



GENDER Impact  
Platform



# CONFERENCE REPORT

**FROM RESEARCH TO IMPACT:**  
*Towards just and resilient agri-food systems*

9–12 October, 2023 · New Delhi, India



## **2023**

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## **ABOUT CGIAR GENDER IMPACT PLATFORM**

Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) is CGIAR’s impact platform designed to put equality and inclusion at the forefront of global agricultural research for development. The Platform is transforming the way gender research is done, both within and beyond CGIAR, to kick-start a process of genuine change toward greater gender equality and better lives for smallholder farmers everywhere. [gender.cgiar.org](http://gender.cgiar.org)

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## Abbreviations

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AFS	Aquatic food systems
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AWARD	African Women in Agricultural Research for Development
BRIN	National Research and Innovation Agency
CASI	Conservation agriculture-based sustainable intensification
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CIP	International Potato Center
CSO	Civil society organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GENDER	Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results
GREAT	Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
MANAGE	National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management
NARES	National agricultural research and extension systems
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
The Alliance	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

# Introduction

Midway to the endpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ambitions of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5) remain a distant reality. UN Women's Gender Snapshot 2022 shows that using the current path to progress, it would take nearly 300 years to achieve gender equality. The poly-crises of COVID-19, climate, conflict, and food crises have not only halted, but in many contexts reversed progress toward gender equality. In agri-food systems, unequal gender and social relations undermine the mitigation of and responses to these and future crises, and hinder the resilience of rural people and landscapes.

In the tradition of the annual [CGIAR GENDER conferences](#), the international conference “From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems” addressed these gender and social inequalities that lie at the heart of food systems.

The conference was held in person in New Delhi, India, October 9–12, 2023 at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa, New Delhi, 110012, and was co-organized by the [CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform](#) and the [Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#) (ICAR).

## Aims

The conference aims were threefold:

- 1) To promote sharing cutting-edge knowledge on gender and inclusion in food systems to help bridge the gap between research and practice; and foster gender-equal and socially inclusive, resilient food systems.
- 2) To strengthen social networks and partnerships for impact, by catalyzing scientific exchanges and dialogues among researchers from diverse types of organizations and creating opportunities to engage with knowledge users (policymakers, practitioners, private-sector actors, and others) working toward the shared goal of food systems transformation.
- 3) To strengthen capacities of researchers, practitioners and a wide variety of actors to address gender and social inclusion considerations meaningfully and with impact in their work.

## Themes

The conference focused on the links between research, evidence, impacts on gender equality and social inclusion, and their relationship with other food system outcomes (diets, nutrition and health; poverty and livelihoods; environmental health; climate resilience).

The conference sought to include presentations that examined:

- 1) What kinds of evidence, innovations, and combinations thereof, developed and used under which conditions, can be levers of transformative change?
- 2) How research for development processes, and all that they entail—equitable partnerships, etc.— can catalyze gender-transformative change in food systems?

Under this broad umbrella, we welcomed contributions on the following themes:

### **1. A gender and social inclusion lens on resilience in the context of climate change, COVID-19 and other shocks and stresses**

Although rural women in all their diversity often possess specialized knowledge and skills that contribute to climate-resilient agriculture, their typical exclusion from decision-making processes limits their ability to shape policies and programs that affect their lives. Additionally, the impacts of conflict and COVID-19 are unevenly distributed due to existing gender inequalities in access to resources, formal education, information, finance, health care, economic opportunities, care responsibilities and more.

This theme addressed the gendered dimensions of these challenges and their root causes. It explored approaches that elevate women's voices; address unequal work burdens and power dynamics; and increase equitable access to information, markets and lucrative economic opportunities. We invited contributions on effective strategies for mitigating and adapting to multiple shocks and stresses; and promoting sustainable development for women, their families and their communities—particularly from an intersectional perspective.

Suggested subthemes included:

- Understanding the gender and social inclusion impacts of climate change, COVID-19, conflict, and other shocks and stresses on agri-food systems.
- Examining the role of gender and other social relations in shaping adaptive and transformative capacities for building resilience.
- Exploring the links between individual agency, and household and community resilience to climate shocks and stresses.
- Understanding the gendered implications of safety nets and humanitarian response to climate and conflict shocks, and their impacts on the agri-food systems.
- Assessing the gender inclusiveness of policies addressing climate and other shocks and stresses within the agri-food system.
- Developing gender-responsive solutions to food crises in the context of climate change and other shocks and stresses.
- Analyzing gendered considerations for, and impacts of, climate finance for agri-food systems.
- Conflict-sensitive, gender-inclusive and socially inclusive approaches to agri-food systems.

## **2. From women's empowerment to gender-transformative change in agri-food systems**

In this theme, we invited contributions that help conceptualize and assess women's empowerment, social gender norms, masculinities and femininities, and gender-transformative change and the linkages among these. We explored approaches and innovations that can transform the social and gender norms that restrict the achievement of equitable, sustainable food systems. We sought practical lessons and implications from success stories, and from interventions or larger change processes that have had unintended disempowering effects on women and gender equality in agri-food systems.

Suggested subthemes included:

- Conceptualizing and unpacking women's empowerment, masculinities, social (gender) norms, and gender-transformative change in agri-food systems.
- Assessing and/or measuring women's empowerment or gender-transformative change.
- Exploring how women's empowerment, masculinities, norms and gender-transformative change are linked conceptually and in programs.
- Evidence about approaches that have created pathways for attaining and sustaining women's empowerment and gender-transformative change in food systems, and of their effects.
- Analysis of principles, approaches, challenges and opportunities for engaging men and masculinities toward gender-transformative change in agri-food systems.
- Emerging challenges, gaps and rolling back of gender equality gains in agri-food systems.
- Examining and addressing gender-based violence in agri-food systems.

## **3. Gender-responsive and -transformative agri-food systems innovations**

Access to information, quality inputs, capital, markets, land and more are not equitably distributed across gender groups. The problem is complex and is partly because of a lack of understanding of agri-food systems and technologies that enable inclusive and equitable productivity and income gains. Technology and innovation are seldom, if ever, gender neutral. To advance toward gender equality and inclusive development, women and men from various socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds must have equal opportunity to innovate, and to adapt, adopt and benefit from agri-food systems innovations. In this theme, we invited contributions that conceptualize, assess and/or evaluate the gender-responsiveness or gender-transformative potential of agri-food system innovations that address the production, distribution and/or consumption of food.

Suggested subthemes included:

- Identifying metrics/measures to assess the inclusivity and gender-responsiveness or gender-transformative potential of agri-food systems innovations and their associated gendered outcomes.

- Exploring the underlying behavioral and socioeconomic factors shaping the adoption/non-adoption of these innovations.
- Assessing outcomes of gender-responsive production technologies and innovations, including crop/livestock/fish improvement, mechanization, sustainable intensification and digital innovation.
- Identifying the gendered benefits and pitfalls of approaches and interventions aiming to promote inclusive biodiversity; natural resource, water and landscape management; fisheries and aquaculture; forestry and agroforestry; and livestock development and pastures.
- Examining the role of social innovations, including collective action and institutional change, in advancing gender equality and social inclusion in agri-food systems.
- Examining sociotechnical bundles, and their impacts and promise for equitable agri-food systems.

#### **4. Fostering equitable market systems**

This theme sought to shed light on how to create an enabling agri-food market environment for women, youth, poor men, and other marginalized individuals and communities. It examined how these social groups can not only fully participate in, but also benefit equitably from, agri-food market innovations and systems.

Suggested subthemes included:

- Gendered access to assets and resources (financial, knowledge, networks, labor, among others) that enable participation in and benefits from agri-food market systems.
- The quality and inclusiveness of engagement (participation, benefits, etc.) across agri-food value chains (at high, medium and low levels).
- Gender (in)equity in formal and informal agri-food sectors, and interconnections across sectors.
- Gender equality and social inclusion in cross-border trade of agri-food commodities.
- Policies and regulations (e.g., licenses, certification, taxation) supporting or hindering gender equality in agri-food market systems.
- Engagement and commitment of private, government and development sectors toward gender equality and social inclusion in market systems.
- Gender-responsive and -transformative approaches for addressing social norms and barriers that impede gender equality in agri-food market systems.
- The potential of corporate social responsibility, voluntary sustainability standards (e.g., third-party certification systems) and other alternative market schemes for promoting gender equality.

## 5. Delivering nutrition, food security and health for all

Women play a significant role within the food system—as farmers, processors, traders and consumers. However, entrenched gender inequities—reflected in income and asset disparities between women and men, norms that prioritize the nutrition of men and boys over women and girls, women’s limited decision-making power in the household, and more—contribute to persistently lower health and nutrition outcomes for women and girls in many settings. Addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment within food systems is critical for improving women’s health and well-being, and for progressing toward food and nutrition security for all. This theme sought contributions that address gender issues across the links between food security, nutrition and health, with a specific focus on agri-food systems.

