Gender-responsive project implementation within the Resilient Food Systems Programme

Guidance note
Gender-responsive project implementation within the Resilient Food Systems Programme

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Introduction

Gender responsiveness means going beyond the identification of gender-based differences and a ‘do no harm’ approach to making a conscious effort to address gender and social inequalities through project activities, seeking to advance gender equality.

This requires thoughtful planning, staffing and resourcing and involves understanding how will anticipated outputs and outcomes affect women and men differently, and how will the different roles and status of women and men affect the project activities and objectives. It also requires tailoring approaches and methods to the needs, priorities, and interests of women and men of different ages and socio economic and cultural backgrounds.

**Gender responsiveness should, at its core, facilitate the equitable achievement of project benefits for both men and women.**
Background

Gender is a cross-cutting issue within the Resilient Food Systems (RFS) Programme and gender mainstreaming was a major aspect of the country projects design – with emphasis on analyses to identify and account for differences in needs, roles and responsibilities, as well as opportunities for equal engagement of women and men. However, the operationalization of these analyses into approaches and activities for implementation can be challenging, especially when project teams lack resources and capacities for gender integration.

This guidance note is designed to assist country teams to identify the most relevant gender dimensions according to the theme and scope of their project. It also suggests activities, methods and approaches to address those gender dimensions in project implementation. The aim is to ensure that both men and women have equal opportunities to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the RFS projects.

We begin with an overview of the gender dimensions addressed in the guide and how they relate to the Resilient Food Systems key themes. We then explore each of these gender dimensions and provide concrete recommendations for programming and implementation, as well as the types of outcomes that can be achieved when a gender dimension is recognized and addressed. The guide also highlights examples of what RFS countries are doing or are planning to do, at different scales, that could be replicated. Finally, the last section offers a selection of tools, methodologies and resources to support gender-responsive project implementation.

The gender dimensions focused of this guide are closely aligned to the main gender gaps identified in the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy. The following strategic entry points are proposed to address these gaps, as per the GEF-7 programming strategy:

A. Supporting women’s improved access, use, and control of resources, including land, water, forest, and fisheries.
B. Enhancing women’s participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes, with women as agents of change at all levels.
C. Targeting women as specific beneficiaries.
D. Investing in women’s skills and capacity.
E. Encouraging gender mainstreaming efforts which are guided by the COPs in activities linked to the conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.
F. Seeking targeted collaboration around knowledge and analytical efforts.

1For further details, see pages 4-5 of the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy (2018): https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-gender-implementation-strategy
Gender equitable participation in decision-making

Addresses gender gaps related to participation and leadership in decision-making processes at various levels. At the community level, these gaps are mostly referred to unequal voice and influence in local governance processes. At the household level, the gender gap is linked to limited participation in decisions on farming, the use of resources, and household members' wellbeing.

Access to and control over resources

Explores women’s differential access to and control over land and other productive resources that constrain productive capacity, income opportunities, and the effective management of natural resources.

Access to financial services and markets, and control over income and benefits

Explores gender gaps related to participation in markets and value chains, as well as control over the income generated through these activities. It also addresses women’s limited access to credit and financial services, and its implications on women’s access to other productive resources.

Equitable workload

Acknowledges women’s triple role (productive, reproductive and community work) and the limitations it imposes on their time and energy. It requires assessing the effect of promoted practices or technologies and participation in project activities on workloads and time dedication, to ensure the project benefits outweigh any associated increases in workloads or actually reduce workloads.
Relevant Gender dimensions

- Sustainable land management
- Agroforestry and reforestation
- Integrated Water Resource Management
- Local governance and institutions
- Value chains and market access
- Access to financial services and control over income and benefits
- Access to and control over resources
- Rural extension and capacity development
- Gender equitable participation in decision-making
- Equitable workload
- Access to and control over resources
Traditional gender norms and roles, time restrictions and domestic responsibilities may limit women’s participation in community decision making and collective action. The number of women participating in farmer organizations (FOs) is not an indicator for meaningful participation or fair share in benefits, as structural unequal provisions in FOs might exacerbate gender imbalances. Also, in contexts where women and/or other marginalized groups are not traditionally involved in community processes, local governance bodies and institutions might be reproducing discriminatory attitudes and beliefs regarding women’s participation.

