

SUMMARY REPORT 2020-2021



CGIAR Gender Platform



GENDER
Platform



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In 2021, **12 CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs)** and four **CGIAR Platforms** came to a close. This summary report presents an overview of the work of the **CGIAR Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) Platform** between 2020 and 2021 and highlights its key achievements over this two-year period.



OVERVIEW

CGIAR Generating
Evidence and New
Directions for Equitable
Results (GENDER)
Platform

Hosted by the
International Livestock
Research Institute



GENDER
Platform



INTERNATIONAL
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

The CGIAR GENDER Platform is designed to place gender equality at the forefront of global agricultural research for development. By envisioning a world in which gender equality drives transformation toward sustainable, productive, and climate-resilient food systems, the Platform contributed to renewed gender research approaches, both within and beyond CGIAR. It aims to foster a process of genuine change leading to greater gender equality and better lives for smallholder farmers everywhere.

Launched in January 2020, the GENDER Platform builds on a wealth of research and learning generated by the CGIAR Gender Network and the Collaborative Platform for Gender Research (2011–2019). It supports all **CGIAR Research**

Centers, CGIAR Research Programs, and CGIAR Platforms. As of January 2022, the GENDER Platform is being aligned to the new One CGIAR architecture to become the Platform contributing to the gender equality, youth, and social inclusion impact area.

CGIAR **gender research coordinators**, gender scientists, and post-doctoral fellows are important contributors to the CGIAR GENDER Platform. The Platform also collaborates with external partners, including national agricultural research and extension systems, university partners, nongovernmental organizations, multilateral institutions, and governments.

Overview/Achievements¹

The GENDER Platform's work is organized around three interdependent modules: Evidence, Methods, and Alliances.

- ▶ The Evidence module focuses on delivering new evidence, identifying emerging issues, and closing data gaps. It identifies solutions and trajectories to reduce gender inequalities within the dynamics of a changing food system.
- ▶ The Methods module inspires critical thinking on gender in agricultural research for development and develops robust methodologies to support gender equality outcomes.
- ▶ The Alliances module establishes linkages between scientists and engages with external partners to strengthen their gender work and outcomes.

In 2017, the CGIAR Advisory Services (CAS) Secretariat Evaluation Function coordinated an evaluation of Gender in CGIAR to serve as a baseline. Evidence from the evaluation was integrated into the design and implementation of the GENDER Platform.

In 2020, the GENDER Platform supported each CGIAR Center through grants to complete gender-focused outputs. Building on CGIAR's history of **gender research**, the Platform synthesized and developed evidence, methods, and tools across eight areas:

- ▶ **Climate change**
- ▶ **Landscapes and biodiversity**
- ▶ **COVID-19**
- ▶ **Markets and value chains**
- ▶ **Crops and technologies**
- ▶ **Nutrition and health**
- ▶ **Institutions and norms**
- ▶ **Women's empowerment**

These priority areas **informed the design** of the **GENDER resource hub**, which provided **methods and tools** to enable high-quality gender research, as well as **insights and recommendations** on how to make real progress toward equality in food systems.

Gender Partnerships

In 2020, in consultation with funders, the Platform identified several significant gaps in gender evidence, including on gender and climate change. This led to additional funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) for climate change-specific activities.

The Platform developed other significant research partnerships, including one with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on COVID-19 and climate change, and with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa on evidence gaps related to women in agriculture. A review of research on the **gendered impacts of COVID-19** in agriculture and food systems identified important evidence gaps to inform future research trajectories and priorities.

¹ The content in this section is drawn from the GENDER Annual Reports, which are included in the Resource section of this Summary Report. The complete list of GENDER achievements can be found on the [CGIAR Results Dashboard](#).