Suggested subthemes included:

- Links between gender (in)equality and/or women’s empowerment and nutrition, health and food security.
- Gender inequality in paid and/or unpaid (care, etc.) work within agri-food systems—stemming from formal and informal institutions and structures—that shape gendered nutrition and health outcomes.
- Gender gaps in access to and control over productive resources that lead to gender disparities in food security, nutrition and health outcomes.
- Gender analyses of resilience to shocks and of social protection related to food security, nutrition and health outcomes.
- Emerging issues and new conceptual framings related to gender and food security, nutrition and health in agri-food systems such as
  - Gender-responsive nutrition interventions in agri-food systems.
  - The intersection of gender and health.

## 6. Youth and agri-food systems

Young people are increasingly considered a distinct group in interventions seeking socially inclusive food systems outcomes. They are often constructed in relation to adults or stereotyped. In this theme, we invited contributions that shed light on young people as food systems actors in their own right, and reflect on how food system interventions and transformations can provide productive and rewarding livelihoods for young people. Contributions that consider the intersectionalities that shape young people’s identities, social positions and their opportunities, barriers and choices were particularly encouraged.

**Suggested subthemes included:**

Young people’s engagement with agri-food systems across supply chains (food production, processing, trading and beyond).

- Rural transitions; migration; and diverse, multilocal and multisectoral livelihoods.

- Youth aspirations and how they shape interactions with food systems livelihoods.
- Youthful gender dynamics in agriculture, agri-food trade and/or processing.
- Youth perspectives on intergenerational dynamics in agri-food systems.
- Intersectionality in youth studies in agri-food systems.

# Organization

## Committees

The Conference Chair (Dr. Marlène Elias) and the Conference Secretariat worked from at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (the Alliance), given that the Center leads the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform’s Alliances Module, where the conference was housed. The Conference Organizing Secretaries (Dr. Ranjitha Puskur and Dr. Seema Jaggi) were from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and ICAR, respectively. Thirteen (13) committees—comprised of members from CGIAR and ICAR—oversaw the organization and delivery of the conference ([Annex 1](#)).

Three CGIAR centers (the Alliance, IRRI and ILRI) worked closely together on various aspects of event planning and delivery in India. The Delhi-based events management company Alpcord Network provided invaluable support to the organization of the conference, from creation of the website to the acquisition of necessary ministry clearances, registration, travel, accommodation, on-site logistics, social events and protocol aspects linked to the inauguration of the conference by chief guest Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the Honorable President of India.

## Travel, tours and transport logistics

Seven hotels (Table 1) were selected based on proximity to the conference location and their range of prices. Participants were able to book these hotels through the conference website, and bookings were managed by Alpcord Network. Participants could book airport pickups and dropoffs in a similar way through the website portal. Complimentary shuttles were provided between the conference-affiliated hotels and the conference venue each morning and evening of the event.

Table 1. Conference-affiliated hotels

Hotel	Category	Distance from NASC complex (km)
The Lalit	5-star	10.0
Jaypee Siddharth	5-star	3.0
Le Meridien	5-star	9.5
The Royal Plaza	4-star	9.5
Hotel Regent Grand	3-star boutique	3.5
Almondz Hotel	3-star boutique	3.5
Town Pallace Inn	3-star boutique	4.5

Two optional tours—a New Delhi city tour (USD\$70) and a Taj Mahal and Agra tour (USD\$85)—were offered to interested participants at an additional cost and booked directly through Alpcord Network’s travel agency. The New Delhi city tour was offered on October 8 and 13—right before and after the conference. The excursion to Agra and the Taj Mahal was offered on October 8 only.

### **Social events**

A cultural evening started with a sound, light and dance performance in the auditorium of the conference venue on the conference’s opening evening. The one-hour performance, which followed the day’s sessions, introduced the audience to the history of Delhi through the ages. A cocktail reception on the lawn of the convention center grounds began immediately after the performance.

A conference dinner was offered (upon registration, for an additional USD\$45 fee) on Tuesday October 10 at Zorba, a farm-to-fork restaurant in Delhi that adheres to sustainable production and consumption principles. The evening was introduced with classical music performed by two sitar players and was followed by a DJ and a lot of dancing!

# The program

## Call for contributions

Through an open call for contributions, the organizers invited proposals for contributions from researchers, practitioners, graduate students, and other people in every stage of their career, from across the globe. The call was shared with partners in national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES), partner organizations such as NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs), and others committed to advancing gender equality in agri-food systems research, policy and practice.

The call was widely distributed through the CGIAR GENDER newsletter and other listservs, and shared with colleagues from universities with gender-in-agriculture courses and programs, with a submission deadline of June 23, 2023. It drew much interest from among gender researchers and practitioners from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

To give the most people space to present, a maximum of two abstracts could be submitted for oral presentations by any lead presenter. When both abstracts were positively assessed by the Scientific Committee, only one was selected for oral presentation and the other invited as a poster, to allow a greater diversity of people to deliver oral presentations.

The (12) theme leads (two people per theme) assessed the contributions received for their theme based on common criteria established by the Scientific Committee.

In total, we received:

- 324 presentation abstracts
  - 305 were submitted for consideration as oral presentations, of which 145 were accepted and 124 ultimately presented as oral presentations
  - 19 were submitted for posters, and 93 were invited as posters since some of the abstracts for oral submissions were invited as posters instead. A total of 86 posters were ultimately presented
- 35 full session proposals, of which nine were accepted as capacity-strengthening sessions, 10 as panel sessions, and four as scientific sessions (four separate oral presentations with subsequent summary reflection).

Notification of abstract acceptance took place on July 7, 2023.

## Session types

### a. Capacity-strengthening sessions

Capacity-strengthening sessions provided a deep dive into a methodology, themes or concepts in gender research, or another topic such as integrating gender in training. These sessions were interactive and took various formats.

### **b. Scientific sessions**

Scientific sessions were composed of four oral presentations each, moderated by a chair. Active participation and discussions were fostered by setting aside time for questions and answers after the oral presentations. These sessions also featured a discussant, who was invited to provide a five-minute reflection at the end of the session.

### **c. Panel sessions**

Panel sessions convened distinguished speakers around a critical theme or issue related to gender and inclusion in agri-food systems. Speakers could be from research or other sectors (e.g., civil society, practice, policy, private sector, or donors) who could share insights from different perspectives and speak to the demand for and application of gender research.

### **d. Open-stream sessions**

The call also invited proposals in innovative formats, such as:

- documentaries or audio-visual material (photos and videos) integrated into sessions and discussed, or made available for viewing asynchronously
- debates, research pitches, etc.
- roundtables
- book or report launches, etc.

None of the sessions ultimately included in the program fit that description.

### **e. Poster sessions**

Posters were thematically grouped and presented on day 2 (October 10) in six parallel sessions. Poster presenters displayed their physical poster in a gallery at the conference venue, and were also asked to submit one slide on their poster electronically to the conference organizers in advance of the conference. These slides were compiled into slide decks that were managed by the session chair in each of the six parallel poster sessions.

Each 90-minute session was composed of approximately 15 individual posters, and each presenter had three minutes to present. The timing of the session was divided as follows: five presenters gave their three-minute pitch, followed by a 12-minute question-and-answer period for those five people. This was repeated three times during the session.

Each session culminated in the audience voting for a [‘best poster’ award](#). The six poster awards (one per poster session theme/parallel session) were presented at the conference closing ceremony.

## Agenda and materials

The accepted sessions, oral presentations and posters were organized into 60 parallel sessions over 10 time slots, with six parallel sessions running at a time. Each parallel session ran for 90 minutes. In addition, the [conference program](#) featured [an inaugural session](#) and four plenary sessions with distinguished keynote speakers and panelists, during which no other sessions ran in parallel.

A poster gallery was created to showcase the posters, which were available for viewing at any time in the conference venue. Poster presentations were thematically organized, and delivered during six parallel sessions on day 2.

The [book of abstracts and conference program](#) provides an overview of the conference's organized sessions, oral presentations and posters. [All session slides](#), the [conference brochure](#), [presentations and posters](#), and [photos](#) are available online.

## Inaugural session featuring the Hon'ble President of India

The Honorable President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the conference—a historic first for a CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform event. Also gracing the inaugural program were: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Kailash Choudhary and Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Secretary for Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary for Department of Agriculture Research and Education, the Director General of ICAR Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Executive Managing Director *ad interim* for CGIAR Prof. Andrew Campbell, Director of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform Dr. Nicoline de Haan, and South Asia Regional Director for CGIAR Temina Lalani-Shariff.

