



Design climate-smart agricultural interventions to be gender inclusive

Summary

- » Research suggests that gender equity is a critical factor in the adoption of climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practices.
- » If gender is not explicitly considered in climate-related interventions, the adoption of climate-resilient practices is unlikely to reach scale.
- » Climate-resilient interventions must go beyond targeting women to focus on the underlying causes of gender inequality within communities.
- » Involving men for women's empowerment is critical. Gender norms cannot change in isolation. Men must see the value of women's participation and control over benefits and resources.
- » Gender-inclusive design should be included at each stage of the project cycle.



Outcome

Addressing gender constraints and opportunities throughout the project cycle makes a CSA intervention more likely to be adopted at scale.

What?

To achieve the dual goal of wide-ranging adoption of CSA practices and gender equity, projects should include gender in their planning and throughout the project cycle. For example, our work in northern Uganda shows that the adoption of improved beans, maize, and sorghum has not been as high as expected; while women pay for fertilizers to boost productivity, men sell the harvests and decide how to spend the income. Therefore, although improved beans, maize, and sorghum are successful technologies to improve food security, they are less likely to be adopted because the motivation of the people who grow them – in this case, women – is low. This highlights the importance of having a discussion at the initial stages of the project when introducing the improved technologies so that such gender considerations are identified at the start of the project cycle, and measures can be taken to benefit both men and women and increase rates of technology adoption.

Why?

Research suggests that considering the needs of both men and women when identifying CSA practices will increase the likelihood of their adoption. In addition, discussions related to gender equality may decrease gender tensions within the community in the long term, leading to long-term joint empowerment and investment in well-being, while also contributing to the establishment of more diverse, resilient farm systems. When project interventions consider the needs of women, their participation in the project is usually increased, making joint decision-making easier in the future.



How?

1

CSA appraisals

- Rapid appraisals that include CSA should be carried out in a sex-disaggregated way, separating men and women into focus group discussions to understand gendered constraints and opportunities.
- Both women's and men's priorities and considerations should be accounted for and farmer evaluations should include the perceptions of both men and women.

2 Gender integration at project planning and implementation phases

- The planned activities should include women as well as men in all discussions and surveys. Demonstration sites should include trials of both women's and men's preferred practices and crops.
- Involving men for women's empowerment is critical. Gender norms will not change in isolation. Men must be involved and see the value of women's active participation in projects and control of benefits and resources.
- Interventions should not address agriculture productivity alone. If perceptions of both men and women of a specific intervention are not considered, it can create food security issues at household level and increase tension between spouses.
- The implications of interventions should be considered for both men and women: how they use their time, their tasks, and what benefits they might receive and control in return.
- True joint decision-making processes involve egalitarian decision making, rather than shifting responsibility from one person to another. This process can result in increased investments in agriculture, and improved food security and on-farm resilience.

3 Monitoring and evaluation

- Data on the participation of men and women should be collected throughout the project cycle.
- Project implementers should record and use both women's and men's perceptions and evaluations of the project. Interventions should consider gendered constraints and opportunities, adapting the project as needed.
- During implementation, monitoring and evaluation feedback should be collected from both men and women, with the data analyzed and reviewed by project implementers for adapting the project as needed.

4 Gender responsive diagnostics and prioritization of climate-smart practices

- Consider women's and men's roles and responsibilities on the farm and in household domestic activities. Resources available between both sexes – including their access and control over the resources and benefits derived from them – and how they currently participate in decision making should be discussed.
- How the interventions proposed may promote or discourage women's participation in decision-making processes should also be considered. This approach can affect gender equality and development goals. For example, by encouraging women to participate in meetings, the whole community can share their vision of success and build trust; it can benefit from joint investments in iron roofs for houses, school fees, and food.
- Give men and women in communities a platform for voicing their concerns, for example about how they might be constrained from actively participating in certain activities during particular seasons when they might be busier.

