

Opportunities to strengthen the gender dimension in a Pacific agriculture, nutrition and value chain development project



Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific Islands





About CTA

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Written by Rosien Herweijer, Consultant

Edited by Judith Ann Francis and Jana Dietershagen, CTA

Designed by Stéphanie Leroy

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Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Chains in the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu)

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01

Introduction

The aim of this report is to provide a framework for mainstreaming of gender issues throughout all project activities, and to function as an action plan for this purpose within the CTA/IFAD/PIPSO Project 'Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific Islands'. Additionally, in order to ensure proper integration of the gender dimension within the project's activities, this report chooses a very practical approach with a focus on activity and output level. General guidance presented in this report aims to provide background information and practical ideas to further strengthen the gender dimension of the programme.

"Every day we cook for the Nation, we cook for the communities and we cook for our homes and we never stop learning. Our main goal is to see our business grow and expand. We want Vanuatu Local Restaurant to grow 'healthy food and a healthy nation'. Already we are seeing the positive impact of our restaurant. Our customers are asking for more local foods, preferably non oily and with natural fresh herbs and salads."

Myriam Malao, President of Vanuatu Local Restaurant Association, Port Vila, Vanuatu



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02

About the project and its gender
component

"Women are key to ensuring food and nutrition security. The majority make decisions about feeding their families. Malnutrition, especially obesity and related non-communicable diseases e.g. diabetes, is a major challenge. Pacific Island countries need to reduce their high reliance on imported foods and families need to have access to more affordable nutritious local food crops and fish. By empowering women, families, communities and nations will prosper by consuming more diversified well-balanced meals."

Judith Ann Francis, Pacific Project Leader and Senior Coordinator Science and Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands



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In 2016, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched the four-year project "Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Pacific Islands" (short title: 'Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific Islands'), which is being implemented in partnership with the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO). The project targets seven Pacific Island States: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The overall goal is to strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Island governments, farmer and private sector organisations, and sub-regional institutions to develop strategies and programmes, as well as mobilise financing, that can increase poor rural people's access to nutritious and healthy food.

CTA is adopting a three-pronged approach (AAA): Analyse – Build the evidence base to guide strategic interventions; Act – Build capacity for change; and Advocate and lobby for policy change and development impact at scale. This approach is permeating each of the programme's clusters of activities. Gender components are mainstreamed throughout the project activities with a strong focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.

03

Gender and value chains: evidence
and guidance

Conceptual frameworks and tools on mainstreaming gender considerations in support of value chain development are still being developed. According to some, there is not yet a solid evidence base for any specific approach and there is no specific one for Pacific value chains yet. Some key publications are:

[Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook – Module 5: Gender and Agricultural Markets](#) (2009), Worldbank, FAO and IFAD.

[Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains](#) (2009), USAID, prepared by Deborah Rubin, Cristina Manfre, and Kara Nichols Barrett.

[Gender and agricultural value chains - A review of current knowledge and practice and their policy implications](#) (2011), ESA Working Paper No. 11-05, FAO, Christopher Coles and Jonathan Mitchell.

[Gender-Aware Value Chain Development](#) (2011), Expert paper prepared by Cathy Rozel Farnsworth for UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP.

[Gender in value chains: Practical toolkit to integrate a gender perspective in agricultural value chain development](#) (2012), Agri-ProFocus, developed by Angelica Senders, Anna Lentink, Mieke Vanderschaeghe, and Jacqueline Terrillon.

Website on gender in aquaculture and fisheries for the Asian Fisheries Society: <https://genderaquafish.org/>

Gender is about men and women. Addressing gender inequalities is a matter of social justice and in the context of agro-value chains attention must be paid to working conditions at home, in the field and in industries, to income differences and discriminatory practices (see Farnsworth, 2011: 2-3).

Farnsworth also argues for attention to be paid to gender dimensions of (agri) value chains from a perspective of effectiveness and efficiency: "... the majority of agricultural production systems are structured by gender roles and responsibilities, and as a consequence, any attempt to intervene in value chains will affect gender relations in some way. This will inevitably have wider consequences for value chain effectiveness and efficiency" (2011: 2). Gender justice is valuable in itself, but pursuing it can be what the World Bank calls "smart economics"¹.

