GAF Section Newsletter

GENDER IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTION OF THE ASIAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

2020
ISSUE 2

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Photo credit: Patrick Dugan/WorldFish

Message from the editor



Surendran Rajaratnam
Newsletter Editor
Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section
Asian Fisheries Society

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section (GAFS) of the Asian Fisheries Society. I would like to thank all the contributors and sponsors of this newsletter, which is published annually.

As I write this note, people around the world have already endured weeks of social and economic restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of new infections and deaths is going down in many countries, and the restriction orders are being lifted in phases. Although people have started to resume their pre-COVID-19 life back to a certain extent, many continue to face challenges brought by the pandemic, which ranges from loss of livelihoods, jobs businesses and income to stress, depression and domestic violence, to name a few.

People who are most vulnerable to the infection are those who live in cramped spaces, lack hygiene and sanitation, and lack knowledge and access to the right information. These living conditions are not uncommon for many fishers and fish farmers in the Global South. Added to the challenges brought by the pandemic, they struggle to ensure that fish remains on the plates of millions of people. Among this group of people, women will be more likely to suffer disproportionately from the effects of COVID-19 than men, with those from marginalized social and economic groups suffering more. The pandemic could not only halt the global progress made toward gender equality but also worsen the pre-existing inequalities. These gendered implications are a consequence of several reasons, which are not limited to harmful social norms and the disruption to development program and other services for women and girls.

To advocate for the advancement of women's empowerment and to address gender and other social inequalities within the fisheries and aquaculture sector, GAFS and its predecessor informal network have been working together to provide a platform for interaction and cooperation among scientists, academics and technical experts since 1990. It provides opportunities for these individuals and the organizations they work with to build capabilities on gender and issues of harming women in the sector. As part of GAFS effort, we present to you in this newsletter some of the fantastic work that the section and its members were involved in the past year.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and will join us in steering the fisheries and aquaculture sector toward greater gender and social equality. On behalf of the executive committee, I wish you a safe and warm 2020.

Message from the section chair

GENDER EQUALITY IS NOT BUILT IN A DAY



Meryl Williams
Section Chair
Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section
Asian Fisheries Society

In each year and at each event, more people, women and men, join groups such as GAFS and the growing number of sister organizations striving to help create greater gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries. From those I have met, I observe two features of the growth in active interest. One is that people are becoming motivated by different interests, and the second is that most will eventually find that they need to sustain their commitment for the long term – gender equality will not be built in a day. Many of us start out thinking that now that we start to "see the light" and go to the trouble to talk or write about it, others will begin to understand, and change will follow. But that rarely happens.

Those who of us who come from a background of working in the sector have been acculturated to see it as it is presently articulated, and according to the priorities society and its institutions ascribe. Whether a woman or a man in fishing, fish processing, a fisheries agency, a research institute or in the fish market, the current design and its stresses and strains look quite normal. Its systems and its people in the value chains are recruited and invested in the current priorities and structures, especially meaning gender-blind approaches built on presumptions of gendered divisions of labor. They are not able/willing or interested in seeing it from a different perspective and supporting a change.

Getting change toward greater gender equality started can be a long process. What types of stimuli can make the difference? From my observations, here are a few that can work under the right conditions: leadership from the top; personal experiences that open one's eyes and transform our ideas; urging from outside such as by international or donor requirements, or central government policy; system shocks that open up avenues for change in the right direction (and not opportunities for change in the wrong direction); education from a beloved parent or friend or from the education system. Transformative personal experiences, shocks to the system that offer positive opportunities, and meaningful education seem to be the most effective in stimulating change.

The challenge is that these are all personal or difficult to control sources. The most personal motivating sources, however, can be most effective by creating institutions that reach out to and include more and more people, and who, together, can be prepared in advance of the opportunities offered by crises such as COVID-19, new funding from external sources, new government policies and a new, receptive leader.

Gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries is not going to be built in a day, but it has a better chance of being built if we use our personal motivations to prepare for and create the chances that arise. This is the challenge for GAFS in the world we now face.

Finalizing the outputs of GAF7



Our GAF7 Conference which was held October 18-21 2018 themed "Expanding the Horizons" produced many products, including research publications and fellowships. We expect that many of the outputs of GAF7 will leave a footprint in the scientific and other literature and in careers. We are tracking the outputs in order to be able to assess their influence. Due to the varied stages of development of the work showcased, we decided not to produce a single journal special issue, but to acknowledge and encourage peer reviewed and other publications. In addition to peer reviewed publications, several other reports and manuals were generated. We describe several of them here.

GAF7 long report: Expanding the horizons

This publication provides an overview of all presentations, special sessions and training workshops from GAF7. Here are some of the key conclusions:

Strong evidence exists that when women are made visible and given voice, changes start to take place: but miracles don't happen overnight, most taking a long time. Change is impeded by many factors and the lack of sex-disaggregated data in fisheries makes baselines and change hard to assess. Added to the data gap is actual resistance to integrating gender equality into the sector. Sex-disaggregated data, if available at all, rarely extends beyond production data, thus omitting valuable information on other parts of the value chain, especially post-harvest and support services in which women's participation is most prevalent. GAF7 presenters described their attempts to work around the lack of sex-disaggregated data by tapping into data inferred from a national fisheries census, institutional data and data collected by special studies. A panel-led discussion proposed empirical studies to work through model approaches, at the national level, for collecting sex-disaggregated data.