The composition of natural resource management (NRM) bodies (e.g. water management committees, forest users groups), as well as the way in which discussions are carried out and decisions made within these bodies, can lead to gender bias and exclusion. Active local participation and voice in these venues tend to be dominated by better resourced, land-owning men from privileged groups. Women’s involvement in reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded lands is likely to have an impact on their overall workload, particularly in contexts where land management and agriculture are increasingly feminized. If women are not meaningfully engaged in this processes, those impacts on their time and labour risk going uncompensated (Sijapati Basnett et al. 2017).

**Gender equitable participation in decision-making**

**At a community level**

Women and men, older and younger, participate meaningfully in decision-making about the management of natural resources that are key in achieving food and nutrition security

- A higher proportion of women and youth are members and leaders in farmer groups and NRM committees
- More collaborative intra-household decision-making processes

**Expected outcomes**
How is this relevant to my project?
Consider the following questions

Regarding farmer organizations (community-based organizations - CBOs, cooperatives, loans and savings groups, etc):

- Is there a gender balance in membership? If not, why are women or men less likely to be members?
- Is membership open for individuals only or for the entire household? Can husbands and wives have separate membership?
- Is there a gender balance in leadership positions? What leadership positions do women commonly hold?
- What are common attitudes about women and men in leadership positions?
- Are women’s voices being heard at the time of decision-making?

Regarding NRM bodies (water management committees, forest users’ groups, etc):

- How was the committee formed? Are women and marginalized groups participating? Which type of farmers are represented in the committees?
- How are decisions made about the type of management activities that will be undertaken?

Suggestions for gender-responsive implementation

- Put in place gender-inclusive participatory processes that engage women and men, especially younger farmers and those from disempowered groups, when decisions are made about: the type and location of the intervention (e.g. enclosure areas, dam or pond construction); species used for reforestation and land rehabilitation; practices and technologies for sustainable soil and water management promoted (e.g. agroforestry, irrigation and water conservation techniques).

- When working with farmer organizations (CBOs, cooperatives, loans and savings groups, etc.), ensure that rules of entry or membership criteria are not discriminatory (e.g. by allowing non-heads of households and non-landowners) and that efforts are made to ensure leadership is inclusive (e.g. by setting targets for women’s leadership), as well as monitor if decision-making within FOs is respecting diverse priorities and needs.

- Raise awareness at community level on existing laws and policies on women’s rights, including tree and land ownership, as well as the contributions of female farmers and the benefits of gender equality in sustainable development, using avenues like NRM committees, traditional council or public meetings, churches and schools.

- Consider whether the venue and timing of the management committee’s meetings are being agreed among members and are suitable to women’s schedules.
Despite being heavily involved in agriculture, women in many countries have limited control over resources and over agricultural decisions at the farm level. This is due in part to long-existing patriarchal norms that allocate most decision-making power to men as the household head, and to men’s and women's bargaining power within the household, which depend among others on their assets, livelihood strategies and income.

Targeting individual farmers through trainings, farmer meetings and field visits is common practice in agricultural development programming. Yet, decisions around the adoption of a new farming practice are likely to be negotiated with other household members, each with differing preferences and bargaining power. Uptake decisions first have to pass through the filter of the household and are influenced by gender-related norms and relations, which, ultimately, may act as a barrier to uptake and wider adoption. Gender dynamics within the household also shape men’s and women’s potential to contribute to and benefit from new practices. Conversely, new practices, through their design, performance and how they are disseminated, can change gender roles and relations within the household (Doss and Meinzen-Dick 2015, Doss and Quisumbing 2020).
Who makes decisions about agricultural production, such as what to plant, what inputs to use, and how much land and inputs to allocate to each crop?

Who makes the decision about adopting a new farming practice or technology?

Women’s participation in technology trainings does not mean they have enough autonomy in decisions about the implementation of the technology, to automatic access or control of the benefits of using it. Do women participating in project activities decide on whether or not they implement practices or technologies they learned about through the project? Do they decide on the location and intensity of implementation? Do they have access to the benefits of implementing the practice/technology?

What type of farming and NRM decisions can women make on their own? Where women make decisions, do they have control of the outputs?

Would women make different decisions on the practice or technology if men were not involved in the decision-making process?

Identify and understand the gender norms surrounding farm activities that can constrain the uptake of promoted practices or technologies.

Take advantage of trainings and other capacity development activities (field visits, workshops, monitoring visits) to facilitate critical awareness and discussion of traditional gender roles and norms that generate inequalities, including inequitable participation in decision-making, unequal workloads and access to resources that hinder intra-household collaboration and the efficient use of household resources.

