



## GRADA-FIL WAVE II RESULTS AT A GLANCE: FISH INNOVATION LAB SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

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The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish (Fish Innovation Lab) administered Wave II of the **Gender-Responsive Aquaculture/Fisheries Development Assessment (GRADA-FIL)** to help develop resources, trainings, tools, and communications to assist Fish Innovation Lab activities 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 efforts. The GRADA-FIL Wave II was administered via Qualtrics from December 2022 to January 2023 to all subawardees except the one-year Quick Start activities. As these activities were drawing to a close at the time of survey administration, the subawardees were well-positioned to reflect on both the successes and challenges they encountered throughout implementation. This brief highlights the successes and challenges reported by respondents and includes a brief discussion of these results. (Note that some indicators were not applicable to all activities or to all members of each research team).

### FISH INNOVATION LAB: GENDER INTEGRATION SUCCESSSES

As seen in Table 1, regarding the collection and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data, 61.4% of participants reported that their team successfully collected data on the number of men and women who participated in activities, 50% reported successes in collecting data on the number of men and women who received resources, inputs, or technologies, and 42.9% reported successes in addressing gender issues when reporting results and making aquaculture/ fisheries policy recommendations. Due to the specificity of the gender-disaggregated data questions, responses are likely an underestimate; not all questions would have applied to everyone as they may not have engaged in those activities.

Regarding aiming to work specifically with women while not excluding men, 57.1% of participants reported successes in recruiting women university students to join their research teams, 41.4% reported successes encouraging extension services to reach more women, 38.6% successfully worked with women entrepreneurs and/or women’s associations, and 35.7% successfully worked with women fishers.

Regarding increasing women’s participation in the aquaculture/fisheries value chain to be more on par with men, 54.3% of participants reported that their research team successfully increased women’s participation in aquaculture/fisheries *trainings*, 41.4% reported successes in increasing women’s participation in aquaculture/fisheries *programs*, and 35.7% reported successes in increasing women’s access to aquaculture/fisheries resources.

**TABLE 1.** Responses to “Successes my team had supporting gender integration through our Fish Innovation Lab activity include... (select all that apply)” (N=70)

	% (n)
Collecting data disaggregated by gender on the number of men and women who participated in technical training, capacity development activities, interventions, or programs	61.4 (43)
Recruiting women university students to join our research team	57.1 (40)
Increasing women’s participation in aquaculture/fisheries trainings and other capacity development activities to be more on par with men	54.3 (38)
Collecting data disaggregated by gender on the number of men and women who received resources, inputs, or technologies	50.0 (35)
Addressing gender issues when reporting results and making aquaculture/fisheries policy recommendations	42.9 (30)
Increasing women’s participation in aquaculture/fisheries interventions or programs to be more on par with men	41.4 (29)
Encouraging extension services to reach more women	41.4 (29)
Working specifically with women entrepreneurs and/or women’s associations (while not excluding men)	38.6 (27)
Working specifically with women fishers (while not excluding men)	35.7 (25)
Increasing women’s access to aquaculture/fisheries resources, inputs, or technologies to be more on par with men	35.7 (25)

## FISH INNOVATION LAB: GENDER INTEGRATION CHALLENGES

As seen in Table 2, regarding increasing women's participation in the aquaculture/fisheries value chain to be more on par with men, 47.1% of participants reported challenges identifying leverage points to increase women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries *trainings*, 37.1% reported challenges identifying leverage points to increase women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries *programs*, 32.9% reported challenges identifying leverage points to increase women's access to aquaculture/fisheries resources, and 27.1% reported challenges identifying leverage points to increase women's production and/or income.

Regarding the collection and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data, 37.1% of participants reported that their team faced challenges determining which gender issues to highlight when reporting results and making aquaculture/fisheries policy recommendations, and 30% faced challenges consistently recording the number of men and women who participated in technical training, capacity development activities, interventions, or programs.

Finally, 34.3% of participants reported challenges identifying and working with women fishers and 32.9% reported challenges identifying and working with women in leadership roles.

**TABLE 2.** Responses to "Challenges my team encountered supporting gender integration through our Fish Innovation Lab activity include... (select all that apply)" (N=70)

	% (n)
Identifying leverage points to increase women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries trainings and other capacity development activities	47.1 (33)
Determining which gender issues to highlight when reporting results and making aquaculture/fisheries policy recommendations	37.1 (26)
Identifying leverage points to increase women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries interventions or programs	37.1 (26)
Identifying and working with women fishers	34.3 (24)
Identifying leverage points to increase women's access to aquaculture/fisheries resources, inputs, or technologies	32.9 (23)
Identifying and working with women in leadership roles	32.9 (23)
Consistently recording the number of men and women who participated in project-related technical training, capacity development activities, interventions, or programs	30.0 (21)
Identifying leverage points for increasing women's production and/or incomes	27.1 (19)

## DISCUSSION: FISH INNOVATION LAB PROJECT RESULTS

The results of the GRADA-FIL internal assessment demonstrate that successes and challenges across activities were not necessarily mutually exclusive. Although respondents frequently reported successes in such areas as identifying leverage points to increase women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries trainings, determining which gender issues to highlight when reporting results and making aquaculture/fisheries policy recommendations, and increasing women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries programs, these were also the most frequently reported challenges. This also indicates that successes are often only achieved after overcoming a set of challenges.

It is notable that over 50% of respondents reported successes in three categories, including: 1) collecting data disaggregated by gender on the number of men and women who participated in technical training, capacity development activities, interventions, or programs, 2) recruiting women university students to join their research team, and 3) increasing women's participation in aquaculture/fisheries trainings and other capacity development activities to be more on par with men. Because gender is one of the Fish Innovation Lab cross-cutting themes, grantees were required to have gender mainstreaming components built into their proposals from the onset. The consistently higher rates of successes versus challenges seen in the above results speak to the effectiveness of this approach. It would be beneficial to follow up with teams to identify constraints that could be addressed to further increase successes in these areas.

## 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](http://www.fishinnovationlab.msstate.edu)

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