Despite the challenges of assessing change, a rich set of surveys and impact assessments provided GAF7 with rather sobering results. In Indonesia, several fisheries development assistance projects that were intended to include gender equality components barely did so; a survey of the seafood sector found women were indeed integrated into the sector but still experience many types of discrimination. In India, state and national fisheries policies overlook non-traditional women's opportunities; women have been replaced in many nodes of the shrimp value chain by mechanization and export market orientation; and capacity building programs for fish processing are mainly driven by the top-down demands of importers. Special Workshops explored gender indicators for small-scale aquaculture certification and for monitoring the progress of implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines. Photovoice, a graphic image-based research tool for impact assessment and other social science research, was taught in a Special Workshop and used by a team of participants in assessing GAF7.

Some change can be self-initiated, especially by women's collective action, of which GAF7 heard many fine examples from Africa (AWFISHNET), Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Japan, Philippines and Thailand), the Caribbean and Mexico.

The impetus to progress toward gender equality comes from many quarters. GAF7 presenters and participants explored solutions like education for future experts and new gender-sensitive technologies that offer new opportunities, such as in fish marketing in India, and to overcome emerging problems, such as climate change impacts on seaweed and shrimp farming. Educators showed how in India, Japan, Philippines and Thailand attempts to mainstream gender in fisheries education has met with passive, active and hidden resistance

from colleagues and/or administration. Thus it becomes necessary to mainstream gender in the academic curriculums of fisheries science. Institutions testing gender-transformative approaches found that backlash to innovations to help women can be reduced by engaging women and men together as agents of change.

Fisheries and aquaculture are not monolithic, as reflected in studies that focused on women in particular industry nodes, such as seaweed growing and tuna landing ports. Women's entrepreneurship was featured in "positive deviators" in Bangladesh, collectives in Japan, individual women's stories in Nigeria, small-scale oyster growers in the Philippines, women traders in India in competitive value chains, and by those balancing choices between fish and non-fish livelihoods.

Asian Institute of Technology-GAF7 Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries Fellowships

GAF7 was held at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, in October 2018. It has been agreed that part of the proceeds from GAF7 be converted to fellowships to support students studying gender in aquaculture.

We congratulate Ms. Nant May Than Htay (Myanmar) and Ms. Sujata Timelsina (Nepal), who were awarded the fellowships in June 2019. They enrolled in AIT in August 2019 and will be working on theses on gender in fisheries and aquaculture under the co-supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salin Krishna and Prof. Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe, co-organizers of GAF7 from the AIT School of Environment, Resources and Development.

Ms. Nant May Than Htay is enrolled as a graduate student in gender and development studies, Thailand. Before joining AIT, she worked on many projects with organizations like National Young Women's Christian Association Myanmar and The Lutheran World Federation Myanmar in various positions, such as mentor, facilitator, team leader, trainer, coordinator and program secretary with a specialization in women's empowerment and community development. She is passionate about gender equality, preventing violence against women, social justice, women's livelihood and exploring innovative methods to break down the barriers that prevent women from attaining their full potential.

Ms. Sujata Timelsina is enrolled as a graduate student in aquaculture and aquatic resources management. She is a fresh graduate of fisheries science and graduated from Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Nepal, in 2018. Before enrolling at AIT, she worked with poor farmers especially women to raise different breeds of fishes in a scientific way so that farmers could optimize their production and gain higher economic benefits to improve their livelihoods condition. She believes that aquaculture is a very profitable business to uplift the economic condition of poor farmers in Nepal. She also believes gender equity and equality bring positive changes in society, which will contribute toward building prosperity in the country.



Prof. Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe (left), Ms. Sujata Timelsina, Ms. Nant May Than Htay and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krishna R. Salin (right). Photo: Asian Institute of Technology.

GAFS at the 12AFAF

Many members of GAFS participated in the the 12th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (12AFAF) in Iloilo, Philippines, which was held April 8-12, 2019. As part of the event, GAFS ExeComm member, Prof. Alice J. Ferrer was elected to be the president of the Asian Fisheries Society's 13th Council (2019–2022). Prof. Ferrer played a leading role in organizing the successful 12AFAF event. We congratulate Prof. Ferrer on her achievements and wish her all the best in leading the AFS to greater heights.

A sharing session by Dr. Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit and the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership team titled "Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management: Sharing Program Experiences and Special Launch of Tools for Collaborative, Holistic, and Gender-Inclusive Fisheries Management" was held during the 12AFAF. This included launching a guidebook called Assessing Fisheries in a New Era: Extended Guidance for Rapid Appraisals of Fisheries Management Systems. The guidebook provides guidance on how fisheries management systems can be appraised through more holistic, modern methodologies. These include gender-sensitive approaches (based on the popular 1996 ICLARM/WorldFish Handbook on Rapid Appraisal of Fisheries Management Systems) and a training event called Gender Research for Sustainable Fisheries. This event highlighted the Gender Research in Fisheries and Aquaculture Training Handbook, which was collaboratively produced with GAFS. Apart from these sessions, the National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines (WINFISH) held a special session titled Engendering Tuna Fisheries Value Chain of General Santos City and Sarangani Bay Area. This session showcased exciting developments by WINFISH and grassroots women's groups that have built on and grown out of work done with USAID Oceans.