Encourage the attendance of spouses. In situations where women attend trainings and the husband does not, the husband may be reluctant to let the wife test the new practice/technology as they have not seen it working or are not aware of the potential benefits. Encouraging couples to attend trainings could help overcome this barrier. Moreover, training couples can become a mechanism to enhance collaborative decision-making and more equitable division of work by encouraging household members to learn from one another in the implementation of technical activities.

Provide information materials for farmers to take home. This would need to be in a well-designed, thoughtful format so that even farmers with low literacy can understand the information. The material should also provide guidance on how to address potential scepticism from other household members.

Encourage on-farm experimentation. Using an approach of testing and comparing different practices might help persuade sceptical household members to try out a new technology, especially because farmers are given control over what they test and compare. A woman, for example, could reason with her husband that they can test a new practice or technology on a small area and drop the option that does not do well before scaling - emphasising the learning aspect of the approach.

Make use of the vast amount of knowledge resources and technical support on Farmer Field Schools (FFS) which are made available to RFS country projects through the Regional Hub: explore the RFS Knowledge Centre and contact FAO for additional help.

How is this relevant to my project?
Consider the following questions

- Who makes decisions about agricultural production, such as what to plant, what inputs to use, and how much land and inputs to allocate to each crop?
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- What type of farming and NRM decisions can women make on their own? Where women make decisions, do they have control of the outputs?
- Would women make different decisions on the practice or technology if men were not involved in the decision-making process?
Examples of what RFS countries are doing to support gender equitable participation in decision-making

**Senegal**
Facilitating the integration of women in the production, processing and marketing of targeted commodities, and promote their representation in the governing bodies of Producer Organizations (PO)

**Niger**
Promoting the creation of women groups

**Nigeria**
Organizing national and state-level multi-stakeholder gender-sensitive platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and SLWM practices

**Uganda**
Supporting and targeting women-led CBOs

**Ethiopia**
- Ensures women’s participation in decision-making about soil and water management practices implemented, having into account their time
- Encouraging the participation of women as members and leaders

**Tanzania**
- Integrating the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) to address unequal intra-household gender relations in the FFS approach
- Established a quota of women in leading positions (>30%) in inter-village NRM committees
- Carrying out training for women in group formation, leadership skills, confidence building and negotiation skills

**Burundi**
Ensures women representation in key decision-making platforms (e.g. a fixed quota for women will be introduced in the established watershed committees)

**Malawi**
- Integrating the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) tools as part of the capacity building activities of the sub-Catchment committees and Village NRM committees as an explicit strategy to improve women’s decision-making capacity and empowerment.
- Setting quotas for leadership positions for women in conservation groups and sub-Catchment committees.
- Offering leadership training, particularly for men from poorer households, women and youth

**Uganda**
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- Offering leadership training, particularly for men from poorer households, women and youth
Access to and control over resources

Whilst women represent 43% of the agricultural workforce across all developing countries, and have highly specialized knowledge on trees, forests, species diversity, management, and conservation practices, their access to resources such as land, water, quality planting material and knowledge is more restricted than men’s in many countries. This gap constrains women’s productive capacity and incomes, and hinders their effective management of natural resources (FAO, 2012).

Significant gender disparities in access to resources (including labour, fertilizer and improved seed planting material) explain to a large extent the consistent yield gaps between men and women farmers that, average around 20%-30% (FAO, 2012). Reducing the gender gap can thus play a significant role in poverty reduction and improved nutritional outcomes.

Moreover, women, youth, migrants and other marginalized groups face legal and cultural barriers to land (Meinzen-Dick et al. 2010), that limit their ability and motivation to plant or manage trees over which they may not have decision-making authority or long-term access, with important implication for reforestation and land restoration efforts. Access to land and resources is also a critical entry point for women’s empowerment. It defines social status and political power, and structures relationships both within and outside the household (Agarwal 1994; Kabeer, 2005).

The gender gap in access to immaterial resources like knowledge and extension services has also been documented. Rural extension services have fallen far short of adequately serving women’s needs due to, among others: women’s limited mobility; low visibility of their productive work, which leaves it out of target for extension support; and low literacy and education levels, reflected in their low levels of technology adoption.

