

Introduction

The AquaFish Innovation Lab is currently involved in aquaculture development efforts in Africa and Asia. AquaFish takes a “systems” approach to sustainable aquaculture, with a focus on food security, poverty alleviation, and gender integration. Value chain analysis is a tool used to understand how networks along aquaculture supply chains are linked, from production, to processing, to sales. This method is used to increase productivity and efficiency in the aquaculture sector, and to better understand social dimensions, such as the roles and contributions of women and barriers to participation and benefits.

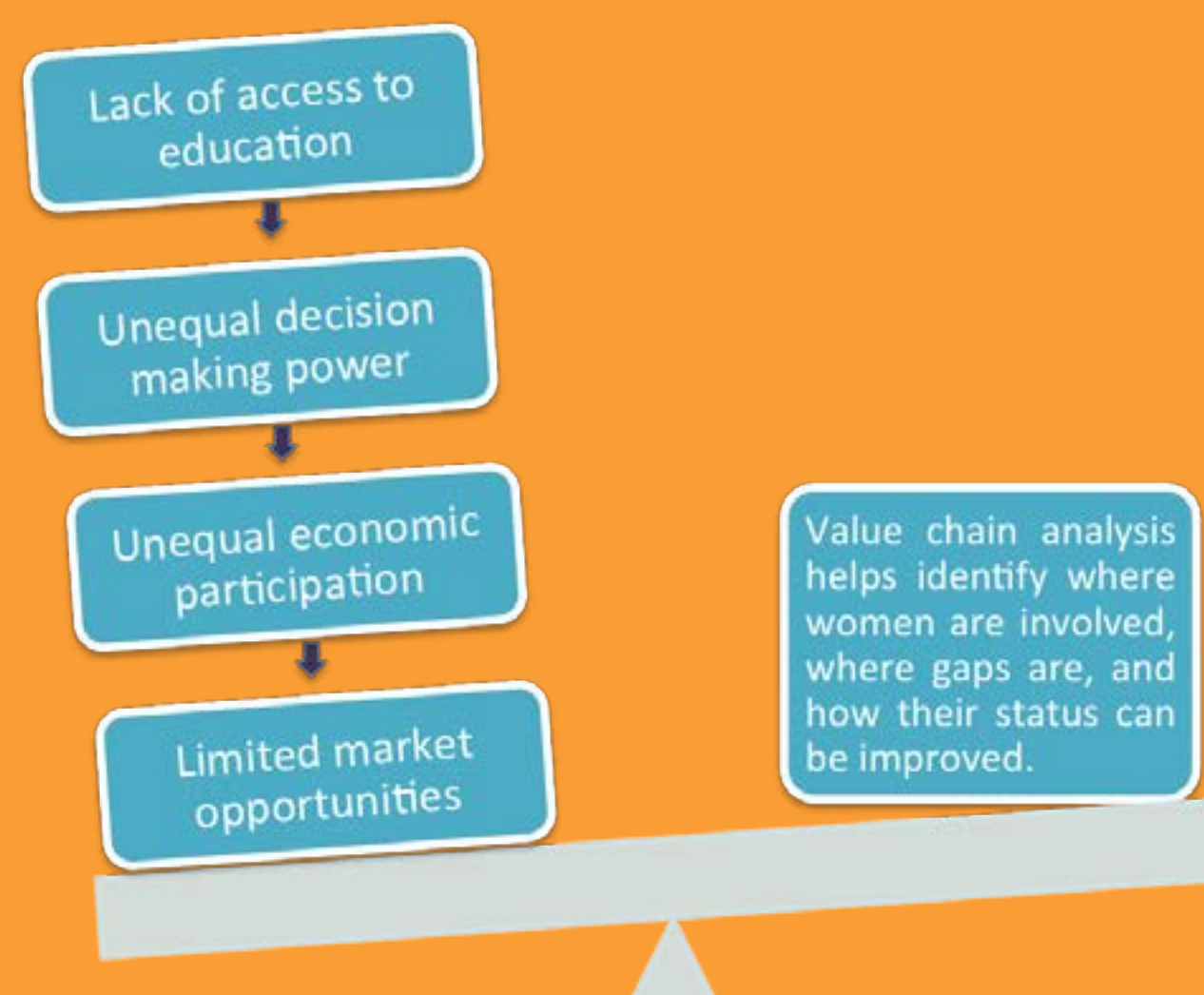
Why are women important players in the value chain?

Women’s participation is essential to successful growth and development of the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, and to achieving broad development goals at all levels. Women play critical roles in aquaculture as fish processors, micro-loan lenders, marketers, and in retail. Gender analysis of value chains helps to improve the understanding of how and where women participate in the aquaculture sector and the impacts that policy, technology, and economic change have on communities and households.

What are the barriers?

The roles of women are often limited by inequities in decision-making power, access to education, and economic participation. Women often lack access to market information, limiting new market opportunities.

Barriers to Women’s Participation in the Value Chain



What is AquaFish Doing to Improve the Status of Women in Aquaculture?