In addition to those sessions, Prof. Gay Defiesta led the organizing team for a session focused on gender titled "Socioeconomics, Gender, Capacity Building, and Livelihood." The professor then presented the summary of the session in the final forum plenary. A short write-up on the event by Prof. Gay is presented in the following section.

RAFMS: https://www.seafdec-oceanspartnership.org/resource/assessing-fisheries-in-a-new-era-extended-guidance-for-rapid-appraisals-of-fisheries-management-systems/

Gender: https://www.seafdec-oceanspartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/USAID-Oceans_Gender-In-Fisheries_Training-Guide_March-2019.pdf



Attendees at the Joint General Assembly of the AFSSRN and GAFS during 12AFAF on April 10, 2019.



Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries has strong presence at 12AFAF

By Gay Defiesta

The 12th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum attracted a good share of gender papers and special sessions relevant to gender. Gender presentations featured highly in Regular Scientific Session 9: Socioeconomics, Gender, Capacity Building, and Livelihood. Session 9 comprised 24 oral presentations over 4 sessions, chaired by Dr. Meryl Williams, Dr. Marietta Sumagaysay and myself, plus 5 posters. The studies presented were conducted in seven countries: Thailand, Vietnam, India, Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

The session tackled the human dimensions of fisheries and aquaculture, bringing in interdisciplinary studies from various fields of the social sciences, such as economics, sociology, community development and management just to name a few. The topics were diverse, and are categorized into eight broad overlapping themes:

- **Gender:** studies looked into gender roles/participation in livelihoods; gender mainstreaming in fishery R&D, financial literacy of women, gender equality and equity, women in disaster contexts.
- **Livelihoods:** major concerns were sustainability, profitability, production efficiency of fishery and aquaculture livelihoods; resource use patterns and livelihood options; economic conditions of fishing communities.
- **Capacity building:** some studies analyzed human resource needs for fishery R&D; training needs assessment.
- **Sustainability and resilience:** tackled resilient communities and households, adaptation strategies of fishers.
- **Vulnerability:** level of vulnerability, health conditions; social and economic vulnerability, climate change experiences and vulnerability.
- **Participation and engagement:** participation of stakeholders in livelihood opportunities; engaging local stakeholders to expand technologies.
- **Ecotourism:** these studies focused on user fees of marine protected areas, recreational value and inventory of ecotourism attractions.
- **Markets and market behavior:** which dealt with traditional fisheries supply chain management, differences in market behavior and consumer preferences.

Despite the variety, the papers generally tackled four important issues concerning communities, groups and households.

- Poverty: low standards of living, low income, lack of capacities/skills
- Marginalization: lack of or disproportionate access and control to resources and alternative livelihood opportunities; in decision-making
- Vulnerabilities in various contexts, particularly disasters; climate change risks; and environmental degradations
- Unsustainable resource use.

Several papers showcased good practices and interventions through programs that are either currently working effectively or have the potential to solve the above-mentioned problems faced by fishing communities. Among the solutions were interventions that promoted and ensured resilience of communities, groups and households; participation in planning and decision-making; equitable access and control to resources and opportunities; and capacity building and empowerment.

One common thing in most of the papers was the use of participatory methodologies. The authors immersed themselves in the communities thus they were able to identify the unique characteristics, problems and issues of those engaged in fishery and aquaculture. Further, they were able to raise and address important research questions concerning social conditions of these groups. Another common characteristic was that they dealt mostly with vulnerable groups in fisheries and aquaculture, where interventions are most needed and urgent.

In summary, the contributed papers in Session 9 provided meaningful insights on the state of research in socioeconomics, gender, capacity building and livelihoods in Asia as well as empirical evidence on the state of human well-being in this sector. They have made or could make important contributions that are useful to policymaking. The challenge now is how to translate the results into effective interventions that will address the longstanding problems in fisheries.

Joint General Assembly of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network (AFSSRN) and Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section (GAFS) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS)

Taking advantage of the presence of AFSSRN and GAFS members participating in 12AFAF, a joint general assembly was held. The assembly was chaired by Prof. Alice Ferrer and Dr. Meryl Williams to discuss potential collaborations and lessons learned from the respective bodies of the AFS. It covered the background to the formation of each body, their future plans, and scoped potential forms of collaboration before arriving at the following next steps:

- **AFSSRN to conduct an online consultation to arrive at one or a small number of focus topics** for activities (June–August 2019).
- Prof. Ferrer and Dr. Pomeroy to undertake a **scan of social science capacity**, including the countries, institutes active, and the topics and disciplines currently active in Asia, and being applied for Asian fisheries and aquaculture (May 2019–April 2020).
- GAFS and AFSSRN ExeComms to **consider running back-to-back conferences**, with some overlap (2 months to decide).
- AFSSRN and GAFS to **recommend to AFS that 13AFAF include plenary time for all the sections/ conferences to present on outcomes of their recent events.**

Release of the first GAFS newsletter in 2019

At the 12AFAF, the GAFS released its first annual newsletter. The newsletter provides an overview of exciting gender events that took place in 2018 as well as those coming up in 2019 and beyond. It featured new research and projects on gender in fisheries, a blog that examines a range of perspectives and methods employed by researchers and practitioners who participated in GAF7 to enable women's empowerment and gender equality. It also had information on the GAF Section Executive Committee. The newsletter was officially launched at by Dr. J.K. Jena.