¹ See for example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=av1FFB9M5uU> or <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/06/17/toward-gender-equality-in-east-asia-and-the-pacific>

04

The agriculture and nutrition nexus

For smallholder farmers and rural households, diversification of farming systems is one of the most promising interventions for supporting nutrition-sensitive outcomes, as it increases economic resilience and greater availability and access to nutritious food.

The project is adopting a trickle-down approach (Chung, 2012) to improving nutrition through agriculture (see Figure 1). The approach assumes that an increase in output will cause changes in nutritional status within the target households. Project activities support this through analyses of value chains, identifying policy and regulatory constraints, organising roundtables and regional cooperation initiatives, preparing roadmaps for investments in selected value chains of local foods and fisheries with demonstrated potential for improving food, nutrition and incomes of rural communities, and providing seed funding to pilot some promising interventions at community level.

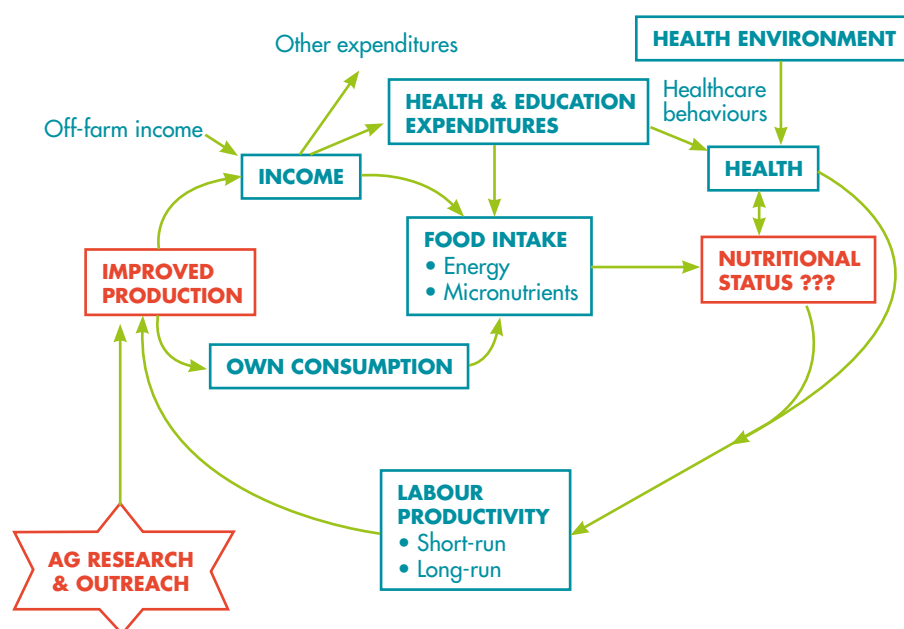


Figure 1 Nutritional status is presumed to improve as a result of increases in own consumption or income

The approach is heavily affected by gender norms, e.g. the decision to spend any percentage or proportion of income on certain foods or health expenditures differs according to the gender of the individual taking the decision. Also, decisions on what crops to grow (and not to grow) may depend on access to land and/or credit and influence income generation and consumption patterns, which differs between gender. There is a great potential in synergising agriculture, nutrition and health sectors, incorporating gender inclusiveness and targeted agri-nutrition interventions for improving nutrition outcomes. However, for nutrition issues to be both “men’s and women’s business” equally, approaches must improve equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels (e.g. community organisations, producer associations, local government, household etc).