Achievements CONT'D

The GENDER Platform supported the One CGIAR institutional reform process on several fronts: its researchers worked on identifying potential indicators to assess the impact of the organization's gender research; developed a concept for an initiative that would enhance the enabling environment for gender-equitable research in One CGIAR; and initiated work on a gender research ethics toolkit that aims to provide researchers with guidance on ethical considerations.

EXAMPLES OF GENDER ACHIEVEMENTS:

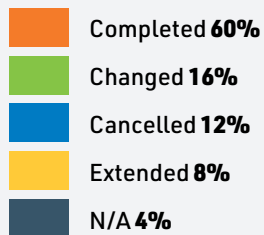
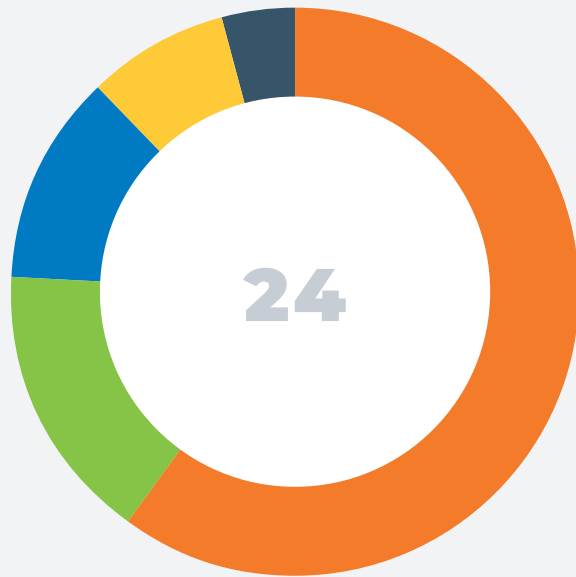
- ▶ The GENDER Platform initiated work to identify all the methods available in its eight areas and published five working papers and 200 methods in its [resource hub](#). It also initiated an evidence gap map to identify areas of work, which has since informed CGIAR's Initiatives. In 2021, the Platform held a virtual gender conference, in collaboration with Wageningen University, which was attended by 600 people.
- ▶ Also in 2021, the Platform advanced the CGIAR Impact Area on Gender Equality, Youth and Social Inclusion by actively engaging in the development of CGIAR's new Research



Initiatives. The Platform ensured that gender statements became an integral part of the Initiative templates; shared gender research resources with all Initiatives; reviewed and advised on integrating gender in all the Initiative proposals; and offered support to integrate gender into the Theory of Change of Initiatives, which 10 initiatives took advantage of.

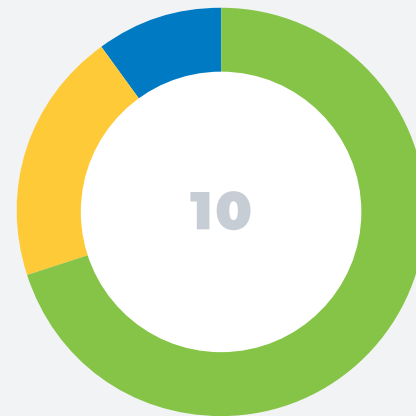
- ▶ The Platform also led the development of the HER+ Initiative, whose dedication to strategic gender research represents an important milestone for CGIAR.

FIGURE 1: GENDER milestone status, 2020-2021

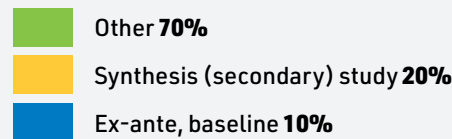


Of its 24 milestones, GENDER completed **60%** from 2020-2021.