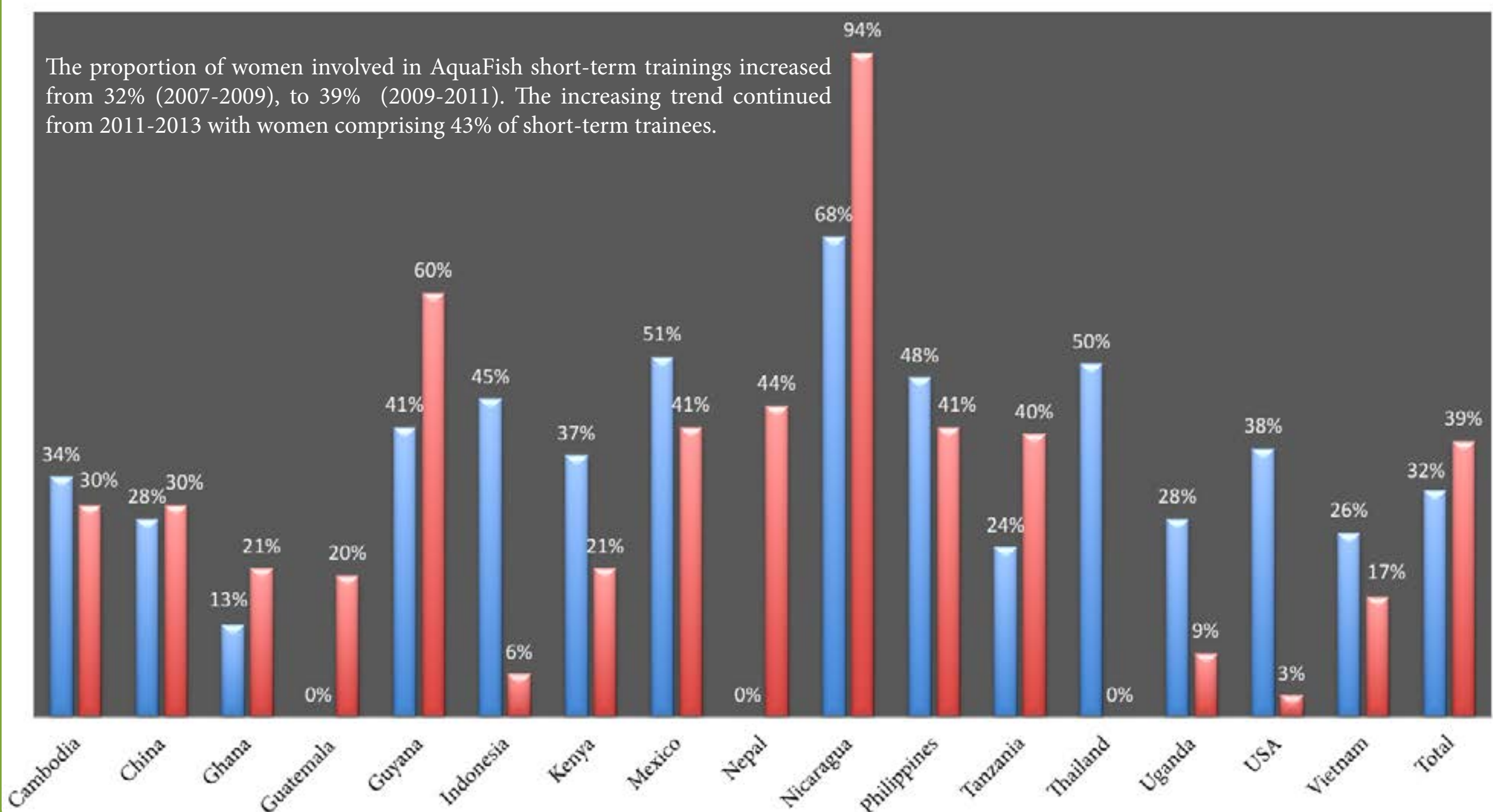
AquaFish is working to give voice and influence to women by strengthening their social, economic, and political roles. Education, skills training, and recognition of women’s contributions along the value chain are accomplished through the following:

- Collecting and analyzing disaggregated data from individual projects to gauge gender inclusiveness success
- Promoting the participation of women in education and training opportunities by setting a 50% benchmark for training women
- Requiring that all core projects focus on gender integration and equity
- Tailoring specific extension and technical services related to sustainable aquaculture and aquatic resource management to women producers
- Requiring all projects to carry out a value chain analysis
- Organizing and participating in conferences and workshops on value chain analysis to share research and create a platform for discussion on gender

Percent of Women Short-Term Trainees between 2007-2009 and 2009-2011 by Host Country

Zeros represent years in which no trainings were conducted

■ Women ST Trainees 2007-2009 ■ Women ST Trainees 2009-2011



Current AquaFish Value Chain Investigations

Each AquaFish project involves partners from a US university and from a Host Country institution. Current Value Chain Analysis research includes:

University of Michigan & Agriculture and Forestry University (Nepal)

Household Fish Ponds in Nepal: Their Impact on Fish Consumption and Health of Women and Children; and their Constraints Determined by Value Chain Analysis

North Carolina State University & Central Luzon State University (Philippines)

Improving Nutritional Status and Livelihood for Marginalized Women Households in Southwest Bangladesh through Aquaculture and Value Chain Analysis

University of Connecticut at Avery Point & Can Tho University (Vietnam)

Impacts of Climate Change on Fish Value Chains in the Lower Mekong Basin of Cambodia and Vietnam

Purdue University & Sokoine University (Tanzania)

Value Chain Analysis of Farmed Nile Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and African Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) in Tanzania

Auburn University & Makerere University (Uganda)

Assessment of Market Opportunities for Small-Scale Fishers and Farmers in Central Uganda

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