In her address ([watch on YouTube](#)), Smt. Droupadi Murmu highlighted the importance of empowering women engaged in agriculture to advance the vision of women-led development. She said that women are indispensable in making every grain reach from farm to plate as they sow, grow, harvest, process and market our food.

## Conference plenaries

The plenaries brought all conference participants together to discuss high-level issues relevant to the conference theme. A range of people (e.g., practitioners from NGOs and NARES, academics, donors, private sector actors) were invited to participate in the four plenaries to share their perspectives and reflect on current and prospective future research relevant to their area of work. The conference inauguration and plenaries were live streamed and recorded for asynchronous viewing (links provided below).

The four plenaries consisted of:

**Opening plenary: (Monday October 9): “What’s at stake for gender equality in agri-food systems?”**

Keynote speaker: Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, Government of India

Chairs:

- Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE and DG ICAR
- Nicoline de Haan, Director CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform

**Day 2 plenary: (Tuesday October 10): “Grounding the research: Experiences from the field”**

Keynote speakers:

- Soma K. Parthasarathy, Policy Analyst, MAKAAAM (Forum for Women Farmers’ Rights), Forest Rights Collective
- Eleanor Dean, General Manager, Outreach and Capacity Building Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Panelists:

- Discussant, Dr. Surinder Kanwal, President, Punjabi Heritage Foundation
- Anusha Jookuri, CEO/Entrepreneur, Bee Fresh Products
- Jyotsna Kaur Habibullah, CEO and Womenovetor, Lucknow Farmers Market
- Akriti Sharma, CEO, Pusa Krishi and Senior Scale Scientist, ICAR
- Dhruv Tomar, Techpreneur, M-Lense Research Private Limited

**Day 3 plenary: (Wednesday October 11): “From research to impact: Towards agri-food systems transformation”**

Panelists:

- Nishant Gupta, Strategic Liaison, Walmart Foundation in India
- Neena Joshi, Interim Senior Vice President, Asia, Heifer International
- Michele Mbo’o-Tchouawou, Deputy Director, Programs, African Women in Agricultural Research for Development (AWARD)
- Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- G. V. Ramanjaneyulu, Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Meredith Soule, Division Chief, Inclusive Development, USAID

**Day 4 plenary (Thursday 12 October): “Looking forward: Reflections and learnings for inspiring change”**

Panelists:

- Seema Jaggi, Assistant Director General, ICAR

- Stefan Kachelriess-Matthess, Senior Programme Manager, GIZ
- Maureen Miruka, Senior Director of Program Quality and Partnerships CARE, USA
- Ranjitha Puskur, Country Representative for India and Research Leader, Gender & Livelihoods, IRRI
- Vicki Wilde, Senior Program Officer, Women’s Empowerment Agricultural Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

All the plenaries incorporated audience interaction via a live question-and-answer/polling software for events (Slido) as follows:

**Day 1: Monday 9 October**

1. Which country are you from?
2. Is this your first visit to India?
3. What are looking forward to the most?
4. What was your favourite bit of the keynote?

**Which country are you from?**



## Day 2: Tuesday 10 October

Having listened to these inspiring speakers what stands out for you from these experiences and stories?

## Day 3: Wednesday 11 October

1. Are you here from CGIAR, ICAR, a government, a university, the private sector, an NGO, CSO, or other?
2. A world cloud: From your perspective, what is the largest bottleneck for reaching women at scale to close gender gaps in agriculture?
3. Quiz: In a recent survey of synthesis of evidence for Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger, what % of reviewed papers considered gender differences in the outcomes of the interventions?  
**Multiple choice answers:** 47%, 10% or 70%

**From your perspective, what is the largest bottleneck for reaching women at scale to close gender gaps in agriculture?**



**Day 4: Thursday 12 October**

1. What have these four days been like for you? Any one word to summarize your experience?

**What has these four days been like for you? Any one word to summarize your experience?**



2. What's your key takeaway OR cue to action?

**What's your key take away or cue to action?**



## Engagement, partnerships and sponsors

As a premier event focusing on gender in the agri-food systems, the conference provided an opportunity for external people and organizations to showcase how their work contributes to global targets for gender equality, and to opportunities for youth and social inclusion in the context of a changing climate.

### Sponsorship and partnership packages included:

- contribute a 'welcome reception' get-together
- contribute a 'dinner' get-together
- partner with us for the plenary session
- partner with us for the poster session
- exhibit at the conference

ACIAR, AWARD and Heifer International partnered with CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and ICAR through one or two of the above packages. The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, known as MANAGE, also partnered with us in bringing on board exhibitors in the conference marketplace.

Partnering organizations were acknowledged and given visibility in relevant conference-related communications as per the selected package.

# Communications

## Media

The 2023 GENDER conference brought together one of the largest global networks of gender researchers—that of CGIAR—with one of the world’s biggest national agricultural research and extension systems—under the umbrella of ICAR. This offered a unique opportunity for gender research to reach and influence agricultural researchers, practitioners, partners, funders, and more, including through the media.

The media strategy was underpinned by a set of evidence-based messages, focused on three main themes:

- reinforcing the mutually beneficial partnership between CGIAR and ICAR for research uptake and impact
- the importance of convening multistakeholder deliberations for progress on SDG 5 and other related SDGs
- engaging the G20 agenda, particularly by providing recommendations and best practices to support G20 nations to realize their commitments to promote women’s leadership and decision-making roles in climate action, food security and nutrition

To implement the media outreach strategy, the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform engaged the Delhi-based media agency [GreyMatters Communications and Consulting](#). We also collaborated closely with ICAR and India’s Press Information Bureau, which issued all media invitations and press releases on behalf of the CGIAR–ICAR collaboration.

Key activities and outputs from this collaboration include:

- Two pre-event webinars for journalists (on [women’s resilience](#) and [market linkages](#)), plus complementary press releases, to create attention in advance of the event.
- One pre-event press conference for Delhi-based journalists, plus [complementary press release](#), to announce the inauguration of the conference by Smt. Droupadi Murmu, the Honorable President of India.
- A joint op-ed by Dr. Nicoline de Haan and Dr. Himanshu Pathak, published in [The Economic Times](#): *Level playing field: Why it is important to improve opportunities for women farmers in India*.
- Daily press releases ([Day 1](#), [Day 2](#), [Day 3](#), [Day 4](#)).

These media outreach efforts [yielded](#) (check key resources section) 39 pieces in print media and 86 pieces in online media, predominantly in Indian media with a few mentions in development sector–specific online news outlets.

## Social media

The social media campaign for the conference began in June with the call for contributions.

The conversations were tagged under primary hashtags **#GENDER2023**, **#GenderinAg** for English messages and **#NaariSHaktilinAg** for the messages in Hindi. The messages were shared from CGIAR GENDER and ICAR accounts on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn (ICAR). Other CGIAR accounts also picked up the messages, with most sent out from the main [CGIAR account](#). Other messages were also shared through our partner accounts including [GreyMatters Communications](#).

Conference communications involved a mixture of interactive content including text, posters, speaker cards (a card with name, headshot, and organization of the speaker), quote cards (A speaker card with quotes from their presentations), and videos. The main components of the campaign were divided into three parts: preconference, during, and postconference.

### Preconference

The preconference messages began with promoting the call for contributions from late May to June 23, when the call was closed. After the call for contributions, the gears shifted to rallying for conference registration.

The conference messages were captured in:

- the [social media toolkit](#)
- the [plenaries toolkit](#)
- speaker cards, which highlighted the keynote speakers and the panelists for all the plenaries
- banners/general posters
- videos

### During the conference

Participants not only engaged online but also shared their key takeaways from the sessions by live posting done through the different accounts mentioned above. During the conference, both CGIAR GENDER and ICAR accounts actively shared messages through their X (Twitter) accounts.

Other prominent accounts, including the President's, Ministers' and G20 Sherpa's Twitter accounts were also actively tweeting about the conference (Figures 1 and 2). For instance, the President's Twitter account live streamed [the opening session](#)—with over 17,000 tuning in for the session.

