Title: Improving Gender Equity in Aquaculture Education and Training: 30 years of experiences in the Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture, Aquaculture, and AquaFish Collaborative Research Support Programs

Author(s): Hillary Egna¹; Lisa Reifke¹; and Nancy Gitonga²

¹ AquaFish CRSP, 418 Snell Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis OR 97331 USA
² FishAfrica, P.O. Box 64358-00620 Nairobi, 6200 Kenya

Date: July 5, 2012

Publication Number: CRSP Research Report 12-301

The CRSP will not be distributing this publication. Copies may be obtained by writing to the authors.

The AquaFish Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) is dedicated to improving gender equality in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors and in the CRSP by creating equal opportunities for women and men in research, training and educational activities. Recognising the barriers and complex issues women face, the AquaFish CRSP has taken a mindful approach towards gender integration by focusing on women beneficiaries of its research and outreach, and on women in the Program. Gender must be included in projects in a cross cutting and an individual way. Despite these steps, gender-segregated statistics from AquaFish display characteristics of a “leaky pipeline” as seen in other fields of science. During the original Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture CRSP (PD/A) and th subsequent Aquaculture CRSP (ACRSP) (1982-2008), 36.8% collectively, of degree students were women. In the AquaFish CRSP (2006-current), 55 women (55%) of degrees have been awarded to women. Although reaching a 50% target for women is a major accomplishment, the same proportion is not entering higher positions in science or research careers. Surprisingly, women still make up less than 50% of the CRSP short-term trainees. More research is needed to understand leaks in the pipeline and barriers to women’s participation.

This abstract is excerpted from the original paper, which was in Asian Fisheries Science Special Issue vol. 255(2012): 119-128.