

The Gender Dimension in Climate Change Adaptation: Gleanings from 20 Years of Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Symposia

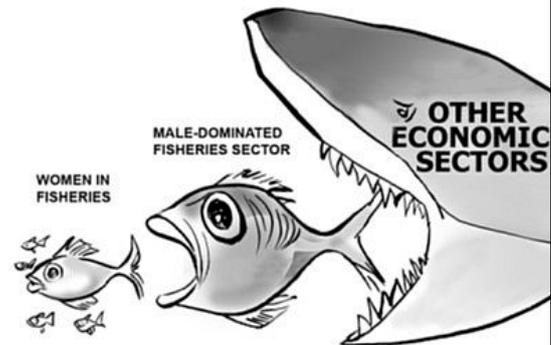
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Outline

1. Introduction
2. Sources of relevant gender studies
3. A plea to be cautious of standard gender narratives
4. 3 themes emerging from the AFS-GAF papers – stressing that gendered approaches give more opportunity to understanding and solving adaptation challenges
5. Reflections on our group's journey to address gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries
6. Conclusions

1. Introduction

- Adaptation now receiving more attention in fisheries and aquaculture
 - Direct impacts of change and more intense droughts, storms, sea level rise and temperatures
 - So far, research has focused on predicting biophysical changes, only recently exploring economic and social impacts
- Despite a growing number of vulnerability and risk assessments, the gender dimension has not yet found a niche in climate adaptation studies.
- Drawing on >2 decades of women in fisheries/gender in aquaculture and fisheries work from Asian Fisheries Society Women/Gender Symposia

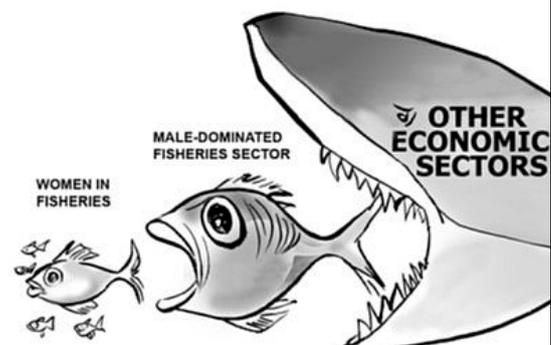


Yemaya (ICSF), 2008

1. Introduction

Gender in FishAdapt <-FishAdapt <-Climate mitigation

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2. Building a base for gendered adaptation knowledge

- Papers and unpublished presentations from 8 women/gender in fisheries and aquaculture symposia of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) plus 3 earlier national and regional Asian events associated with AFS since 1990 (26 years) – GAF6 finished on Saturday 6 Aug. 2016
- Relevance:
 - All regions, though more from Asia and the Pacific than other regions
 - Themes of climate change, natural and human disasters, e.g. typhoons, tsunamis, floods, oil spills
 - Fast and slow actions, with varying scales of impact – like many climate change actions
 - Still only a small body of work, but reveals insights to guide future work

2. The gender in aquaculture and fisheries papers and presentations

- 1990-2004 – a dearth of relevant work
 - 5 conference proceedings, containing 108 papers of national, sub-regional and regional scope
 - Only one paper mentioned “climate vagaries”, 2 mentioned “weather,” 2 mentioned “climate change” in passing
- 2007-2011 – a small start on climate change and disasters
 - 2 volumes, containing 30 papers
 - 3 papers addressed climate change, 2 dealt with disasters (oil spill, tsunami)
- 2013-2016 – sessions become possible
 - 2 volumes, containing 34 papers; 1 symposium, 58 presentations
 - 12 papers/presentations on climate change, climate stress, typhoons (Fengshen, Haiyan) and an oil spill
 - GAF Symposium sessions on Gendered Change (2013), Climate Change and Natural Disasters (2014), and Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness (2016)

3. The prevailing gender narrative equates women and gender

- There is a direct relationship between gender equality, women's empowerment and climate change. On the one hand, women are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which could, in turn, exacerbate existing gender disparities. On the other hand, women have unique knowledge and skills that can help make the response to climate change more effective and sustainable. Climate change policies that therefore take account of gender-based vulnerability and the unique contribution that women can make could help advance gender equality and women's empowerment while fighting climate change.

UNDP Global Gender and Climate Alliance, 2012

- **Vs Christine Okali 2013** Women and climate change: another special relationship? *Future Agricultures Blog*
 - Relationships are much more complex than this!
 - And can the focus really be on women alone??

