



# A different kettle of fish?

Gender integration in livestock and fish research

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## 8 ADDING GENDER TRANSFORMATION TO VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS

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Organizations	Locations
WorldFish, ILRI, Pandia	
Species	
	
<b>Methods:</b> Focus group discussion, toolkit	
<b>Summary:</b> Developing a toolkit for a gender transformative value chain analysis	

**I**N ORDER to understand value chains, researchers and development organizations use a range of analysis tools to map the chain, identify actors and service providers, and understand the relationships between them. Early value chain tools tended to be “gender-blind” and did not explore gender relations at all. More recent toolkits are “gender-sensitive”: they ask about the roles of women and men, and their access to and control over resources. They focus on the value chain but fail to look at the wider context. We were interested in developing a toolkit that treats this context as a vital aspect to enable us to design interventions that are “gender transformative” rather than “gender sensitive”.

**Gender-sensitive** interventions work within the existing social and economic context. They do not question the barriers that the context creates and that prevent women from benefiting from a value chain. A gender-sensitive intervention might, for example, offer loans especially to women. But if their husbands ultimately decide how the money is used, the women are not necessarily any better off. Such interventions usually focus on women only, without engaging men or trying to understand gender relations. Without this, the context will never change.

**Gender-transformative** interventions, on the other hand, try to expand the range and quality of choices that women and men have in the value chain. They seek ways to give the women more decision-making power. In a credit programme, this might mean also holding sessions with husbands and wives together, along with mothers-in-law, community leaders and other powerful

individuals, to discuss decision-making power and related issues and exploring what positive changes towards more equal gender relations are possible.

## Underlying causes

Understanding the underlying causes of gender inequity is vital if we are to design gender-transformative interventions. The causes fall into several categories:

- The **gender division of labour both in and outside the value chain**. We need to understand what men and women do in terms of productive work (earning money or producing food), reproductive work (such as household duties and childcare) and activities in the community. Such considerations affect how people spend their time.
- The **social and gender norms and beliefs** that shape women's access to livestock and fish resources and assets, and the roles they can play. For example, in a fishing community that frowns on a woman working outside the household, she is unlikely to go to the market herself; she may sell her fish to a neighbour or have to ask a male relative to sell them for her. She has no control over where they are sold and at what price. She may earn less than she might otherwise.
- **Policies, laws and other institutions**, for example those that regulate whether women can inherit land, are entitled to borrow money, or may own other assets and resources.
- The **relations** within the value chain, households and community that create, and limit, the opportunities that women and men have and the benefits they can get from the chain. This is not just related to people who have an active role in the chain. For example, a mother-in-law may make it possible for her daughter-in-law to go out to work by looking after the children.
- **Entitlement**, or recognition and self-perception: the recognition by society of the work that women and men do, and the individuals' own feeling that they contribute. For example, the community may question whether a woman has the right to work as a market stallholder. And women themselves may not think they are allowed to go to the market, or do not think they have the right skills to buy and sell fish.

## Developing tools

The gender team in the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish has developed a set of tools for social and gender analysis for value chains that explore these gender relations and underlying causes of inequities. We have adapted an existing set of tools from a wide range of nongovernment organizations, development agencies and research institutions.

We developed two sets of tools to suit different situations:

- **Supplementary:** Where a value chain analysis has already been done, and the researcher needs to supplement it with a gender and social analysis.
- **Integrated:** Where a researcher needs to do a full value chain analysis that includes gathering information on the underlying causes of gender inequality.

