LIVES gender equality strategy

Overview

Research has highlighted the crucial importance of the contribution of women to agricultural value chain development and governance in Ethiopia (Aregu et al. 2010).

Further analysis has revealed that shortages of productive assets, capacity-related obstacles and socio-cultural norms negatively affect women’s farm productivity. In addition, women play a limited role in decision-making, and lack access to and control over income from the sale of agricultural produce.

There is a great degree of consensus regarding the importance of capacity development, knowledge management and leadership skills in enhancing women’s role in community structures, such as water and community-based livestock breeding associations.

In the Livestock and Irrigation Value chains for Ethiopian Smallholders (LIVES) project—operating in 31 districts; 10 zones in four regions—gender is mainstreamed across value chains mainly to improve existing gender equality gaps.

Key strategies

- Undertaking gender-sensitive value chain mapping and identifying livestock and irrigation commodities/value chain nodes through a gender lens
- Ensuring gender inclusions are taken into account in the organizations of capacity development training involving project and public extension staff
- Developing gender-sensitive and disaggregated planning and monitoring tools to track intervention outputs and outcomes
- Setting gender targets to ensure that by the end of the project the participation of female-headed smallholder households and female value chain actors reaches or exceeds 20 and 25% respectively.
- Conducting a household baseline survey and producing gender-disaggregated reports on livestock and irrigation value chains
- Organizing gender-inclusive promotional activities to scale out and up project outcomes

Gender milestones (April 2013—September 2015)

The graphs below indicate the gender achievements of LIVES interventions over the last three years:

Concluding remarks

In enhancing women’s participation in capacity building, knowledge management, value chain development, action research and the scaling up and out of gender-sensitive interventions, LIVES:

- Involves couples (husbands/wives) in capacity building training;
- Targets all household members in coaching and mentoring;
- Targets female-headed households and women in male-headed households in capacity building training on commodities more beneficial to women;
- Introduces gender-friendly livestock technologies; and
- Offers capacity building training in business orientation and marketing to men and women smallholders.