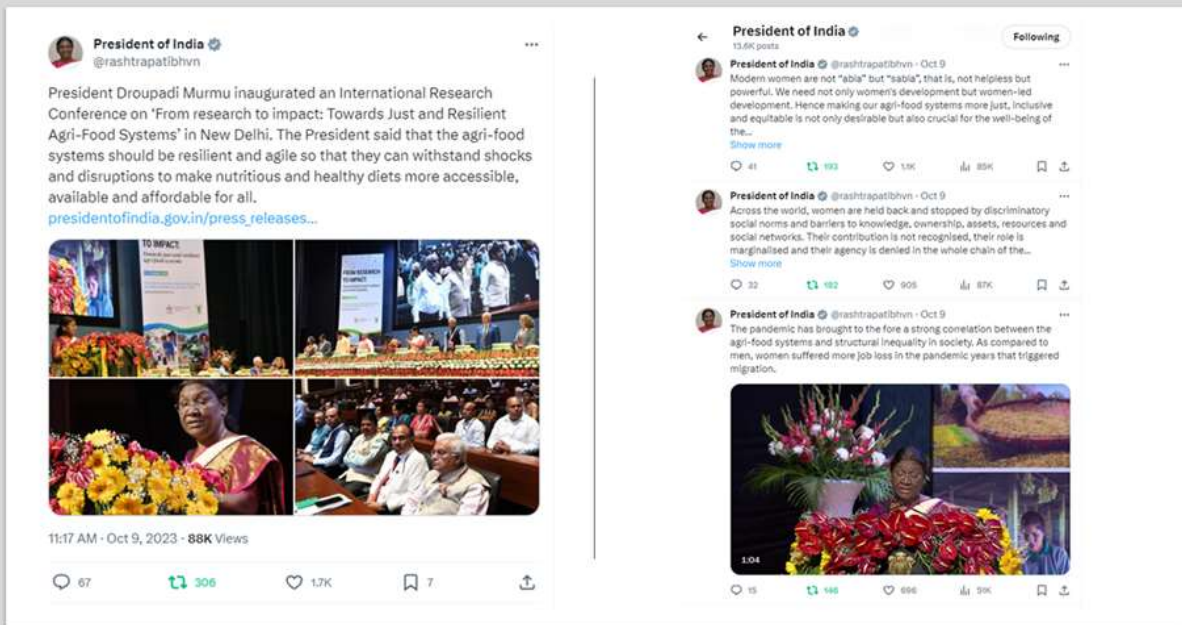


Figure 1. Conference-related tweets from the President of India



Figure 2. High-level conference-related tweets from Amitabh Kant (G20 Sherpa, Government of India) and Prof. Andrew Campbell (Executive Managing Director *ad interim* for CGIAR)

## Post-conference

The excitement of the conference went on post-conference with messages still going out more than a month after the event (Figure 3). With the numerous materials produced and the follow-up to be done, this created another good opportunity to keep the momentum on **#GenderinAg** conversations.



Figure 3. Example post conference tweet.

## X/Twitter post-performance reports

### General

The campaign started with the promotion of the call for contributions as shown in the trends below (Figure 4). Over the campaign period, the GENDER Platform saw over 4,400 post *engagements* with a reach of over 122,000. The engagement rate stood at 3.7%.

X defines *engagement rate* as the measurable interaction on social media posts and is calculated based on likes, comments and retweets. On average, X engagements at 1% are considered good for most organizations—and GENDER saw its engagement reach 3.7%.

## Published Post & Sent Message Volume

View the volume of your tagged published posts and sent messages based on published date.

Lifetime Published Post Volume, by Month



Figure 4. GENDER's published post and sent message volume by month

Some specific posts had far greater reach. For example, the two tweets singled out below (Figure 5) had potential reach of 400,000 and 2.3 million, respectively. One tweet announced Amitabh Kant, the G20 Sherpa for the Government of India, as a keynote speaker at the conference. The other tweet was a promotional video featuring Shreya Chakroborty, climate change researcher with IWMI.

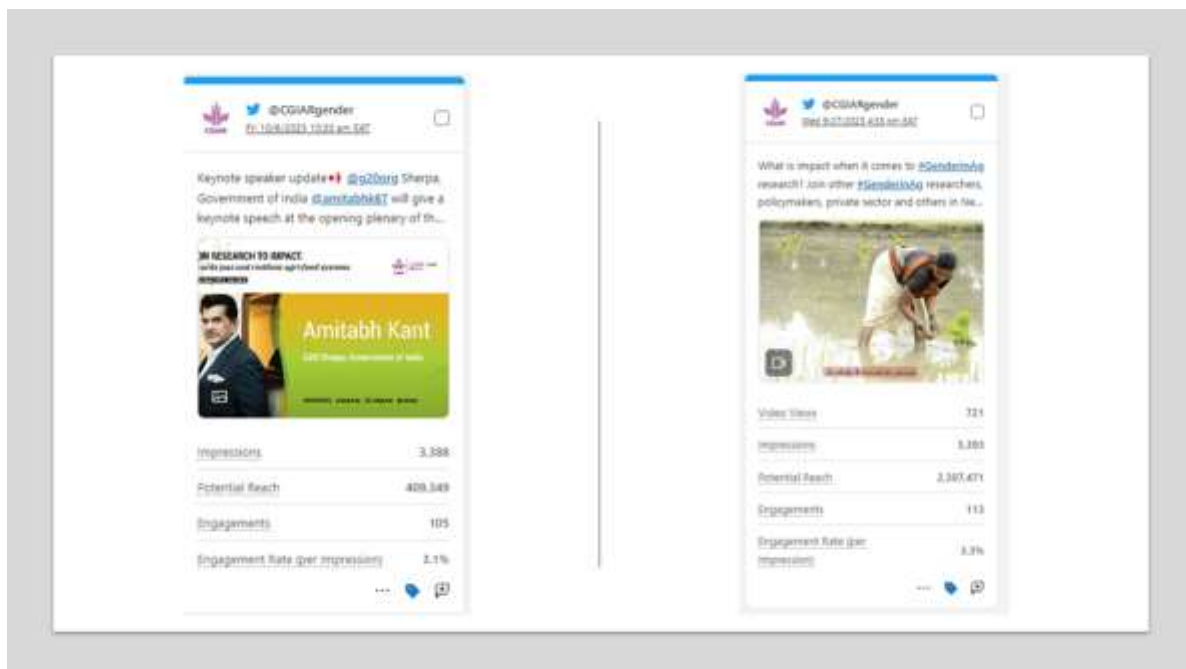


Figure 5. Sample posts with high reach

### Partner reports: Grey Matters Communications

During the conference, media partner GreyMatters Communications shared messages from its accounts with a large Indian audience. The main accounts used—IndiaAgri and GreyMatters Communications—had a reach of over 17,000 readers. Their [detailed report](#) is available online.

### President's tweets

Over 12,000 watched [the President's speech](#) live on the President's Twitter account. By November 15, 2023, the views had grown to 17,000 (Figure 6).

