assessment Report
- Tilapia cages
- Shrimp farms



Inst. for Fisheries Economics & Planning

- Gender Assessment Report

Fisheries Administration

- Gender Assessment Report
- Aquaculture systems

Cantho University

- Tilapia cages
- Rice-shrimp farms


Gender Assessment Reports

- **Review of national policies** supporting gender equality in both outside and inside the fisheries and aquaculture
- **Status of participation** by gender in the aquaculture sector
- **Key issues** in women empowerment
- Gender in **professional organizations**

National Policies & Guidelines

Country			
	<p>Women's Economic Empowerment (MDG Acceleration Framework)</p>	<p>To eliminate gender disparities in wage employment (agriculture, industry, service sectors)</p>	<p>WiD Centers Skills training Scholarships MSMEs Improving rural livelihoods</p>
	<p>Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Camcode)</p>	<p>Recognition of the importance of the role of women in all activities;</p>	<p>Gender mainstreaming in all fisheries activities</p>
<p>Thailand</p>	<p>Women's Development Plan (National Economic Development Plan)</p>	<p>Promote gender equality and women empowerment</p>	<p>Policy adopted at all levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Commission on Women's Affairs
	<p>Office of Women Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security</p>	<p>Thailand Gender Promoting Center</p>	

National Policies & Guidelines

Country			
Vietnam	Gender Equity Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elimination of gender discrimination • creating equal opportunities in social-economic development and human resource development • establish and strengthen cooperation and support between men and women in all spheres of social life and family 	A number of decrees for implementation of this law at various levels
	National Strategy for Progress of VN women	Participation of Vietnam Women's Union in state management	
	National Statistical Index on Gender	collect gender statistics to monitor and evaluate gender development, advancement of women and gender equality in all fields of economic & social	

National Policies & Guidelines

Country			
Lao PDR	Laos Women in Fishery Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mainstreaming gender into fisheries	
	Department of Livestock and Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women included as team members to conduct research on breeding, spawning and maintenance of fish nursing	

NGF – gender focal points in each of these countries (presented yesterday by Ms Dongdavanh Sibounthong)

For example in Cambodia

Item	Details
Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ability of women to participate effectively and on an equal basis in fisheries activities• targets set up for increasing the participation of women in fisheries<ul style="list-style-type: none">• increase participation• women able to access all fisheries resources and services• women's livelihood to be at equal with men
Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Strategy in Fisheries Sector (FiA/Min of Agric, Forestry, Fisheries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FiA has to implement and comply with the Policy to achieve gender mainstreaming in fisheries resources management and development
Women's Association Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• involved in developing activities to raise awareness about gender

For example in Thailand

Office	Roles
National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family Development (NCWAFD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• coordinates implementation of the Women's Development Plan among public and private agencies• proposes to the government recommendations and measures for gender equality
Senate Committee on Women, Youth and Elderly Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• monitors implementation of public and private agencies on issues relating to children, women and the elderly Affairs
Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development (OWAFD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops and implements plans and projects regarding women's affairs : gender mainstreaming, gender advocacy, women empowerment and research on gender equality development
Chief Gender Executive Officers (CGEOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• high-ranking officials in all ministries and departments• integrate gender perspective into projects and programs• develop a Master Plan on The Promotion of Gender Equality
Gender Focal Points (every ministry and department)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure gender equality in their ministries and departments

For example in Vietnam

Office	Roles
<p>Vietnamese Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Min Labour Invalids and Social Affairs• People's Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issued decrees and directives based on the provisions of the Gender Equality Law• National Program on Gender Equality: make a fundamental transformation in the public awareness to promote behavior changes
<p>Prime Minister</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requested ministries, ministerial-level agencies, government agencies, People's Committees of provinces and cities to disseminate and educate to raise awareness of the Law on Gender Equality
<p>Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement gender strategy in agriculture and rural development• action plan on gender equality: carry out the legal rights of female workers, ensure equal access to opportunity, participation and benefit in agriculture and rural development
<p>National Committee for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• interdisciplinary organization, assists the Prime Minister in research, coordinate to solve interdisciplinary problems related to the advancement of women in nationwide

Status of participation

Cambodia:

- women are present throughout the value chain
- division of labor is not strongly marked
 - Collection of aquatic organisms, important
 - Women's decision-making power in relation to aquaculture – not much is known

Status of participation

Thailand:

The Gender Policy of DOF - considered opportunities for women to participate at the national and community-level activities:

- School fish pond for students
- Fish cage culture
- Industry level with seafood processing plants
- 2008 – awarded the most outstanding government agency in promoting gender equality projects (under a female director)



Status of participation

Thailand:

- Example in Nongkhai province, northeast (Sunonchai & Duangsri 2014):
153 tilapia cage farmers: 46% female farmers
- Example in Surat Thani province, south (Suksri 2010)
 - Blood cockle farmers: 76% male, 24% female
- Example in Chonburi province, east (Ruttanawan and Phanit 2002):
Oyster production: 2 F : 4M workers
- Fewer social pressures enable women to participate more in higher responsibilities and contributions be recognized
- Post-harvest sector: sale and marketing roles are mixed, unclear who controls income
- Trend of more intensive, export-oriented aquaculture industries have more inequalities

Status of participation

Vietnam:

- minor, less technically or physically demanding tasks - farm level or post-harvest and support activities
- Marginal presence of women in industrial farming activities such as shrimp farming
- Women present in managerial/ownership/technical levels in processing, feed manufacturing, laboratories
- 75-80% women in seafood processing
- Marketing and trading aquaculture fishery products from farms to final markets: equally by men and women, with women playing a major role in the small-scale collection network
- Stereotypes about what are typically-held male and female positions

Status of participation

Lao PDR:

- women are involved in minor/ supporting roles at all stages of the value chain (culture & fisheries)
 - Strong influence of women in household affairs and decision-making
 - Tasks and responsibilities in rural aquaculture production - shared by men and women.
 - The role of women is greater in poorer households, where men often have to work away from home
 - Post-harvest: women decide on family consumption, cooking, preservation, sellers, buyers, traders, middle-women, entrepreneurs regarding table-sized fish
 - Feeds: involved in preparing aqua feeds, feeding fish, harvesting and processing shellfish
 - Lao Women's Union savings fund - provides loans with low interest rates, which in turn made women depend less on fish middlemen.

Key issues in empowerment

- No continuous action plan to make gender a cross-cutting theme despite having policies and budgets
- Government effort focused at national level, NGOs focused on small village groups
- Gender issues not considered in various aquaculture and fisheries projects, no gender disaggregated data
- Few studies to document changes in women empowerment, participation, various nodes of the aquaculture value chains to determine areas to benefit women

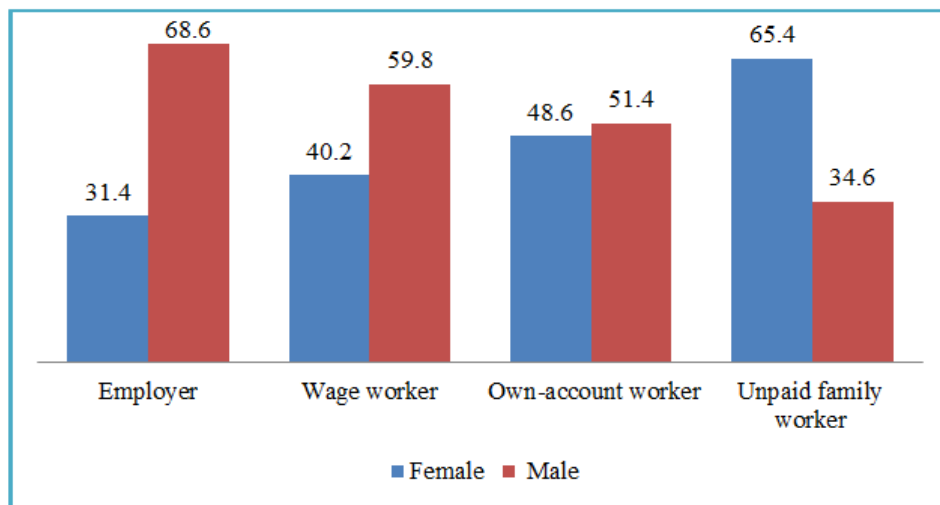
Key issues in empowerment

- Most studies focus on roles and labor division, still lacking in causes, effects, benefits, measurements
 - Providers need to improve credit to women
 - Labor intensity used as a barrier to female representation in leadership
 - Women's involvement in household activities
- For eg in Vietnam: despite good policies,
- women's reproductive functions
 - unequal allocation of labour in the family
 - prejudice and lack of trust in the ability of female staff
 - retirement age difference
 - standard of training, retraining and age-related appointment

Key issues in empowerment

- Insufficient documentation on women at decision-making levels of farms, companies and organizations
- Lack of understanding of the socio-cultural contexts on dynamics, decision-making, participation, etc could hinder effective gender integration programs
- Limited knowledge about gender, gender mainstreaming skills, especially at local, grassroots levels
- Gender stereotyping, for eg lack of shared responsibility between men and women in housework and participation in social activities

Key issues in empowerment



Employment status of employed population aged 15 years old and over, 2010 (%) - GSO, [Labour Force and Employment Survey 2010](#)

- biggest gap in average income: sectors with most concentration of female workers
- women's income (2010) agricultural sector: 77.1% of men's
- Untrained labour group: women's income 81% of men's