Expected outcomes

- Women’s and younger farmers, access to and control over key resources such as land, water and forests is enhanced.
- Women and younger farmers have increased and better access to extension services.
What are the prevalent land tenure regimes (including legal frameworks and customary laws and norms) in the project context? How can women and young (unmarried) people access land within this regime? Are men and women aware of their legal rights to land?

What forms of access to resources other than ownership, such as access rights to tree products, are available for women or youth?

Are project activities having an impact on communal or uncultivated land? Are these more likely to affect women or certain groups of farmers? Women tend to collect products that are crucial for their livelihoods such as non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and firewood from communal or uncultivated land.

Consider the difference between access to and control over a resource. Women may have access to certain resources or assets but might have no voice on how these resources are used or sold. Is it common for men to control assets that are more valuable, such as land and large livestock, and women to control assets that are less valuable, such as small livestock? Who makes decisions about when assets can be sold or rented?

How does women’s access to extension services compares to men’s? If there is a gap, what is it due to?

How does women’s access to agricultural inputs (e.g. fertilizer, seeds or seedlings, plough) compares to men’s? If there is a gap, what is it due to?

Raise awareness and provide information about land rights among men and women farmers, leaders and local officials in the communities targeted by the project. Although many countries have made changes in their laws and policies toward more equitable land rights, people and local officials in rural communities are often unaware of or do not know how to implement them.

If the project is providing seeds or planting material, involve women and young farmers in determining priority species and traits.

Identify bottlenecks in delivery channels that might be limiting women’s access to quality planting material and put in place strategies to address them:

- Encourage the use of smaller/cheaper seed packets that use local languages and/or pictures for illiterate farmers;
- Include women and youth in business opportunities related to the establishment of seed banks and nurseries.

Identify the context specific constraints women and young farmers face to access extension services and put in place appropriate actions to address them:

- Engage women farmer trainers;
- Adapt training timings and venues;
- Train extension staff on gender issues.

Encourage the attendance of spouses. Training couples together can help them learn from one another as well as build a more collaborative approach to technical activities.

Adjust the extension curricula and contents to be more gender-responsive, promoting positive gender roles, acknowledging women’s multiple activities including their participation in agriculture, animal rearing, food processing and marketing, as well as all the activities required to maintain the household, such as cooking, cleaning and taking care of children.

Take advantage of trainings and other capacity development activities (field visits, workshops, monitoring visits) to facilitate critical awareness and discussion of traditional gender roles and norms that generate inequalities, including inequitable participation in decision-making, unequal workloads and access to resources that hinder intra-household collaboration and the efficient use of household resources.
Examples of what RFS countries are doing to improve women’s access to and control over resources

**UGANDA**
- Raising awareness of communities, and particularly women, on their rights of access, use and control of land resources
- Ensuring equal participation of men and women in training activities
- Organizing youth and women in producer groups or in VSLAs to develop seed multiplication skills and cereal banking systems

**SENEGAL**
- Ensuring the allocation of land to women groups

**BURKINA FASO**
- Improving institutional communal land tenure systems to facilitate women’s access to land resources

**GHANA**
- Targeting trainings for women forest users’ groups

**BURUNDI**
- Including gender-specific training modules for facilitators as part of the FFS framework and extension services

**TANZANIA**
- Adopting training approaches that increase women’s participation (i.e. increasing the use of female extension staff and trainers; selecting appropriate materials, language and media; and ensuring that the timing and venues are also convenient for women)
- Setting up women’s self-help groups for knowledge-sharing on conservation farming practices

**ESWATINI**
- Engaging Chiefs advisory committees and the Chiefdom Development Committees on transformative trainings to acknowledge the importance of including women in community-based natural resource management
- Encouraging recruitment of women as extension staff to improve outreach among women smallholders
Access to financial services and markets, and control over income and benefits

Gender norms and power relations, time restrictions and domestic responsibilities may limit women’s participation in markets and value chains, as well as their share in the income generated through these activities. Gender norms determine what is socially acceptable ‘male’ and ‘female’ work, and power relations mediate access to and control over productive assets, as well as participation in decision-making. Gender differences are influenced by intersecting social factors such as ethnicity, marital status and age, but as a general trend, women – relative to men – tend to be confined in less profitable value chains, occupy less remunerative nodes in a given value chain (such as harvesting and retailing), and run smaller businesses (Ingram et al 2016). Women also tend to be underrepresented in producer associations; (FTA 2020).

