

WEAI-Climate Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

Organized by the Methods Module of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform

DATE: November 9-10, 2023

LOCATION: Conference Room 9A at IFPRI HQ in Washington, DC, with virtual participation



1. Summary

The [Methods Module](#) of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform convened a group of experts on climate change and gender from CGIAR and partner organizations at a workshop held in Washington, DC, November 9-10, 2023. The goal of the workshop was to identify measurement gaps and best practices to support the development of a new tool for measuring women’s empowerment in the context of climate change and resilience. This new tool will complement the existing [project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(pro-WEAI\)](#) and will be developed and piloted in collaboration with IFPRI’s Gender, Climate Change and Nutrition Integration Initiative ([GCAN](#)) over the next two years.

2. Alternative approaches to tool development: Intro to the WEAI family of tools including existing add-on modules and WE-WASH

Several members of IFPRI’s core WEAI team joined the workshop to discuss options for the development of the new tool to measure women’s empowerment in the context of climate change research. The WEAI family of tools were presented as well as two options for additional WEAI indicators covering key topical issues. One is to develop an add-on module that takes the pro-WEAI as the core module and adds additional indicators. The second approach is to develop a new tool that does not entirely adopt the pro-WEAI as the base.

2.1 Core pro-WEAI + climate change (CC) add-on: similar to the pro-WEAI for Market Inclusion ([pro-WEAI+MI](#)) and pro-WEAI for Health and Nutrition ([pro-WEAI+HN](#))

- Building on the original [WEAI](#), IFPRI worked with [13 agricultural development projects](#) to co-develop the pro-WEAI, specifically designed for the assessment of project-level impacts on women’s empowerment. Pro-WEAI is made up of 10 indicators that measure three types of agency: intrinsic agency (power within), instrumental agency (power to), and collective agency (power with).

- When the need to measure agency in nutrition- and market integration-related activities and decisions emerged, add-on modules were developed to address these specific aspects.
- Add-on indicators do not stand alone and should be used within the broader context of pro-WEAI. The add-on indicators are optional, so users do not need to use all the indicators. Instead, researchers can choose the ones that align with the specific context of their projects.

2.2 Another approach: develop framework with new indicators that is informed by pro-WEAI but do not follow its structure.

- Women's Empowerment metric for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WE-WASH) example: The WE-WASH indicators were developed based on projects' characteristics and donors' strategies. They can be implemented along with pro-WEAI if desired, or as a stand-alone set of indicators.

3. Moving forward with the WEAI-Climate Learning Grant projects

- The Methods Module recently [announced](#) three recipients of the learning grants to apply women's empowerment measures to climate change research:
 - Unveiling the Nexus: Climate-Smart Irrigation and Women's Empowerment in Uzbekistan (led by the [CGIAR Initiative on NEXUS Gains](#))
 - Examining women's empowerment and resilience under socio-technical innovation bundling: Application of Pro-WEAI tools and methods in India and Ethiopia (led by the [CGIAR Initiative on Gender Equality \(HER+\)](#))
 - Strengthening women's empowerment in the design of a Living Lab approach for climate resilient, low-emission food system development in Kenya and Colombia (led by the [CGIAR Initiative on Low-Emission Food Systems \(Mitigate+\)](#))
- Funding and technical support will be provided to the grantees.
- Grantees are encouraged to collaborate and exchange research ideas and lessons. To facilitate knowledge exchange among grantees, a MS Teams channel was created by the Methods Module, as was recommended by the grantees during the workshop discussion. If grantees agree to work on common potential indicators and a common framework, there are clear advantages in synthesizing lessons across the projects. However, some freedom in choosing which indicators are collected is also important to ensure all knowledge gaps can be captured. For example, the three learning grants could collect pro-WEAI indicators and in addition collect some indicators related to climate change even if they do not overlap.
- Grantees are encouraged to think through an "agency" lens and think about which aspects of women's agency are fundamental to their capacity to adapt to climate change, contribute to greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation, and protect well-being under climate shocks and stressors that are missing from the pro-WEAI.