The newsletter is launched at 12AFAF by past president Dr. J. K. Jena, shown here with a copy being presented by Dr. Meryl Williams.



The first GAFS Newsletter

Stories on major events for 2019

Events

(gender in fisheries- or aquaculture-specific conferences, and sessions at other conferences)

GAFS signs memorandum of understanding with the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies

Following formal permission from the government of the state of Kerala, India, on November 30, 2019, GAFS and the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The signing took place during the International Conference on Aquatic Resources and Blue Economy (AQUABE) 2019 in Kochi. The MOU covers areas of collaboration and networking between KUFOS and GAFS and the location of the GAFS Secretariat at KUFOS.



Signing of the KUFOS-GAFS MOU on November 30, 2019 in Kochi, Kerala. Photo L to R: Dr. Nikita Gopal, Dr. Meryl Williams, Prof. A. Ramachandran (VC KUFOS), Rtd. Justice Sukumaran, Dr. B. Manoj Kumar (Registrar, KUFOS) and Dr. TV Shankar.

**We note with great sadness that Dr. Ramachandran passed away suddenly on March 27, 2020.*

Content on new research & projects

Study on demographic change in fishing communities in Cambodia and Thailand

By Kyoko Kusakabe and Susana Siar

Fishing communities are ageing faster than the rest of the places in these countries for different reasons. In Thailand, youths are educated better, thanks to the good income from fishing in the past. Educated youths do not continue fishing, but move to urban areas for professional jobs. The old parents are left in the fishing communities, and they are able to continue fishing only with the help of cross-border migrant workers from Cambodia. On the other hand, in Cambodia fishing communities, especially in the inland areas are ageing because young people are moving out for labor migration to the city and across the border since fishery resources are decreasing, and it is becoming more and more difficult to sustain their livelihoods as fishers.

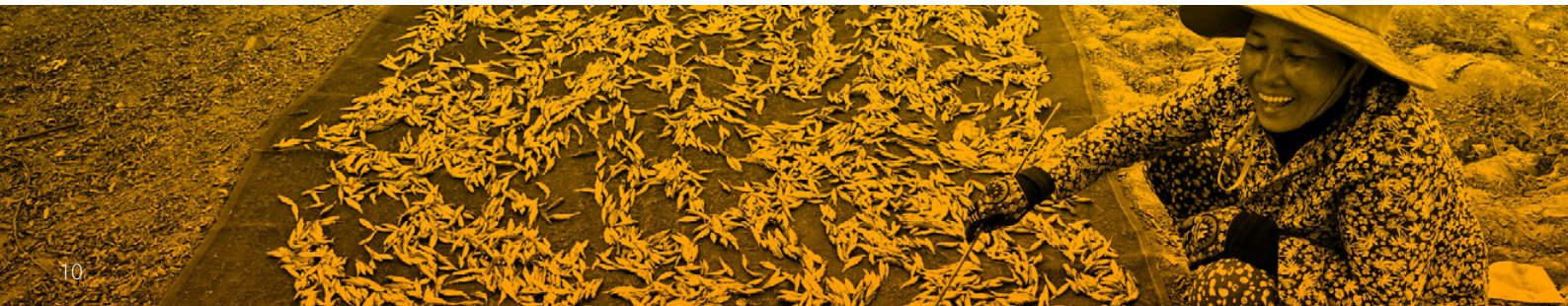
This study explored how the demographic change process is shaped by different contexts in these countries and how fishers are coping with the changes. The study area in Thailand is Trat province, looking at the marine fishing community. In Cambodia, the study was conducted in Kampong Chhnang Province for inland fisheries, and Kampot and Koh Kong provinces for marine fisheries. In-depth interviews, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were conducted in these areas.

In Thailand, the regulations introduced to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing have affected the fishing profession, which made it further unattractive as a profession for small-scale fishers. In Cambodia, the decrease in fishery resources caused by irregular rainfall, decrease in water levels, pollution, use of illegal gear as well as industrial and tourism investment have made it difficult for fishers to make a living as full-time fishers especially in the inland fishing areas. Unlike in Thailand, young fishers would like to continue fishing in Cambodia, but because it is difficult to sustain their living, they are moving out of the fishing communities.

Such demographic change has implications for gender roles and relations. Lack of labor limits women's ability to process fish, making it difficult for them to add value to the fish their husbands catch. The husbands' strong identity as fishers leads to women, as well as children, working in non-fish occupations to support the fishing profession of their husbands. The rapid ageing process in fishing communities means that daughters are expected to come back home to look after old parents. In both Thailand and Cambodia, government support for elderly as well as the pension system is very minimal, and since an ageing society is a relatively new phenomenon for these countries, fishing communities are still exploring how best to cope with the situation. In the meantime, existing gender norms expect women/daughters to fill in the void of social and state support.