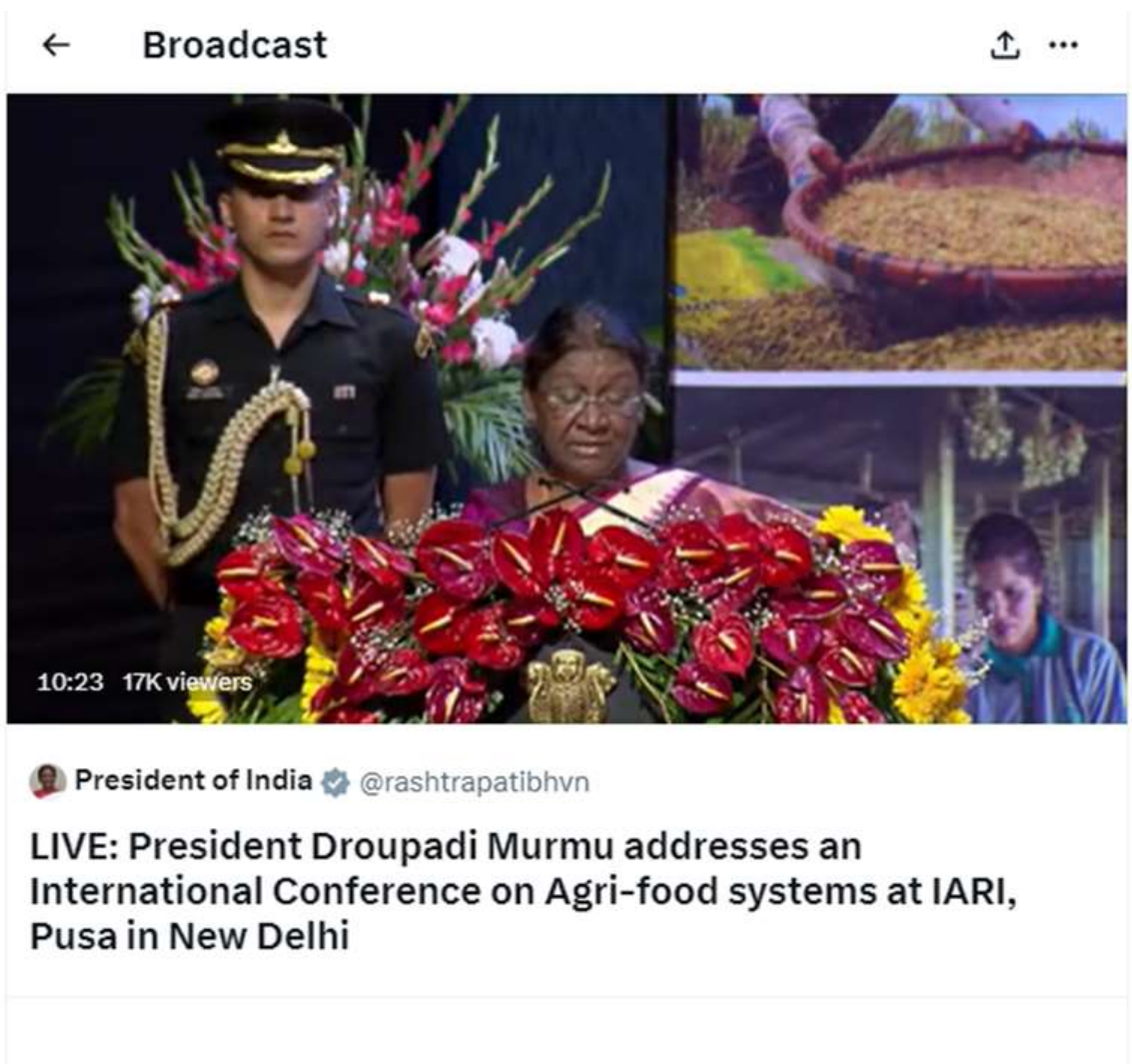


Figure 6. Twitter link to the President's address with 17k views

Over 87,000 accounts viewed the posts about the President's inaugural session at the conference.

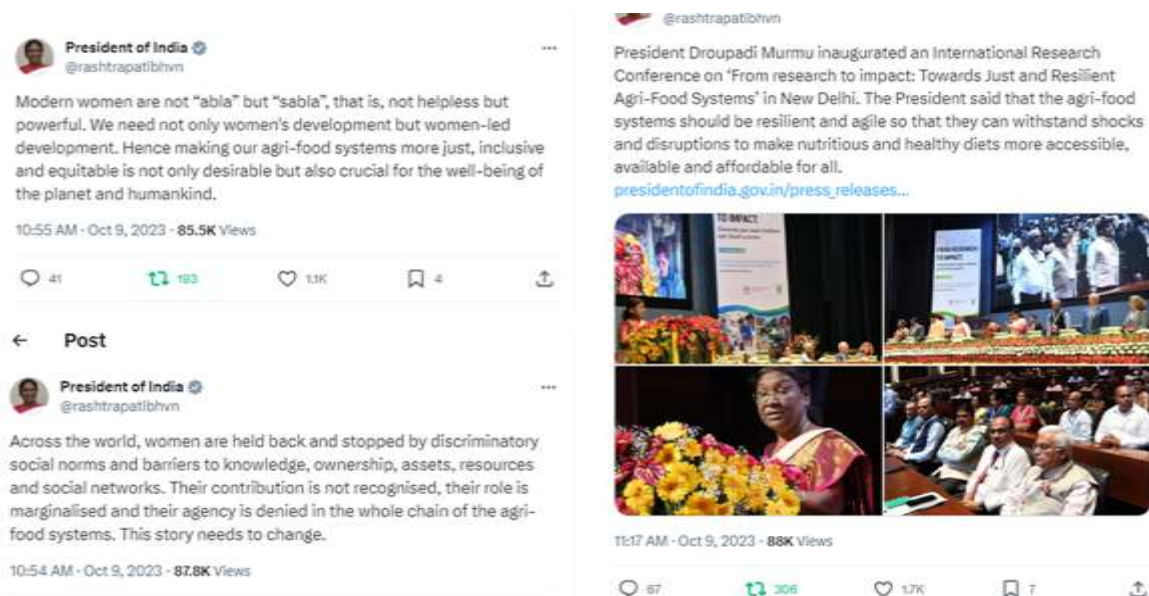


Figure 7. President’s conference-related tweets with 87.8k views

## Story training and blogging from conference

In 2023, the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform launched a story training program aimed at helping science communicators within CGIAR and its partners to prepare then publish more and better stories on agricultural solutions that work for women.

The second cohort of trainees (15 total) were invited to participate in the 2023 GENDER conference (participation free of charge; travel expenses covered by trainees’ organizations). The event represented an opportunity to benefit from in-person training and mentoring (as a complement to virtual modules) and to participate in a four-day ‘blogging bootcamp’ to practically apply tips and guidance on how to conduct interviews, structure and edit stories, and more.

Combining the GENDER conference with the story training and blogging bootcamp offered the trainees ample opportunity to learn more about gender research, interview experts and learn from peers.

As a result of the blogging bootcamp, several blog posts have been published on CGIAR and partners’ websites (more in production at the time of writing):

1. [Decolonizing agricultural science: Are we ready to embrace change?](#) (IWMI)
2. [Empowering Women in Aquatic Food Systems: From ‘Helpers’ to Change Agents](#) (WorldFish)
3. [Experts Call for Massive Shift in Gender Research for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems](#) (AWARD)
4. [Mali women in conflict zones aim to expand markets for tasty, nutritious millet products](#) (ICRISAT)

5. [Transformative research provides pathways for including gender and socially marginalized groups](#) (CIMMYT)
6. [Accelerating gender-transformative change in agri-food systems: lessons from the CGIAR–ICAR GENDER Conference 2023](#) (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT)

## Branding

The CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and ICAR settled on a harmonized external look for the conference, with all the products bearing both organizations' logos. The branding was based on the theme of the conference 'From research to Impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems.'

The dots depicted on the background of the card below (Figure 8) represent the research (science) where the work begins, and the photos of farmers or researchers represent impacts. Variants of photos from different parts of the world showed the global outlook of the conference. One photo with an Indian hero and heroine represented the location of the conference.



Figure 8. General conference card

The combination of colors was a balance of the branding colors of the two organizations, to represent the partnership for impact. Several digital products were branded in this way:

- general cards, including the digital banner
- speaker cards (Figure 9)
- physical banners

- Notebook
- Calendar
- [PowerPoint template](#)
- [conference brochure](#)
- [conference program](#)
- [book of abstracts](#)



Figure 9. Sample speaker card

The same branding was used to print conference products such as:

- banners (placed strategically at the entrance of the conference venue, in the main auditorium and in other halls used for breakout sessions)
- 2024 calendar
- notebooks
- pens
- bags
- water bottles
- program
- nameplates
- nametags

# Conference participation

## Registration

Early bird registration opened on June 23, 2023, and closed July 15 (@11:59pm ET). Regular registration began on July 16 and closed September 30. Those presenting had to register by August 15 to be included in the program. Other delegates were also permitted to register in person at the event.

Registration followed a tiered fee system (Table 2) offering discounted rates to students, NARES representatives, and participants from low- and middle-income countries, with the aim of supporting broad and inclusive attendance.

Fees were inclusive of:

- all conference sessions
- welcome cocktail and cultural program (October 9)
- all morning and afternoon teas and lunches during the program

Table 2. Registration fees and categories

Category	Early bird registration USD\$ (June 23 – July 15)	Early bird registration INR₹	Full rate USD\$ (July 16 – September 30)	Full rate INR₹
Regular rate	75	6,375	100	8,500
Student rate (undergraduate, master's, doctoral students)	30	2,550	40	3,400
National agriculture research and extension system (NARES) rate	65	5,525	75	6,375
<a href="#">Low- and middle-</a>	65	5,525	75	6,375

<a href="#">income country</a> rate				
Group rate (per delegate, for five or more registrations)	50	4,240	65	5,525

### Support for early-career researchers

The CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform provided travel grants to 34 early- to mid-career scientists—three from each One CGIAR center and one GREAT (Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation) Fellow from Makerere University—to attend the conference. These travel funds supported airfares and accommodation during conference days, and the grantees’ conference registration fees were waived.

Many scientists told the conference organizers that they could not have attended the conference without this financial support.

### Conference statistics

By the close of online registration on September 30, 446 delegates had registered for the conference; 71% of registrants were women and 29% were men. A total of 693 people (54% women, 46% men) from 52 countries attended the conference at some point during the four-day event. The largest attendance was on day 1 for the inauguration featuring the Honorable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu.

The most represented countries (in terms of attendees’ nationalities) were India (179 attendees), the United States (27) and Kenya (24) (Figure 10).