Gender in professional organizations

- International governments, aid agencies
- Non-governmental organizations
 - Local & International
 - Intervention
 - Project management
- Educational institutions (ISAFE?)
 - Research
 - Academic
 - Administration
- Private sector
- Networks

*However, no current database available on who is doing what and where

Gender Assessment Summary

- National level: gender concern with various levels of commitment and degrees of success
- Global Gender Gap Index of 4 countries – still low ranking : 60L 65T 73V 104C out of 135 countries
- Needs to link efforts at national level with concrete implementation to improve GGGI
- The more gender is mainstreamed at higher governance levels, the more gender issues will feature in national fisheries and aquaculture policy documents

Gender Assessment Summary

- Most documented: involvement of women in the grow-out (production) and post-harvest (from sale to processing) stages of value chains
 - Mainly on describing labor divisions in relation to particular tasks
 - Rarely on analyzing reasons behind or the resulting benefits for women
- Lack of systematic reviews of literature at national levels (esp with local language)

Suggested areas for more research

- Social networks and social capital: how they affect aquaculture communities according to gender; how identities affect changing work roles.
- Governance and rights: how men and women participate (or not) in aquaculture governance structures at various levels.
- Markets and migrations: how changes in markets affect livelihoods; overall impact of market on poverty and how they differ according to gender.
- Well-being: gender-differentiated perceptions of well-being

Source: Brugere, et al. 2014

Gender Case studies

- **Mapping of gender roles** in the selected aquaculture value chain
- **Gender dimensions** - division of labour, decision making process, benefit sharing and access to resources
- **Issues, needs and opportunities** in fish health management, farm management and BMP, feed management, processing, food quality, safety and marketing



Country-specific case studies

Country	Species	System	Study Site
Cambodia	Freshwater species	Ponds	Takeo, Kampong Speu
Thailand	Marine shrimp	Ponds	Chanthaburi (east)
Thailand	Tilapia	Cages	Sakhon Nakhon (northeast)
Vietnam	Marine shrimp	Rice-shrimp rotation in ponds	Soc Trang (Mekong Delta)
Vietnam	Red tilapia	Cages	Tien Giang (Mekong Delta)

Dissemination to relevant stakeholders

- **Inform** ASEAN and LMI industry stakeholders and policy makers
 - Findings, recommendations from assessments
- **Enjoin** private sector and non-governmental organizations to work together **to disseminate** findings
- **Develop action plans** with organizations (private, NGOs)
- **Publications**, media, social networking, campaigns



The 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture



2nd International Symposium on Aquaculture and Fisheries Education (ISAFE2)

April 22-24, 2015 Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai

Regional Gender Practitioners' Network

- Aquaculture practitioners and interested stakeholders advocating for gender integration and mainstreaming in aquaculture activities
- A number of women already involved in aquaculture and working alongside with the men
- Learnings and experiences gained need to be shared for more awareness on gender perspectives in aquaculture

Network Objectives

- **Promote** gender integration in aquaculture
- **Advocate** for and advance the status of women
- **Assist/mentor** practitioners in gender integration in projects
- Information **exchange** and experiences **sharing**
- **Capacity** building
- **Promote** collaboration
- **Establish** mechanism in response to emerging issues at regional level

Network Membership

- Founding members
 - Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, MRC, USAID, Kenan Institute-Asia, NACA
- National Focal Points
- Recruitment from NACA member countries (19)
- Government, NGOs, academic institutions, private sector and professional aquaculture value chains.

Network Operational Structure

Secretariat

Coordinator: NACA Gender Programme

Committees:

- Capacity Building
- Development
- External and Social Events
- Finance
- Recruitment & Membership
- Publicity and Promotion
- Research
- Technical Advisory

Proposed Activities for Network

Activity Type	Proposed Activities
Meetings	Regular meetings, Annual status review
Publications (electronic, print)	Newsletters, guidelines, manuals, tool kits, case studies, good practices
Social networking	Blogs, Facebook, Twitter
Database	Members, Experts/mentors
Capacity building	Skills training, study tours, internships, ToT, analysis tools, gender sensitive approaches, curriculum development
Fund raising	For projects, meetings, dissemination, publications, etc.
Research	Gender analysis and audits, data collection on gender parity, women's empowerment, gender GVCA, policy analysis
Advocacy	Policy recommendations, gender awareness, social marketing
Communication	Liaison, information with GOs, NGOs, private sector