The same barriers and constraints that determine women’s limited participation in markets and value chains also result in women’s limited access to credit, financial information and services. Women are less likely than men to have the collateral needed to access loans and credits in the formal sector. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), which are often promoted as the main channel to link women to financial services, usually have limited capital. The low access to financial services has broader implications as it limits women’s access to other productive resources, such as seeds, fertilizers and equipment, as well as agricultural assets, such as livestock.

Expected outcomes

- Increased women’s economic empowerment.
- Improved attitudes towards women’s participation in markets and economic activities.
- Enhanced access to markets and financial services and increased financial literacy.
- Women’s and disadvantaged groups, control over income and benefits is enhanced.
How are women and youth involved in the value chains targeted by the project? Is their work visibly remunerated? Do women make less money than men for the same work?

If the project is working with producer organizations or marketing groups to enhance market access, what is the proportion of women and men who are members of those organizations? What are the requirements for membership?

If the project is targeting value chains of products traditionally managed by women, are there any safeguards in place to mitigate the risk of men taking control away from women, or elite appropriation of these products as their profitability increases?

How does women’s access to financing differs from men’s? Where do they usually access credit? What activities they need to finance, either at individual, family or business levels? What types of financial products would best suit them?

Do women in the project targeted communities usually own land or other assets that financial institutions would consider as acceptable collateral?

Suggestions for gender-responsive implementation

Complement trainings and other capacity development activities on marketing or processing with critical discussions about the value of women’s contributions, their rights and the opportunities brought about by their fair participation in markets.

Encourage women’s participation in marketing groups or CBOs linked to markets. Foster the creation of women farmer marketing groups. Women’s participation in these groups provides an entry point to build their leadership capacity and business skills.

Target value chains of products traditionally managed by women for value-chain development and take measures to avoid co-optation from men or elites. Some options include:

- Supporting and strengthening collective action (e.g. encouraging participation of women farmers groups into collective marketing enterprises).
- Involving men as key partners and as agents of change in their position as relatives and peers.
- Putting in place policies and processes to ensure women are more likely to receive and control payment for their work (e.g. make contracts and payments in the name of the female supplier instead of her partner, or where they are made jointly).

If the project is working on value-chain development, consider if and how interventions, regulations and policies to foster upgrading and other transformations (geographic distribution, pricing, product type, etc.) can make women’s work more visible and better remunerated.

Identify and address differences in market information needs and market information sources for men, women and youth.

Dedicate efforts to analyse financial service’s needs, sources and uses associated with gender roles and division of labour.

Strengthen the viability of community-managed financial groups and use them as entry points to connect women to formal financial institutions and market opportunities. One way of doing this is by formalizing these groups through a bank account.

Provide financial literacy trainings to both men and women farmers including issues around investment, table banking, loaning and savings.
Examples of what RFS countries are doing to improve women’s access to financial services and markets, as well as control over income and benefits

GHANA
Supporting Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) targeted toward women

NIGER
Supporting the creation of women associations to increase their financial independence

NIGERIA
Incentivising women’s participation in groundnut and rice production, including providing technical support for processing and marketing

UGANDA
- Organize youth and women in producer groups or in VSLAs to set-up businesses around fodder harvesting, storage and sale; basket making, and thatching
- Establishing piggeries and small-stock rearing facilities (chickens, goats, ducks)

ETHIOPIA
- Increasing women’s participation in value-added activities
- Increasing women’s access to credit to support alternative livelihoods

TANZANIA
Setting up women’s self-help groups for knowledge-sharing on conservation farming practices and strengthening women’s business and entrepreneurship skills for climate-resilient commodities such as bee-keeping, medical plants, wild fruits, mat and basket making

UGANDA
Organize youth and women in producer groups or in VSLAs to set-up businesses around fodder harvesting, storage and sale; basket making, and thatching

Burundi
Providing micro-grants to women farmers through the established FFS structure.

ESWATINI
Investing in youth and women’s groups to develop enterprises for market services, farm mechanisation and rooftop rainwater harvesting; and to turn multiple small eroded sites (200 ha in total at an average unit size of 4 ha each) into productive orchards/vegetable/fodder plots and irrigation developments
Women benefit from reduced time spent in sourcing for resources like firewood or water. Technologies that reduce women’s labour and energy expenditure are prioritized.

