



Books and publications

# Women of Water

Women of Water are three publications edited by the National Water Authority of Peru (ANA in Spanish) to highlight the participation of Peruvian women in the integrated water resources management. It is a collection of valuable testimonies about their experience in the protection and sustainable use of water and during production processes. These are the testimonies of women farmers that belong to the Water User Boards of Lambayeque (Chiclayo), Mishquiyaku (Tarapoto), Chili Regulado, Ampato Sigvas Quilca, Yura, and Pampas de Majes in the Quilca-Chili basin (Arequipa).

The aim of these publications is to highlight the role played by these women in the 125 water user boards that exist in Peru, which are composed of 188,925 males (68,4 %) and 87,605 females (31,6 %). However, female participation as members of the national boards is even less: 99 women and 895 men.

Women of Water tells the stories of a group of women involved in water management. These are collective, personal and human anecdotes that show the role women play as water users, water managers, instructors, leaders and also as mothers, wives, professionals, and educators.

*Ing. Lidia Gaona*

Photography: National Water Authority (ANA).

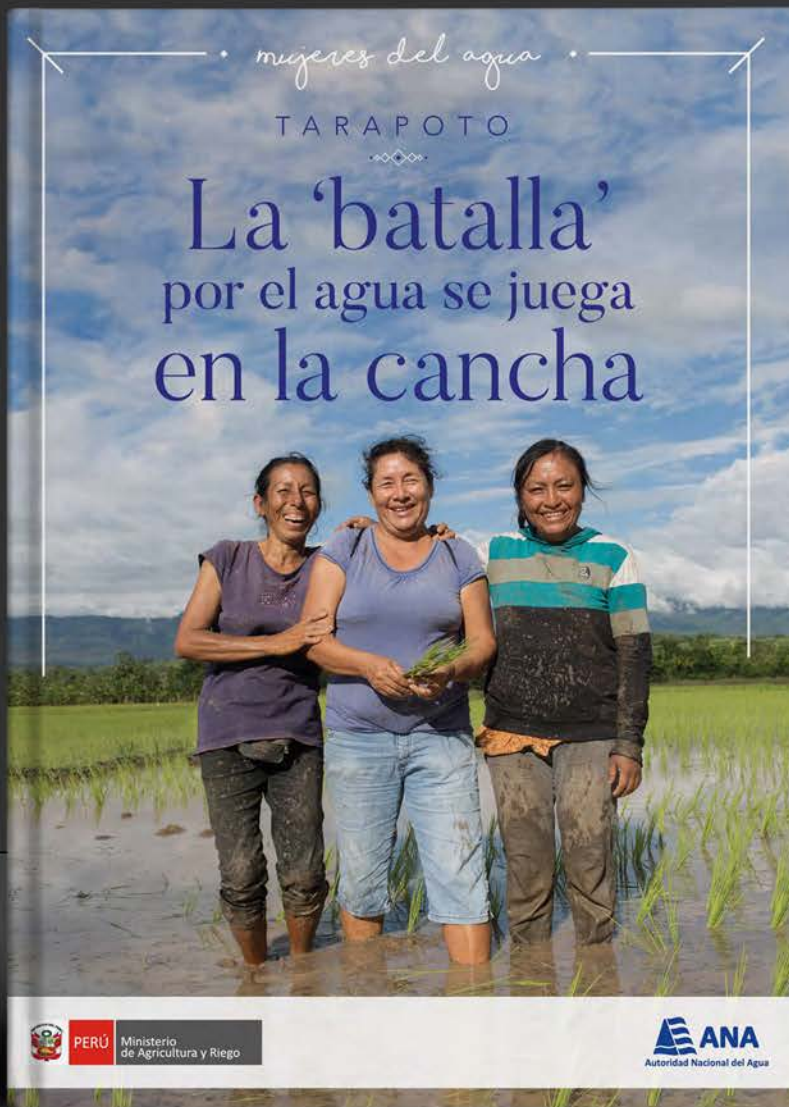
Lidia Gaona is a woman who has had a life as complicated as a mountain riverbed. The fact that she is an agricultural engineer was almost a miracle. She had to run from Cajamarca, where she was born, during the night and helped by her mother because her father did not want her to study at the university. Nevertheless, she studied at the Pedro Ruiz Gallo National University, where she had to face other prejudices because the major she wanted was considered to be for men. Even though three decades have gone by, Lidia's eyes shine bright when she remembers that experience. Her character blends in with the water, a resource she has devoted all of her professional life. At times, she is quiet and delicate like a stream; at other times, she is intense and powerful like a waterfall. She knows when to play each role.

"My job consists on avoiding conflict and achieving a good coordination between the actions of the board and those of the 15 commissions", points out this engineer. According to Lidia, the magic word is dialogue, and she believes that women are more prepared to deal with social and technical issues and create an environment of trust and recognition. "Being a woman is not a limitation. We can handle all of our obligations: those at work and the ones imposed by a male chauvinistic society at home. I am a mother and a professional and I have never let things halfway."

**(Taken from Women of Water- Lambayeque: The Voice Can Be a Transforming River).**

The publications mentioned have contributed towards the identification and visibility of female leaders in water management in Peru, which has interested and motivated other female water users to participate with the purpose of becoming future leaders themselves.

In addition, these works have sensitized agricultural users and have made them understand that female participation is paramount to achieve common goals in water management and protection for future generations.



***Women of Water – Tarapoto:  
The Battle for Water is Played out on the Court***  
**Author:** National Water Authority

**Edited by:** National Water Authority. (2019).  
Calle Diecisiete 355, Urb. El Palomar, San Isidro. Lima. Perú.

Legal deposit in the National Library of Peru, N° 2019-04561.



***Women of Water – Lambayeque:  
The Voice Can Be a Transforming River***

**Author:** National Water Authority.

Edited by: National Water Authority. (2019).

Calle Diecisiete 355, Urb. El Palomar, San Isidro. Lima. Peru.

Legal deposit in the National Library of Peru, N° 2019-06440.



***Women of Water – Arequipa:  
The Future of the Valley Is Built Feminine***  
**Author:** National Water Authority

**Edited by:** National Water Authority. (2019).

Calle Diecisiete 355, Urb. El Palomar, San Isidro. Lima. Perú.

Legal deposit in the National Library of Peru, N° 2019-06790.