



CGIAR Research Program on Livestock Gender Strategy

Delivering livestock solutions that benefit men and women

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Photo Alessandra Galiè/ILRI

CGIAR is a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food-secure future. The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock provides research-based solutions to help smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists transition to sustainable, resilient livelihoods and to productive enterprises that will help feed future generations. It aims to increase the productivity and profitability of livestock agri-food systems in sustainable ways, making meat, milk and eggs more available and affordable across the developing world. The Program brings together five core partners: the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) with a mandate on livestock; the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), which works on forages; the International Center for Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), which works on small ruminants and dryland systems; the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) with expertise particularly in animal health and genetics and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) which connects research into development and innovation and scaling processes.


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Why gender and livestock¹?

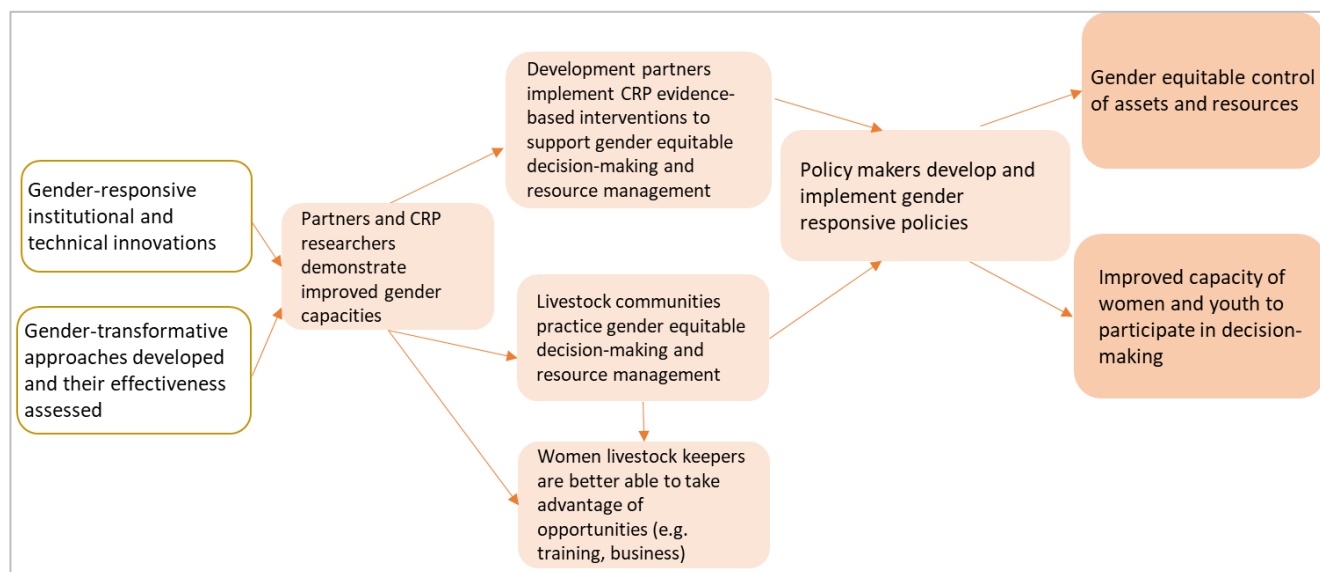
- Most livestock producers are women, yet less than 3% of aid funds targeting gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture also targets livestock².
- Livestock is a vital asset for women's livelihoods and a source of resilience in times of distress.
- Women provide most of the labour in smallholder livestock systems.
- Sustainable goals will not be achieved if women continue to be excluded.

Livestock and gender are inextricably woven into one another. Gender dynamics play many roles in livestock ownership, management and is associated with significant differences between men and women. This is regarding the types of animals they keep and own, whose animals are sold in times of crisis, and how they utilize the products, income and other benefits that livestock provide.

Under the right conditions, livestock provides ready and reliable livelihoods, food and income to women and provide a pathway towards empowerment, giving women more voice and control over family decisions, and opportunities to become leaders and entrepreneurs. There are however significant caveats: women tend to keep fewer animals than men; they tend to lose control over income when sales reach larger volumes, and their opportunities are often limited to less lucrative production roles.

