

## Integrating gender and social inclusion dimensions in climate smart interventions

### Experiences from Kenya Cluster, AICCRA

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#### Kenya Cluster Focus

AICCRA Kenya cluster's focus is on drylands. Arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) make up nearly 90% of Kenya's land cover and approximately 38% of Kenya's population reside in ASALs. Climate change effects in drylands include severe and prolonged drought and flooding. Climate smart agriculture and climate information systems are essential to reduce risk and build resilience for better livelihoods in drylands.

The Cluster has five key thematic areas that include digital platforms, risk assessments and planning long term adaptation to increase resilience, CSA technology packages, business models and value chains and capacity development. Gender is crosscutting across each of the themes.



#### Cluster Gender Strategy

The overall objective of the cluster is to scale socially inclusive climate smart agricultural (CSA) technologies and climate information services (CIS) in drylands with an especial focus on women and youth, which is defined in Kenya as those between the ages of 18-34.

An intersectional approach is used as much as possible to understand power relations and social factors that shape scaling of CSA and CIS practices, which may be gender and/or age- based, but may also include other factors, such as ethnicity or wealth, etc. Approaches are primarily gender responsive. Efforts are made to work with women and youth where they have demonstrated agency and to strengthen existing platforms, such as working with and supporting the networks in which women lead or participate or where they have control in value chains. Certain activities, however, require a transformative approach, such as Participatory Rangeland Management interventions, that engage women in rangeland management committees, whereas traditional



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rangelands institutions have, by and large, excluded women. Strategic engagement can generate changes beyond management institutions, into communities and households.

Advancing progress towards greater gender equality at scale is a desirable outcome of AICCRA. This is achieved through two main types of activities in the Cluster. First, we are developing an evidence-base, that includes conducting literature reviews, identifying knowledge gaps, and conducting relevant research activities on topics that include:

- Gender-based differences in access to, and benefits from, agriculture and livestock systems
- Gender and age-related norms and practices in agricultural and livestock systems, e.g., labor, income distribution
- CIS access, use and decision-making
- This evidence is used to integrate gender and youth specific activities within the thematic areas. Primarily we are doing this through:
  - Consultations with thematic group leaders and teams to co-design activities
  - Engaging partners with demonstrated gender capacity
  - Building and supporting gender capacity of stakeholders

## Integrating gender across the Cluster

### Financial business models and incentives to scale CSA

We are developing a financial investment plan that will create positive opportunities and outcomes for women and youth. Sorghum is an important drought tolerant crop and is a source of income, nutrition, and animal feed.

Current efforts are to characterize the sorghum value chain in terms of social inclusivity. A tool for assessing gender in the value chain was developed to better understand access to improved seeds, training, and marketing, for example. Next steps will be to review the data and make informed decisions about how to increase the potential for women to benefit from the business model through access to finance and improved production

### Demonstration plots

- Sixteen demonstration plots of sorghum and pearl millet were established in lower eastern counties. Seven, or 44%, of the plots were managed by women. Efforts to scale these activities will include increasing the number of women participants benefitting to 60%.





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## Participatory Rangeland Management

Participatory Rangeland Management will be scaled to Wajir county. The scaling will draw upon the document entitled Gender guidelines in PRM, that were developed based on PRM experiences in Baringo.



### Women's participation in rangeland governance: essential to socially inclusive scaling

Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) was piloted in 2019 in four conservancies in Kenya. Due to prohibitive gender norms and practices, women's participation in local leadership in governance institutions was previously low or non-existent. However, through PRM women took up positions in rangeland management committees in PRM. To date a total 37% of women are active in committees.

In 2021 a study was conducted to better understand women's engagement and participation in PRM. Mixed methods included group discussions and surveys with 202 individuals. Both men and women reported high levels of participation in the committee and the ability to influence decisions.

"I am happy with my level of participation because since we made the decision about the road we have been able to get pasture and have a way to access Irong Hill (Woman, Irong).

"My opinion is always respected and implemented and gender balance is considered too (Woman, Koitegan)."

However, women continue to face constraints.

"Mostly in leadership, there are activities that are to be done such as representing the CFA, maybe in a seminar. When the seminars take long like a week, it brings issues within the family because men always require women to be at home. Women cannot take up some roles like providing security to the forest. These challenges affect the participation of women." (Man, Koitegan).

The creation of equitable opportunities in rangeland governance will be central to the sustainability of climate adaptation and livelihood resilience. Tackling gender inequities remains a key challenge.





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### **Climate information services**

Pre-season weather advisory messages were sent to approximately 20,200 farmers. Information about weather, crops, and advice on what to plant was shared to alleviate risks from climate shocks. County specific information was shared in Kitui, Makueni and Taita Taveta. Overall, 41% of the recipients were women across the counties. Per county 28-48% of the recipients were women. Training materials on gender sensitive technologies and value chains for NGOs and county governments have been developed.

### **Enhance gender capacity of county governments**

Training materials on gender sensitive technologies and value chains for NGOs and county governments have been developed. A training manual, entitled “Building the capacity of sub-national stakeholders in climate-smart agriculture and climate information services” includes a module that provides guidance on how to develop youth and gender sensitive agricultural value chains. This module includes a gender activity profile and illustrates ways to better understand the characteristics and agricultural aspirations of the youth.

A 3-day training entitled “Climate Risk Assessment and Improved Agricultural Practices for Drought Tolerant Crops’ was held to strengthen capacities and knowledge of extension agents in the use of climate information services for informed decision making and scaling climate-smart agriculture in the drylands.





Photo credit: ILRI/Riccardo Gangale

A total of 25 participants attended and 32% of the attendees were women. A challenge to equal participation of women and men is women's low levels of participation in the sector. A gender module about gender differentiated impacts of climate change and the importance of integrating gender in CSA and CIS work was included in the training.

County specific CSA packages will be developed based on evaluations of existing resources, e.g., County Climate Risk Profiles, that detail gender differences and disparities, where relevant. In addition, multistakeholder workshops are planned to discuss viable gender and climate smart options.

## Mass media

Shamba Shape-Up, with guidance and support from ILRI and RECONCILE, aired a series of PRM episodes. Estimates of viewership in drylands regions for the series was ~ 1 million. One episode featured women's participation in a key step in Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM), mapping the resources. Women's knowledge often includes gender specific understanding of resources, e.g., medicines. Women's engagement in mapping activities and governance committees increases the potential for negotiating access to and sharing resources equitably.

## About AICCRA INFONOTE

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