



# Action research for sustainable fish food security through gender equality and other innovations

Prof. Stella A. Williams

Mundus maris - Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl  
and

Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development (NiWARD)

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# Basics to start with



**Women represent the dominant work force in traditional agriculture in Africa. 45 million persons or 40% of those working in small-scale fisheries around the globe are women. They are the corner stones of family food security, family care and getting kids into school.**



## Issues to address

Yet, women in fisheries and agriculture are still mostly overlooked, ignored, underpaid or entirely unpaid for the work they do despite being often the *de facto* managers of family businesses, especially if men are migrant workers or much absent at sea.

Comparatively few women make it into an academic career to excel in different study areas to reach senior positions in academia, government and private sector.

Women are, however, particularly prominent in civil society organizations, where they drive innovation and work on social justice.



# Human security - squarely

When governments issue licences to industrial fleets and more in the name of the 'Blue Economy', much of their production is immediately exported with little or no value added in the country. A high level of illegal, unrecorded and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a threat to countries, lost income of people and governments. Local job creation is minimal. The industrial fleets, most with foreign beneficial ownership, compete directly with small-scale fisheries and drive overfishing and declining resources.

As a result, incomes in artisanal fisheries in West Africa have been declining strongly as researchers demonstrated. That in turn leads to weakening social cohesion as documented for Ghana and neighbouring countries. Women, once pillars of fisheries value chains, report loss of status as they no longer have the means to pre-finance fishing trips and can only rarely buy good quality fish for processing and marketing. That also affects their ability to feed the family and keep kids in school.

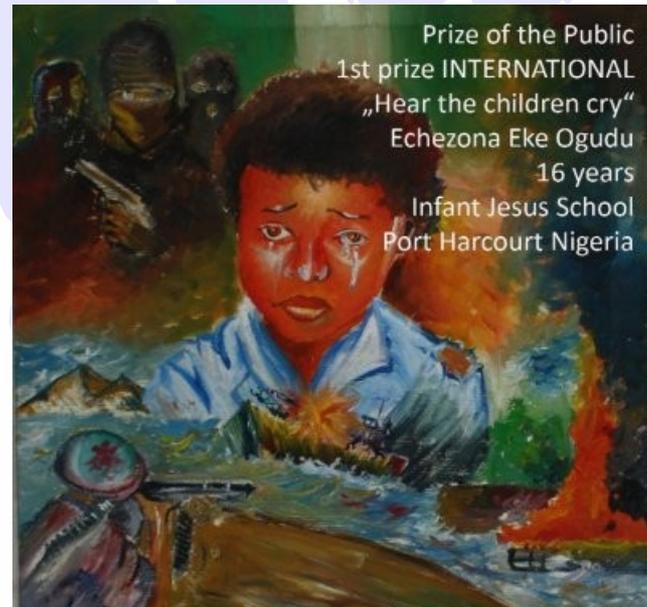




# Invest for and with young people

As researchers and civil society, we invite the governments to invest heavily into the education and training of our predominantly very young populations. That is our greatest source wealth and creating good futures for people on the African continent.

There is no shortage of guidelines and recommendations. It's time to implement. Governments carry primary responsibility, but they do well to dialogue and collaborate with civil society organisations, use and foster action research and invest in local education, culture and innovation.







# Promoting innovation in research

## 2013 Uppsala, Sweden

Stella Williams and Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* gave one of the keynote addresses at the Conference "The Intersection between Society and Nature".

Three concepts were illustrated with examples:

- Interdisciplinarity
- Shorten long impact times of science, through people focus
- Public knowledge goods /critically engaged science





# Promoting the next researcher generation

**At the time of the foundation in 2013 NiWARD had  
60 AWARD fellows, mentors and mentees**



# The NiWARD success story



- NiWARD has now over 200 African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) fellows, mentors and mentees from the six regions of Nigeria.
- The association has also attracted membership of more than 100 other agricultural scientists in Nigeria.
- Our members carry out research and implement projects to transform Nigeria's agricultural sector most especially in the small scale agricultural sector.