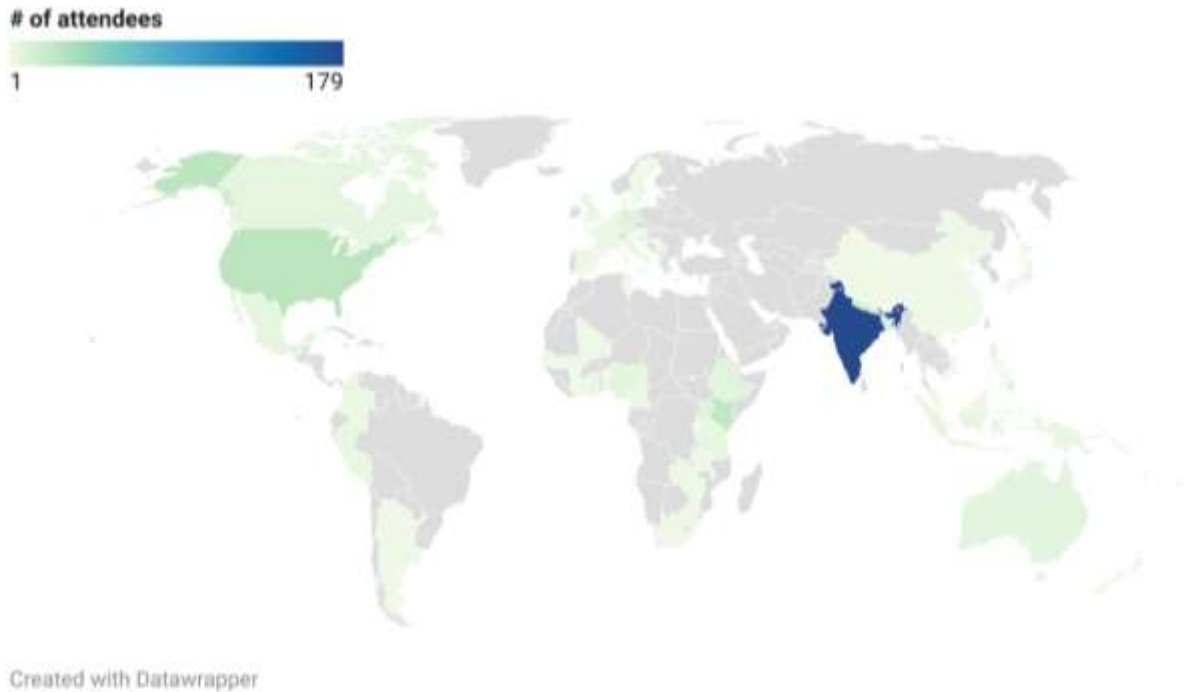


Figure 10. Attendees by country

Participants came from several types of organizations, including academia and research institutes, NGOs, government, international and intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector (Figure 11). The most represented organizations were from CGIAR (31% of attendees) and ICAR (23% of attendees).

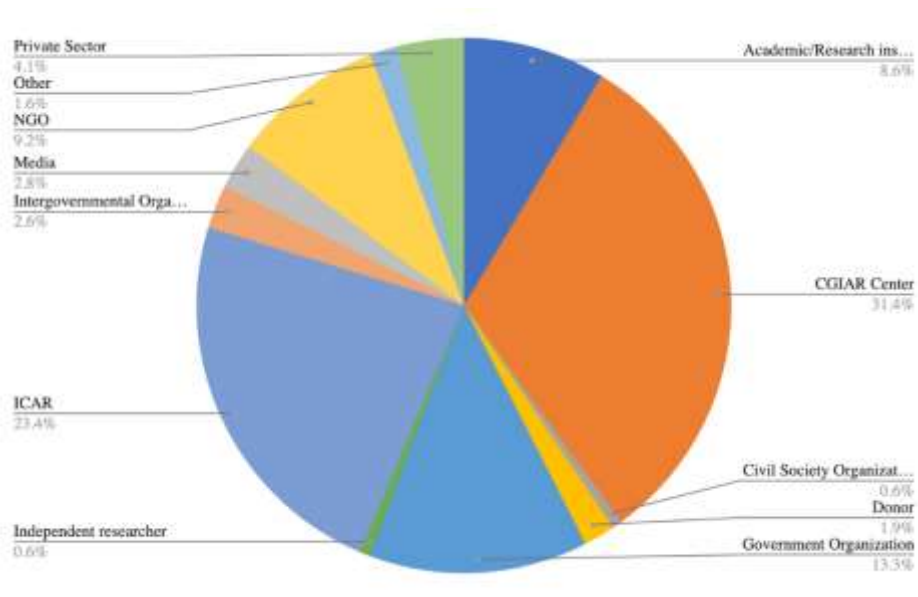


Figure 11. Types of organizations represented at the conference

All 13 CGIAR centers were represented at the conference, and representatives from One CGIAR, the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform, the CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance, and CGIAR partner organization AWARD (Figure 12). The most represented centers were IRRI (35 attendees), IFPRI (26), IWMI (23), and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (22).

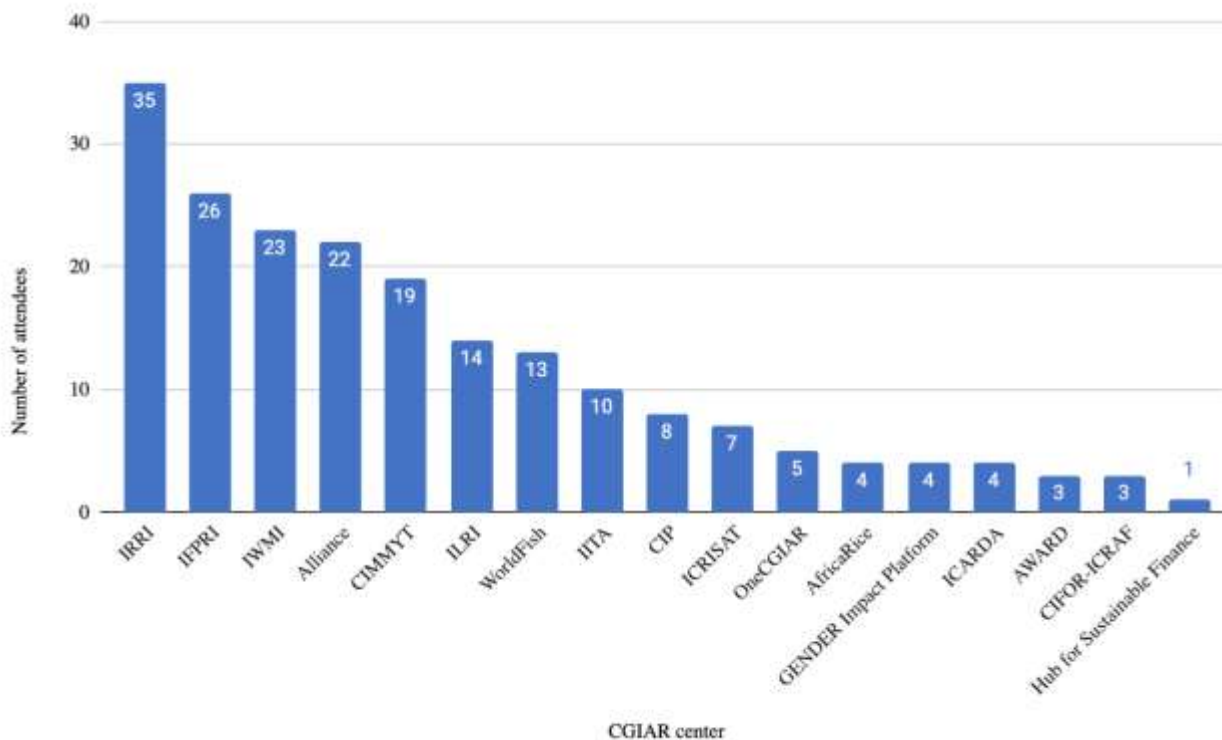


Figure 12. Number of attendees by CGIAR center

## Marketplace

A marketplace was set up in the main entrance hall of the conference venue with artisans, farmers and women’s groups from across India. In total, the market featured 17 stalls representing 11 Indian states and union territories, and a wide diversity of products (Table 3). The aim of the market was to showcase and economically support local entrepreneurs, and especially craftswomen and women agripreneurs.

Each stall was selected for its unique story of resilience and creativity, showcasing how women across India, from various backgrounds and walks of life, have come together to harness their skills and create sustainable businesses.

