



# **AQUACULTURE**

## WITHOUT FRONTIERS

**Improving lives through sustainable aquaculture  
since 2003**

Presented by Roy Palmer

21 February 17

# Aquaculture without Frontiers: Participate

## AwF Women & Gender Network

“A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle.”

Gloria Steinem (1934-)

**Wilma Pearl Mankiller** (November 18, 1945 – April 6, 2010) was the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation



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# Aquaculture without Frontiers: Participate

## AwF Women & Gender Network

### **PARDON OUR PROGRESS – AwF WOMEN/GENDER**

The Women in Aquaculture session at the World Aquaculture Conference in Adelaide in June 2014 was the catalyst for establishing the Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF) Women/Gender Network. The Network has grown to a 600+ membership but like all volunteer groups the Network ebbs and flows based on the efforts of small core of people. Anyone can easily join in discussions and get information by networking at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/awfwomen>.



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# Aquaculture without Frontiers: Participate

## AwF Women & Gender Network

### Aims of award

To promote and foster pride in, and recognition of, outstanding achievements which advance our goals and values

To develop an appreciation of the diversity and depth of personal and community achievement within women in aquaculture/seafood

To promote and recognize individual aquaculture/seafood women for the time and dedication they have demonstrated for members of the community

To provide positive role models for women in aquaculture/seafood.



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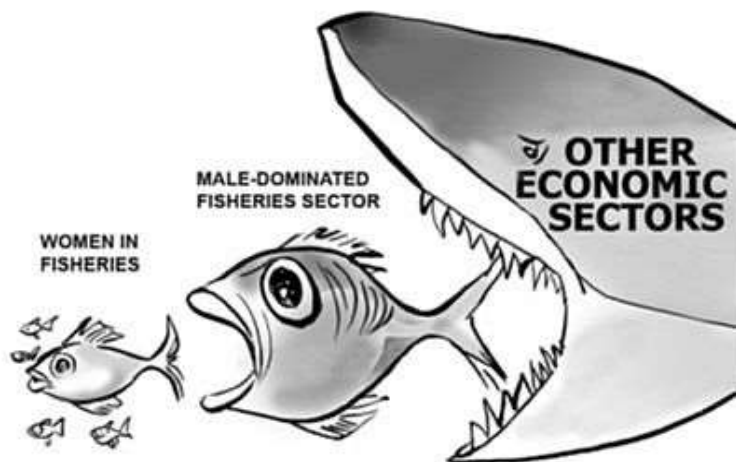


# The Gender Dimension

GAF Women & Gender Network –Meryl Williams

Bangkok- Aug 2016

Gleanings from 20 Years of Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Symposia (started 1990)



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# Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries: AFS

## AwF Women & Gender Network

### Women & Aquaculture

Based on recent presentations at:

- International Institute for Fisheries Economics and Trade 2016 biennial conference, Aberdeen, 11-15 July 2016, and
- 6<sup>th</sup> Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, Asian Fisheries Society, Bangkok, Thailand, 3-7 August 2016



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# Women and Aquaculture

- Aquaculture is gendered
  - Women's and men's roles, enabling and constraining factors, costs and benefits
  - Little research on women/gender and aquaculture
    - A review in progress (**Surendran, GAF6**) found that nearly half the papers were on Bangladesh; Nigeria and Egypt were next.
    - The studies tend to be descriptive, only a few discuss underlying reasons for gendered roles and responsibilities or develop and use theories to explain the findings.
- @IIFET-2016 and GAF6
  - 21/82 (26%) presentations on women/gender and aquaculture in the two GAF events
  - Similar percent of aquaculture papers as in 7 previous Asian Fisheries Society women/gender in fisheries/aquaculture symposia over 19 years





# Why are women not better positioned in aquaculture?

- Women and aquaculture get far **less attention even than women and fisheries**
  - Women/gender not on the aquaculture policy agenda
- Often **assumed that women will prosper** because modern aquaculture is not burdened by historical baggage on gender roles as found in fisheries
  - **Not so!** Gender roles and relationships in aquaculture follow social patterns of ownership, rights and power typical of similar economic sectors
- Only if women break out as entrepreneurs, innovators under their own volition or with help, they remain **positioned in small scale, near-home, and low technology aquaculture enterprises**, or as **low-paid labour** in medium and industrial scale operations
  - This is often accepted by society as suitable/normal and not explored further
  - Small scale household aquaculture can be valuable for food security and nutrition, but often needs expert help to find the benefits