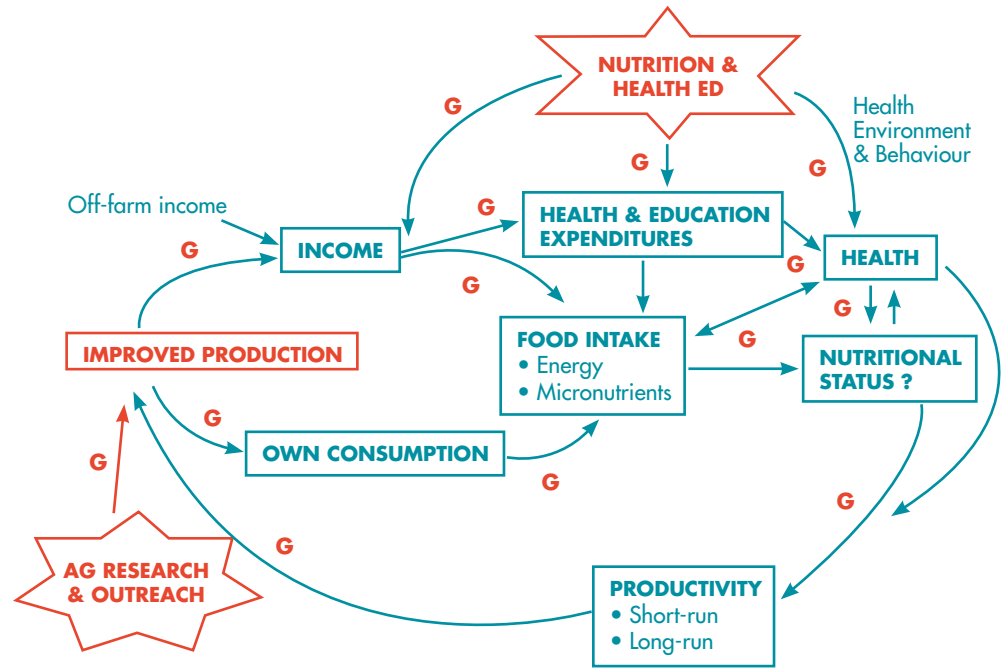


Figure 2 Gender norms affect the different linkages in the agriculture-nutrition nexus

In the context of the Pacific Islands, traditional food preparation, handling, storage and utilisation methods have supported past generations in attainment of food security at household level – food security pillars – availability, accessibility, stability and utilisation were met from traditional systems. Women are the dominant knowledge holders of the traditional techniques and their dissemination at the family level and to some extent, the village level has sustained generations; but these are being lost. By enhancing their economic opportunities, developing their entrepreneurial capacity and reducing the constraints they face in accessing technical and financial services and in business, they can play a greater role in developing local nutrient-dense crops and fisheries value chains and spurring innovation and growth in the agrifood and agribusiness sector. Additionally, by increasing opportunities so that their voices can be heard and they can be better represented in decision-making, in the home, farm, in value chain and agribusiness networks, this can have a multiplier effect on economic development as well as increase recognition of their contribution to reducing poverty and malnutrition; two major social challenges across the Pacific Islands.

05

Gender in agro-value chains: practical approaches

When researching issues on agro-value chains, from the literature one can conclude that to understand how gender plays a role in agricultural value chains (and in support for upgrading, integration and/or partnering), consideration should be given to:

- Gendered roles in the different segments of the chain;
- Gendered access to assets used in the chain;
- Gendered voice or influence over decisions in the chain.

For the analysis of the gender dimensions in agro-value chains, the USAID guide provides a very detailed methodology, which may require too much time and resources. The Agri-ProFocus guide identifies some gendered variables that can be considered when selecting and prioritising value chain support opportunities; they all relate with roles, assets and voice:

- High share of women employed in the value chain as compared to the economy at large;
- High number of women entrepreneurs in the value chain;
- Women control equipment/assets;
- Women have or can acquire skills needed for profitable value addition opportunities through processing product and diversification;
- Women control the sales income and the enterprise;
- Close to household within community area (geographically);
- Low entry barriers for small-scale and poor entrepreneurs (small scale of production, low start-up costs, not requiring major capital investment, using low-tech skills);
- Low entry barriers for women entrepreneurs (time and mobility, access to technology and assets, cultural constraints);
- Offering new opportunities for women;
- New activities are in line with livelihood conditions (year-round income, using family labour, rapid returns, contributing to food security, keeping the environment intact, not reducing availability of clean water).

Source: *Gender in value chains: Practical toolkit to integrate a gender perspective in agricultural value chain development*, Agri-ProFocus, 2012

Several authors also emphasise that agricultural value chains are part of a larger context and that gender dimensions in that larger context influence what happens in the chain and vice versa.