The study recommends not only value added to fishing and stronger organized fishing communities but also support for elderly care and safe migration for these communities to cope better with demographic change.

This study was supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), and was carried out by the AIT with support from the Labour Protection Network (LPN) in Thailand and the Cambodia Institute for Research and Rural Development (CIRD) in Cambodia. A regional workshop in November 2019 shared the findings of the study and the situation in other countries, such as India, Indonesia, Maldives, and Myanmar. Based on the study in Thailand and Cambodia, as well as a collection of papers from some of these countries, a publication is currently being developed. It is scheduled to be published by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and edited by Susana Siar and Kyoko Kusakabe.



Dialogues in gender and coastal aquaculture: Gender and the seaweed farming value chain

By Nikita Gopal, Swathi Lekshmi, Betty Nyonje, Meryl Williams, Kyoko Kusakabe and Kafayat Fakoya

With funding support and methodology inputs from SwedBio of the Stockholm Resilience Institute of Stockholm University, GAFS has joined with partners in India (ICAR-Central Institute for Fisheries Technology and ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute) and Kenya (Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute) to implement a project on women in seaweed farming. Researchers from the AIT and the Lagos State University, Nigeria, will also be on the project advisory group.

In seaweed and other coastal aquaculture enterprises, women are locally relevant yet considered marginal in business and development, presenting challenges for creating dialogues among equals that enable women's voices and concerns to be heard. Recognizing this and the important role women play in seaweed farming, location-specific gender dialogues in seaweed farming, collecting and purchasing areas of Tamil Nadu, India, and coastal Kenya will explore viewpoints on who controls what resources and the political and economic relations that cause and are caused by the distribution of these resources. The gender dialogues aim to allow the participants to better understand the labor allocations for seaweed aquaculture and post-harvest, and provide a wider and hopefully joint understanding of livelihoods and the households' priority on labor distribution around production as well as reproductive activities. Deepening gender dialogues could help in defining good practices and in learning by practicing. Gender perspectives will also allow participants to understand better the access of different people to resources, particularly land/space. Attention will also be paid to markets critical to the seaweed value chain, and institutions embedded in the aquaculture political economy.

The project will be undertaken in 2020 and final reports are due in early 2021. The project's specific objectives are the following:

1. To find or create the motivation(s) at each site for holding the dialogues.
2. To promote engagement of fishers, farmers, researchers, policymakers, NGOs and industry representatives in participatory and interactive collaborations on gender and policy implications, including actors from outside the traditional fisheries/aquaculture field.
3. To elucidate how the impacts of globalized markets, small-scale fisheries guidelines implementations and contextualized institutions (formal and informal) determine conditions for the exclusion and struggles of women at local levels.
4. To share views and experiences on how distribution of benefits and quality of participation affect social and economic advancement.
5. To indicate emerging areas of gender and environmental policy inquiry.

At the date of writing, the project has completed its scoping work at both the India and Kenya field sites, and is well advanced in preparing the dialogues planning meeting that will be done electronically. Most international and domestic travel has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, and the project teams have developed plans to cope with three different scenarios—short-term, medium-term and long-term lockdown arrangements.



Field observations during scoping meeting in Tamil Nadu. Photo: Swathi Lakshmi



Dialogue moderation by Dr. Betty Nyonje (KMFRI) during Kenya scoping visits.

Special issue on the Gender, Technology and Development Journal

By Kyoko Kusakabe and Meryl Williams

After the 7th Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF7) conference in October 2018, the conference organizers decided to put together a special issue on gender and fisheries in the Gender, Technology and Development (GTD) journal, published by Taylor and Francis. A call for papers was made for the special issue. We are excited to inform that the following seven papers have been accepted for publication and are published as Volume 24, No. 1 of the GTD as a special issue on gender and fisheries. The papers are the following:

1. **Difficult but fulfilling: Women's lived experience as leaders in fisherfolk organizations in Bolinao, Philippines, by Sheila Marie Dasig**
2. How has organization benefitted women in the Barbados flying fishery? A look from within by Maria Pena, Patrick McConney, Bertha Simmons, Neetha Selliah
3. Gender accommodative versus transformative approaches: A comparative assessment within a post-harvest fish loss reduction intervention by Steven Michael Cole, Alexander Michael Kaminski, Cynthia McDougall, Alexander Kefi, Pamela Marinda, Modern Maliko, Johans Mtonga
4. Challenging assumptions: The gendered nature of mosquito net fishing and the implications for management, by Rebecca Short
5. Can innovation empower? Reflections on the introduction of tubular nets to women seaweed farmers in Zanzibar, by Cecile Brugere, Flower E Msuya, Narriman Jiddawi, Betty Nyonje, Ritha Maly
6. Gender-inclusive value chains: The case of seaweed farming in Zamboanga Peninsula, Philippines, by Paul Joseph Ramirez, Teresita A. Narvaez, Earl Joanne Santos-Ramirez
7. Photovoice: Documenting lives in aquaculture and fishing through a gendered photo lens, by Janine Mary Pierce

To accompany the special issue, an editorial paper titled "Expanding the horizons for women in fisheries and aquaculture" has been written by Nikita Gopal, Holly M. Hapke, Kyoko Kusakabe, Surendran Rajaratnam and Meryl J. Williams. These articles are available at https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rgtd20/24/1?nav=tocList



Mini-Blogs

Three tips for putting on a gender and fisheries training workshop

By Danika Kleiber

There is an increasing call for the integration of gender into national fisheries management agendas. But knowing that gender is important to fisheries is different than doing gender work in practice. In Vanuatu we found that it takes many people* working together to bridge that gap.

