



AFSSRN BULLETIN

Bi-annual Newsletter of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network
Asian Fisheries Society
Issue 4 July to December 2023

AFSSRN warmly welcomes 14 new members

Shuang Ji (China)

Huan Han (China)

Wannapha Kittrattana (China)

Bin Wei (China)

Xueneng Luo (China)

Xiangbiao Zeng (China)

Junming Zhiang (China)

Nawal Asif (China)

Mekonen Hailu Tachbele (China)

Justice Amankwah (China)

Jingwei Liu (China)

Maria Christina Gumba (Philippines)

Margot Liang Stiles (USA)

Raja Yana Melessa Binti Raja Haroon Arashid
(Malaysia)

Wellbeing & Sustainable Fisheries Practices



Seven papers were presented by the following AFSSRN members during the 7th International Conference in Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICFAS 7) in Iloilo City, Philippines on October 18-20, 2023, along the theme: Wellbeing and Sustainable Fisheries Practices. Presenters: Dr. Ma. Arve Banez, Dr. Quenstein D. Lauzon, Dr. Marieta Banez Sumagaysay, Dr. Harold M. Monteclaro, Dr. Serapion T. Tanduyan.

RESEARCH FEATURE: INDONESIA

Collective actions to support sustainable aquaculture: evidence from brackish water farmers in Aceh Tamiang

ARMEN ZULHAM, National Research Innovation Agency Jakarta- Indonesia (Co-authors: Shafitri, Budi Wardono, Radytio Pramoda, Cristina Yulianti, and Agus Heri Purnomo) armenzulham@gmail.com

To empower sustainable aquaculture in Aceh Tamiang, this research builds and strengthens fish farmer organizations in brackish water regions. We advocate for collective action among fish farmers in brackish water ponds across Aceh Tamiang, fostering sustainable aquaculture enterprises. Collective action is crucial in Aceh Tamiang's 3,624.5 hectares of Vanamei ponds, currently suffering from mismanagement. In brackish water ponds, vanamei shrimp production averages a meager 1.6 tonnes per hectare per year. This research, driven by concerns about the abysmal vanamei shrimp production, identified a key barrier: a) pond ownership systems. Notably, only 13.0% of ponds are privately owned, while 67.7% are rental/lease, and a precarious 19.4% are simply occupied unmanaged ponds. b) No local entity takes responsibility for managing the water and surrounding environment of these ponds, leaving them vulnerable to neglect and pollution. c) Lacking proper training, fish farmers struggle to manage pond waste and sediment, leading to poor water quality and decreased shrimp health. d) Limited understanding of optimal seasonal planting practices hinders fish farmers' ability to maximize pond productivity. The data was collected in 2 villages for each of the four sub-districts in Aceh Tamiang. An in-depth study on the brackish water business was conducted in Sungai Kuruk III village Seruway sub-district from April to May 2021. This research recommended that in each village of brackish water ponds in Aceh Tamiang groups of brackish water fish farmers merge to become a larger group, namely Gapokkan. As a result, the Gapokkan has become a leading fish farmer organization in managing various problems of the brackish water pond areas to achieve sustainable aquaculture business in Aceh Tamiang.

FROM THE AFSSRN EXECOM

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL

RESEARCH FEATURE: SRI LANKA

Women contribution in small scale fisheries: Hidden treasurer in Household Economy in Sri Lanka

MOHOTTALA G. KULARATNE, Professor in Economics, University of Kelaniya Sri Lanka (Co-author: WICKRAMASINGHE., W.A.A.D.L.Senior Lecturer, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, Aquaculture Scientist) kuleecon@gmail.com

Female participation in small-scale fisheries of less developed countries is poorly estimated. Women contribute to fisheries activities, household nutrition and economy, financial, institutional and community development as well as environmental conservation and protection. The following information is collected from "Miridiya"/Freshwater Fishery Society (MFS) in Kalahagala fishing village located nearby Prakrama Samudraya in Polonnaruwa District in Sri Lanka. Female involvement in fishing is higher than other fishing villages due to easy accessibility to the reservoir and an established organizational set up supported by the National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO) in Sri Lanka. There are 30 fishing groups spread in 10 villages under the "Miridiya" organization where 20% of membership are women. The women of Kalahagala MFS are engaged in activities like self-employment, environmental protection and conservation with the training provided by NAFSO. Livestock, horticulture and food stalls increase their households' income and nutrition level. Tree planting for medicinal use and organic fertilizer productions provides organic food and supports environmental enhancement. Children's Bursaries, Savings Funds and Revolving Funds assist them in sustaining economic utility. Women play leading roles in building Lime Plant- Elephant Fences to safeguard their assets and promote wildlife coexistence. Overall impacts are enhanced women's self-reliance, promoting gender equality while strengthening community ties and empowering women to speak on the elephant-human conflict, creating fisheries policies and decision-making processes. Inland fisheries drives the improvement of the unity, religious harmony and mutual understanding of women. Irrespective of social labels, women members of the fisheries association are involved in fishing due to the prevailing economic problems in Sri Lanka.

RESEARCH FEATURE: MALAYSIA

Gender and the political economy of Fish Agri-Food Systems in the Global South

SURENDRAN RAJARATNAM, Senior Lecturer, University Kebangsaan Malaysia (Co-authors: Molly Ahern and Cynthia McDougall) surendran@ukm.edu.my

The book chapter examines the role of gender dynamics in fisheries and aquaculture systems in the Global South. Gender dynamics are not only a key element of the systems, but also a critical determinant of their outcomes, including a range of inequalities. A comprehensive set of socio-economic, environmental, health and well-being dimensions were considered and the political (state), economic (markets), and local (household) environments were examined from a gender perspective to respond to key issues. These include trends in the political economy in relation to feminization, migration, and labour, gender dynamics, livelihood opportunities and barriers for women and men in commercial and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. The review highlighted that both commercial and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are permeated by macro- and micro- patterns of social and gender inequalities and injustices. The study adopts a perspective that makes explicit links between gender and political economy, which helps to identify interconnected drivers, patterns, challenges and opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture for different groups of women and men that go beyond a single sector or scale. It suggests that future research on women's and men's engagement and benefits from the sector should be intersectional.

FEATURED LEAD RESEARCHERS/AUTHORS

ARMEN ZULHAM, PhD

MOHOTTALA KULARATNE, PhD

SURENDRAN RAJARATNAM, PhD



Finished a postgraduate program in Science of Coastal and Ocean Management. His research focuses on fisheries economics, business and institutional small-scale fisheries, brackish water aquaculture, gender in fisheries, and socio-economic aspects of small-scale tuna fisheries.



A fisheries economist, his research focus is on efficiency and productivity analyses of water resources in agriculture and fisheries; and the implementation of FAO SSF guidelines in Sri Lanka. He is the forthcoming President of the Forum of Small Scale Fishery FSSF.



Prior to joining the university, he was a postdoctoral researcher at WorldFish and has conducted a number of gender studies in fisheries and aquaculture in Asia and Africa. He is currently working on a research project focusing on gender in climate-adaptive and inclusive aquaculture in Malaysia.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Details will be sent in a separate email