Table 3. Marketplace stalls and vendors

ORGANIZATION NAME	CATEGORY	STATE	PRODUCT
LAJWANTI PHULKARI ARTIST, Punjab	Padma Sri award winner artisan	Punjab	Phulkari thread embroidery
MONI HANDICRAFT, Assam	National award winner artisan	Assam	Bamboo and waterhycine products
ANUTTARA FABRIC, Bihar	Women entrepreneurs	Bihar	Natural hand dyed cotton and silk, fabric with Madhubari artwork
LR NATURAL PRODUCTS, Anusha	Women-led start-up	Telangana	Organic honey and working on honeybee
INSHA-E-NOOR, Delhi	NGO supported by Aga Khan Foundation for women	Delhi	Aari work products
TRASH TO CASH, Delhi	NGO supporting women and men with special abilities	Delhi	Products using wastepaper, wrappers and other waste material
SADHNA, Udaipur	NGO supporting women artisans	Rajasthan	Natural hand dyed cotton and silk fabric with needle and thread work
BAHULA NATURALS, BIKANER, Rajasthan	Indian's first community owned social enterprise, agro-pastoral based agri-procuts	Rajasthan	Livestock based products
URMUL DESERT CRAFTS, BIKANER, Rajasthan	Community based, women led, social enterprise of women artisans	Rajasthan	Natural hand dyed cotton and silk fabric with needle and thread work
BROOKE INDIA, NOIDA, UP	NGO supporting women self-help groups promoting indian-craft	Uttar Pradesh	Handmade crochet bags, leather bags, baskets, etc.

SRI SAI DURGA ORGANIC MILLETS	Women agripreneurs	Telangana	Millet food products
RAJ ORGANO PRODUCTS, Ludhiana	Women-led start-up	Punjab	Variety of handmade soaps and other products
MOUNT VALLEY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, Uttarakhand	NGO working with women self-help groups in the Himalayan region	Uttarakhand	Organic food products and other local craft products
RAJMATA VIJAYARAJ SCINDIA KRISHI VISHWAVIDYALAYA, KVK, Jhabua	Agripreneur	Madhya Pradesh	Millet food products
FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION, Assam	Agripreneur	Assam	Locally grown and preserved—35 varieties of rice from north-east India
HIMALAYAN RESEARCH GROUP, Shimla	Agripreneur	Himachal Pradesh	Organic food products from Himalayan region
INDIRA GANDHI KRISHI VISHWAVIDYALAYA, Raipur	Agripreneur	Chhattisgarh	Millet food products

## Rapporteurs

The travel grantees were asked to act as rapporteurs during the conference. Each grantee signed up to take notes for two of the conference sessions using a template provided by the conference organizers ([Annex 3](#)).

In addition, 20 students and early-career scientists invited by ICAR acted as rapporteurs for the sessions, such that a total of two rapporteur reports (one from CGIAR and one from ICAR) were written for each session. These reports were used by theme leads to develop their theme blogs.

## Content review

This section will be organized by theme and will be drawn from the blogs that theme leads were asked to put together based on rapporteur reports.

### Theme 1: A gender and social inclusion lens on resilience in the context of climate change, COVID-19 and other shocks and stresses

Blog from theme leads: <https://gender.cgiar.org/news/transforming-research-action-social-and-gender-resilience-face-climate-shocks>

#### Transforming research into action: social and gender resilience in the face of climate shocks



Photo: Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT.

authored by [Eileen Nchanji](#), [Sahar Alnouri](#)

***The overlapping effects of climate change, global pandemic and crises, and gender-based violence are threats to women’s resilience in agri-food systems. However, women can also be resilient agents of transformative change. Despite being marginalized in climate action discourse, women’s determination and resourcefulness offer valuable insights for building resilient agri-food systems.***

*The 2023 international research conference [‘From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems’](#) hosted by the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) took place in October 2023. In this series of blog posts, the leads of the event’s six themes reflect on key takeaways from the presentations and discussions that took place under each theme. Here [Eileen Nchanji](#) and [Sahar Alnouri](#) explore [Theme 1: A gender and social inclusion lens on resilience in the context of climate change, COVID and other shocks and stresses](#).*

The gender gap in food security has significantly widened, increasing by eight times since 2018. This alarming statistic, shared by Andrew Campbell (CGIAR's interim Executive Managing Director) during the inaugural session of the conference, highlights the pressing need to understand and tackle gender disparities affecting agriculture and resilience to climate change.

A central message of the conference was that while women can be resilient agents of change, there is a major gap between research, policy and practical application. Cheela Soumya (Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Indian Agricultural Research Institute; ICAR-IARI), noted that when dealing with gender-based violence, for example, the system focuses on collecting data, which could potentially retraumatize victims.

Addressing these gaps between the requirements of research, the practical application of policy and the potential impact on women is not only critical for social justice, but also crucial for building resilience to climate change.

Three crucial actions emerged from the discussions on gender, resilience and climate change.

### **Bridging research and action**

Many participants stressed the importance of translating research findings into practical solutions. There were calls for more effective implementation strategies, as highlighted by Jamaludheen Avunchikkad (ICAR-IARI). Limited funding remains a significant hurdle, with resources often not reaching women.

Likimyelesh Nigussie (International Water Management Institute) pointed out the overlap between funding challenges and existing gender-related constraints affecting women's resilience. For example, women benefit less from climate financing due to limited access to land, resulting in low participation in climate-smart agriculture. Nigussie also identifies lack of gender-responsive financing mechanisms as a bottleneck to women's access to credit at the grassroots level.

### **Making climate finance work for women**

Despite their pivotal roles in agri-food systems, women are often excluded from climate finance mechanisms. Avunchikkad pointed out that women still face barriers in accessing financial support. These challenges hinder the translation of research into tangible impacts, an issue acknowledged in COP 28's agenda.

Avunchikkad noted that fostering solutions such as gender-sensitive Nature-Positive Solutions training and ensuring women have access to resources and services can help develop agri-food systems that are more resilient and sustainable. As used by Avunchikkad, Nature-Positive Solutions are agricultural innovations and interventions that mitigate impacts of climate change on nature and its potential contribution to its restoration and enhancement.

Perka Shiva Kumar, also from ICAR-IARI, noted blended finance approaches that merge concessional funds and private finance are needed to bridge the gender gaps in financing. Achieving this requires

combining concessional funds and private-sector investments to create a more accessible and diverse pool of financial resources for men, women and youth in agriculture.

These approaches resonate with the need for gender-responsive sociotechnical innovations tailored to enhance women's resilience, as discussed in various breakout sessions.

### **Developing technological solutions with women in mind**

Insights from the conference emphasized the importance of technology and innovation aligning with local contexts. Dickson Kinuthia (International Food Policy Research Institute) highlighted how localized technologies, such as water pans, help in both water conservation and water harvesting, stressing the importance of leveraging local practices. Water pan excavation leverages local practices for collecting and storing water in places with erratic rains.

Engaging women not just as users of technologies, but as partners and drivers of climate change solutions, emerged as a pivotal strategy, echoed by Vicki Wilde of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

### **A shifting focus**

In conclusion, this theme emphasized the path of adaptation, resilience and transformation for agri-food systems. As the focus shifts from research to actionable impact, there is determination for significant actions that position women as key partners in the innovation process for a more resilient, fair and sustainable future for agri-food systems.

##

The authors wish to acknowledge Lutomia Cosmas, Senior Research Associate - Value Chain Specialist at the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, for contributing to this post.

## Theme 2: From women's empowerment to gender-transformative change in agri-food systems

Blog from theme leads: <https://gender.cgiar.org/news/womens-empowerment-gender-transformative-change-agrifood-systems>

### From women's empowerment to gender-transformative change in agrifood systems



Photo: C. Schubert/CCAFS.

authored by [Amon Ashaba Mwiine](#), [Esther Leah Achandi](#)

***Innovation in agrifood systems must go beyond merely providing women farmers with new types of seeds or irrigation pumps—now, change in agrifood research and development requires of us something more socially sophisticated and transformative.***

The 2023 international research conference [‘From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems’](#) hosted by the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) took place in October 2023. In this series of blog posts, the leads of the event’s [six themes](#) reflect on key takeaways from the presentations and discussions that took place under each theme. Here Amon Ashaba Mwiine (Makerere University) and Esther Leah Achandi (International Livestock Research Institute) explore [From women's empowerment to gender-transformative change in agrifood systems](#).

The conference aimed to share cutting-edge knowledge on gender and inclusion in food systems to help bridge the gap between research and practice; and foster gender-equal, socially inclusive, resilient food systems.

The theme *From women's empowerment to gender-transformative change in agrifood systems* focused on research and development aspects of progress from women's empowerment toward gender-transformative change in agrifood systems.

It facilitated critical reflections on how women's empowerment, social (gender) norms, masculinities and gender-transformative change are conceptualized, assessed and linked. Research areas also covered approaches and innovations geared toward transforming restrictive social and gender norms that curtail the achievement of equitable, sustainable agrifood systems.

