



AFSSRN BULLETIN

Bi-annual Newsletter of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network
Asian Fisheries Society
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AFSSRN welcomes 28 new members in 2025

The Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network proudly welcomes twenty eight (28) new members who come from seven countries.

BANGLADESH

- Afshana Parven

CANADA

- Ruyel Miah

INDONESIA

- Ria Fitriana
- Widyaningsih Peni Lestari

INDIA

- Piyashi Debroy
- Canciyal Johnson
- Greeshma K.M.
- Sekar Megarajan
- Veena N.
- Seenivasan P.
- Ritesh Ranjan
- Dinesh R.
- Abhilash Arun Sapre
- Chandra Kant Upadhyay

PHILIPPINES

- Gay Margaret Aban Gange
- Cherry Anasco
- Axl Fitzgerald Bulawan
- Gerwyn Enerlan
- Jose Marie Eslopor
- April Grace Lazarito
- Marfy Lita
- Geralyn Merimilla
- Renz Prudenciado
- Jee Grace Suyo-Diala
- Sigmund Fletcher Tarrayo
- Roeyna May Tosino

SRI LANKA

- Dinusha Nuwan Bandara Ekanayake

THAILAND

- Werenfridus Kono Lake

AFSSRN hosts special session at the 14th AFAF

Three papers were presented on 14 February 2025 during the 9th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF9) in Bangkok, Thailand by the AFSSRN in a special session on **Single Use Plastics (SUP) in Fisheries Research**. Presented were outputs of a three-country research by Dr. Neha and Dr Nikita Gopal for India, Dr. Armen Zulham for Indonesia, and Dr. Marieta Bañez Sumagaysay together with Gerwyn Enerlan and Axl Fitzgerald Bulawan for the Philippines.

The second part of the AFSSRN Special Session was a Training on Social Science Research Methods. Attended mostly by early career researchers, had Dr. Piyashi Debroy (ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, West Bengal) and Asst. Prof.. Saba Nabi (Kishanganj, Bihar) discussing on qualitative research tools, and non-parametric tests, respectively. Dr. Neha Qureshi (ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai) talked on behavioral economic assessment.

RESEARCH FEATURE: INDIA

The Paradox of Low Fish Consumption in a High Non-Vegetarian Population: Evidence from East Sikkim

NEHA QURESHI, ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai (Co-authors: Angelina Gurung, Arpita Sharma, and Prakash Sharma)

Sikkim presents a unique dietary contradiction where 88.3% of the population is non-vegetarian, yet per capita fish consumption is the lowest in India at 1.72 kg, significantly trailing the national average of 6.31 kg. This study examines fish consumption patterns, preferences, and socio-economic constraints within the East District of Sikkim. A structured survey of 60 consumers in Gangtok was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the Response Priority Index (RPI). Empirical findings reveal that Catla (38.26%) and Rohu (33.04%) are the primary species of choice, while local trout (18.26%) remains underutilized due to prohibitive pricing and limited retail accessibility. Consumption frequency is notably low, with 41.7% of respondents consuming fish only once monthly. The data indicates a significant correlation between household income, family size, and purchase frequency, wherein larger, higher-income families demonstrate increased consumption levels. Constraint analysis utilizing Normalized RPI scores identified fish odor (0.77), price volatility (0.69), inadequate freshness (0.68), and poor hygiene (0.66) as high-priority barriers to consumption. Conversely, market distance was categorized as a low-level constraint (0.23). To address these challenges, the study advocates for infrastructure development in preservation technology, regular market quality inspections, and targeted awareness campaigns such as "fish melas" to promote nutritional benefits. These strategic interventions are essential for diversifying the local market and enhancing dietary protein intake through the regional aquaculture sector.