4. Lessons from presentations and discussions

- **There is very limited knowledge about how women’s empowerment influences and is influenced by climate change impacts and responses.** There is a need to further understand what approaches facilitate women’s empowerment in the context of climate change interventions. Currently there is a lack of causal evidence on this relationship. At the same time, more research is needed on the pathways through which women’s empowerment contributes to greater climate resilience.
- **Gender is still not fully integrated into climate change policies.** Even when climate policies, such as the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are gender-responsive, they do not drive action in a country if not aligned with other national policies. Integration of gender usually does not go beyond the design phase of policies and programs, and as such, commitments are not tracked and there is a lack of accountability.
- **Monitoring frameworks should include gender-related metrics to monitor potential trade-offs across policy goals, people, contexts, and time horizons:**
 - Empowerment impacts of climate interventions may vary across different dimensions and spheres. For example, women may be very eloquent speaking in community settings but get scolded at home for being outspoken. Climate interventions may increase women’s empowerment in some ways (e.g. agricultural decision-making) while decreasing it in other (e.g. increased labor burden following the adoption of some climate-smart practices).
 - There are also tradeoffs between women’s empowerment goals and other outcomes of climate interventions. For instance, facilitating women’s empowerment may require additional resources and may reduce impacts in other areas such as productivity, at least in the short run. Similarly, women may not always be better stewards of the environment and, therefore, women’s empowerment may lead to women adopting agricultural practices that have negative environmental implications, particularly when they lack access to information.
 - Budgeting to achieve climate goals often has a cost to women, particularly if budgets are reallocated from social programs to climate programs.
- **There is a lack of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), reporting, and enforcement systems for climate policies, such as the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDCs.** Available monitoring tools are sometimes too complex and their application to adaptation is not well understood among local officials. Again, even when climate policies are gender responsive, there is a lack of investment in implementation and monitoring. Moreover, indicators used to track gender goals are often rudimentary, such as the number of women who participate in interventions, rather than the extent to which they benefit or increases in women’s empowerment. Many climate initiatives do not even collect sex-disaggregated data.
- **Projects are not putting the right weight on components to support small scale agriculture.** Given higher rates of adoption of climate-smart technologies and practices and business opportunities, climate projects often target the better-off, while ignoring more marginalized and vulnerable populations, such as smallholder producers and women farmers. It is hard to change that thinking because projects implementers prioritize meeting deadlines and donor expectations for scaling and other outputs, such as productivity.

- **Gender equality commitments at higher levels are essential.** There must be a commitment to integrate strategies for gender equality into climate policies at the global level otherwise it will be a struggle for countries to contribute to such commitments. At the global level, achieving collective action can be challenging. There are wonderful small-scale examples. However, how do they really add up? To make a significant difference, they need to be embedded in an enabling environment. This includes having the right institutional framework for delivering climate and gender equality goals. In many countries, both climate change and gender are mainstreamed across ministries, and it becomes difficult to coordinate across sectors and to disentangle the impacts of climate and gender-related interventions.
- **Gender norms and roles might reduce women’s adaptive capacity, preventing them from adopting adaptation and climate smart practices they may benefit from.** Promoting an **enabling environment** that is conducive to women’s climate action is essential. **Engaging men and boys** leads to better returns, and we need to accelerate this process while promoting a cooperative model that includes both women and men. More thought needs to be put into how to start breaking down some of the restrictive decision-making spaces without triggering violence against women (backlash).
- **The business case for increasing women’s empowerment should be strengthened as women’s engagement leads to more effective results.** However, women’s empowerment has intrinsic value. Programs should not leverage women to achieve other outcomes without considering how women themselves may benefit. Measuring empowerment should go beyond measuring “the number of women who show up” as often done by donors. Participation in climate interventions is not enough to facilitate women’s empowerment. Economic empowerment is also not only about money but about procedural and contextual outcomes.
- **Engagement to promote an enabling environment for women’s empowerment is needed at all levels.** Changes in the national enabling environment may not always reach the local level. Initiatives that are locally led and rooted in the local context are more likely to be sustained.
- Some donors are more progressive than others. There is scope to push back on donors and advocate for increased investment in women’s empowerment and gender equality as part of their climate financing.
- We need to measure whether gains in empowerment/social transformation are sustained over longer periods of time.
- **Climate change interventions are complex and multi-faceted.** This includes aspects related to the provision of technologies/practices/innovations to address climate change impacts on soil, water, crops, livestock etc. It also involves diversification/risk spreading, services such as information and finance, access to markets, and addressing inequalities among other aspects. Some programs are bundling technical innovations with social interventions to achieve both climate resilience and social transformation.