# 1. Women not on aquaculture policy agendas

- **National commitments to, action on gender equality needed** (Malasri Khumsri, IIFET-2016)
  - Many countries do not give priority to gender in practical and policy programs; if the international bodies do not do this, little happens at the national level
- ***2014 Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication***
  - First global fisheries instrument incorporating gender equality; national action underway, including on gender
  - Does not cover aquaculture
- **All present guidelines, certification schemes for responsible aquaculture do not include gender specific terms** (Henk Peters, GAF6)
  - Issues of social responsibility are starting to come into such schemes
  - However, many governmental, private sector or non-governmental efforts have integrated gender efforts to support smallholders
- **Women need GAP training** (Malasri Khumsri, IIFET-2016)
  - Tilapia cage farms, Mekong River, Nong Khai Prov. NE northeast Thailand: if prices low, male farmers migrated for work; women then fully responsible
  - Gender-specific GAP programmes needed to give women full knowledge



## 2. Small scale, near-home, and low tech.../1

- (a) Many studies verify women positioned mainly in small scale aquaculture
  - **Indonesia FAO study** (Irna Sari GAF6)
    - low women's participation in shrimp farming; mostly in lowly or unpaid labour
  - **Indonesia Nusa Tenggara Timur seaweed farming** (Ria Fitriana, GAF6)
    - Family businesses; women generally work close to home but in Rote district women had their own farm sites –Rote women's enterprises generally more individualistic than those in other areas
  - **Philippines: Introducing sea ranching of sea cucumber, Guimaras** (Jee Grace Suyu, GAF6)
    - Social initiatives of project introduced after biological stages (a common sequence)
    - Women, men responded differently depending on where they gleaned, fished, farmed and made charcoal, income levels, membership of and trust in local organisations
    - Women responded more to information, education and communication incentives to join project; men sought technical knowledge



## 2. Small scale, near-home, and low tech.../2

(a) *Many studies verify women positioned mainly in small scale aquaculture (cont'd)*

- **Bangladesh** (Shahroz Haque, GAF6)
  - survey of aquaculture households - women involved in aquaculture in 65%: 30% homestead aquaculture; 23% commercial fish farming; 12% shrimp culture
- **Bangladesh: women-friendly technologies, Khulna** (Runia Mowla, IIFET-2016)
  - Technologies aimed to end women's drudgery and improve production efficiency in shrimp, fish farming
  - Women quickly learned, applied the new technologies successfully; but men still made the farm decisions
  - Women felt the technologies added to their work burden and cost of farming
- **India: Rainbow Revolution not working for women in Maharashtra State** (Bharat Yadav, GAF6)
  - Gendered analysis of beneficiaries of schemes to promote export ornamental fish; access and control of household, fishery and financial resources
  - Women rated almost all their benefits as weak (low and medium only)
  - Community norms, including the prevailing social hierarchy, institutional structures and lack of basic know-how influenced women's positions



## 2. Small scale, near-home, and low tech.../3



*(a) Many studies verify women positioned mainly in small scale aquaculture (cont'd)*

- **Nigeria: Culture, education, technology and women's integration into aquaculture, 5 coastal states (Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Delta, Cross River)** (Yemi Akegbejo-Samsons, IIFET-2016)
  - Women did not adopt many basic aquaculture technologies
  - Women more likely to adopt fish processing technology; 40% of women used smoking technology; plus 20% used packaging, product quality technologies
  - Experience overrode formal education; 22-44% women had higher education, but few in aquaculture
  - To integrate women into aquaculture, must consider culture, education and technology
- **Nigeria: farmed catfish and tilapia value chains, Delta State** (Bernadette Fregene, IIFET-2016)
  - Surveyed fish farmers, traders/retailers, fish processors, restaurants, consumers, service providers
  - Women fish farmers had lower profits than men; women had less access to productive assets of paid labor and credit
  - Women processors found smoked catfish the most lucrative market
  - Cooperatives may make labor, finance more accessible, but women need household consent to act
- **Nigeria: smoked catfish value chain, Ondo State** (Ojuotimi Mafimisebi, IIFET-2016)
  - Women's perceptions - utility, adequacy of micro-credit; performance of businesses before and after receiving credit
  - Credit - significant positive impact on business returns, but loans difficult to obtain - loan guarantor needed