FIGURE 2: GENDER Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Impact Assessment (MELIA) studies, 2020-2021

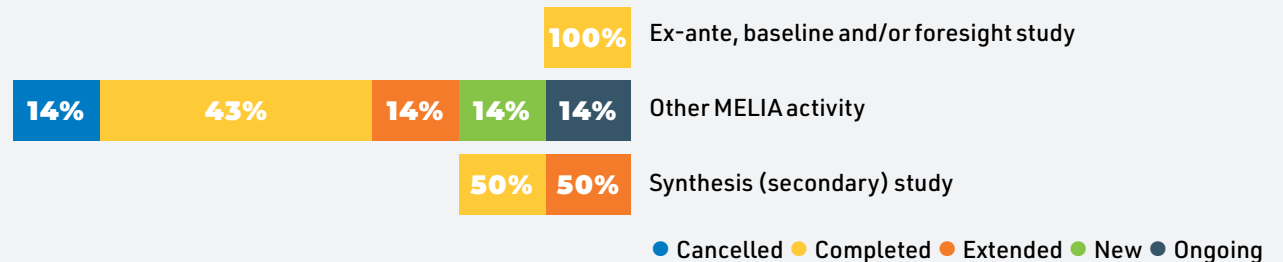


MELIA ACTIVITY BY TYPE



Of GENDER's 10 MELIA activities, 70% were other, 20% were synthesis studies, and 10% were ex-ante, baseline, and/or foresight studies. Of these activities, 43% of the other activities were completed, 50% of synthesis studies were completed, and 100% of ex-ante, baseline, and/or foresight studies were completed.

MELIA ACTIVITY BY TYPE AND STATUS



Explore GENDER results on the [CGIAR Results Dashboard](#).

The figures in this report reflect reporting valid as of July 15, 2022.

Key challenges and risks during implementation of the Gender Platform²

Key challenges

VARIANCE FROM PLANNED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

In 2020, the GENDER Platform was able to expand work in areas such as climate change and gender inequalities through additional Window 2 funding from the IDRC and BMGF, as well as through emerging collaboration with FAO.

Following the process of appointing module leaders, several 2020 milestones were reviewed to consider the agreed-upon approaches within each module proposal and to allow for adjustments due to COVID-19. For example, a decision was made in early 2020 to postpone the first gender research conference because of COVID-19-related travel restrictions and to instead develop high-level engagement through alternative forums.

Management of risks

The GENDER Platform complied with the ILRI Risk Management Policy, in alignment with the CGIAR Risk Management Framework. Five main risks were identified in the GENDER Platform proposal approved in 2019, which continue to serve as the frame of reference for risk management:

- ▶ **Insufficient CGIAR and partner gender researchers to conduct research and achieve outcomes.** To mitigate the risk that CGIAR will lose its competitive advantage without sufficient research personnel, the Platform provided resources for gender researchers to carry out research activities, facilitated hiring staff with gender expertise for its modules, and developed a proactive research agenda. The Platform's capacity development efforts also helped to build the skills of GENDER researchers.
- ▶ **CGIAR loses its central role in agricultural research for development.** To address this, the Platform began 2020 with a situational analysis to ensure that gender research in CGIAR remains innovative and groundbreaking.

In 2021, the global conference "**Cultivating Equality**" was a vital forum for CGIAR to demonstrate its central role in gender and agricultural research for development.

- ▶ **Unsatisfactory evidence and assurance received.** The key mitigation strategy for helping researchers and implementers value and use gender meta-analyses and foresight was a bimonthly newsletter, which reflected the work being done within the gender community. The Platform actively engaged donors to ensure that sufficient resources were available to continue generating and disseminating such evidence.
- ▶ **Inadequate funding available.** Donor engagement was deployed as a mitigation strategy, resulting in Window 2 funds secured from Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, BMGF, and IDRC.

² The content in this section is drawn from the Genebank Annual Reports, which are included in the Resource section of this Summary Report. These Reports contain a complete list of challenges and risks.

Resource Snapshots³

The GENDER Platform played an important role in establishing a central resource hub for gender-related publications, training courses and materials, tools, methods, and manuals.

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index for Market Inclusion (Pro-WEAI+MI)

TOOL

Many development agencies design and implement socially inclusive agricultural interventions along agricultural value chains. Monitoring and evaluating the success of these interventions requires tools that can identify the constraints facing women and men, and can track empowerment across multiple stages of value chains.