Women's economic empowerment in the context in the Pacific seems to be particularly complex. Economic opportunities for women in the Pacific are amongst the worst in the world. In 2012, the Economist Intelligence Unit rated the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea as 124th and 125th respectively out of 128 in the world, for economic opportunities available to women. In no Pacific country does economic opportunity available to women rise above the global average².

²Quoted on <http://www.pacificwomen.org/focus-areas/economic-empowerment/>

A context can be challenging and influence what can and cannot be done, but it never exempts the researcher/proponent from analysing how the planned or projected actions influence gender relations. Considering the current status, there is a lot to gain.

To support women in the context of an agro-value chain approach, the [Practical toolkit to integrate a gender perspective in agricultural value chain development](#) by Agri-ProFocus identifies five concrete strategies that could be relevant:

1. Mitigating resistance by building on tradition

Women's visibility in value chains is increased by professionalising their traditional tasks, which increases the benefits that accrue to women. Traditional "female" sectors provide excellent entry points for promoting and empowering women. Tapping into the economic potential of such activities allows the smooth, cost-effective and wide-scale emancipation of women with a low risk of community opposition or takeover by men.

2. Creating space for women

Women already do much of the work in many male-dominated value chains. By making their contributions explicit, women gain opportunities and are able to improve their abilities and practices, which in turn allows both socio-economic emancipation of these women and improvements in chain activities. When more actors are economically viable and are able to improve their business in the chain, a chain becomes more robust. The involvement of women adds a new dynamic and diversity to the organisations and businesses affected.

3. Organising for change

In order to move from mitigating resistance at the producer level to women's empowerment further up the chain and within households, women and men need to organise for change. Due to structural constraints, women have limited access to technical assistance and extension services. Since women carry out a lot of the tasks also for cash crops, this creates inefficiencies in productivity. This entails interventions throughout the chain, targeted at breaking down structural constraints, as well as building human agency (confidence, self-esteem, skills, and capacities). Examples of elements of this strategy are capacity building, collective action, sensitisation of men and access to finance.

4. Standards, certification and labels

This strategy could involve certification of specific standards re women's rights, women's work, etc, or for example produced-by-women-labels, etc.

5. Gender and corporate social responsibility

This strategy focuses on companies further along the value chain that integrate gender into their corporate strategy. Companies have the potential to address gender inequality and improve the position of women in the agricultural value chains they are part of.

Source: Gender in value chains: Practical toolkit to integrate a gender perspective in agricultural value chain development, Agri-ProFocus (2012)

06

Recommendations on how to
incorporate a gender dimension into
key activities in the IFAD/CTA/PIPSO
– results-based framework

Component 1: Mainstreaming nutritionally, culturally, and environmentally-sensitive value chains

Deliverable 1 ANALYZE - Part 1. Value chains and their actors

- 1.1 Reviews of existing data (4 country studies)
- 1.2 Mapping of value chain opportunities and bottlenecks, including in agri-tourism
- 1.3 Document weather risk insurance and other risk management tools
- 1.4 Document legislation on access to finance and agri-value chain risk management
- 1.5 Document policies on agriculture-nutrition nexus
- 1.6 Document success stories/good practice
- 1.7 Document, through a participatory process, gender issues relevant to improving the agriculture-nutrition nexus, and develop action plan to include proper integration of gender issues throughout the programme's activities
- 1.8 Stakeholder consultations, and formation of VCC/AI Platforms
- 1.9 Development and operationalisation of project web portal, including tools for the VCC/AI platforms
- 1.10 Communicate on programme planned goals and activities

This first deliverable cements the foundation of the intervention and it is critically important to consider the gender dimension right from the start. Items 1.1 through 1.6 are all related to research and documentation. CTA has been supporting scanning exercises that looked at the agriculture-nutrition nexus. The terms of reference require that “The study should also seek to identify the opportunities for strengthening women’s participation in improving food and nutrition outcomes.”

Some examples from the country scans:

- The Samoa scan explicitly looks at gender to conclude that there are hardly any data. On indicators for health and nutrition the scan has some male/female disaggregated data. It also references two very relevant organisations working with women in agriculture, but it does not make any gender specific recommendations.
- The Solomon Island scan includes some references to gender and particularly to women’s role in decision-making around food and kitchen gardens, and also pays attention to the particularly low educational levels among women that need to be taken into account when developing interventions.
- The Kiribati scan provides great detail about specific traditional foods and processing techniques that are typically female.

