



Methodology

The evaluation employed **theory-based, utilization-focused, and feminist approaches** aligned with [CGIAR's Evaluation Framework and Policy](#)³ (see [presentation](#) on How Evaluations Contribute to Addressing The Greater Societal Issues). Features and novelties included:

- Evaluability assessment jointly carried out by the Platform team and IAES evaluation function
- Feminist Principles Evaluation ([blog](#))
- [Quality of Science evaluation guidelines](#) applied to the Evidence Module to map the four dimensions (research design, inputs, processes, and outputs) to the six evaluation criteria
- Online survey ([Annex](#) and [blog](#))

Mixed methods were used and three kinds of triangulation: investigator triangulation, data triangulation, and methodological triangulation.

Introduction and Background

CGIAR GENDER (Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results) Platform synthesizes and amplifies research, fill gaps, build capacity, and set directions to enable CGIAR to have maximum impact on gender equality, opportunities for youth, and social inclusion in agriculture and food systems.¹

The Platform was independently evaluated by the evaluation function of the IAES:

1. Assess the GENDER Platform's progress (2020–22).
2. Provide forward-looking recommendations for the GENDER Impact Platform (since 10/2022).
3. Document lessons and best practices for the other four Impact Area Platforms of CGIAR².

For the following evaluation user groups: the GENDER Impact Platform, CGIAR System-wide users, and CGIAR System Council and System Board; and external stakeholders.

For additional information

[GENDER platform evaluation Report, Annexes and Management Response \(2023\)](#)

¹ <https://www.cgiar.org/research/program-platform/cgiar-gender-platform/>

² More on [research portfolio](#): Climate adaptation & mitigation; Environmental health & biodiversity; Poverty reduction livelihoods & jobs; Nutrition, health & food security

³ <https://iaes.cgiar.org/cgiar-evaluation-framework-and-policy>

Recommendations (see [Management Response](#))

For action by the GENDER Platform *All Fully Accepted*

1. **Strengthen** partnerships and co-identify and prioritize research gaps and activities with key partners.
2. **Improve** module coherence.
3. **Track** results; employ an experienced monitoring and evaluation (M&E) person.
4. **Decide** how to engage with the expanded mandate.

For action by CGIAR Management

Partially Accepted

5. **Extend** project time frames to three years for planning and operational timeframes.
6. **Reduce** uncertainty surrounding funding cycles and/or disbursement timings.
7. **Expand** the Platform's budget in line with its expanded thematic mandate of youth and social inclusion.

Fully Accepted

8. **Use** relevant metrics in individual performance assessments that assess for gender knowledge and skills.
9. **Recognize** and support gender researchers by investing in career development.
10. **Adopt** inclusive decision making by actively involving and inviting the GENDER Platform to the table.
11. **Modify** the reporting structure with a direct link to the executive management team of CGIAR.

Lessons for CGIAR Impact Platforms

Foster global critical thinking by bringing together CGIAR's community and close partners and use 2030 global roles as an entry point.

Deepen CGIAR and partner capacity by supporting science leadership, assessing user needs and collating and building on existing networks and resources.

Work with partners who have a comparative advantage to amplify the Platform's voice and influence and encourage collaboration with researchers from other CGIAR Centers and external organizations.

Promote cohesiveness in CGIAR and portfolio-level management and strategy. CGIAR leadership should actively engage the Platforms in policy, according to each Platform's niche and thematic area.

Make use of operational learning by using structures and protocols, templates and strategies. The funding timeline needs to be increased to three years.

Behind the Recommendations and Lessons - Findings by Evaluation Criteria

Relevance

- Potential to shift CGIAR to a stronger leadership position.
- The Platform's objectives and design respond to the needs, policies, and priorities of stakeholders.

Effectiveness

- Built an extensive resource hub.
- Synthesized evidence on women's empowerment in agri-food systems, including contribution to framing strategic FAO report *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems* (2023).

Efficiency

- Funding uncertainty; Human resources challenges
- Confusion created due to the One CGIAR reform.
- Lack of consistent CGIAR leadership support.

Sustainability

- **Possibilities:** The Platform adheres to a sustainable global agenda, calling for a focus on gender equality in agriculture and food systems (e.g., SDGs). The Platform has strong donor support and external backing.
- **Challenges:** Continued uncertainty with funding flows and disbursements impact the Platform's efficiency. Expertise and resources to cover the expanded mandate on youth and social inclusion are insufficient.

Coherence

- **Internal coherence:** despite the close and positive engagement, module synergies are not maximized.
- **External coherence:** strong linkages to external (non-CGIAR) gender experts and donors, but limited linkages to regional organizations, governments, NARES, and NGOs are varied.

Read more on evaluative evidence in

[“Evidence pathways to gender equality and food systems transformation”](#) (joint publication by CGIAR, WFP, FAO and IFAD (2021)):

- Raise the vision from 'individual inclusion' to 'changing structures'
- Use theories of change to connect programmatic action with institutional intent
- Understand local gender needs and target to context
- Move from equal participation to engaged decision-making
- Challenge stereotypes and assume women and actors
- Focus on social relations to avoid backlash
- Build capacities for the future
- Match transformative action transformative measurement
- Create alliance for change