

Acknowledgements

The 5th Global Symposium on Gender and Fisheries (GAF5) was held during 12-15 November 2016 in Lucknow, India at the 10th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (10ifaf). While every other GAF has been held in conjunction with the Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Fora, this was for the first time that one was held at an Indian event. The event was successfully held with the support of many organisations and individuals, who have helped us along the journey to GAF. Grateful thanks to the Asian Fisheries Society, the Asian Fisheries Society-Indian Branch, the Local Organising Committee in India under Dr. J. K. Jena, who is also the incoming President of AFS, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), United States Agency for International Development MARKET project (USAID-MARKET), Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development), Marine Exports Development Authority (India), National Fisheries Development Board (India), ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Aquaculture without Frontiers and the presenters and their host organisations.

The GAF5 was unique in its mix of programmes. It started off with two plenary talks and had four regular sessions with 11 presentations. A special country session titled *Focus India* was introduced for the first time and this is to be continued in subsequent GAFs, focussing on the host countries. In *Focus India* eight presenters presented gender work from India. There were also three Special Workshops – one on *Towards GAF 101 – Mainstreaming Gender into Aquaculture & Fisheries Education* led by Marilyn Porter; a second, led by Dr. Cherdsak Virapat (Director General, NACA), on the *NACA-MARKET Thematic Studies on Gender in Aquaculture in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam* project which had six presentations of work carried under the project in the countries of the Lower Mekong region; and a third one on *Gender Aquaculture and Fisheries Writing*. GAF5 also had a Panel Discussion on *SSF Guidelines from a feminist perspective* with three presentations followed by in-depth analysis and discussion. A unique feature of GAF5 was a separate session

for invited films where six films and videos were screened, all dealing with various aspects of women in fisheries and aquaculture.

As with previous GAFs, GAF5 also attracted a large number of participants, including those who chose to attend the event after their presentations at other sessions in the main event. The venue was never short of people engaged in discussions making the proceedings very lively. The extra effort taken by the hosts to make GAF feel at home is gratefully acknowledged.

The publication process, which has followed a similar pattern to that of past GAF events, has been exhilarating. The patience of the authors and co-authors of the 12 published papers, to attend to the revisions required, is greatly appreciated. Also gratefully acknowledged are the help rendered by Prof. Mohamed Shariff, Editor and Ms. Choo Poh Sze, Assistant Editor, Asian Fisheries Science Journal for their comments and suggestions in finalising the papers in this Special Issue.

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