Rural women and girls throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, and in many other regions in the world, not only actively participate in agricultural production and trade, but also carry the brunt of the domestic and household work, which is usually less visible and less valued. These activities include not only the care and maintenance of the household and its members (bearing and caring for children, food preparation, water and fuel collection, shopping, housekeeping, family health care) but also the collective organisation of social events and services (ceremonies, celebrations, community improvement activities, participation in groups and organisations, local political activities etc.). Men also undertake community work but it is more often associated with political participation or leadership positions that offer them recognition and status within their communities.

Women’s triple role (productive, reproductive and community work) significantly limits the time they have available for any economic or personal pursuits. A clear example of the burden is reflected in the time spent collecting and transporting water and firewood: in rural Sub-Saharan Africa women travel, on average, between 1 and 5 km per day on foot for 2.5 hours, while carrying a load of about 20 kg (Blackden and Wodon 2006).

Initiatives involving rural women should assess the impact of any proposed interventions on women’s constrained time and heavy workloads and devise actions to either blunt the negative impacts or to ensure that the benefits associated with the intervention outweigh any associated increases in workload.

**Expected outcomes**

- Women benefit from reduced time spent in sourcing for resources like firewood or water
- Technologies that reduce women’s labour and energy expenditure are prioritized
How are project activities or promoted technologies/practices affecting women’s workload? Is there a labour shift between men and women? What are the implications of these changes on other activities (e.g. childcare)? Are women willing to make these trade-offs?

Do men and women in targeted communities value and experience time differently? What would they do if they had more of it?

Do project activities or promoted technologies/practices reinforce traditional gender roles and norms? Are there opportunities to challenge men and women to take on different roles in developing these activities?

Are there technologies the project can promote to save women’s time and effort?

How is this relevant to my project?

Consider the following questions

How are project activities or promoted technologies/practices affecting women’s workload? Is there a labour shift between men and women? What are the implications of these changes on other activities (e.g. childcare)? Are women willing to make these trade-offs?

Do men and women in targeted communities value and experience time differently? What would they do if they had more of it?

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Are there technologies the project can promote to save women’s time and effort?

Suggestions for gender-responsive implementation

- Enhance collaborative decision-making and more equitable division of work by encouraging household members to learn from one another in the implementation of technical activities.

- Explore possibilities to complement technical interventions with the use of household methodologies or other transformative approaches that foster intra-household collaboration and a more balanced division of labour.

- Promote technologies that aim at: reducing the time it takes to complete tasks (e.g. fuel-efficient stoves reduce time spent transporting wood and decrease damage to lungs through smoke inhalation); easing the difficulty of tasks or increasing the productivity of existing labour (e.g. modern storage technologies that decrease time and work spent in post-harvest management).
Examples of what RFS countries are doing to reduce women’s workload

**UGANDA**
Promoting the sustainable production of charcoal, including the introduction of retort kilns and improved cookstoves and establishing dedicated woodlots for wood fuel

**ETHIOPIA**
- Evaluating the impact of restoration activities on women’s time
- Interventions in water and fuelwood collection aiming at saving time for women

**KENYA**
Rainwater harvesting technologies for domestic use are expected to reduce women’s time and labour in fetching water

**MALAWI**
- Supporting reforestation and the planting of woodlots to, among others, reduce women’s time for firewood gathering and water collection
- Promoting and training community groups on the use of appropriate energy-saving technologies (efficient stoves, solar-powered tools, biogas and briquettes) and assessing their benefits for men and women

**NIGER**
Building women food security reserves

**TANZANIA**
Providing training on the use of energy-efficient cookstoves
Gender responsive design, monitoring and communication

The previous sections have focused on suggestions for gender-responsive implementation, but this can only be fully achieved if attention to gender issues starts from the project design stage and when monitoring and evaluation arrangements include indicators to measure how men and women not only participate in but, most importantly, benefit from the project. Gender responsiveness should be also reflected on the way project results and knowledge are brought into policy discussions and disseminated among project partners, local and national governments, as well as men and women in the communities targeted by the project.
Suggestions for gender-responsive design

- Carry out a gender analysis that identifies gender differences in practices, knowledge, priorities and needs in each particular context, with the purpose of identifying gender-based constraints and opportunities that could limit or facilitate the project’s desired changes.
  - How will anticipated results of the work affect women and men differently?
  - How will the different roles and status of women and men affect the work to be undertaken?
- Ensure women and men, especially young people and core stakeholders are present when key project decisions are made.
- Determine what the project wants to achieve in terms of gender equality or women’s empowerment and define related impact, outcomes and outputs.
  - Keep in mind that simply reaching women, or including them as project beneficiaries does not necessarily translate into women’s empowerment. Empowerment goes beyond improving women’s wellbeing or participation: it is about enhancing women’s ability to make strategic life choices and to act upon them.
- Define inputs or resources (human and financial) needed to achieve these.