The survey-based Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index for Market Inclusion (Pro-WEAI+MI), developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in 2020, **monitors and evaluates women's and men's empowerment across value chains**. Based on 12 indicators, the Pro-WEAI+MI expands on the **project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index** (Pro-WEAI).



While the **Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)** and **abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI)** focus on the production dimensions of agriculture, the Pro-WEAI+MI takes the tool one step further to measure empowerment across value chains.

ACCESS THE **PRO-WEAI+MI**

³ The content in this section is drawn from the GENDER Annual Reports, which are included in the Resource section of this Summary Report.

Resource Snapshots CONT'D

Community conversations: A community-based approach to transform gender relations and reduce zoonotic disease risks

METHOD

Improving small livestock management and reducing the impacts of animal diseases requires engaging both women and men, who hold different roles in owning and managing livestock. When both women and men are engaged in the process, communities can bring about changes in discriminatory gender norms, attitudes, behaviors, and power imbalances. In turn, these shifts create positive changes for gender equality and women's empowerment.

After identifying knowledge, attitude, and practice needs, researchers at ILRI created a **community-based transformative approach** called "community conversations." With this method, community groups work with trained facilitators to identify their strengths and constraints, analyze community values and practices, and explore strategies for addressing challenges that prevent women from fully taking part in livestock production.

These conversations enable people to discuss issues away from formal social environments, opening space for new ways of thinking and questioning. This approach recognizes that people have knowledge and capability to bring about positive development outcomes, both individually and collectively. By engaging a wide variety of stakeholders, these conversations can lead to the development of collective ideas and a critical consciousness. This can contribute to changes in restrictive

gender norms and livestock management practices.

This approach includes all participants in decision-making about gender and livestock management, presenting them with opportunities for sustained change.

[ACCESS THE METHOD](#)



Resource Snapshots CONT'D

Considerations for gender-responsive mathematical modeling of agriculture and natural resource management

TRAINING MATERIAL

In agriculture and natural resource management, models are often used to analyze both physical and socioeconomic phenomena. Econometric models often include gender as an explanatory variable, unlike models that describe only biophysical processes. However, biophysical models may carry gender implications that require consideration. Therefore, **mathematical models** require analyses that acknowledge the complex, shifting, and context-specific nature of gender roles and relations.

This training material, developed by Bioversity International as part of the CGIAR Research Program for Water, Land and Ecosystems, promotes engagement with gender relations to develop models that can support the analysis of innovations for equitable and sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

This occurs during three key phases:

conceptualization of the model/framework; data collection to populate the model; and interpretation of model outputs.

At each phase, the training material provides valuable support to researchers:

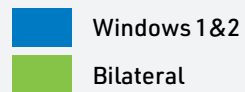
- ▶ In considering how gender relations shape access to resources, assets, time, mobility, interests, preferences, and ability to influence decision-making processes
- ▶ By ensuring adequate sampling and engagement with different social groups in data collection
- ▶ In making an informed interpretation of model outputs

[ACCESS THE TRAINING MATERIAL](#)



Funding and Finance⁴

FIGURE 3: Funding sources



From 2020-2021, the Gender Platform had \$8.28 million in total funding. Over this period, Windows 1&2 represented 99% of funding and Bilateral represented 1% (Figure 3).