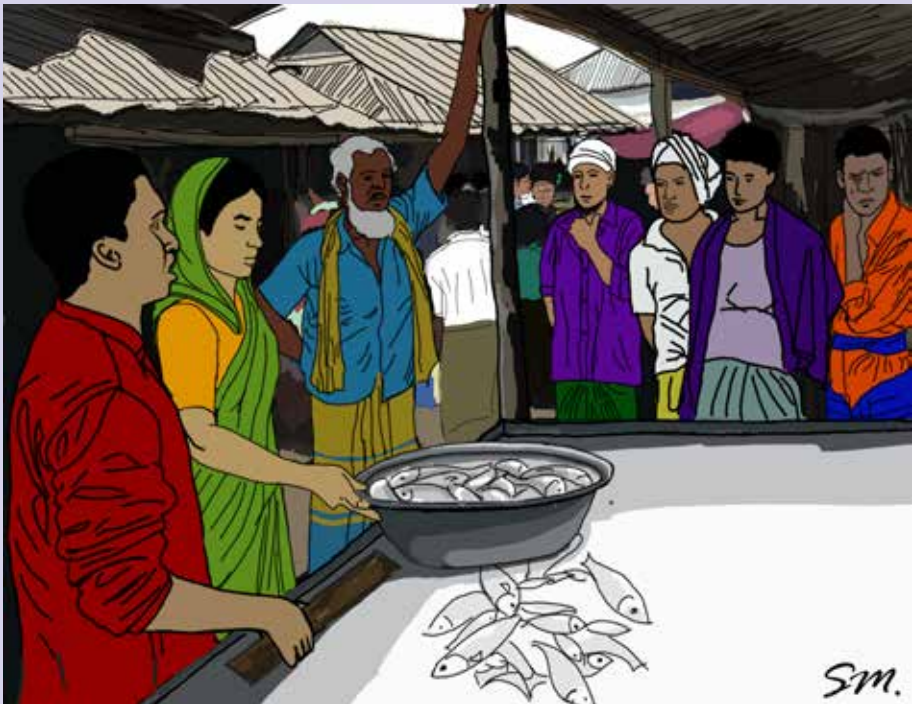
### Supplementary tools

We designed seven new tools to complement an existing value chain analysis. These are shown in Table 8.1.

All these tools are used in focus-group discussions with separate groups of men and women participants in the value chain. Each group requires a well-trained facilitator and someone to take notes, and takes between 45 minutes and 2 hours to run. The whole set of tools takes about two days. It produces

#### Box 8.1 The gender norms tool

The facilitator uses a set of pre-prepared drawings that show people in various situations: conforming to gender norms (a woman taking care of the children) and doing something that would require a change to the norm (a man doing the same thing). These drawings have to be drawn to suit the topic and the local situation: in Bangladesh, for example, it is very unusual for women to sell fish in a marketplace (as in the picture below).



**Table 8.1** Supplementary tools for gender and social analysis for transformative change in value chains

Tool	What it does
1. Access to resources	<p>Helps us understand how access to, control over, and ownership of assets and resources necessary for the value chain is divided or shared in the household, and why this is the case.</p> <p>Stimulates discussion of ways to change gendered patterns seen as unfair or that reduce value chain performance.</p>
2. Decision making	<p>Reveals how decisions relevant to value chain activities are typically made within the home.</p> <p>Shows how women and men decide how to use the income from value chain activities. Is the division of benefits perceived as fair or unfair? How does this affect how people participate and invest in value chains?</p> <p>Stimulates discussion with participants on ways to change “unfair” gendered patterns or those that reduce value chain performance.</p>
3. Activity and time-use matrix	<p>Helps understand how people use their time and the gender division of labour in and outside the chain.</p> <p>Identifies trade-offs between value chain activities and other types of activities: growing food, other ways to make money, household duties and leisure.</p> <p>Reveals the impact this has on how the value chain works.</p> <p>Discuss ideas for how the gender division of labour can be changed and has already changed.</p>
4. Gender attitudes	<p>Captures gender attitudes that may limit people's range of choices and potential to participate in and benefit from value chain work.</p> <p>Sparks discussion on the basis for these attitudes and their effect on women's and men's choices.</p>
5. Gender norms (see Box 8.1)	<p>Helps understand the dynamics of local gender norms, attitudes and practices that create and maintain social inequalities and how they affect value chain actors.</p> <p>Looks at how gender norms change over time, and asks about “positive deviants”: people who do things that do not conform with the norms.</p> <p>Allows us to find ways to encourage changes in the norms.</p>
6. Relationships wheel	<p>Helps to understand how relationships affect how well people can do their value chain work. It looks at relations between actors in the value chain and between actors and people outside the chain.</p> <p>Elicits the nature of these relationships and the power dynamics within them.</p> <p>Identifies ways to strengthen positive relationships and reduce the effects of negative relationships.</p>
7. Envisioning a gender transformative value chain	<p>Shares the outcomes of the discussion with the participants.</p> <p>Draws out how gender-based constraints matter to outcomes for different actors and the performance of the chain.</p> <p>Validates and deepens the results and finds options to develop the value chain and improve how women and men can participate in it.</p>