## 2. Small scale, near-home, and low tech.../4



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### *(b) How small scale enterprises can deliver better nutritional results*

- Studies show that small scale aquaculture, suitably improved, can help household nutrition (from the work of AquaFish Innovation Lab)
- **Bangladesh, southwest mud crab fattening** (Shahroz Haque, GAF6)
  - ~40% of mud crab fattening run by women; lucrative export markets but most farmers poorly educated, many had poor diets and were malnourished; pilot farms added tilapia to mud crab farms → improved mud crab growth and production, household members better nourished from eating tilapia
- **Southern Nepal polyculture of carp and small indigenous (SIS) fish** (Sunila Rai, GAF6)
  - 28 women, 7 men farmers trained to improve productivity of polyculture under reduced feeding (Mishrit, Sundardeep coops); adding periphyton to locally available bamboo as substrate
  - → more fish, including more SIS compared to full feed baseline; more high-nutrient SIS eaten by the families
- **AquaFish Innovation Lab strategies for closing gender gap in aquaculture, improving nutrition** (Jenna Borberg, GAF6)
  1. 50% benchmark of women and men in all AquaFish training
  2. Women scientists, administrators had project research leadership roles and mentored
  3. Program research focused on women's roles, barriers to participation, and roles in household nutrition
  4. Gender inclusion monitored, evaluated through sex-disaggregated data, gender analysis



# 3. Women aquaculture entrepreneurs



- Good news stories that surprise
- **Siamese fighting fish** (Amonrat Sermwatanakul aka Dr Noi, GAF6)
  - In Thailand, Dr Noi created new horizons, after 30 yrs traditional extension
  - **Branding and social media** helped 2nd gen growers lift trade to new level
  - Many growers are women: e.g., in Nakhon Pathom Province half are women
  - Facebook, group training connected producers with each other and thousands of buyers; Dr Noi gave training in branding, product photography, and online marketing to local and global aquarium markets, e.g., AquaBid
- **Fish cage culture**, Ernakulam, Kerala (Imelda-Joseph, GAF6)
  - 2007: cage farming started as an R&D project; women not involved
  - 2015: a women fish seller with problem husband noted men making cages: she started following procedures; 6-7 women joined, and more now following
  - Women headed for equality in Ernakulam fish cage aquaculture
- **Yangon (Myanmar) poor farmers learn agribusiness skills** (Ram Bhujel, GAF6)
  - Asian Institute of Technology aquaculture experts, donors, gov'tment worked with women in 11 villages to improve integrated agribusiness operations
  - Women became good detailed record-keepers; small scale prawn, pig, goat farming thrived

## 4. Additional lessons from women and fisheries

- Much needs to be done to remove barriers that exclude women from the decision-making tables and to fulfil plans for inclusion. These actions could start with registering and counting women and their activities, planning and allocating funds for gender action and ensuring that expertise is available for implementing the plans.
- Conditions should be fostered in which women can speak up and act on their own behalf – in fisheries, women who agitated for their own/group rights were the only ones to succeed.
- Gender champions should be nurtured.
- Gender differences should not be accepted as reasons for excluding women or restricting them to lesser work.
- Ultimately, social and fish sector norms will have to be transformed; they currently may stand in the way of gender equality and equity.



# Conclusions



## What are we going to do about this?

- Women not visible in aquaculture policies e.g., national, global policies, certification, GAP training
- In aquaculture, unless women speak out on their own behalf, make their way as entrepreneurs or receive help to develop their businesses and skills, they may be restricted to small scale, near-home, and low technology enterprises, or as poorly paid labour in medium and industrial scale operations.
- When women are given or take initiative, their success can surprise.
- Aquaculture sector organisations must recognize that social and sectoral norms often must be transformed before women can succeed.



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# Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries: AFS

## AwF Women & Gender Network

### Women & Aquaculture

Draft a profile of Women in Aquaculture to provide basic but authoritative material on the contributions, role, and issues for women in aquaculture globally.

- o Process managed by a small team from AwF Women's Network (Meryl leading this and volunteers required to assist)
- o Final profile, accompanied by suitable photos and graphics uploaded on the AwF website, with potential use of the profile or an adapted version also by Genderaquafish of the Asian Fisheries Society and other similar global groups

Short presentation of animated slides that can be used for background and made available



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# Thank you

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