FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

GRADA-FIL RESULTS AT A GLANCE: FISH INNOVATION LAB QUICK START SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Mary Read-Wahidi and Kathleen Ragsdale

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish (Fish Innovation Lab) administered the **Gender-Responsive Aquaculture/ Fisheries Development Assessment (GRADA-FIL)** to help develop resources, trainings, tools, and communications to assist Fish Innovation Lab projects in advancing gender-responsive aquaculture and fisheries development. The GRADA-FIL is also a learning tool that introduces Fish Innovation Lab partners to gender-responsive aquaculture and fisheries activities to further benefit their research and related capacity development activities. The GRADA-FIL was administered via Qualtrics during October 2020 to all subawardees, including those who received Quick Start funding in Year 1. As the one-year Quick Start projects had ended at the time of survey administration, these subawardees were well-positioned to reflect on both the successes and challenges they encountered across their projects' implementation. This brief includes two tables that highlight the successes and challenges reported by Quick Start subawardees who responded to the GRADA-FIL and a brief discussion of these results.

FISH INNOVATION LAB: QUICK START SUCCESSES

Collecting gender-disaggregated data was a frequently reported success among Quick Start respondents (see Table 1), including tracking the number of men and women who participated in project-related technical training, capacity development activities, interventions, or programs (58.8%) and the number of men and women who received access to project-related resources, inputs, or technologies (17.6%).

Another frequently reported success among Quick Start respondents was **recruiting women** for participation in their projects, including recruiting university students to join their research teams (58.8%), working with female fishers (35.3%), and with women entrepreneurs and/or women's associations (17.6%).

Respondents were also successful in **highlighting gender issues** when reporting results and making policy recommendations (41.2%). Quick Start respondents reported success in **increasing women's access** to a broad range of aquaculture and fisheries resources, including extension services (29.4%); interventions or programs (23.5%); resources, inputs, and technologies (17.6%); and trainings and capacity development activities (17.6%).

TABLE 1. Responses to "Successes my team had supporting gender integration through our Fish Innovation Lab Quick Start project include [select all that apply]:" (N=17)

	% (n)
Collecting data disaggregated by gender on the number of men and women who participated in project-related technical training, capacity development activities, interventions, or programs	58.8 (10)
Recruiting women university students to join our research team	58.8 (10)
Addressing gender issues when reporting results and making aquaculture/fisheries policy recommendations	41.2 (7)
Working specifically with women fishers (while not excluding men)	35.3 (6)
Encouraging extension services to reach more women	29.4 (5)
Increasing women's participation in aquaculture/fisheriesinterventions or programs to be more on par with men	23.5 (4)
Collecting data disaggregated by gender on the number of men and women who received access to project-related resources, inputs, or technologies	17.6 (3)
Increasing women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries trainings/capacity development activities to be more on par with men	17.6 (3)
Increasing women's access aquaculture/fisheries resources,inputs, or technologies to be more on par with men	17.6 (3)
Increasing women's production and/or income to be moreon par with men	17.6 (3)
Working specifically to promote women in leadership roles(while not excluding men)	17.6 (3)
Working specifically with women entrepreneurs and/or women's associations (while not excluding men)	17.6 (3)

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CENTER FOR AQUATIC FOOD SECURITY

FISH INNOVATION LAB: QUICK START CHALLENGES

Among Quick Start respondents, the most frequently reported challenge was related to **highlighting gender issues** in their Quick Start results (see Table 2), such that 41.2% of respondents faced challenges determining the types of gender issues they should report in their research results and policy recommendations. **Identifying leverage points** to increase gender equity was another frequently reported challenge, including leverage points to increase women's participation in and/or access to aquaculture or fisheries trainings and capacity development (35.3%); interventions and programs (29.4%); and resources, inputs, and technologies (17.6%). Other frequently reported challenges surrounded **influencing change** to increase gender equity among service providers who tend to focus services on men over women, including credit and financial services (29.4%) and extension services (17.6%).

Additional challenges reported by Quick Start respondents surrounded **recruiting women** to participate in their projects, including identifying and working with women in leadership roles (17.6%), identifying and working with women fishers (11.8%), and identifying women university students to join their research teams (11.8%). Challenges surrounded consistently **collecting gender-disaggregated data**, including tracking the number of men and women who participated in project-related technical trainings, capacity development, interventions, or programs (11.8%) and tracking the number of men and women who received access to project-related resources, inputs, or technologies (11.8%).

TABLE 2. Responses to "Challenges my team encountered supporting gender integration through our Fish Innovation Lab Quick Start project [select all that apply]:" (N=17)

	% (n)
Determining which gender issues to highlight when reporting results and making aquaculture/fisheries policy recommendations	41.2 (7)
Identifying leverage points to increase women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries trainings and other capacity development activities	35.3 (6)
Identifying leverage points to increase women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries interventions or programs	29.4 (5)
Identifying leverage points for increasing women's production and/or income	29.4 (5)
Influencing change among credit and financial services that tend to focus on men over women	29.4 (5)
Identifying leverage points to increase women's access to aquaculture/fisheries resources, inputs, ortechnologies	17.6 (3)
Identifying and working with women in leadership roles	17.6 (3)
Influencing change among extension services that tend to focus on men over women	17.6 (3)
Consistently recording the number of men and women who participated in project-related technical training, capacity development activities, interventions, or programs	11.8 (2)
Consistently recording the number of men and women who received access to project-related resources, inputs, or technologies	11.8 (2)
Identifying and working with women fishers	11.8 (2)
Identifying women candidates when recruiting university students to join our research team	11.8 (2)

DISCUSSION: FISH INNOVATION LAB QUICK START RESULTS

The results of the GRADA-FIL internal assessment suggest that successes and challenges across Quick Starts were not mutually exclusive. Although respondents frequently reported successes in such areas as highlighting gender issues when reporting results and making policy recommendations, recruiting women to participate in their project-related activities, and consistently collecting gender-disaggregated data, Quick Start respondents also reported challenges in these areas. These overlapping successes and challenges suggest that Quick Start respondents may be well-positioned to share with other Fish Innovation Lab subawardees their first-hand experiences navigating challenges that are commonly faced when carrying out gender-responsive agricultural development projects and programs.

ABOUT THE FISH INNOVATION LAB

The Fish Innovation Lab supports the United States Agency for International Development's agricultural research and capacity building work under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. Mississippi State University is the program's management entity. The University of Rhode Island, Texas State University, Washington University in St. Louis, and RTI International serve as management partners.

www.fishinnovationlab.msstate.edu

This report was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Feed the Future initiative. The contents are the responsibility of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.