A decision checklist for gender-responsive plant and animal breeding

The decision checklist is a practical tool developed by the CGIAR Gender and Breeding Initiative to help breeding programs become more gender-responsive. The flowchart in Figure 1 illustrates the critical decisions (amber boxes) that occur at key stages (orange diamonds) in the breeding process. Considering gender at these decision points should lead to five important results (green ovals) that can help a breeding program be gender-responsive, with a positive impact on gender equality. Each decision point requires breeders, gender experts, and others involved in breeding to make decisions using reliable evidence on gender differences that can be applied to a target population of intended users.

Figure 1: Flowchart of critical decision points for gender-responsive breeding
The decision checklist in Table 1 is a practical tool for breeders that elaborates on the flowchart by linking decision points to the information – reliable evidence – required for gender responsive results. This checklist can be introduced at any stage in a breeding program, but is likely to be most effective when used during early stages, when decisions about who to target and the breeding objectives are made. Further details can be found in Brief 1 Critical Decisions for Ensuring Plant or Animal Breeding is Gender-Responsive.

### Table 1. Decision checklist for gender-responsive breeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision Points (see flowchart)</th>
<th>Information Required for Gender-Responsiveness</th>
<th>Decision Checklist</th>
<th>Gender-responsive Results</th>
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</table>
| **1 Who are the potential customers when gender is considered?** | • Agro-ecological characteristics of farming systems and gender roles  
• User segments  
• Typology of different socioeconomic segments disaggregated by gender  
• Economic importance of different socio-economic segments, by gender | 1) Gender included in social targeting  
2) Sampling  
3) Does the customer profile for each social segment the program decided to target have a gender dimension? | Customer Profile with gender dimensions for each social segment the program decides to target |
| **2 What customers to target?** |  |  | Breeding goals relevant to gender-differentiated customers |
| **3 Which trait preferences could the program potentially breed for?** | • Users’ gender-differentiated trait preferences  
• Breakdown of gender differentiated preferred traits into trait components  
• Information on the economic and cultural value of traits for men and women  
• Breeding feasibility  
• Ex-ante analysis of potential impact on gender inequality | 4) Has the demand for desired traits been determined taking gender into account?  
5) Have alternative outcomes (and impacts) for breeding been evaluated with explicit consideration of changes in gender equity? | |
| **4 What product meets the needs of a gendered target customer?** | • Value of desired traits  
• Definition of performance levels relative to desired impact | 6) Have traits been valued with a gender dimension?  
7) Have feasible trait packages been defined considering potential impact on gender equality? | Product profiles with a gender dimension |
| **5 How is the program going to breed for the traits needed?** | • Information on male and female users’ criteria for evaluating genotypes  
• Methodologies for creating, screening and selecting genotypes | 8) Has new variation been created or identified considering gender-differentiated trait preferences and priorities?  
9) Are gender-differentiated preferences included in evaluation criteria? | Breeding products with traits useful to women, men or both. |
| **6 Is new variation needed to meet the specifications of the product profile?** | | | |
| **7 How will selection of bred genotypes meet the specifications of the gender-responsive product profile?** | • Constraints faced by men and women in different customer segments, to seed production and distribution  
• Information about gender inequalities that are potential or actual bottlenecks to adoption | 10) Are gender-responsive strategies for seed production and distribution in use? | Gender-responsive delivery strategy for breeding products |
| **8 What gendered constraints should be included in the design of delivery systems for the breeding products?** | | | |
| **9 Monitoring and documentation** | • Gender-disaggregated information on perceptions of materials in trials and on adoption by men and women | 11) Are there information systems in place to track the stages of customer and product profile development, and the acceptability of released materials, by men and women? | Feedback on product advancement with a gender dimension |

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