Relationships

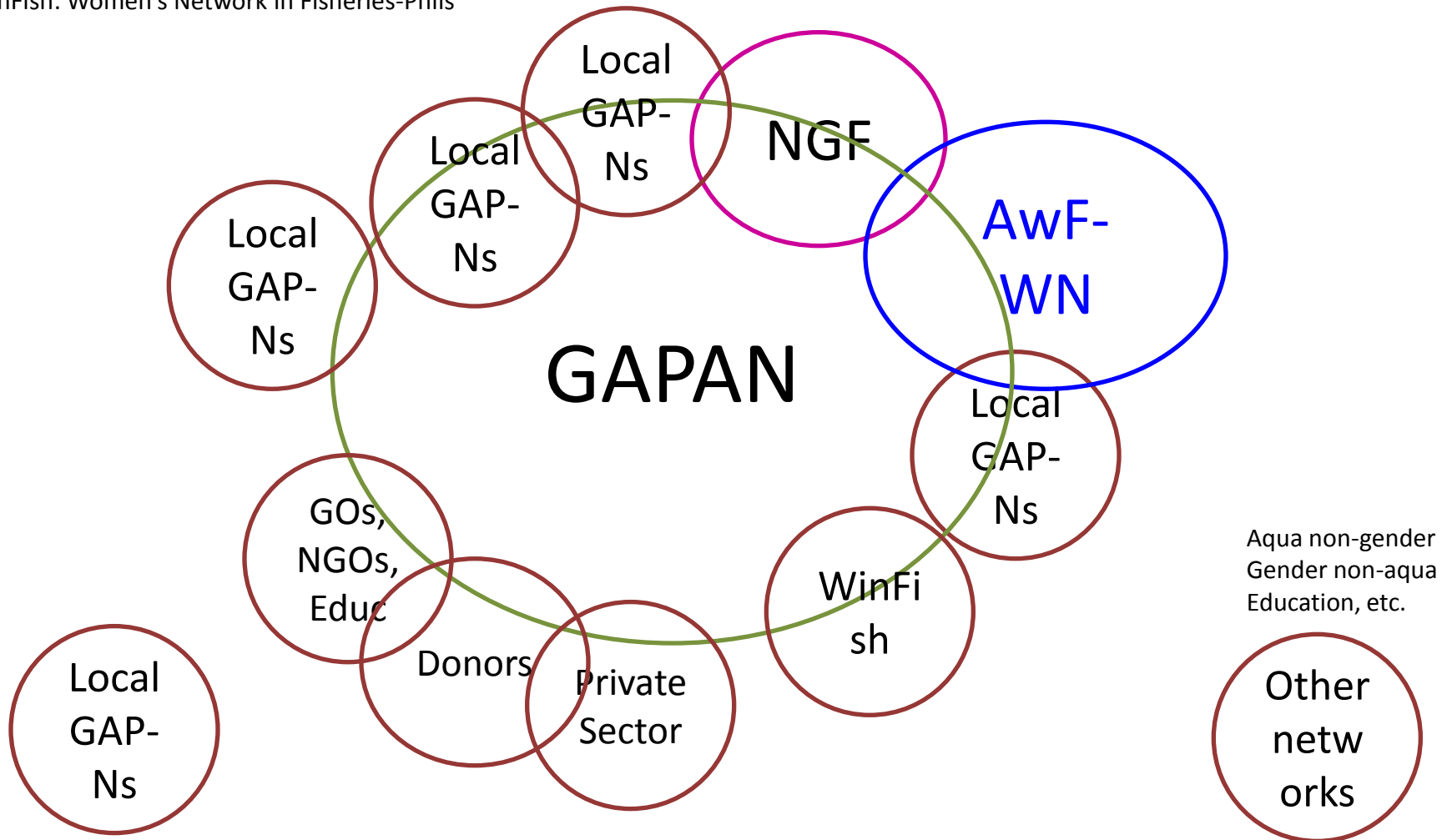
GAPAN: Gender in Aquaculture Practitioners in Asia-Pacific Network

Local GAP-Ns: Local GAP networks (in country)

NGF: Network for Gender Promotion in Fisheries Development

AwF-WN: Aquaculture without Frontiers-Women's Network

WinFish: Women's Network in Fisheries-Phils



Aquaculture without Frontiers -Women's Network

- To further the promotion of women's, family and community issues in AwF projects, in collaboration with other groups working on the same goals and activities
- Composed of volunteers from Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa, North America
- Committee:
 - Asia: Arlene NS (Th) & Bibha Khumari (In)
 - EU/Africa: Marie Christine Monfort (Fr), S. Molas (Sp)
 - Oceania: Chloe English, J. Gallagher (Aus)
 - Americas: M. Parker, H. Cronin (Cda)
- More info esp ideas, projects :
<http://www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org/womens-network/>



In Conclusion ...

- Growing interest in gender integration in aquaculture and fisheries should lead to actions, such as:
 - Increase capacity to implement effective gender programs
 - Promotion of equal opportunities
 - Understanding participation and benefits in VC nodes
 - Create enabling environments for entrepreneurship
 - Empowerment and change
 - Communicate, disseminate, educate, network