A GENDER-INCLUSIVE RESPONSE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

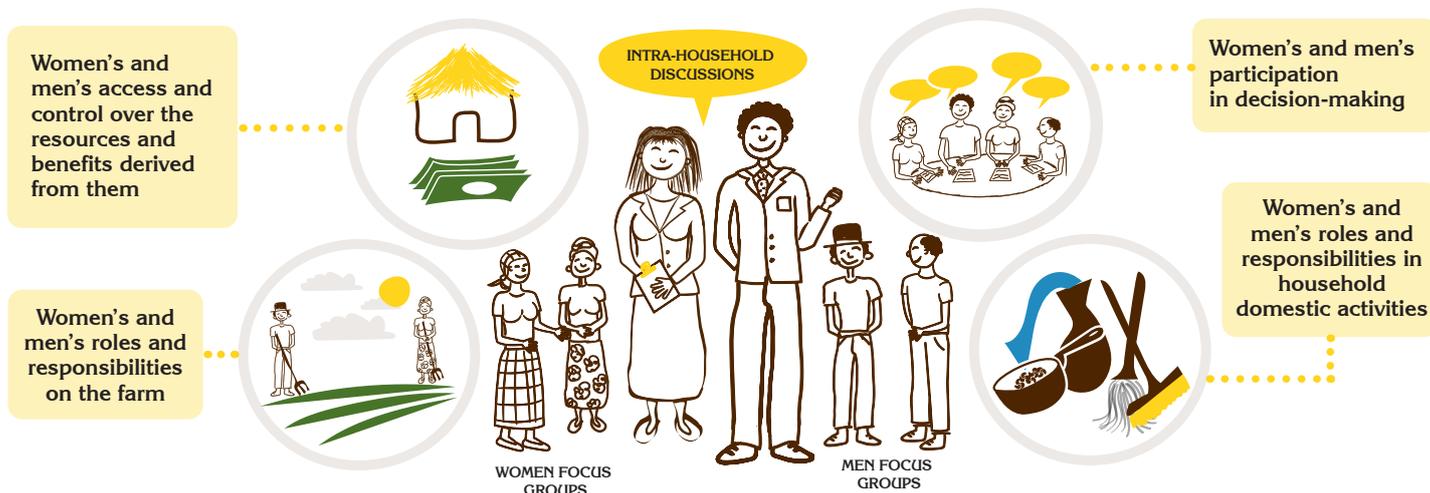
To achieve the dual goal of wide scale adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices and gender equity, projects and interventions should include gender throughout the project cycle.



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GENDER RESPONSIVE DIAGNOSIS AND PRIORITIZATION OF CSA



GENDER INTEGRATION AT PROJECT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PHASES



- All activities to be implemented throughout a project should include women and men in all discussions.
- Demonstration sites should include trials of both women's and men's preferred practices and crops for consideration.
- Interventions should not address agriculture productivity alone but include social factors as well.
- Implications of interventions should be considered for men and women: how they use their time, what tasks they do, and what benefits they might receive and control in return.
- Gender responsive interventions must focus on what the needs of men and women are based on gender norms related to roles, responsibilities and labor, access and control of resources, and participation in decision making, as well as who benefits from sale of products.



COLLECTING GENDERED DATA, MONITORING AND EVALUATION THROUGHOUT PROJECT CYCLE



- Data on the participation of men and women in the demonstration sites should be collected and should include practices prioritized by both men and women.
- Men and women should record their perceptions and evaluations of the practices – this information will be used by project implementers to better understand gendered constraints and opportunities and adapt the project as needed.
- During implementation, monitoring and evaluation feedback is collected from both men and women, with data analyzed and reviewed by project implementers for adapting the project as needed.

More information

- Kristjanson P; Bryan E; Bernier Q; Twyman J; Meinzen-Dick R; Kieran C; Ringler C; Jost E; Doss C. 2017. Addressing gender in agricultural research for development in the face of a changing climate: Where are we and where should we be going? *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* 1–19. [DOI: 10.1080/14735903.2017.1336411](https://doi.org/10.1080/14735903.2017.1336411)
- Lecoutere E; Jassogne L. 2016. “We’re in this together”: Changing intra-household decision making for more cooperative smallholder farming. Working Paper No. 2016.02. University of Antwerp Institute of Development and Policy Management, Antwerp. <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/73444>
- Mwongera C; Shikuku KM; Twyman J; Läderach P; Ampaire E; Van Asten P; Twomlow S; Winowiecki LA. 2017. Climate smart agriculture rapid appraisal (CSA-RA): A tool for prioritizing context-specific climate smart agriculture technologies. *Agricultural Systems*, 151:192–203. [DOI: 10.1016/j.agsy.2016.05.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2016.05.009).
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- Riley S; Ampaire E; Twyman J; Acosta M; Jassogne L. In press. Intra-household decision making patterns and land use management in Nwoya, Uganda.

Supporting Materials



CSA Lesson Brief 3:

Assess whole-farm trade-offs and synergies for climate-smart agriculture



CSA Lesson Brief 7:

Prioritize among climate-smart agricultural options and benefits for greater impact



J. Twyman, Mwongera, C., Läderach, P., Acosta, M., Ampaire, E., Eitzinger, A., Lamanna, C., Mwungu, C., Shikuku, K., Winowiecki, L. 2017.

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 Neil Palmer
Georgina Smith

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 Claire Wheatley