Experience in the Livestock and Fish CRP and elsewhere shows that gender-responsive livestock interventions can help achieve development goals like equity, equality, empowerment, income generation, resilience, better health and secure food. Women are key to successful and sustainable livestock production, providing much of the care and labour that livestock need to be productive.

Figure 1: The CRP's gender theory of change



¹ This strategy focuses on gender (women and men) and does not include youth. The CRP strategy on youth is at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/101459>

² stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=DV_DCD_GENDER

The gender work is organized as a cluster of activities - within the Livestock Livelihoods and Agri-Food Systems flagship of the Livestock CRP -which collate both gender analysis integrated across all other flagships and more strategic gender work.

Priorities and theory of change

The program's gender strategy and theory of change focuses on two interdependent product lines: 1) strategic gender transformative approaches, and 2) packages of gender-responsive institutional and technical innovations. See figure 1.

These product lines address two CGIAR sub-intermediate development outcomes: 'Gender-equitable control of productive assets and resources' and 'improved capacity of women and young people to participate in decision-making'. In working on these, the CRP also contributes to SDG 5 gender equity and SDG 2 ending hunger.

Strategic gender-transformative research

Two guiding questions drive the dedicated 'strategic' research on gender-transformative approaches and social equity:

- What transformative approaches to addressing gender-based constraints, in particular restrictive gender norms and asset gaps, stimulate women's agency and strengthen empowerment pathways?
- What opportunities can be harnessed to create an enabling environment for equitable livestock-related livelihoods and equitable access to, control over and intake of animal-source food?

The aim is to move beyond 'gender mainstreaming' towards more comprehensive approaches, based on a thorough understanding of the totality of gender dynamics surrounding livestock, and of the needs and aspirations of both men and women, including barriers and opportunities.

This will be achieved by adopting greater intentionality and rigorous exploration and implementation of gender transformative approaches. Gender intentionality ensures that women are not overlooked in livestock interventions and that gender transformation proactively seeks to re-align societal norms and values so women benefit on their terms from livestock interventions.

Evidence generated will influence decisions on the benefits of including gender equity in livestock development policies and interventions, providing long-term structural incentives for gender equity at regional, community and household levels.

The program will also enhance the gender capacities of local and national development partners so they can adopt gender transformative approaches in their work. In this way, the CRP's gender findings reach communities and households, premised on the assumptions that gender-transformative approaches have long-lasting impacts on gender-equitable behaviours, and women have the capacities and interest to take advantage of new gender-equitable norms.

Areas of work include:

- Women's empowerment livestock index
- Gender issues in national livestock master plans
- Livestock ownership and control issues
- Empowerment domains and indicators at the project level
- Links between consumption of animal-source foods and women's empowerment
- Gender-specific opportunities in livestock value chains
- Helping livestock communities and nations gain voice and influence in an inclusive and equitable fashion
- Training in gender, livestock and more sustainable food systems, targeted at researchers, development agencies and government staff.

Gender-integrated interventions

'Integrated' research on gender-equitable technological and institutional innovation packages that enhance progress towards gender equality are included as specific activities in the 'technical' flagships and coordinated from this product line. Key questions here include:

- How does gender (in-)equality affect the technological and institutional solutions that are designed, delivered and studied by the program?
- How do the technological and institutional solutions developed affect gender relations?

This flagship-based work aims to integrate gender-equitable priorities and results so that women can benefit from the technical interventions and implementation strategies developed and tested by the flagships.

Each flagship works with the gender team on priorities for its gender-integrated research.

The *Livestock Genetics* flagship will assess species and breed preferences in relation to gender norms, and factor gender dimensions into genetic improvement approaches and delivery mechanisms. Planned priority areas include: ensuring the participation of women and men livestock keepers in defining genetic improvement strategies; ensuring that genetic technologies are relevant to women and men; ensuring gender-equitable access to genetic technologies and associated information; and addressing issues of control over genetic technologies.

The *Livestock Health* flagship will incorporate gender demands in its evaluation of animal health needs and delivery options. Planned priority areas include gendered dimensions of vaccine adoption and the impact of diseases; gender impacts around anti-microbial resistance and its spread; and herd health and management, which provides opportunities for gains in equity as well as productivity.