This should be retained for all the additional agriculture/nutrition scans and the lessons learned used to inform policies and programmes. Aside from CTA reports, the gender dimensions of value chains are well documented in some cases, for example for the Solomon Islands: “[Livelihoods, markets, and gender roles in Solomon Islands](#): Case studies from Western and Isabel Provinces” by Froukje Kruijssen *et al.*, WorldFish, 2013.

In 2010, an expert paper was published on Gender Dimensions of Science and Technology in Agriculture and Climate Change: A Case Study Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific (DSAP) Project, prepared by [SPC](#). In fact, SPC undertakes a variety of initiatives and has a Deputy Director for Gender, Culture and Youth. There is also some gender expertise at universities, for example the gender studies programme at [USP](#).

It is important that all activities in this component consider gender, even when these are not immediately obvious. Risk management, credit and insurance have gender dimensions (see for example [ILO, 2009](#)), coping mechanisms are often gendered and certain solutions show – implicit – gender-based exclusion. The following recommendations are made:

- Commission a desk study to identify available documentation (studies/mapping) and research on women's involvement in value chains and policy at regional/country level in the project target countries, e.g. [Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, Vanuatu Country Plan](#). The study should complement the nutrition-agri scans;
- Identify in each country at least two people who have a minimum of expertise on issues of gender and agriculture and/or nutrition and create a virtual group to connect them;
- Develop – based on existing literature and guidebooks as referred above – an ultra-light analytical tool to use with stakeholders to elicit the gender dimension of an agro-value chain. The aim is not to achieve academic perfection, but to trigger reflection among stakeholders directly involved in the chain.

Item 1.7 calls to document, through a participatory process, gender issues relevant to improving the agriculture-nutrition nexus, and develop action plans to include proper integration of gender issues throughout the programme's activities. This can be done in the form of a regional side event or a half-day workshop:

- The objective of the workshop would be to develop an action plan to include and monitor gender dimensions in the programme and should involve key stakeholders in the implementation of the programme;
- It is recommended:
 - to also include a group of male and female beneficiaries in the process and listen to them, particularly to women farmers and women entrepreneurs and hear about the concerns, challenges as well as where they see particular opportunities for women;
 - to involve an external, specialised facilitator who can outline and illustrate how the gender dimension can be of support to agro-value chains and facilitate a process of reflection and action planning. Illustrations should come from the region.

Tools have to be part of the action plan, allowing everyone involved to implement the actions. Some of the tools suggested are:

- A presentation outlining and illustrating why a gender dimension is relevant that can be used during policy roundtables, stakeholder planning sessions and other events;
- A design for a training workshop for key project stakeholders in which – drawing on existing toolkits – some manageable tools are presented and practiced to support gender sensitive planning for value chain development.

Item 1.8 involves stakeholder consultations and the formation of VCC/AI Platforms. The key is that these consultations are inclusive, that all the links are well represented

(including the ones that are traditionally female) and that – if different – in each of the links both gender perspectives are represented.

Agro-value chains should be analysed for their gender dimension and as far as possible women should be heard in earlier stages, for each of the value chains that are selected (candidates are: roots and tubers, fruits and vegetables and fisheries) a gendered stakeholder map can be made.

To ensure women are represented (and young people for that matter), it may mean having to encourage organisations to propose women and even to contact individual women. The overriding argument would be that for support to the value chain to be effective, everyone somehow involved needs to be included and have an opportunity to speak.

Items 1.9 and 1.10 involve communication tools and content. Tools and content have gender dimensions. Tools can be inclusive and empowering, as can good stories. When it comes to tools, education and income, but also gender, influence access to internet and smartphones.³

- If internet is used to communicate about the project, ensure ‘women’ and ‘gender’ are used as tags where applicable and documentation and news on these topics can be easily found;
- Once relevant content on gender issues in the context of the programme is produced consider creating a separate page on the topic.