Here are a few steps we took that made our workshop a success:

1. **Make it diverse.** Gender and fisheries is one of those "in between" spaces. Fisheries experts aren't usually trained in gender and vice versa. Gender trainings are a great opportunity to bring together fisheries and environmental practitioners but also local gender experts.
2. **Make it local.** There is no one-size fits all training manual for gender and fisheries. What matters most depends on where you are in the world. This means working together with local experts to plan and facilitate the training. In Vanuatu this meant we changed the activities to match the issues that were most relevant to Vanuatu, and the workshop was delivered in the local language.
3. **Make it fun.** We made a promise that this would be a no-power point, no-lecture workshop, and we stuck to our word. Every activity was carefully chosen to be interactive, draw on people's experience and be applicable to their work. This framework encourages reflection and interpretation, without having to provide lectures and getting 'correct' answers.

For more information on the workshop activities used, please see the upcoming SPC Women In Fisheries Information Bulletin.



This training workshop was co-developed by the Pathways Project in partnership with the Vanuatu Fisheries Division team (the CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems (FISH CRP)), James Cook University, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, WorldFish Solomon Islands, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Wildlife Conservation Society Fiji. This work was funded by the ACIAR project FIS/2016/300 and undertaken as part of the FISH CRP led by WorldFish. The program is supported by contributors to the CGIAR Trust Fund.



GAFS submissions to UN consultations

GAFS made submissions to two UN consultations and encouraged its members to also make their own submissions. Both submissions were made based on inputs from GAFS members.

> ***Guiding Questions from the Committee on World Food Security's (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition***
>
> *September 2, 2019*

Our submission contains suggestions that are general and other that are specific to fisheries and women/gender in making food systems work for human nutrition.

In summary, we suggest that the guidelines accomplish the following:

- Define what is a food system.
- Recognize the often poorly developed and hybrid (modern/traditional) nature of food systems in developing countries.
- Recognize the scale of and increasing reliance on the industrial (highly processed) food value chains that are also strongly penetrating developing country food systems and impact nutrition in complex ways.
- Women and gender equality elements should be included in most topics in the guidelines, as well as in the crosscutting issues.
- The multi-sectoral approach to nutrition will need to deal directly with the contradictions among the sectors in policy priorities, such as fish export and large-scale farming/fishing over domestic nutritional outcomes from the food produced.

> ***FAO Online Consultation to Monitor the Implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines***
>
> *March 21, 2020*

The following are key messages from our detailed response:

- **Women are vital to small-scale fisheries:** Women are a large, important but poorly documented part of small-scale fisheries, creating monitoring problems within the overall Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines' monitoring challenge. Many local and national fisheries officials have a very low awareness of the gender provisions in the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines. This could lead to women's status and engagement diminishing, in spite of efforts to improve small-scale fisheries. Monitoring should be sensitive to the possibility of negative as well as positive change in gender equality.
- **Local scale monitoring is key:** The scale of monitoring should primarily be local due to the diverse forms of small-scale fisheries. Progress measured at the local level would then be collated for the regional/national levels where progress would be measured in terms of policies and programs in line with the guidelines, including special programs addressing women. Empirical studies are needed to work through model approaches, at the national level, for collecting sex-disaggregated data.