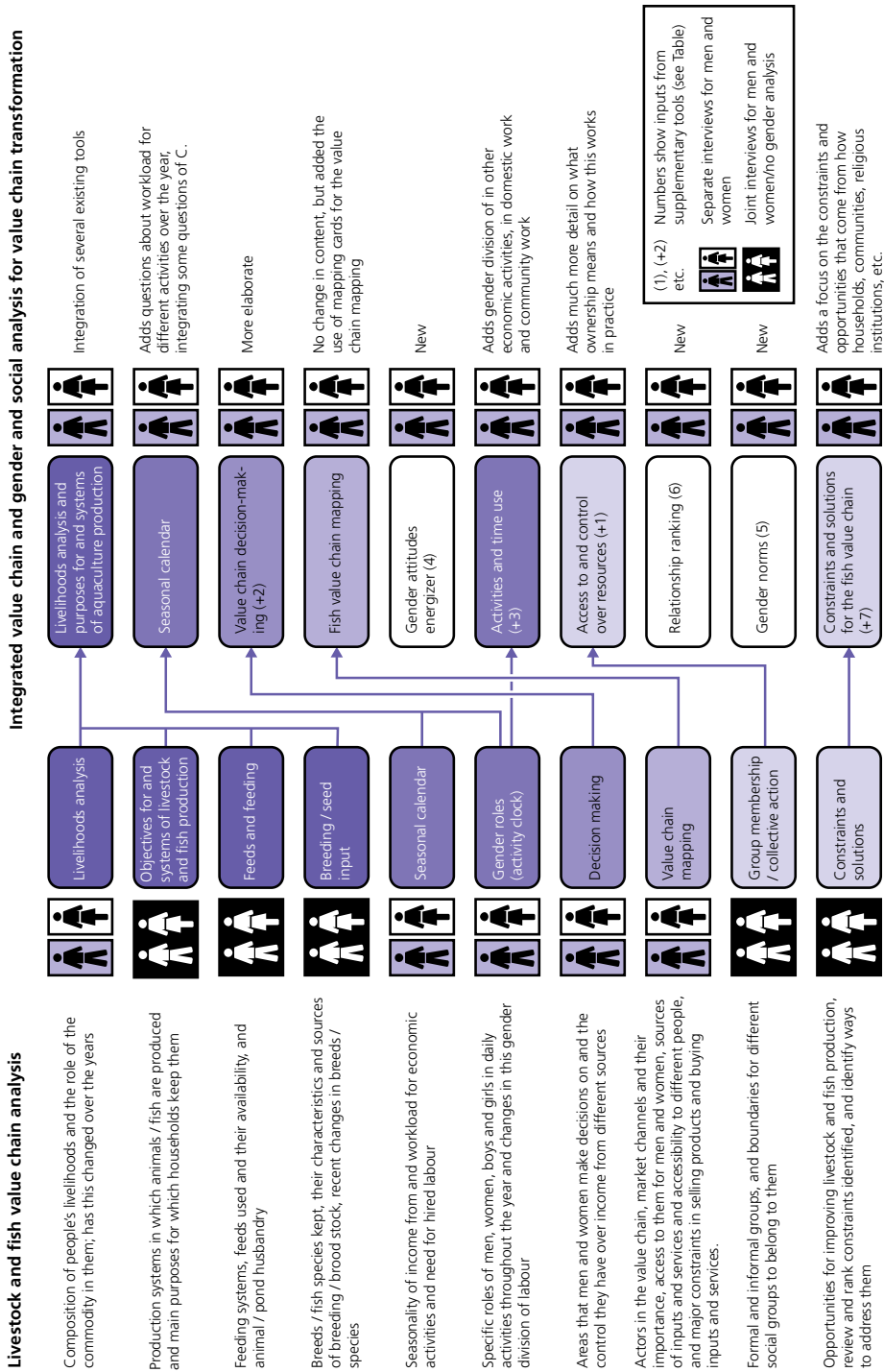


Figure 8.1 Integrating gender tools into a value chain analysis

**Table 8.2** Time required to implement the original and integrated value chain analysis tools

	Field staff	Local people
Original tool	8 person-days	30 person-days
Integrated tool	16 person-days	60 person-days

notes and diagrams that can be used for further analysis. Guidelines for these tools will be published on <https://livestockfish.cgiar.org>.

### Integrated tools

We wanted to offer a full set of tools that researchers interested in gender transformation could use to examine a value chain. We based this on a toolkit developed for the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish. We adapted this toolkit in four ways:

- We added new tools (including some of those described above). For example, we included Tools 4 (gender attitudes), 5 (gender norms) and 6 (relationship wheel) in the toolkit (Figure 8.1).
- We adapted existing tools, for example by adding questions on gender. For example, we added questions on processes and details of decision-making to the value chain decision-making tool.
- We combined several existing tools to reduce the amount of time required: our new livelihood analysis tool includes elements from four older tools. This was possible because the existing tool was designed for use with livestock and fish; using it for fish made it possible to simplify things considerably.
- We recommended that all the tools be used with separate groups of men and women rather than with mixed groups.
- We replaced some tools with improved versions that better reflected the issue we were interested in. For example, we replaced the “Gender activity clock” with an “Activities and time use” tool that used a matrix rather than a diagram of a clock.