To connect with female farmers and producers, it could be useful at times to involve a media partner to reach out to rural women, see for example FemLinkPacific: <http://www.femlinkpacific.org.fj/index.php/en/>

- Depending on target audiences, when documenting stories, take into account that for women radio or video/TV may be more accessible than written stories;
- Stories documented somehow include reflection on positive gender outcomes;
- When producing materials for communication and advocacy it is important to show men and women in traditional as well as non-traditional roles.

Deliverable 2 ANALYZE - Part 2. Identification of policy, regulatory, and institutional constraints to value chain development

- 2.1 Analysis of relevant business environment, including financing mechanisms for VC development
- 2.2 Learning journeys
- 2.3 Identification of key innovations and critical success factors
- 2.4 National working and policy round tables
- 2.5 Regional policy and learning events, including on cross-cutting issues such as agri-tourism
- 2.6 Learning exercise for VCC/AI platforms

³<http://www.pewglobal.org/2016/02/22/smartphone-ownership-rates-skyrocket-in-many-emerging-economies-but-digital-divide-remains/>

The activities involved in this deliverable include further research and events.

- To further strengthen the analytical work, it could be useful to connect with local agro-gender experts and promote (virtual) networking among them;
- At events that feed into analysis: create opportunities to listen to the women involved in the specific value chains analysed.

When it comes to events, it is important to acknowledge that women usually combine their productive participation in value chains with reproductive, domestic tasks that they cannot easily drop. Therefore, it may not be easy to ensure women participate with the same numbers in these events. Particularly learning journeys that involve long travel could be complicated. Quality in this case may trump quantity, with quality referring to women who are embedded in women's organisations, cooperatives and associations, etc.

It is strongly recommended to:

- Look for female participants that are linked with larger groups of women;
- Invite them well in advance to events and give them questions and assignments to prepare and elicit the views of their peers;
- Encourage and support them to document their experience using audio and video.

At events, attempts should be made to trigger reflection on gender issues among (groups of) stakeholders, using the general presentation. This works best when men and women feel it is about them, when examples are used from their realities.

- Keep adding specific examples and illustrations to the general presentation on gender dimensions of value chains.

Deliverable 3 ACT. Strategies for upgrading and mainstreaming value chains

- 3.1 Stakeholder planning sessions
- 3.2 Participatory validation of plans
- 3.3 Support to each of the VCC/AI platforms
- 3.4 Capacity building for producer groups
- 3.5 Training of value chain stakeholders
- 3.6 Action planning for innovating and improving value chains
- 3.7 Education, communication and advocacy action plans, and training modules
- 3.8 Multi-sectoral round tables, including multi-donor platforms
- 3.9 Seed funding for innovative farmer-led proof-of-concept projects (6)
- 3.10 Support to national components of VCC/AI platform to mainstream action plans into policies

If deliverables 1 and 2 have properly addressed the gender dimensions of the value chains that are to be upgraded, a solid base exists for gender sensitive and empowering approaches to deliver strategies for upgrading and mainstreaming value chains.

Recommendations made earlier around events and communication still apply to ensure women participate meaningfully. Once empowered, women make excellent advocates. But they may not be the first in line to speak up. There is a role for the facilitators of advocacy action planning to create space for their voice.

Capacity building for producer groups should be needs driven and it is important that the needs of women producers are not ignored in capacity development and training.

Agricultural extension has notoriously missed out on attending to the needs of female farmers. Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI) has demonstrated that they have experience in reaching out and training rural women and some aspects of its work as well as those of other organisations, which demonstrate examples of good practice may be replicated and adapted to other contexts:

- Ensure there is clarity about training and capacity development needs of both men and women, as there may be differences, even when they operate in the same link of the value chain: do not assume but check;
- Involve other practitioners that have engaged with rural women and draw on the lessons they learned regarding capacity development;
- Involve women's organisations that have examples of good practice (e.g. WIBDI) in replication activities or training of trainers.

Component 2: National and sub-regional policy dialogue and partnership development

Deliverable 4 ACT and ADVOCATE. Moving from strategy to action

- 4.1 Bringing best practices in legal, regulatory and policy drafting for the agriculture-nutrition nexus to the Pacific
- 4.2 Bringing best practices in ICT for agriculture to the Pacific
- 4.3 Bringing best practices in value chain finance and risk management to the Pacific
- 4.4 Build, for specific value chains, prototypes for change and scaling
- 4.5 Protocol for upscaling and draft agenda for change
- 4.6 Upscaled communication and advocacy plan (fund raising, policy advocacy)

In this context, it is important to ensure that the 'best' practices brought to the region are actually gender sensitive practices. Even so, these practices should be reviewed and contrasted with what is known about gender issues in the Pacific.