RESEARCH FEATURE: PHILIPPINES

Willingness to Reduce Single-Use Plastic Waste along the Fisheries Value Chain: Philippines

MARIETA BANEZ SUMAGAYSAY, *University of the Philippines Tacloban College*, (Co-authors: Gerwyn P. Enerlan, Axl Fitzgerald L. Bulawan)

The increasing concern on single-use plastics (SUP) causing marine pollution can be addressed by looking into the consumption behavior of men and women which in turn are affected by knowledge, perceptions, and attitude. This study explored these areas as reported by fishing input providers, fishers, processors, packers, distributors and traders along the fisheries value chain. This further shed light on the stakeholders' willingness to reduce consumption of SUP in fishing. A total of 185 stakeholders along the fisheries value chain (53% males and 47% females) participated in a survey. They come from Catbalogan, Samar and Tacloban, Leyte fish ports, Philippines. Forty statements were included in a Likert scale, distributed into the following categories: (1) knowledge on sources/causes of marine pollution, SUP's end-of-life, and SUP impacts; (2) perceptions on personal motives to reduce SUP waste, the use of regulation to reduce SUP waste, and social (dis)approval of the behavior to reduce SUP waste; and (3) attitudes on the ability to perform the behavior of reducing SUP waste, on the social pressure to engage in the behavior, and on the personal beliefs about the behavior. Significant findings show that processors are least knowledgeable regarding SUP end-of-life, and have the least favorable perceptions with regards to personal motives and social (dis)approval of behaviors to reduce SUP use and plastic waste. Further study to include more fishing sites is recommended to confirm this study's conclusion that attitude which favors SUP waste reduction coupled with the ability and motivation to change behaviors are two most important variables towards heightening the intent and the action to reduce SUP waste in fisheries.

RESEARCH FEATURE: INDONESIA

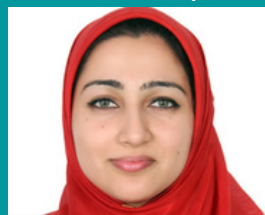
Understanding Knowledge, Perception, and Attitude Toward Willingness to Reduce Single-use Plastic Waste at Small-scale Fish Landing Sites in Indonesia

Armen Zulham, *National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia* (Co-authors: Muhammad Helmi Falah, Nami Lestari, Erlania, Fety Widianti Aptasari, Tri Heru Prihadi, Shanaz N. Arina, Zuriat)

This study investigated four latent variables: knowledge, attitude, perception, and willingness to reduce single-use plastic (SUP) in six small-scale fish landing centers in Indonesia. The poor management of SUP waste is an environmental problem in these locations. This study aimed to identify latent variables as key to reducing SUP waste at fish landing sites. A total of 101 male and 51 female respondents who played roles in the value chain were interviewed. The PLS-SEM SUP model has undergone convergent validity, discriminant validity, reliability, R-Square, and path coefficient tests. It was found that attitude change is critical for reducing SUP waste. This should be done because 52.6% of male and 28.9% of female respondents dispose of SUP waste in general dispose location (without sorting). In general, the decision was made by 22.4% of wives, 32.2% of husbands, and 45.4% of spouses. The husband's decisions were dominant in Kalibaru, Cilincing, Johan Pahlawan, and Mereubo. However, in Sawojajar and Kaliwengi, spouse's decisions played a role. Socialization programs on the impact of SUP, implementation of government regulations on SUP waste disposal, and community empowerment to utilize SUP waste to produce valuable products should be performed selectively. In Sawojajar and Kaliwengi, the husband and wife were utilized, but in the other four research locations, the husband was the target of the activity.

FEATURED LEAD RESEARCHERS/AUTHORS

DR. NEHA WAJAHAT QURESHI



Senior Scientist at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE), Mumbai, India. She specializes in agriculture, fisheries and environmental economics. Her 196 scholarly works and publications in the last 4 years revolve around management, resource use, and valuation/assessment in aquaculture.

DR. MARIETA BAÑEZ SUMAGAYSAY



Professor at the University of the Philippines Tacloban College, teaching Economics and Gender. Her research and publications focus on women in fisheries and aquaculture, and on value chain analysis. In 2015-2022 she was seconded as Executive Director of the National Research Council of the Philippines, Department of Science and Technology.

DR. ARMEN ZULHAM



A Senior Researcher, Research Center for Cooperative, Corporation and People's Economy, National Research and Innovation Agency, Jakarta, Indonesia. His scholarly publications are on small-scale fisheries management, fisheries supply chain, climate change and the vulnerability of fishing households.

UPCOMING EVENT



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