

GAF9: Advancing Gender Justice in Aquaculture and Fisheries

The 9th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF9) to be held in Bangkok on 1–3 October 2025 will foreground gender issues in aquaculture and fisheries.

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The 9th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF9) of the Gender in Aquaculture & Fisheries Section of the Asian Fisheries Society, on the theme “*Transforming Aquaculture and Fisheries for Gender Justice*,” will be held from 1–3 October 2025 at the Asian Institute of Technology, Pathum Thani, Thailand.

GAF9 invites researchers, academics, students, and practitioners to share the latest knowledge and insights on gender in aquaculture and fisheries, while exploring new opportunities and innovative approaches to advance gender equality in these sectors. Over the past 25 years, GAFS has brought attention to gender issues within fisheries and aquaculture. Yet, both old and new challenges persist.

The conference will explore the following sub-themes:

1. Women/Gender in the Blue Economy

As the blue economy evolves, it presents new challenges for gender equality in aquaculture and fisheries. Engendering both policy and dialogue in this space is now critical. Key issues include access to resources, labour markets, gender-based violence, social norms, and women’s roles and bargaining power along value chains. Emerging areas of research also include gender dimensions in carbon sequestration, carbon credits, and blue carbon.

2. Gender and Climate Change: Navigating the Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture

Climate change affects people differently based on their social roles and responsibilities within families and communities,

including in food security and nutrition. A deeper understanding of how climate change impacts fisheries, aquaculture, and particularly women, is urgently needed.

3. Nature-Based Solutions in Aquaculture and Fisheries

Nature-based solutions are being promoted to address climate change, but their environmental and gendered socio-economic impacts require rigorous assessment. Gender inclusion is essential to ensure that benefits are shared equitably with women, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups.

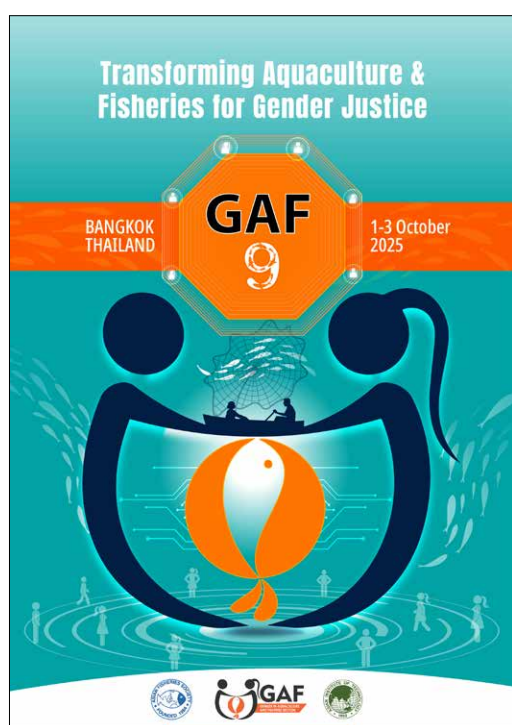
4. Innovative Frameworks and Methodologies for Gender Research in Fisheries and Aquaculture

New frameworks and methods are vital for tackling emerging challenges and producing reliable data, while also offering fresh perspectives on persistent issues. Such approaches underpin robust research into gender in fisheries and aquaculture and amplify critiques grounded in women’s experiences and standpoints.

5. Counting and Discounting: Men’s and Women’s Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture

The continued undervaluation of women’s work negatively affects policies and practices, harming women, girls, and marginalized communities. Gender-sensitive big data is essential to reveal women’s contributions and promote equitable benefit sharing. Women play significant roles in coastal and maritime aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, waste management, and conservation.


Small-scale fisheries and gender will be cross-cutting issues across all sub-themes. How do we protect women’s rights, promote gender equality, and empower women across different contexts in the face of climate change, environmental degradation, and other disasters? Small-scale fishers, in particular, face heightened risks from both natural and human-made crises



due to their vulnerable position within the blue economy.

The first Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF) was held in 2004 as a special symposium of the 7th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (AFAF) in Penang, Malaysia. Building on nearly two decades of efforts by the informal network originally known as *Women in Fisheries*, the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section (GAFS) of the Asian Fisheries Society was

established in January 2017. Since 1990, AFS has actively promoted the integration of gender perspectives in fisheries and aquaculture. With the formation of GAFS, AFS became the first professional society in fisheries and aquaculture to create a dedicated section for gender issues.

Note: Early bird registration closes on July 15, 2025. 

Please visit the GAF9 website for the latest updates: <http://www.gafconference.org/>