# The broader NiWARD Goals

## Females at the forefront of food security research and innovation

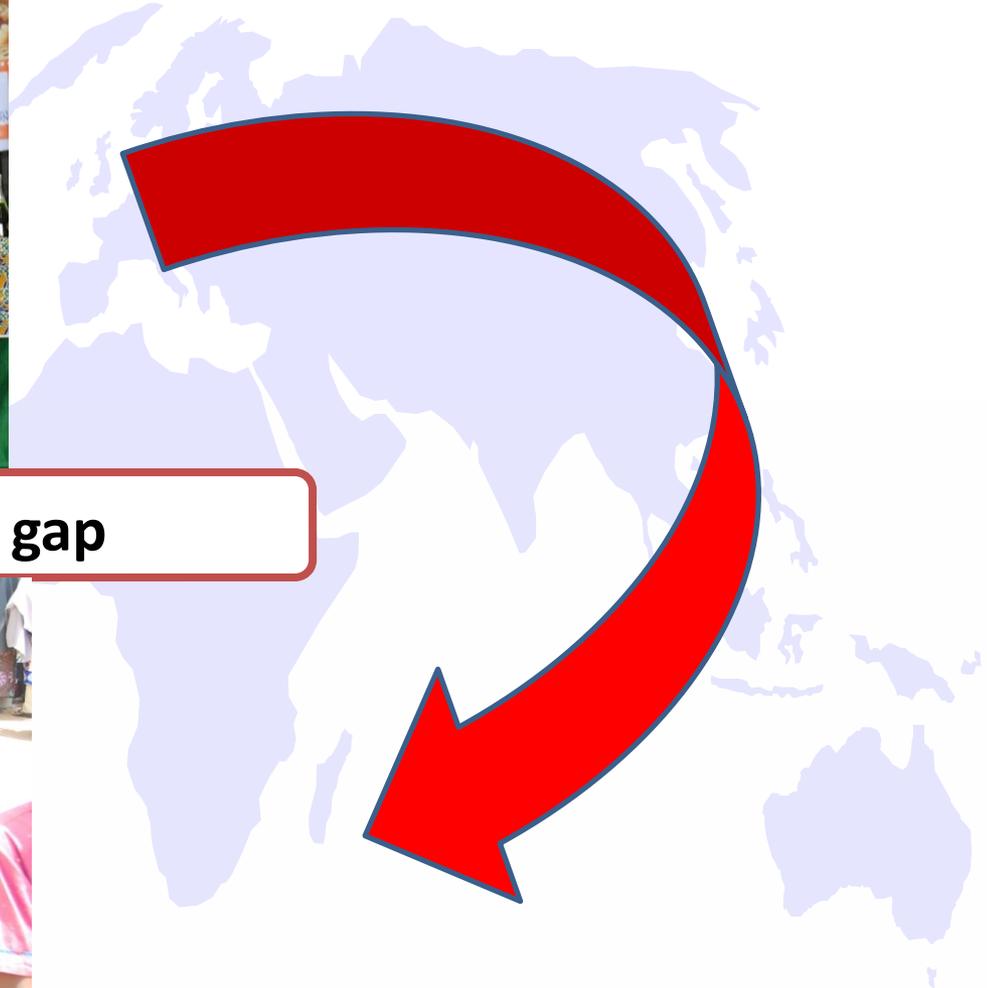
- to reduce hunger and poverty in rural farming communities in Nigeria (national) and on the continent of Africa.
- to empower and promote gender inclusive research and activities in all sectors of agriculture and science.
- Skills gained by fellows, mentors and mentees of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) are used to propagate scientific research nationally and across the continent.
- Transfer of skills to female scientists by a mentoring approach.
- Assisting the less privileged and vulnerable/disabled in the society.
- Interaction with other organizations in collaboration and/or partnerships on issues of mutual interests inside and outside of Nigeria.



**Learning from one  
another, achieve more**



**NiWARD seeks to bridge the gap**



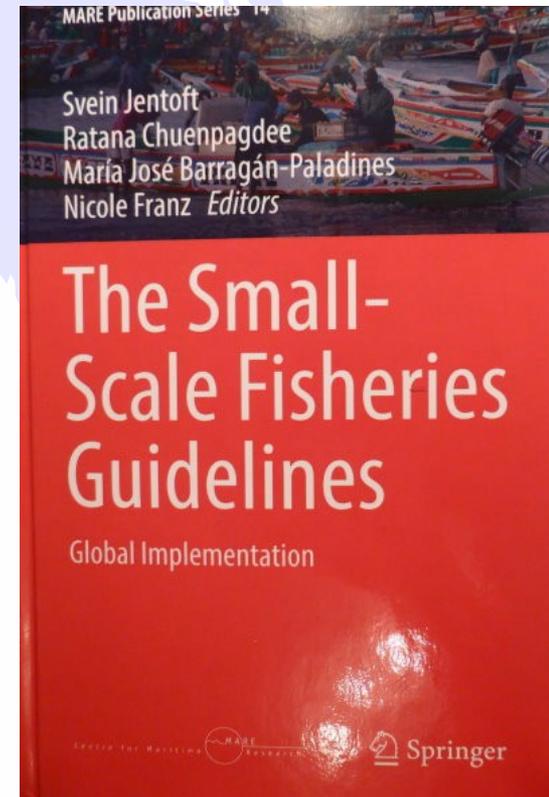


## 2018 – *Mundus maris* launches SSF Academy

The adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in 2014 put small-scale fisheries on the agenda



The future of food from the ocean and from inland waters needs more action research!





# Listen, support people's hopes

Safe multi-actor space for respectful dialogue, joint creation of knowledge and individual and collective action. Action research supports inclusive adult education celebrating local culture, gender equity, robust solutions.



# The spirit of our work

Invest in people, connect to the Ocean and the land, build bridges between the global agenda & local work and experience, action research for concrete change



**I'm still a baby,  
let me live and grow**



[www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org) [www.facebook.com/MundusMaris](http://www.facebook.com/MundusMaris)

**Thanks - Join us!**

More info on  
[www.mundusmaris.org](http://www.mundusmaris.org)

[williams@mundusmaris.org](mailto:williams@mundusmaris.org)

More info on NiWARD  
<http://www.niward.org.ng>

[contact@niward.org.ng](mailto:contact@niward.org.ng)



**NiWARD**

Nigerian Women in Agricultural  
Research for Development