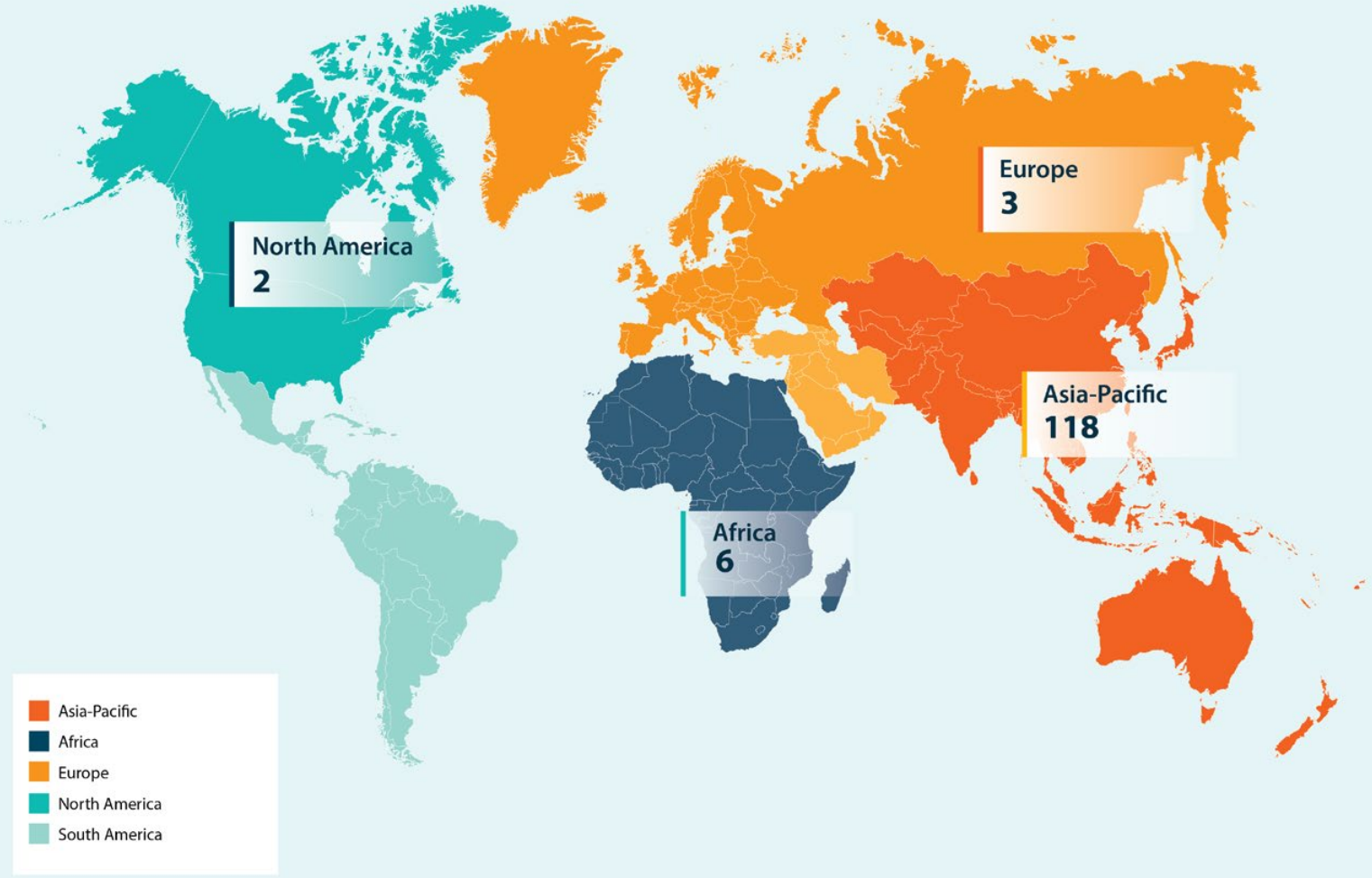
Information on members and membership

Brief info on the executive committee of GAFS

GAFS is governed by an elected executive committee of nine members, plus the past chair and the newsletter editor. The officers of the executive committee consist of the chair, past chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, election committee coordinator, constitution committee coordinator and membership committee coordinator, newsletter editor and two other elected members.

Following the election in September 2017, the first executive committee took over from GAFS' inaugural officers.

Position	Name	Affiliation	Email address
Chair	Meryl Williams	GAF Section	meryljwilliams@gmail.com
Vice-chair	Nikita Gopal	Principal scientist, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kerala, India	nikiajith@gmail.com
Secretary	Kafayat Adetoun Fakoya	Senior lecturer, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Science, Lagos State University, Nigeria	kafayat.fakoya@lasu.edu.ng
Inaugural treasurer	Arlene Nietes Satapornvanit	Gender and development specialist consultant	arlenens@gmail.com
Election committee coordinator	Mohammad Nuruzzaman	Program specialist (fisheries), Krishi Gobeshona Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh	nuruzzaman07@gmail.com
Constitution committee coordinator	Alice Joan Ferrer	Professor of economics, University of the Philippines Visayas, Philippines	aj_ferrer2005@yahoo.com
Membership committee coordinator	Danika Kleiber	Postdoctoral fellow, James Cook University, Australia	danika.kleiber@jcu.edu.au
Newsletter editor	Surendran Rajaratnam	Postdoctoral fellow, WorldFish, Malaysia	s.rajaratnam@cgiar.org
Elected member	Kyoko Kusakabe	Professor, gender and development studies head, Department of Development and Sustainability, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand	kyokok@ait.ac.th
Elected member	Indah Susilowati	Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia	indah-susilowati@rocketmail.com
Secretariat	Sijitha Mary CX	GAF Section	sijithamary90@gmail.com



Updates on GAFS members

All GAFS members are members of the AFS who have also elected to become section members, at no extra cost. As at the end of 2019, GAFS had 129 members, of whom 13 were permanent active members (see membership options). In addition, 66 previous members were yet to pay their latest AFS dues.

Congratulations to all those who are now classified as permanent active members. We urge more of you to take this route to make remaining an active AFS and GAFS member much easier.

If your fees are overdue, please pay them now, or better still, pay what is necessary to become a permanent active member!

Membership options

Discounts are available to members who make consolidated payments for a minimum of 3 years. Members also have the option to become a permanent active member (PAM) of AFS, and hence GAFS. The AFS 12th Council approved new terms and conditions for AFS membership that took effect on April 20, 2018. There is a new provision to become a PAM by paying the membership fee continuously for 15 years:

- For members from Category 1 countries, in order to become a PAM, the fee for new member is USD 250 (yearly membership fee USD 15 x 15 years + USD 25 as joining fee).
- For members from Category 2 countries, in order to become a PAM, the fee for new member is USD 410 (yearly membership fee USD 25 x 15 years + USD 35 as joining fee).

