

GRADA-FIL RESULTS AT A GLANCE: FISH INNOVATION LAB RESEARCH

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The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish (Fish Innovation Lab) administered the **Gender Responsive Aquaculture/ Fisheries Development Assessment (GRADA-FIL)** to subawardees to gauge the need for 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 subawardees 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, and had 81 respondents, including respondents who received Quick Start project funding in Year 1 ($N=17$) and new project funding in Year 2 ($N=64$). As new projects were just gearing up at the time of survey administration, these “new subawardees” were well-positioned to reflect on common gender barriers their new projects might encounter. In this brief, we focus on responses to a set of questions related to common gender barriers that may be at play at research site(s) where new Fish Innovation Lab projects are being conducted. Respondents were asked to indicate “yes,” “no,” or “don’t know” as to whether or not each barrier occurred in their research site(s). We first report on gender barriers to which new subawardees most frequently responded “yes” when asked if they occurred in their research site(s). Next, we report on knowledge gaps around gender barriers by considering the items to which new subawardees most frequently responded “no” or “don’t know” when asked if they occurred in their research site(s). Lastly, we discuss strategies to increase awareness and address gender barriers that may likely be operating in and across different research environments that may present challenges to producing the most impactful results (i.e., results which will benefit both men and women aquaculture and fisheries value-chain actors).

GENDER BARRIERS FREQUENTLY REPORTED BY NEW PROJECT SUBAWARDEES IN YEAR 2

As expected, a number of commonplace gender barriers were frequently reported by new subawardees in Year 2 as **existent** in the sites where their Fish Innovation Lab research was to be conducted. As seen in Table 1, more than 50% of respondents noted that 1) women lack access to the same decision-making power across aquaculture and fisheries value chains as men (62.5%); 2) women have less involvement in aquaculture and fisheries governance and/or co-management than men (62.5%); and 3) women do not have as many opportunities across aquaculture and fisheries value chains as men (59.4%).

Nearly 50% of this sample of respondents noted that, in the sites where their Fish Innovation Lab research is conducted, 1) the ratio of men to women extension agents is unbalanced (48.4%); 2) women do not have the same water and land rights as men (46.9%); and 3) women do not have the same control over income from aquaculture and fisheries as men (46.9%).

Finally, approximately 40% of respondents noted that, in the sites where their Fish Innovation Lab research was to be conducted, 1) women do not have the same access to business ownership or other entrepreneurial opportunities as men (42.2%); and 2) women tend to supply fish for household consumption while men tend to supply fish for cash income (39.1%).

TABLE 1. Responses of “YES” to the question: “In the research site(s) where my team is conducting our new Fish Innovation Lab project...” ($N=64$)	
Frequency of “YES” Responses	% (n)
Women do not have the same decision-making power across aquaculture and fisheries value chains as men	62.5 (40)
Women do not have the same involvement in aquaculture and fisheries governance and/or co-management as men	62.5 (40)
Women do not have as many opportunities across aquaculture and fisheries value chains as men	59.4 (38)
The ratio of men to women extension agents is not balanced	48.4 (31)
Women do not have the same water and land rights as men	46.9 (30)
Women do not have the same control over income from aquaculture and fisheries as men	46.9 (30)
Women do not have the same access to business ownership or other entrepreneurial opportunities as men	42.2 (27)
Women tend to supply fish for household consumption while men tend to supply fish for cash income	39.1 (25)

KNOWLEDGE GAPS SURROUNDING GENDER BARRIERS REPORTED BY NEW SUBAWARDEES IN YEAR 2

Counter to expectations, a number of commonplace gender barriers were frequently reported by new subawardees in Year 2 as **nonexistent** in the sites where their Fish Innovation Lab research was to be conducted. As seen in Table 2, these included that 1) women do not have the same access to fish as a food source as men (59.4%); 2) women do not have the same access to primary education as men (62.5%); 3) women do not have the same access to higher education as men (45.3%); and 4) women do not have the same access to aquaculture and fisheries markets and marketing resources or technologies as men (39.1%).

Interestingly, for a number of commonplace gender barriers, new subawardees in Year 2 frequently reported that they **did not know** if these barriers occurred in the sites where their Fish Innovation Lab research was to be conducted. More than 50% of respondents were unsure as to whether women may be exploited across aquaculture and fisheries value chains, such as through “sex for fish” exchanges controlled by male fish brokers (56.3%) or women tending to have lower yields from aquaculture and fisheries production as compared to men (53.1%). Furthermore, just under half of respondents were unsure as to whether 1) the ratio of men to women extension agents is not balanced (46.9%); 2) women do not receive equal pay for the same aquaculture and fisheries labor as men (43.8%); 3) women do not have the same access to nongovernmental training and services as men (42.2%); 4) women do not have the same access to credit and financial services for aquaculture and fisheries investments as men (39.1%); and 5) women do not have the same water and land rights as men (39.1%).

TABLE 2. Responses of “NO” or “I DON’T KNOW” to the question: “In the research site(s) where my team is conducting our new Fish Innovation Lab project...” (N=64)

Frequency of “NO” Responses	% (n)
Women do not have the same access to fish as a food source as men	59.4 (38)
Women do not have the same access as men to primary education	54.7 (35)
Women do not have the same access as men to higher education in aquaculture and fisheries	45.3 (29)
Women do not have the same access to aquaculture and fisheries markets, marketing resources, or technologies as men	39.1 (25)
Frequency of “DON’T KNOW” Responses	% (n)
Women may be exploited across aquaculture and fisheries value chains (e.g., women may receive lower pay for the same work as men; women processors may have to exchange sex for fish from male fish brokers)	56.3 (36)
Women tend to have lower yields from aquaculture and fisheries production than men	53.1 (34)
The ratio of men to women extension agents is not balanced	46.9 (30)
Women do not receive equal pay for the same aquaculture and fisheries labor as men	43.8 (28)
Women do not have the same access to non-governmental (NGO) trainings and services as men	42.2 (27)
Women do not have the same access to credit and financial services for aquaculture and fisheries investments as men	39.1 (25)
Women do not have the same water and land rights as men	39.1 (25)

DISCUSSION: GENDER INEQUALITIES IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES

The results of the GRADA-FIL internal assessment indicate that new subawardees in Year 2 reported a number of gender barriers that operated in the sites where they conduct their Fish Innovation Lab research. Through training and capacity development, the Fish Innovation Lab can assist new subawardees in developing strategies to address these barriers in ways that will increase the overall impacts of their research projects and programmatic efforts. The GRADA-FIL results also suggest a potential for increased awareness of gender barriers that commonly occur in aquaculture and fisheries sectors. As an instrument, the GRADA-FIL serves as a first step to increasing gender awareness by introducing Fish Innovation Lab subawardees to gender barriers that commonly occur in aquaculture and fisheries and by asking them to consider whether or not they have noted these barriers in the site where their research is to be conducted.

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

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