All of the items in Table 8.1 were included in the resulting integrated toolkit.



## Testing the toolkit

We tested this revised toolkit in the fish value chain in southwestern Bangladesh, a project that is described in more detail in Chapter 5. Here we focus on what the additions meant in practice for the implementation of the study.

### *Preparation*

The revised toolkit is longer than the original and includes a lot of new concepts. So training the field team took more time than before. We also had to prepare drawings for the gender norms tool (see box) and translate the new guidelines into Bangla.

### *Fieldwork*

The original tool could be delivered in one day per community using several parallel sessions focusing on different topics, plus some plenary sessions. Some of the exercises were done in mixed groups, others in groups of men and women only. To handle the parallel sessions, we needed four facilitators and four note-takers, making a team of eight people. We needed around 30 participants to make up the numbers needed for the focus groups.

The new, integrated tool took longer to apply: four days in all, but used a smaller field team because there were no parallel sessions focusing on different topics. We needed two facilitators and two note-takers to handle the separate sessions for men and women. We used women team members for the women's discussions, and men for the men's groups.

To avoid participants having to spend four days with us, we invited different people from the same community on each day. This meant spending extra time to explain the activities to each new group.

Overall, using the new tool took double the staff time and double the time from people in the community (Table 8.2).

### *Coding and analysis of data*

The integrated tool produced a lot more data to analyse. That took longer to translate from Bangla into English, longer to code, and longer to analyse. The lack of skilled coders meant we had to invest a lot of time in training, and the eventual quality of the coding was mixed.

Gathering such a rich dataset involves costs in terms of time, money and effort. The extra data takes longer to analyse, and this has implications for the time required for reaching conclusions that can be converted into development interventions.

We have to go back to the integrated toolkit and look critically at the information generated by each tool and each question. We need to decide whether we actually need to gather all this information in order to develop transformative



*“The best way to shift some of those gender norms and the dynamics between men and women is by linking to other interventions, for example a new technology.”*

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<https://youtu.be/Wynj8cn0ShQ>

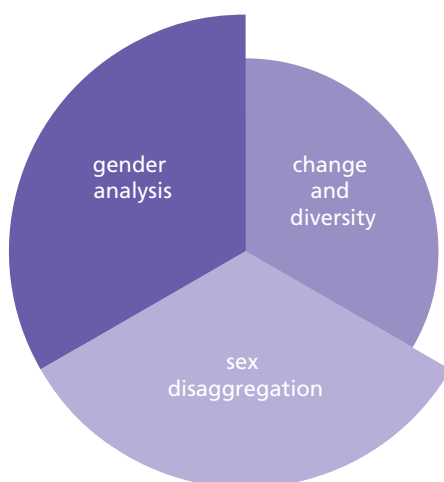
interventions. Of course a major issue is that “you don’t know what you don’t know”: you cannot tell in advance which parts of the tools are going to provide you with the information that will make a difference in developing interventions. There is no easy answer to this: you have to find out what you can before you design such a study, then choose individual tools (and how you use them) depending on the situation.

## Situating the research

*The gender-transformative value chain analysis tool presented in this project addresses both research questions; specific emphasis is put on how innovations and solutions affect gender relations. In fact, the tool is designed to contribute to a positive impact of innovations on gender equity: to identify which changes in gender relations are desired and start to see where and how these could come about. The assumption is both that gender relations affect the adoption of innovations, and that technical and institutional innovations will affect gender relations. In addition, explicit effort is required to monitor and ensure that this effect is positive, and will not undermine women’s positions.*

*In terms of qualifying the gender analysis:*

- *The tool collects sex-disaggregated data **from** women and men in single-sex focus-group discussions.*
- *The analysis strongly brings to the fore key gender relations concepts. These include: the **gender division of labour** (both in the household and in the value chain), **access to***



*and control over resources, and intra-household **decision-making**. Specific, explicit attention is paid to gender norms and attitudes; policies, laws and institutions; relations within and beyond the household; as well as entitlements, both recognized by others and self-perception.*

- *The tool has an explicit emphasis on gender-transformative change. It takes into account how norms change over time, and hence how gender relations are dynamic. It specifically asks about the potential for change, in the gender division of labour, in resource distribution and decision-making, and in norms and attitudes. Finally, the tool has an explicit aim to explore and discuss the need and possibilities for gender-transformative change. The exercise to discuss gender-based constraints also explores how these constraints can be addressed and what the need and pathways for change are.*

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