5. Key takeaways to support the development of a WEAI CC add-on

- Climate change indicators should be developed with different project typologies in mind. However, due to limited resources and time constraints, this might not be feasible, and it is important to **prioritize immediate efforts**.
- It is important to measure not only **what drives empowerment** but **what contributes to disempowerment**.
- A **holistic approach** that considers both adaptation and mitigation, along with an evaluation of possible trade-offs and synergies is important. Monitoring frameworks should consider the possibility of trade-offs in empowerment across different dimensions and spheres (household, public) and with other development outcomes.
- **Intersectionality** needs to be considered as climate change does not impact everybody equally, and empowerment levels differ across different groups of women. On the other hand, intersectionality introduces additional complexity that may be difficult for projects to capture and costly to measure (e.g. an intersectional lens may require larger sample sizes to explore impacts across different sub-groups).
- How we measure climate risks and decision-making needs to be considered under **uncertainty**, as adaptive capacity and empowerment are constantly evolving. **Climate resilience is not static but a dynamic process** whereby the impacts of climate change and response strategies on welfare outcomes today influence future resilience capacities. Thus, there are various trajectories— individuals, households, and communities may bounce back or even bounce back better after shocks, or their well-being may deteriorate over time. Moreover, climate change impacts are intensifying and are likely to lead to many negative outcomes for women, such as increased care duties and work burden in agriculture.
- The measurement of time-use agency needs to go beyond measuring numbers of hours worked. Labeling someone as disempowered based solely on long working hours does not tell the whole story. There is a need to understand more about individuals’ preferences, and their ability to reallocate time to align with their own preferences and motivations. There is also the question of the extent to which women and men even have the flexibility to allocate their time to activities they prefer. The most vulnerable households and individuals often lack options to respond to the negative impacts of climate change, such as their ability to diversify their livelihoods to reduce climate risk.
- Overabundance of measurement tools, frequent surveys, and long survey instruments can lead to survey fatigue. Yet, capturing aspects of women’s empowerment and climate resilience are complex and require detailed data.
- It’s important to ground the development of indicators for the WEAI climate change tool in solid conceptual thinking around women’s empowerment.

6. Brainstorm about dimensions and possible indicators

- Intrinsic agency:

- Confidence to adapt
 - Feeling able to act effectively to protect against perceived climate risks
 - How much a person feels they can change in terms of climate agency
 - Attitudes towards the environment (such as, not using certain resources depending on the time of the year)
 - Perceptions and the value of nature and biodiversity under climate change
 - Gender-based violence (GBV) and other types of violence
- Collective agency:
 - Membership in different groups with different power, and metrics to measure such differences in social capital (Note: In pro-WEAI, the membership in influential group indicator was dropped because it was highly correlated with the group membership indicator).
 - Leadership in CC actions (with a focus on the main role in resource management, infrastructure development, and how communities make decisions about coping with risks)
- Instrumental agency:
 - Decisions over the application or use of climate information
 - Time-use agency (ability to choose/diversify livelihoods)
 - All income-generating activities need to be considered to assess how women's empowerment interacts with adaptive capacity.
 - Agency over the use of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) information
 - Agency over the decision to adopt climate smart technologies or practices
 - Agency over the choice to migrate
 - Mobility
 - Decisions over land, water, forests/trees
 - Decisions over investments in community infrastructure
 - Do preferences influence decisions at the household and community levels?
- Other possible climate change dimensions to be considered and the linkage with women's empowerment explored:
 - Resilience trajectories
 - Adaptive capacity
 - Vulnerability
 - Adaptation progress

7. Next steps

- Create an MS Teams channel for WEAI-CC learning grantees (done)
- Prepare and circulate the workshop report (done)
- Share draft WEAI CC survey questionnaires and protocols when available for feedback