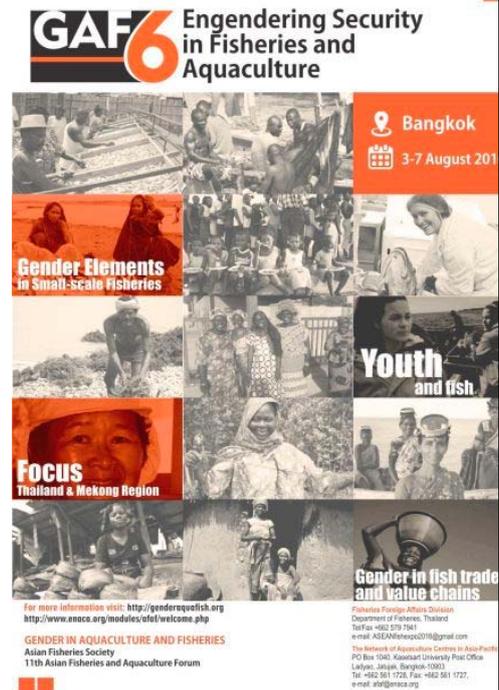
3. A plea for more empirical approaches*

- Policies focused only on women are unlikely to bring a sustainable increase in their – or society's – adaptive capacity in the face of climate change
- Don't start from the premise of weak women coping by themselves, but build policy from context-specific analyses of social relations, including gender relations, to show:
 - how relations with others influence individual decision making
 - how changes in gender relations are negotiated and renegotiated in response to both threats and opportunities arising from external and internal (to households/families etc.) sources
 - the trade-offs that responding to these changes entail for everyone.

Okali, C. and L.O. Naess (2013) Making sense of gender, climate change and agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa: Creating gender-responsive climate adaptation policy. Working Paper 057, Future Agricultures.

4. Themes emerging

- Why more nuanced understanding comes when a gender lens is used
- Are flexibility and versatility a key to resilience?
- Always question gender-blind responses



4A. Better understanding by using a gender lens

- Mapping women's, men's and youth work gives a more complete understanding
 - Go beyond fish production and include supply chains, and reproductive and community work around communities.
 - Examples:
 - women's fish processing (supply of fish [Lake Chapala (Pedroza-Gutiérrez 2016), rain/sun, temperature, water/energy/food nexus (M.B. Sumagaysay 2016)])
 - Women's and men's fishing areas and the extent to which each is affected by changes/disasters [Solar 1 oil spill (Asong et al 2007) where women's inshore areas were more affected than men's more offshore areas, vs Typhoon Fengshen widespread flooding that affected women and men similarly, and did not result in outmigration of men (Bagsit et al 2014)]
 - Go beyond simple measures of gender differences – social science tools needed
 - Lebel & Lebel (2016) – attitudes towards coping with climate risk in inland aquaculture were not strongly gendered, but emotions were. Decisions not made just on analytical logic. Important to take emotions into account, but more difficult to access.
 - Bagsit et al (2014) – preferences for coping actions seem gendered, but actions were not

4B. Do flexibility and versatility lead to resilience?

- Flexibility in income opportunities seems to improve household and community resilience
 - In Tamil Nadu, men migrated for work after losing their fishing livelihoods in the tsunami, leaving women to head the households. Researchers, NGOs and others introduced brackishwater aquaculture to the women to diversity their livelihoods, but no local opportunities were provided the men (Shanthi et al 2016)
 - As Lake Chapala water levels and fish catch dropped, women fish filleters brought in fish from elsewhere to keep their business going (Pedroza-Gutiérrez 2016). What would be the impact if more opportunities were available to men too?
- Across a wider range of situations, more work is needed to examine why migration occurs (and not), how it is linked to climate change and its gendered impacts

4C. Always question gender-blind responses

- “Every time people come here to give aid they give boats! What about aid specifically for women?” (M.B. Badayos-Jover 2016)
 - But its not simple: even women can use a boat (ibid), and, after a coastal disaster, men seem to lose more income from fishing than other sources (H.J. Mediodia 2016)
 - Do we know enough about assessing women’s needs in emergency relief? (De Fiesta and Badayos-Jover 2014 – gender assessments and gender-sensitive targeting of beneficiaries)
 - Why are women not included in more paid-reconstruction opportunities? (Badayos-Jover and De Fiesta 2014).

5. Reflections on our group's journey to address gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries

- A long journey, still in its early stages
 - Millennia of social, cultural and economic headwinds
 - Entrenched fisheries and aquaculture research, policy, industry and small scale fish supply chains that are more response to economic and market than to gender equality needs
 - Inadequate understanding of the gender dimension , and few tools to apply on the ground
- AFS-GAF informal group began to coalesce in 1998, on the back of some some earlier events, all instigated by Dr M.C. Nandeeshha
- Professional society base – so rather academic, although attracting more project people, tho' few grassroots group representatives
 - Tho' Asian based, global in outreach
 - Symposia outputs (papers, presentations), rich website: <http://genderaquafish.org/>, social media, list
 - Asian Fisheries Society formal GAF Section now approved

5. Reflections on our group's journey to address gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries

- GAF researchers and focal points most often trained in biophysical science or economics
 - Little conceptual and theoretical understanding in social sciences
 - At GAF6, held our first GAF-101 Training Workshop
 - ***Theorizing Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Research***
 - Led by gender researchers with fisheries expertise
 - Beyond the superficial and descriptive, e.g., divisions of fish supply chain labor by sex
 - **Theory is not a big scary thing!** We do it everyday.
 - Theory encourages us to ask the questions **WHY?**