Suggestions for gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation

- Ensure the collection of project data (quantitative and qualitative), particularly in relation to individual knowledge, preferences, priorities and needs, is disaggregated by sex and other social factors of differentiation relevant to the context. And analyse this data to identify potential inequalities and conflict (CGIAR 2013).
- Formulate indicators to measure how men and women benefit from the project activities. This kind of indicators go beyond the number of men and women (e.g. participating in trainings or receiving inputs) and could consider both economic and non-economic benefits such as increased participation and voice, savings in labour and time or changes in attitudes (Oxfam 2017).

Suggestions for gender-responsive communication and knowledge management

- Ensure that gender-relevant results are included in relevant project outputs and communication products.
- Present project information and results according to gender of the participants and other relevant variables of social differentiation like age or ethnicity. For instance, in tables and graphics, depict trends for women and men separately within or in addition to overall trends.
- Ensure that photographs, drawings, animations or videos in communication products and projects materials include diverse women and men.
- Share project results with policy makers, men and women project participants and other relevant stakeholders with an interest in and responsibility for supporting gender-equitable policies and programming.
RFS examples of gender responsive elements on project design, monitoring, communication and knowledge management

**NIGERIA**
- Commissioned an in-depth gender study to inform project’s implementation and to provide a baseline for gender related indicators
- Gender review of existing policies and integration of gender in emerging National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP)

**ETHIOPIA**
- Applying a gender-responsive decision support tool to inform selection of participating communities and households, and to carry out a rapid appraisal on gender issues in production
- Training national staff and policy analysts in the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, and development of gender-responsive socio-economic indicators, particularly looking at access to natural resources and participation in decision making at farm and community level

**MALAWI**
- Carried out an analysis on gender differences, particularly in NRM and agriculture production as part of the design process
- MPAT will be integrated into the project’s monitoring and assessment framework accompanied by a set of gender-relevant survey indicators from the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

**KENYA**
Using Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool (MPAT) and an additional gender analysis including the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

**TANZANIA**
A gender analysis is included as part of the baseline survey, looking at access to and control over productive resources and information, division of labour, capacity needs, and differing priorities in the uptake of conservation farming practices
Useful gender resources and tools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participatory Gender Training for Community Groups</td>
<td><a href="https://wle.cgiar.org/solutions/participatory-gender-training-community-groups">https://wle.cgiar.org/solutions/participatory-gender-training-community-groups</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field guide to Adaptive Collaborative Management and improving women’s participation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/5085/">http://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/5085/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index – Resource Centre</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ifpri.org/project/weai">https://www.ifpri.org/project/weai</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gender and Inclusion Toolbox: Participatory Research in Climate Change and Agriculture</td>
<td><a href="https://ccafs.cgiar.org/gender-and-inclusion-toolbox#.Xsf:tWgzaXI">https://ccafs.cgiar.org/gender-and-inclusion-toolbox#.Xsf:tWgzaXI</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fao.org/3/ak214e/ak214e00.pdf">http://www.fao.org/3/ak214e/ak214e00.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care Rapid Gender Analysis</td>
<td><a href="https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/in-practice/rapid-gender-analysis">https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/in-practice/rapid-gender-analysis</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender dimensions

- Gender equitable participation in decision-making
- Access to and control over resources
- Access to financial services and markets, and control over income and benefits
- Equitable workload
References


V. Ingram, M. Haverhals, S. Petersen, M. Elias, B. Sijapati Basnett, P. Sola. 2016. Gender and forest, tree and agroforestry value chains. C.J.P. Colfer, B. Sijapati Basnett, M. Elias (Eds.), Gender and forests, CIFOR, Indonesia (2016), pp. 221-242


ABOUT THIS KNOWLEDGE BRIEF

This brief is part of a series of knowledge products prepared by the Regional Hub project of the Resilient Food Systems programme. This brief falls under the Cross Cutting theme, with other knowledge products categorized under the other programme pillars Engage, Act and Track, or within a Cross-cutting tag.

Our programme website allows easy access to these resources.

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