Appendix 1: List of participants

	Mode	Name	Organization
1	In-person	Hazel Malapit	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
2	In-person	Elizabeth Bryan	IFPRI
3	In-person	Ara Go	IFPRI
4	In-person	Marilia Magalhaes	IFPRI
5	In-person	Greg Seymour	IFPRI
6	In-person	Jessica Heckert	IFPRI
7	In-person	Nathaniel Ferguson	IFPRI
8	In-person	Muzna Alvi	IFPRI/NEXUS Gains
9	In-person	Anton Liutin	University of Wisconsin-Madison/NEXUS Gains
10	In-person	Anne Rietveld	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (Alliance)/Mitigate+
11	In-person	Hanna Ewell	Alliance/Mitigate+
12	In-person	Hom Gartaula	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)/HER+
13	In-person	Eileen Nchanji	Alliance/HER+
14	In-person	Rahma Adam	WorldFish
15	In-person	Isabelle Baltenweck	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
16	In-person	Natalie Elwell	World Resources Institute (WRI)
17	In-person	Julia Vaillant	World Bank
18	In-person	Deepa Shakya	Mercy Corps
19	In-person	Patti Kristjanson	Independent consultant
20	Virtual	Ana Paula de Ocampos	FAO
21	Virtual	Silvia Luchetti	WFP/JP-RWEE
22	Virtual	Karl Deering	CARE
23	Virtual	Tatiana Gumucio	Landesa
24	Virtual	Caren Grown	Brookings
25	Virtual	Lora Forsythe	University of Greenwich
26	Virtual	Claudia Ringler	IFPRI/NEXUS Gains
27	Virtual	Ruth Meinzen-Dick	IFPRI/Mitigate+
28	Virtual	Wei Zhang	IFPRI/Mitigate+
29	Virtual	Martha Vanegas	IFPRI/Mitigate+

Appendix 2: Workshop agenda

WEAI-Climate Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

Organized by the Methods Module of the GENDER Impact Platform

The workshop aims to bring together researchers and practitioners working on climate adaptation and mitigation with a focus on promoting women’s empowerment and gender equality. We hope to use the input from colleagues working in this space to inform the development of a climate change add-on module to the [project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(pro-WEAI\)](#).

DATE: November 9-10, 2023

LOCATION: Conference Room 9A (9th floor) at IFPRI HQ in Washington, DC, with virtual participation (Teams link can be found in the calendar invite)

AGENDA

Day 1: Thursday, November 9

Time (EST)	Topic	Speaker
09:00-09:30	Introductions Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender platform and methods module Introduction to climate change work under GENDER-Methods and GCAN 	Hazel Malapit Elizabeth Bryan
09:30-09:40	Dashboard approach: Intro to the WEAI existing add-on modules and WE-WASH	Jessica Heckert
09:40-10:00	Q&A	
10:00-10:20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:20-10:50	Presentations: State of knowledge – gender and climate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WRI (20 mins) World Bank (10 mins) 	Lead discussant: Muzna Alvi Natalie Elwell Julia Vaillant
10:50-11:20	Q&A and discussion	Moderated by Muzna Alvi
11:20-12:10	Presentations: WEAI-Climate Learning Grant projects (15 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nexus Gains Mitigate+ HER+ 	Lead discussant: Patti Kristjanson Muzna Alvi Anne Rietveld Hom Gartaula
12:10-13:10	<i>Lunch</i>	
13:10-13:50	Q&A and discussion	Moderated by Patti Kristjanson
13:50-14:50	Discussion on what we can learn from the experiences	
14:50-15:00	Closing	
End of Day 1		

Day 2: Friday, November 10

Time (EST)	Topic	Speaker
09:00-09:10	Opening	
09:10-09:30	Presentations: New programming approaches and measurement needs (10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO • WFP on behalf of the JP RWEE team 	Lead discussant: Tatiana Gumucio (virtual) Ana Paula de la O Campos (virtual) Silvia Luchetti (virtual)
09:30-10:00	Q&A and discussion	Moderated by Tatiana Gumucio
10:00-10:20	Presentations: New programming approaches and measurement needs (10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARE USA • Mercy Corps 	Lead discussant: Caren Grown (virtual) Karl Deering (virtual) Deepa Shakya
10:20-10:50	Q&A and discussion	Moderated by Caren Grown
10:50-11:10	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:10-11:40	Presentations: Aspects of women's empowerment that are not captured by existing WEAI tools (10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WorldFish - WEFI • ILRI - WELI • MAGNET 	Lead discussant: Lora Forsythe (virtual) Rahma Adam Isabelle Baltenweck Greg Seymour
11:40-12:00	Q&A and discussion	Moderated by Lora Forsythe
12:00-13:30	<i>Lunch at Sfoglina</i>	
13:30-14:30	Discussion on what we can learn from the experiences	
14:30-15:15	Discussion on next steps	
15:15-15:30	Closing	
End of Day 2		