Deliverable 5 ACT. Provision of just-in-time technical assistance for local business plan development

- 5.1 Design and set-up of innovation credit system
- 5.2 Implement innovation credit system
- 5.3 Evaluate and publicize effectiveness of innovation credit system
- 5.4 Fund-raising for strengthening/continuation of system

The “innovation credit” approach could actually be an opportunity for women, because there is so much flexibility in the approach. However, implementation should be monitored very closely. If it turns out men are the main beneficiaries, adjustments will have to be made. Some ideas to make the scheme inclusive could be considered:

- When innovation credits are given to a group, women groups could provide a ‘non-financial guarantee’, as they do in many micro-credit schemes;
- Include a gender expert in the jury for the awarding of innovation credits;
- Finally, communication around the scheme should be clear and use channels that are accessible for women.

Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation

- 8.1 Developing baselines
- 8.2 Monitor and evaluate progress (mid-term review)
- 8.3 Final evaluation

- Counting is the beginning of making gender visible: whether it is participants in events, experts on specialised topics or beneficiaries of credit: register if they are male or female;
- In baseline mapping of value chains, it is critical to record indicators about roles (Are links in the chain and tasks gendered?), assets (Do women and men operating in the chain have different or similar accessibility to required assets, and do differences influence in which links in the chain they operate?) and voice (How much can actors in the chain influence what happens in their link and subsequent links? Are differences between men and women?);
- In stories from men and women one can capture changes in the work of men and women and their relations;
- Include the evaluation of gender outcomes in the terms of reference for the final evaluation.

07

Concluding remarks

It is of strategic importance to constantly review planned programme activities for each intervention, to see how a gender dimension can be included and mainstreamed.

The review shows that there is considerable work to be done from the first year and throughout the project life cycle. Some crucial activities in the start-up phase should include:

- Build on the agriculture-nutrition rapid scans and conduct a desk study combined with some – virtual – networking among national and regional gender experts;
- Organise a side event targeting women in agri-business to plan for further gender mainstreaming. A presentation template could include the outline of a 'lite' analytical tool to assess how the gender dimension can be of support to agro-value chains.

"In this modern economy, rural women understand basic business strategies. In the fisheries sector, women demonstrate this through cooperation – working collectively for consistent production, supply and volume; exploring business opportunities; diversifying their markets and adapting to changes by managing existing resources. Empowerment in business equals success for individual women, their families and communities."

Cherie Morris, Executive Board Member, Women in Fisheries Network, Fiji



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08

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About the Project

The project “Leveraging the Development of Local Food Crops and Fisheries Value Chains for Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Food Systems in the Pacific Islands with a focus on Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu” is co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and is implemented in partnership with the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO). The goal is to strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Island governments, farmer and private sector organisations, and sub-regional institutions to develop strategies and programs – as well as mobilise financing – that can increase poor rural people’s access to nutritious and healthy food. CTA has overall responsibility for the implementation of the project.

About the Partners

IFAD

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialised agency of the United Nations, was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

PIPSO

The Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) is the premier private sector representative body in the Pacific Islands region. It was set-up through the mandate of the Forum Economic Ministers in 2005, and legally established in 2007, to be the representative body of the Pacific region’s private sector. In doing so, it focuses its work on 4 key areas: Supporting National Private Sector Organizations (NPSOs) to be strong and responsive organisations; Assisting Pacific businesses to enhance their business competitiveness and growth; Championing the interests of private sector in the appropriate fora; and Ensuring the sustainability of PIPSO’s resource and enhancing its capabilities.

CTA

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). CTA operates under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and is funded by the EU. For more information on CTA, visit www.cta.int

CONTACT US

CTA

PO Box 380

6700 AJ Wageningen

The Netherlands

T +31 317 467100

F +31 317 460067

E cta@cta.int

f [CTApage](#)

t [CTAflash](#)