The *Livestock Feeds and Forages* flagship recognizes that gender dynamics and norms affect the choice of feeds, forages, and full-purpose crops. These preferences influence the feeding practices and technologies that livestock-keeping households adopt. Planned priority areas include: integrating gender dimensions into diagnostic tools; adopting gender-sensitive participatory methodologies; and researching the effect of gender-specific forage systems on household food security. Gender analysis will be systematically integrated into the process from trait prioritization to seed delivery.

Building blocks of the strategy

Shift in focus from ownership to control over benefits. Earlier research focused on livestock ownership as a pathway to better development outcomes and interventions perhaps overlooked how the full benefits of livestock ownership might escape women. Beyond ownership, the program will focus on 1) ensuring that women control the benefits of livestock keeping; and 2) exploring the gender norms that influence control, resulting in better livelihood outcomes.

Appreciate gendered perspectives on livestock. Different livestock species, their traits and their products have varied levels of importance for women and men. The program aims to prioritize the right perspectives, in technical areas like animal breeding, to ensure that it achieves results that benefit women.

Re-negotiate obstructive gender norms. Gender-sensitive participatory approaches, conversations and social platforms to discuss social constraints to technology improvement or adoption have been shown to enhance women's self-determination and progress towards social transformation. The program will build on such approaches to enhance the effectiveness of technological interventions and the role of livestock for livelihood enhancement. Gender transformative approaches will be tested in several livestock value chains, to assess their feasibility and effectiveness.

Synergies between empowerment and nutrition. Through their animal care and production roles, women have opportunities to safeguard and enhance household nutrition, by providing access to animal-source foods. Women are also involved in the decision on sale versus home consumption of animal source foods, as well as food purchases, with women empowerment affecting that decision and the resulting household nutrition outcomes. The program will extend its work on the empowerment–nutrition interface in livestock development.

The *Livestock and the Environment* flagship merges the environment and livestock agendas. Planned priority areas include gender-based opportunities and constraints in adopting mitigation strategies; participating in local governance structures; the impact of environmental degradation on gender relations; and income generation opportunities emerging with payments for environmental services.

The *Livestock Livelihoods and Agrifood Systems* flagship covers foresight and policies, nutrition-sensitive livestock interventions and integrated technologies and value chains for improved livestock systems. Priority areas include gender considerations in designing policies and investments, with a focus on livestock master plans; linkages between women's empowerment and human nutrition; women's participation in and benefit from livestock value chains activities; and gender-differentiated impacts of technology adoption.

Operationalizing the strategy

Evidence is key. The gender strategy prioritizes quantitative and qualitative evidence and sound theoretical approaches to underpin its work.

Ensuring in-depth gender expertise. To address this growing agenda and expectations, additional specialist gender research expertise will be recruited for the flagships, including post-doctoral fellows and scientists. The program will encourage each CGIAR centre partner in the program to appoint a gender focal point and each priority country project will ideally have a gender expert located in-country.

Building a good infrastructure. Having the Gender Coordinator as part of the program management committee helps institutionalize gender within the CRP. This embeds a gender perspective in management decision-making processes and planning. It will also ensure that gender is part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Capacity development of non-gender scientists. The program will continue to enhance the gender expertise of non-gender scientists. This increases their understanding of gender analysis while enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration and growing gender-sensitive research capacities across the program.

Funding. An initial investment of USD400,000 from W1/2 allocation was made in the first year of the CRP to set the priorities and get the teams in place through selected projects, to stimulate the collaboration between gender and technical scientists. A combination of W1/2 and bilateral project funds are used to implement the strategy. Projects with gender 'at the core', challenging gender norms and testing gender transformative approaches are developed.

Monitoring and evaluation

Assessing progress means looking at the process and the results. Results include papers co-authored by gender and technical scientists; gender-responsive technologies developed for gender-differentiated users groups; and gender analysis integrated into all *ex-ante* assessments.

Process indicators include interdisciplinary research teams; gender coordinator participation in management and governance; that the 'who' of livestock keeping will be more explicit across all CRP projects; and assessing the different needs, preferences, roles and relations of men and women will become an integral part of research analysis and interpretation.