



International Water
Management Institute

FR1.1: Gender mainstreaming from an institutional perspective: Cases of small and micro irrigation projects in Ethiopia

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Innovative water solutions for sustainable development
Food · Climate · Growth



Outline

Introduction

Gender mainstreaming concept

Strategies for integrating gender in irrigation

Objective and research question

Methods

Results

Conclusion

Introduction

- Irrigation in SSA improved food security and reduced rural poverty (Namara et al. 2010; Gebrehiwot et al. 2015). Yet, **gender inequality remains an issue** (Imburgia 2019; Lefore et al. 2019).
- Gender mainstreaming (GM) is considered as key advance women and gender issues in development by government and development institutions (De Waal 2006; Joseph et al. 2011; Sweetman 2015).
- In principle, GM is transformative and challenges status quo (Daly 2005; Woodward 2008). But there is **scepticism about whether the vision of transformation is achieved** (Sweetman 2015).
- Despite the drawback, many development organizations are increasingly adopting GM strategy (Arora-Jonsson and Sijapati 2018).

Introduction

- strategies for integrating gender in scheme-based irrigation,
 - Gender Integration Strategy (GIS) (Jordans 1998)
 - Gender Performance Indicator for Irrigation (GPII) (van Koppen 2002),
 - Gender Irrigation Learning and Improvement Tool (GILIT) (Lefore et al. 2017)
- In projects promoting SMI technologies
 - Considering Gender when Promoting Small-Scale Irrigation Technologies (CS4SSI) (Theis et al. 2018)
- However, they do not provide a framework to understand gender-based opportunities and challenges at different scale in a holistic manner



Objective and research questions

How multilevel institutions and their interactions influence progress toward gender equality in irrigation projects in Ethiopia

1. What gender strategies do these projects adopt?
2. How do interactions among rules, roles and capacities of institutions within and at different scales determine progress to gender equality?
3. What opportunities and challenges are there for effectively implementing the strategies?

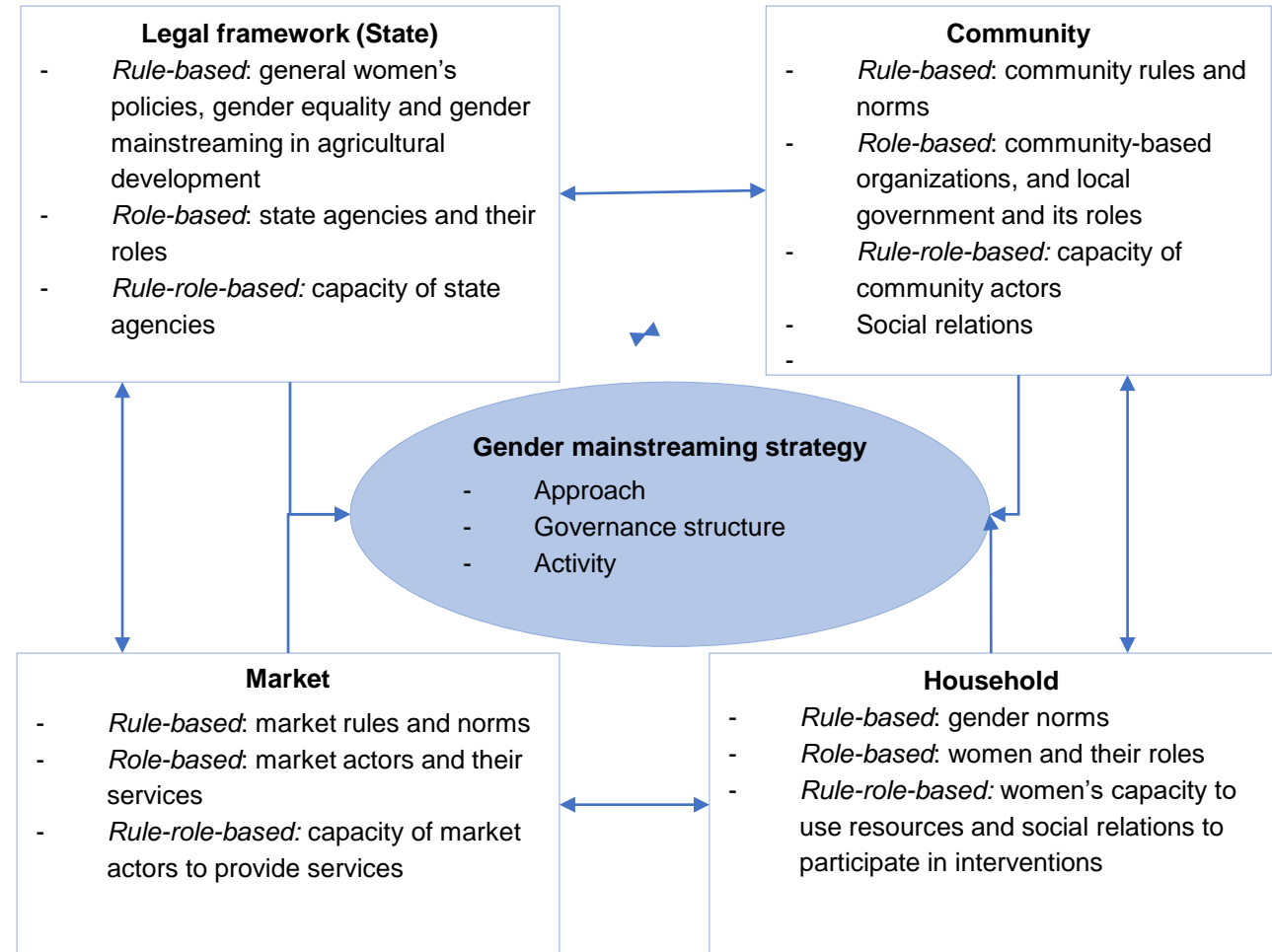


Methods

Qualitative study

- **9 irrigation projects**
 - 6 scheme based
 - 3 SMI technology promotion
- 12 KIIs
- Document review
 - National level gender related policies, strategies, and proclamations
 - Project documents
 - Project gender strategies and gender mainstreaming guidelines

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Source: Authors' creation.

Result

Rule based strategy

- Adopted by small scale irrigation projects
- Emphasis is on policies and strategies for equal opportunities to participate in development and decision
- Uses three governance structures
 - Internalization-
 - Institutionalizing state policies and strategies
 - Participation –
 - participatory approaches,
 - gender responsive approaches,
 - gender transformative approach (Gender model family)
 - Capacity development –
 - investment to bring about change in attitudes, values and cultures at different scales



Role based strategy

- Adopted by projects promoting SMI technologies
- Emphasis is on addressing power and workload balance at HH level
- Governance structures:
 - Internalization
 - Transformation
 - comprehensive social behavioural change communication (SBCC) strategy,
 - Social analysis and action (SAA)
 - Capacity development –
 - women farmers,
 - DA and extension workers



Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities	Challenges
Policies, strategies, programs and institutional mechanisms (State)	Limited financial, human and institutional capacity (State)
Operational mechanisms to encourage participation of women (Market, community)	Absence of tailored services and resources, (market)
Formal and informal rules and practices(Community)	Membership criteria (Community)
Backyard cultivation - women's domain (Household)	Negative stereotype about women (market, community, household) Poverty and intrahousehold power dynamics (household)

Conclusion

- Transformative vision of GM strategies of irrigation projects in Ethiopia is yet to be achieved.
- Given gender inequality is embedded within institutions, considering institutional perspectives in designing tools and strategies for integrating gender is crucial.