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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE

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Women represent 70% of the global aquaculture workforce, nevertheless, the great majority of management of the production is undertaken by men. The lack of comprehensive data on women in aquaculture and gender-oriented training is one reason why women are invisible in aquaculture policy. Empowering women in the aquaculture sector through awareness and specific training activities designed to promote the role of women in aquaculture and increase its visibility in the sector is one of the goals of the ASTRAL project.

ASTRAL (*All Atlantic Ocean Sustainable, Profitable and Resilient Aquaculture*) is a Horizon 2020 project focused on integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) farming, aiming to define, support, and promote this type of sustainable aquaculture production across the Atlantic area. IMTA is the farming of species from different trophic levels in a way that allows one species' uneaten feed and wastes to be used as inputs (fertilisers and feed) for another species.

Within the Atlantic region, we continuously organise awareness and training activities to promote not only sustainable aquaculture but also women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming with the goal for these initiatives to continue beyond the project.

All-Atlantic Pledge Campaign (2021)

ASTRAL submitted a pledge at the All-Atlantic Pledging Campaign which aimed to engage with other stakeholders, strengthen collaboration, promote partnerships, mobilise partnerships and establish dialogues.

Training on waste upcycling and women empowerment (2021)

During World Ocean Day in 2021, a several activities were organised in Makoko fishing community of Lagos State in Nigeria, including a training session targeted to women.

Networking Friday on Women Empowerment in Aquaculture (2022)

As a celebration of the International Women's Day, a networking online session was held. The panel was filled with brilliant women in aquaculture working on the most diverse sectors, from international NGO (WWF Africa) to business and industry (Atlantic Sea Farms, EUA) as well as academia (Federal University of Pará, Brazil) and network (Women in Scottish Aquaculture (WISA), Scotland and Catfish Farmers Association of Nigeria) organizations. The session was moderated by a young researcher and Ocean Youth Ambassador at University Cape Town, South Africa.

Sensitisation and Women Mainstreaming into Aquaculture in Nigeria (2022)

A workshop was organised in Nigeria to support women empowerment in aquaculture. This workshop supported women involvement in aquaculture by promoting their entry into new and emerging markets and profitable enterprises/businesses in EU and non-EU Atlantic countries.

ASTRAL continues to work towards promoting sustainable aquaculture, food security and improved nutrition as well as promoting gender quality and empowering women and girls. As a result, we are also contributing to reaching SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality) and 14 (Life Below Water). Further information at www.astral-project.eu/

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