Women in Aquaculture: Successful in their own right ... They are making it happen!

International Women’s Day
8 March 2015

#MakeItHappen
Dr. Meryl Williams, Australia

“Gender inequity in the fishery and aquaculture sectors is growing, made worse with the increasing mechanization, modernization and global trade regimes for fish, where women and many low-paid men are at a great disadvantage.”

• Mentor, NACA Gender Programme
• Former DG, WorldFish Center
• http://genderaquafish.org
Ma Gina Regalado
Philippines

“Women in aquaculture are a special breed. They are courageous to be exposed to nature’s elements & have the passion to apply science & technology to a dynamic & unpredictable industry. Their love & care for their families transcend to their care & concern to their environment. I am blessed and fortunate to be part of it & be actively involved.”

- BSc Fisheries (Inland Aquaculture)
- Aqua Feed Formulator/Nutritionist, INTAQ Feeds
- QC Officer, INTAQ Feedmill
- Technical Consultant for Growout Farms
- VP Marketing, INTAQ Foods
Ms Saovanee N.
Shrimp Farm Manager, Thailand

“As farm manager, I can make my own decisions. I can obtain information and knowledge through various media, discussions with farm owner and friends in the business, and attending training and shrimp-related events.”
Ms. Siyarut Isarawongchhai
Thailand

• Bio-shrimp farmer
• Entrepreneur
• Wholesale market owner

“I have no difficulty to mingle with women & men in this industry. Women have the right to do what they want to do & can say what they want. We can discuss and help each other.”
Dr Amonrat Sermwatanakul, Thailand

• Ornamental Fish Expert
• National Gender Focal Point for Fisheries
• Established training course for online marketing for small scale ornamental fish farmers
• Founder, “DrNoi.com” – a social networking knowledge think tank and global communication tool for ornamental fish farmers, retailers, exporters

https://www.facebook.com/pages/DrNoicom/275784472581860

#MakeItHappen
“Women have long been involved in various aspects of fishery production but their capacity to engage in resource management & sustainable livelihoods still needs to be increased through training. Let us keep advocating for policies that protect these women’s needs and interests.”
Prof Alice Joan G. Ferrer, Philippines

• University professor
• Researcher
• Public servant

"I conduct research in aquaculture to look for evidence to inform decision/policy-makers. Research also enriches my teaching with real-life stories to share with my students."
Dr Suprananee Chinabut
Thailand

- Aquatic Animal Health Expert
- University Lecturer
- Senior Fisheries Adviser

“Women in Thai Department of Fisheries have equal rights to work and be promoted. I never found it difficult to work due to the supportive and non-discriminatory environment.”
Mrs. Mam S.  
Thailand

• Tilapia cage farmer (1st one to establish in her area)
• Rice farmer

“I have more control of our fish and rice farming business than my husband. I can make my own decisions about farm operations. I can do everything that a man can do in the farm, even heavy work. People here perceive me as economically better-off.”
Dr. Marieta Bañez Sumagaysay, Philippines

• Social Scientist
• Advocate for women fishers’ economic empowerment
• President, National Network on Women in Fisheries in the Philippines (2014-2016)

“\textit{I dream of gender-responsive work spaces along upgraded fisheries and aquaculture value chains.}”
Nguyen Thi Kim Quyen, Vietnam

- University Lecturer
- MSc in Aquatic Resources Management
- Researcher, Fisheries Socio-Economics

“As a woman, I am proud of my contribution to fisheries education in the country.”

#MakeItHappen
Dr Malasri Khumsri, Thailand

• Coordinator, Gender in Fisheries Program, Mekong Region

“I know that conditions for women still have a long way to go in achieving real equality and equity in society. BUT, I am confident we (women) have made significant contributions and progress in aquaculture and fisheries development in my country and region.”
Dr Temdoung Somsiri
Thailand

- Director, Inland Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute
- Manages 40-50 Institute staff
- Working Group, Clinical Lab Standards Institute of America

“Aquatic animal health profession is favorable to women, and fits women’s abilities and interests in lab work.”

#MakeItHappen
Ms Sunee Kanrith
Thailand

• Small-scale Shrimp Farmer
• School Teacher

“I have a farm manager who handles the farm operations. When I visit my farm, I can interact with my manager and workers without any difficulty.”

#MakeItHappen
Dr Sirisuda Jumnongsong
Thailand

- University lecturer
- Researcher
- Fisheries Expert

“I believe that my expertise in academic, research and knowledge generation can contribute to successful aquaculture and fisheries development.”

#MakeItHappen
Dr Puttharat Baoprasertkul
Thailand

• Head, Molecular Biological Laboratory
• Head, Inland Aquatic Animal Research Section, IAAHRI, DOF

“Women make good researchers esp. working in the laboratory, as they are patient, careful at work, and they think about everything and every step.”
Dr. Melba G. Bondad-Reantaso

- FAO/UN Officer
- Aquatic animal health specialist
- Policy and research advisor
- Facilitator

“Dealing with a transboundary theme – aquatic animal diseases, the scope of my responsibility takes me to farmers and to ministers; as well as working with experts & scientists. It is important to be pragmatic, but at the same time mindful of the small details & cognizant of the big picture.”

“Passionate and consistent commitment, quality work, sharing responsibilities, positive outlook... all essential to the process!”
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