PPT from GAF-101

<https://genderaquafish.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/gaf101-2016-final-w-sources.pdf>

6. Conclusions

- GAF researchers need to contribute more to FishAdapt work
- The small amount of research now undertaken is valuable, including disaster impact and reconstruction studies
 - Gender lens provides more nuanced understanding of needs and solutions
 - Are flexibility and versatility a key to resilience?
 - Always question gender-blind responses, and don't accept the simplistic women's special roles and opportunities narratives – keep asking why
- Do we need Gender and FishAdapt 101 Training Workshops?

References used

Page with links for all references

<https://genderaquafish.org/resources-3/asian-fisheries-society-genderwomen-and-fisheries-resources/>

Note: References for GAF5 will be loaded shortly, as will the PPTs and Abstracts for presentations at GAF6 (<https://genderaquafish.org/2016-gaf6-august-bangkok-thailand/gaf6-program-abstracts-and-ppts/>)

1. Climate, weather, disasters in AFS WIF, GAF documents

WIF India (1990)

- No mention

WIF Cambodia (1995)

- No mention

WIF Indo-China (1996)

- S. Lavant *Women in development in the Lao PDR*
- Climate vagaries

WIF-Asia (1998)

- E. Hamley *Practical measures for the enhancement of women fishers' status and the improvement of community participation and benefits.*
- weather

WIF-Global (2001)

- L. Lambeth et al *An overview of the involvement of women in fisheries activities in Oceania*
- Weather (Palau)

GAF1 (2004)

- J. Kafarowski *Valuing local knowledge in the Canadian Arctic: how the involvement of local peoples results in relevant resource management decisions*
- I. Novaczek, J. Mitchell *Constructing realities: documenting women's fisheries in the Pacific Islands*
- Climate change mentioned in passing

2. Climate, weather, disasters in AFS WIF, GAF documents

GAF2 (2007)

R.H. Asong et al *Impact of oil spill on women, men and children in coastal areas of a Philippine island and assessment of differential gender interventions for recovery and rehabilitation* (PPT)

S. Chinnaraja et al *Strategies for gender and social inclusion in fisheries technology for sustainable livelihoods in tsunami affected area* (PPT)

GAF3 (2011)

M. Williams et al *Guest Editorial: Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries : Moving the Agenda Forward*

A. Lentisco, E. Alonso. *On Gender Mainstreaming Strategies and Tools in Fisheries Development Projects: RFLP Gender Strategy and Lessons from the Asia-Pacific Region*

Z. Anna *The Role of Fisherwomen in the Face of Fishing Uncertainties on the North Coast of Java, Indonesia*

- Climate change

3. Climate, weather, disasters in AFS WIF, GAF documents

GAF4 (2013) Gendered Change Session

M.B. Badayos-Jover and G.D. Defiesta *Gendered concerns in coastal disasters: an analysis of women's political subordination and prospects for empowerment*

G.D. Defiesta and M.B. Badayos-Jover *Do catastrophes exacerbate gender bias? An analysis of coastal women's experiences of economic marginalisation in a disaster context*

F.U. Bagsit et al *Do Adaptation and Coping Mechanisms to Extreme Climate Events Differ by Gender? The Case of Flood Affected Households in Dumangas, Iloilo, Philippines*

F. Majid and I.F. Purwanti *Vulnerable Women's Roles in Securing Household Income Under the Circumstances of Climate Change in Brackish Water Pond Businesses in Pati Regency, Central Java-Indonesia: Towards an adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (PPT)*

GAF5 (2014)

N. Gopal et al *Guest editorial: Gender in aquaculture and fisheries – the long journey to equality*

M.B. Sumagaysay *Women Fishers Weathering Yolanda: Her stories of Building Resilience in Times of Natural Disasters (PPT)*

I. Susilowati *Survival of Women Fishers in Securing Their Household's Income Under Climate Change: A Case Study in Pekalongan – Indonesia*

GAF6 (2016) Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Session

P. Lebel and L Lebel *Gender and Emotions in the Management of Climate-Related Risks in Inland Aquaculture*

B. Shanthy *Assessing the Impact of Environmental Changes on the Livelihoods of Coastal Women with Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA)*

M.B. Badayos-Jover *Security in adversity: coastal women's agency in the aftermath of Haiyan*

H.J.P. Mediodia et al *Income of Fishing Households before and after Typhoon Haiyan: A Study on Coastal Communities of Batan and Altavas, Aklan, Philippines*

M. Chow and H. Egna *Gender dimensions in disaster management: Implications for coastal aquaculture and fishing communities in the Philippines (Poster)*

M.B. Sumagaysay *The Food-Water-Energy Nexus Perspective: Women's Take for Fisheries Security*