Current members for renewal:

- Must have been active members with continuous full payment of membership dues for the past 15 years.
- For those with unpaid years: Must pay the total cumulative unpaid membership fees plus any other balance in order to complete the required 15 years of continuous membership. The membership ID with photo will be provided only to PAMs.

Members who are from countries outside of Asia will need to pay for the cost to remit their annual membership fee to the Asian Fisheries Society's office in Malaysia. The section is exploring options to enable members around the world to make payments without incurring any/much additional cost.

News on GAFS members

1. Editorial and articles published in the journal of Maritime Studies:
   - Situated transformations on women and gender relations in small-scale fisheries and communities in a globalized world by Katia, Siri & Danika
   - Women fishers in Norway: few, but significant by Siri & Danika
   - Fisheries women groups in Japan: a shift from well-being to entrepreneurship by Kumi Seojima & Katia Frangoudes
   - Managing Mercado del Mar: a case of women's entrepreneurship in the fishing industry by Carmen Pedroza-Gutierrez
   - Expanding the horizons: connecting gender and fisheries to the political economy by Meryl Williams
2. Publication by Sarah Lawless and colleagues: Gender norms and relations: Implications for agency in coastal livelihoods
3. Joint general assembly chaired by Prof. Alice Ferrer and Dr. Meryl Williams with members of AFSSRN and GAFS to discuss future collaboration between the two and to canvass ideas for growing AFSSRN. This was held during the 12th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum in Iloilo, Philippines
4. The Pacific Handbook for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture was launched at the Heads of Fisheries meeting at the Pacific Community in Noumea on March 11, 2019
5. A special event called "Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management: Sharing Program Experiences and Special Launch of Tools for Collaborative, Holistic, and Gender-Inclusive Fisheries Management" was organized by the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership team with Dr. Arlene Nietes Satapronvanit on April 11, 2019
6. The release of a new guide on gender in fisheries by Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT): Gender in Fisheries – A sea of opportunities on International Women's Day 2019.
7. Study of the role of women in fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea was published on February 2, 2019
8. Women and the future of the seafood industry keynote speech by Meryl Williams in the World Seafood Congress from September 9–11, 2019
9. Gender equity & equality in the SSF Guidelines webinar by Danika Kleiber & Katia Frangoudes on the April 16–17, 2019
10. IIFET Gender Liaison – several GAFS members
11. Pew Marine Fellows monthly newsletter – by Meryl Williams, Pew Marine program advisor
12. USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership and SEAFDEC organized the Regional Workshop on Gender Integration in Fisheries on January 21–23, 2020 for Gender Focal Persons from SEAFDEC Technical Departments and ASEAN member states.
13. Practical guide for gender analysis in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia (2020) was published by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Bangkok, Thailand.
14. Women Leaders and Gender Champions Profiles in Fisheries by USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership was launched on International Women's Day 2020.
15. USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership and SEAFDEC launched the gender videos:
    a. The Hidden Half (Part 1): Women's Role in Southeast Asia's Fisheries
    b. The Hidden Half (Part 2): Gender Research in Southeast Asia's Fisheries



List of communication channels for GAFS



GAFS continues its strong internet and social media presence through its website and its Facebook and Twitter feeds. Key stories are compiled and relayed to GAFS members in the monthly news digest by email, called "Keeping up with GAF" by Sijitha Mary in the Secretariat.

GAFS has a number of communications channels where you can stay up to date with our latest activities, get in touch and interact with us.

- GAF Section website
- GAF Conference website
- GAF Section milestones
- GAF Section on Facebook
- GAF Section Twitter
- GAF Section mailing list

List of upcoming gender/women and men in fisheries and aquaculture events

GAF8 – 8th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries

Save the dates April 6–9, 2021 to come to Kochi, Kerala, India for GAF8!
(Date subject to reconsideration based on disruptions from the COVID-19 crisis.)

Following an open advertisement, the GAFS ExeComm team selected the Society of Fisheries Technologist (India) (SOFTI) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR CIFT) to co-organize the 8th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF8) with us. The event will take place in Kochi, a city in southwest India's coastal Kerala state. The city is renowned for not only fisheries and aquaculture sector but also for its exotic beaches, ancient temples and heritage architectures.

GAF8 is being planned as a major forum for the exchange of new knowledge, to foment plans and action to capture the wave of increasing interest in gender in aquaculture and fisheries. Expect different formats and opportunities in 2021. On November 26, in Kochi, the detailed planning started with discussions between Dr. C. N. Ravishankar (president of SOFTI and director of ICAR-CIFT), and Drs. Meryl Williams and Nikita Gopal.

The various committees are being formed now, although the global COVID-19 crisis has put some preparations on pause for the moment.

The GAFS ExeComm, through intense discussion, and noting the taglines of past event, has selected the tagline for GAF8: Shaping the Future: Gender Justice for Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries.

See you at GAF8!



Designer Mahato Kumar Mahato, who designed our GAFS logo, has delivered this stunning GAF8 poster

We gratefully acknowledge the CGIAR Fish program for their generous support in producing this Newsletter on our behalf.