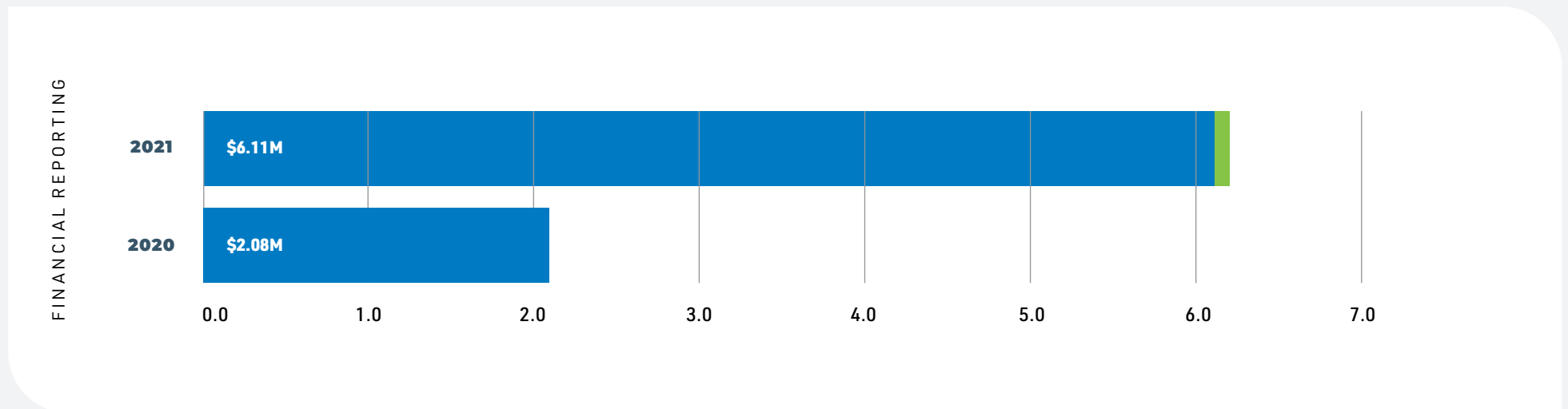


FIGURE 4: Top funders

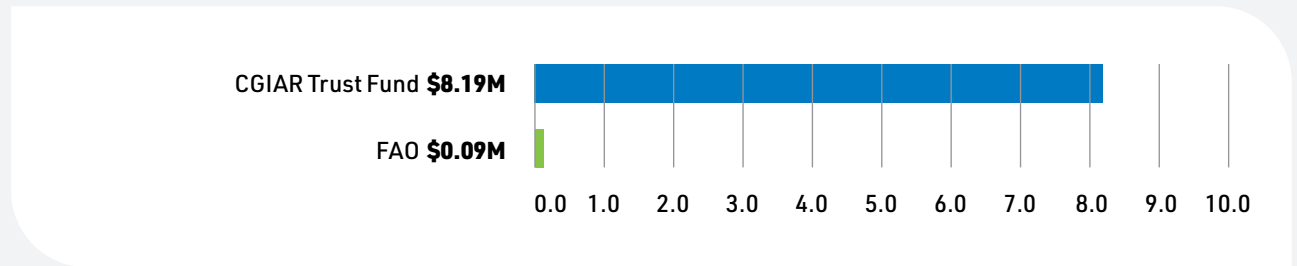
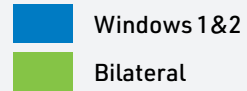
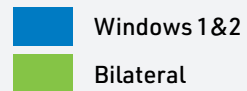
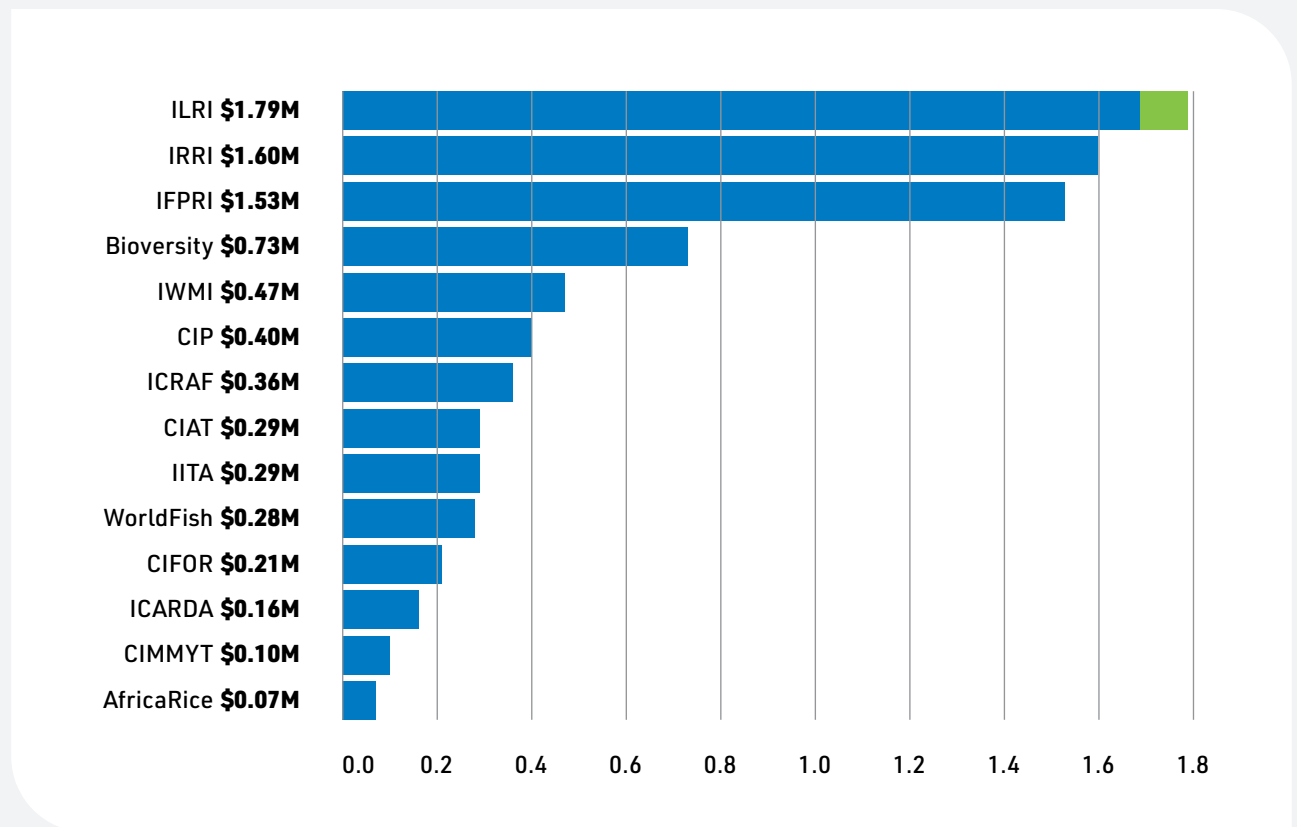


FIGURE 10: Implementing Centers



The Gender Platform's top funder was the CGIAR Trust Fund, with small bilateral contribution from FAO (Figure 4). The Gender Platform was implemented by ILRI, followed by other 13 CGIAR Centers (Figure 5).



Access more financial information on the [CGIAR Financial Dashboards](#).

⁴ The content in this section is drawn from CGIAR's annual [Finance Reports](#).

Resources

- ▶ [GENDER Platform Annual Report 2020](#)
 - ▶ [GENDER Platform Annual Report 2021](#)
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- ▶ [CGIAR Annual Performance Report 2017](#)
 - ▶ [CGIAR Annual Performance Report 2018](#)
 - ▶ [CGIAR Annual Performance Report 2019](#)
 - ▶ [CGIAR Annual Performance Report 2020](#)
 - ▶ [CGIAR Annual Performance Report 2021](#)
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- ▶ [CGIAR Results Dashboard](#)
 - ▶ [CGIAR Financial Report Dashboards](#)
 - ▶ [Evaluation of Gender in Research and in CGIAR Workplace | CAS | CGIAR Advisory Services 2017](#)



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