

Livestock Genetics Flagship

Ensuring gender-responsive livestock genetic improvement



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Livestock

More meat milk and eggs by and for the poor



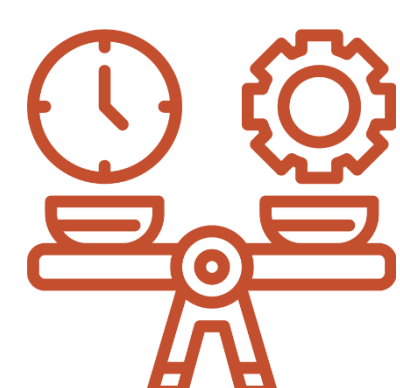
In developing countries, most livestock is owned by the rural poor, serving multiple and gendered functions for different household members, who in turn share their management and benefits.

Understanding where and how gender matters in developing country livestock systems, and addressing any barriers these create, is key to gender-equitable livestock development.

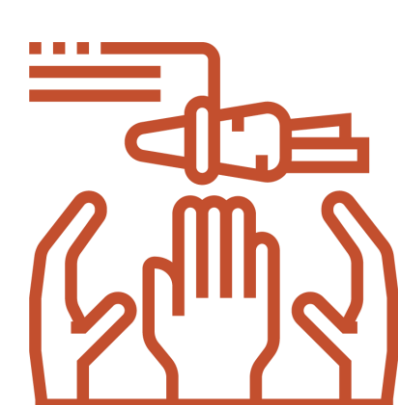
Key stages for integration of gender considerations into livestock genetic improvement strategies*



Women and men livestock-keepers can differ in their aspirations, roles, benefits and preferences on livestock species, breeds, and traits. This makes it vital to include both women and men in **targeting of genetic improvement priorities**.



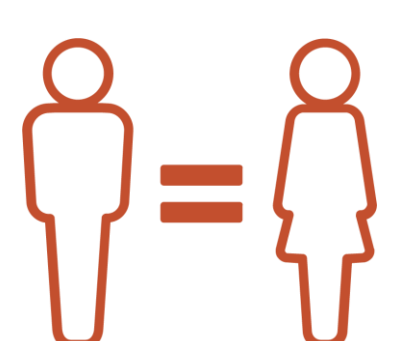
Gendered considerations on the **choice of genetic improvement strategies** include who can participate, the required investment level including on labour, and the expected benefit and time-scale of its achievement.



During **implementation** of participatory breeding programs, logistics and incentives for continued farmer participation are key to sustainability, and these may differ depending on whether women, men or both are involved.



To ensure those who wish to **adopt** the improved livestock genetics can do so and enjoy benefits, gender equitable **access** to the improved livestock genetics, as well as the resources needed to afford the technology, should be ensured.



Intrahousehold **benefits** from use of the improved genetics technology should be equitable. Here a key concern is the shift in benefits between intrahousehold members associated with adoption of the genetic technology.

Aspirations, roles, benefits and preferences are affected by **gender dynamics and norms** that influence intra-household sharing of resources, decision making and opportunities.

Issues of **gendered control over the household livestock enterprises** may need to be addressed. These include decision-making on investments and engagement with genetic technologies, access to information, mobility, interaction with service providers, and market access for the products

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* This framework can also be extended to include other social-economic groups