



Nikita Gopal is Principal Scientist with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi, Kerala, India. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and has more than two decades of research experience in the fisheries sector. Her areas of work included trade and markets; evaluation of fisheries technologies; socio-economic studies in fishing communities; fisheries cooperatives; ITKs in marine fisheries; and labour issues in the sector.

For the past several years she has also been actively engaged in gender research in fisheries and aquaculture and has worked on women in seafood processing, small scale fisheries, marketing and other post-harvest activities. In collaboration with the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) she has worked on an international project on gender in aquaculture in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR, which was focused on gender in small scale aquaculture systems. She was coordinator of a recently concluded project funded by SewdBio, to identify issues of women seaweed farmers in India and Kenya and arrive at participatory solutions through dialogues with different stakeholders. She has also associated with the ICSF in their capacity building programmes for fisherwomen and men on the FAO SSF Guidelines.

Action research projects carried out included development and dissemination of coastal zone management strategies involving women and children; and for improved fish where women are mainly involved. She led a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder, participatory project for clam fishers. This project had a sustained long term engagement for about ten years with stakeholders, including the local government, and resulted in formation of fisherwomen clusters, capacity building in improved methods of processing clam, drudgery relief and value addition to improve household incomes. Through the project an improved clam processing facility was established.

She is Vice Chair of the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF) Section of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) and has received the AFS Gold Medal (2019), AFS Merit Award (2013) and AFS Certificates of Appreciation (2016) for her contribution to gender research and for her organizational role in the GAF events. She is a Fellow of the Society of Fisheries Technologists of India (FSFT). She is Member of the Executive committee of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network

<https://cift.res.in/>