People shared lessons and implications from success stories, and about interventions that have had unintended disempowering effects on women and gender equality in agrifood systems. Presentations were drawn from across different social cultural contexts in agricultural communities.

### **President of India: Women make a 'grand bridge from farm to plate'**

Over the four days of participant engagement through oral and poster presentations, panel sessions, and discussions on women's empowerment, there were key insights on:

- the conceptualization of women's empowerment
- how women's empowerment is measured
- its contribution toward improved outcomes for agrifood systems
- ultimately, to gender-transformative agriculture

Presentations across the different topics in this conference theme echoed women's central roles and participation in different stages of agriculture production. The President of India, [her excellence Droupadi Murmu](#) [7 minutes long; YouTube], noted during her inauguration of the conference that:

Women sow, grow, harvest and process to get us food. They are indispensable in making a grand bridge from farm to plate. But still, across the globe, they are held back by discriminatory social norms and are denied access to knowledge, resources, assets and social networks. Their contribution is not recognized, their role is marginalized, and their agency denied in agrifood systems. This story needs to change.

Conference presentations also emphasized the message that women's empowerment could bring a paradigm shift in agriculture and contribute to agricultural transformation. For instance, in his remarks, CGIAR interim Executive Managing Director Prof. Andrew Campbell observed, "When women and girls have access to resources, the whole community benefits."

### **Empowerment means different things to different people**

Within the theme *From women's empowerment to gender-transformative change in agrifood systems*, there were calls to examine the conceptualization of empowerment from different perspectives and to consider the desirability of empowerment by different people. For instance,

Esther Leah Achandi (International Livestock Research Institute) noted that women understand empowerment as a process that entails a change in the traditional image of the woman as prescribed by traditional gender norms while men understand it as a process along commonly held domains *but* taking place within the confines of existing gender norms.

Research pointed to the importance of directing attention to different domains of women's empowerment using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Enhanced indices for domains of women's empowerment and their measurement were highlighted. For example, the Pro-WEAI+MI tool developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute was presented—it seeks to measure women's voice and agency in climate-related agrifood system governance and another in market inclusion.

Deeper understanding of domains was also shared. For example, a close look at women's leadership showed that through participation in governance structures, women's collective agency can be nurtured and their voices in decision-making enhanced. In their panel discussion on *Women in action: Leadership and collective agency in commons governance*, colleagues from the Foundation for Ecological Security showed how women's leadership can enhance gender equality and social inclusion by improving women's participation in decision-making in local institutions, including those that manage common resources. Women's collective leadership transcended socioeconomic contexts of caste and ethnic backgrounds, and demonstrated the potential of local women's organizing for social change.

### **Examining ideas of masculinity and acknowledging intersectionality**

Equally, theme presentations highlighted the interconnectedness of and the need to conceptualize women's empowerment alongside notions of masculinities to contribute toward gender-transformative change in agrifood systems.

From his opening remarks, Prof. Campbell observed that while much of the emphasis on gender has been on women and girls, "gender is men's business too." These kinds of conversations also highlighted masculine stereotypes that downplay the role of women as farmers and farm managers, as well as how collective engagement of both women and men in households can foster consciousness about masculine and feminine norms that hinder the transformation of gender relations.

Gender-transformative approaches in agriculture have addressed women's empowerment alongside notions of masculinities to facilitate collective reflection and learning among women and men. [Challenging traditional views of masculinity](#) enables men to live positively and work and live with women as equals. In a presentation on *A critical focus on men and masculinities in a feminist pedagogy*, Amon Ashaba Mwiine (Makerere University) elaborated on how gender and agricultural training that build capacities in gender analysis (that includes a focus on men and masculinity) is core to transforming deep-rooted social norms and practices that limit attainment of gender

equality. And in a presentation on women and aquaculture in Bangladesh, SM Faridul Haque (International Fertilizer Development Center) observed that household-level gender exercises create an enabling environment for both women and men to be agents of breaking down gender biases by challenging existing harmful norms.

There was continued emphasis on development and maintenance of national statistical systems to prioritize collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data that can support assessments of the gender impacts of agrifood policies.

For gender-transformative change to be realized, researchers also shared evidence linking restrictive social and gender norms to women's empowerment, particularly pointing to the need to address restrictive gender norms around women's engagement in agrifood systems. In addition to the gender lens, there were calls to incorporate intersectionality by centering the experiences of people from diverse backgrounds to move toward more gender-transformative approaches within agrifood systems.

### **Questions from the conference spur us onwards toward transformation**

What left a great impression on us was the wealth of evidence on the importance of women's empowerment and gender-transformative change in the transformation of agrifood systems. This transformation is possible: the evidence points to this—through policies, multistakeholder partnerships, alliance building and collective reflection on social and gender norms that hold gender equality back.

Additionally, there were cautions about aspects to pay attention to in the pursuit of women's empowerment and gender transformation: How do we keep an eye on agriculture innovations to ensure they do not inadvertently reproduce the gender inequalities we intend to address? Moreover, how do we identify and measure changes in social norms that limit women's empowerment and, ultimately, their resilience and adaptive capacity?

This evidence and questions form part of the future research agenda to ensure progress toward transformative agrifood systems.

### Theme 3: Gender-responsive and -transformative agri-food systems innovations

Blog from theme leads: <https://gender.cgiar.org/news/gender-transformative-innovation-requires-more-attention-social-norms-and-consequences>

**Gender-transformative innovation requires more attention to social norms and consequences: conference wrap-up**



Photo: Melissa Cooperman/IPPRI.

authored by [Vivian Polar](#), [Vidya Vemireddy](#), [Jeffery W. Bentley](#)

***Innovation in agrifood systems must go beyond merely providing women farmers with new types of seeds or irrigation pumps—now, change in agrifood research and development requires something more socially sophisticated and transformative.***

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Gender innovation in agriculture no longer means simply reaching women farmers with new techniques from research. CGIAR and its partners doing research on agrifood systems are changing—responding to the priorities of local women and men, and seeing change as social, to transform the lives of women and men.

### **Plant-breeding innovations need to consider how people like to farm, cook and eat**

The session *Progress towards gender-intentional breeding* confirms that gender research tools do help plant breeders respond to gendered demands, from maize in Kenya (Mariana García Medina, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), to cassava in Nigeria (Nwanze-Olaosebikan Olamide, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture). Reuben Tendo Ssali (International Potato Center) and colleagues find that in Uganda, where sweetpotato is seen as a women's crop, farmers are not adopting new varieties because previous breeding efforts failed to include the quality traits that women and men consumers wanted, such as a firm, mealy root. Now, the G+ product profile query tool is helping breeders to respond to the needs of men and women farmers and consumers.

Much of agricultural research and development involves plant breeding, so it is a good place to start striving toward gender equity. But plant breeding must be accompanied by structural changes, such as empowering women with access to land and information, observed Vivian Polar (Gender, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; Gender research coordinator, International Potato Center).

### **Bundling technology with social change for innovations that make a difference**

Projects can fail for social reasons, as we learned from Millicent Liani (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) and colleagues at the *Seeding gender equality* session. Their Tanzanian study finds that it is difficult for women and youth to compete as cassava seed entrepreneurs, because they lack land, capital and agricultural extension. Women experience gender-based violence, have less decision-making power, and devote more time than men to caring for children and elders. To address these issues, cassava seed entrepreneurs and community leaders suggest raising awareness of women's concerns with dialogue, theater performances and radio broadcasts.

In that same session, researchers presented a study of seed producers of five east and southern African countries. The analysis shows that men are more likely than women to engage in contract farming and in partnerships to grow and sell seed. Such institutional arrangements limit women's participation in seed systems. Women are also likely to grow more beans for food security, while men produce the crop to sell seed. To achieve equality, policy needs to take the local gender contexts into account, as Eileen Bogweh Nchanji (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT) explained.

"While a seed system must carry the crop varieties that women want, we also need to address the tougher questions of gender inequality in seed systems," said session rapporteur Sanchita Naha (ICAR-IASRI).

In Indonesia, women and men grow chili together, on the same plot. Female chili farmers can be encouraged to be leaders, but disagreements between spouses can lower household earnings, and undermine efforts to empower women. As Apri Laila Sayekti (National Research and Innovation Agency; BRIN) and colleagues show, male family members must be convinced of the importance of women's leadership.

## **Equity principles can help all people receive the benefits of an innovation**

Agricultural research for development should pay more attention to what happens once innovations reach intended users, as demonstrated in the session *Proposed equity principles for transformative innovation*. Equity principles include anticipating how innovation can change people's lives, and ensuring fair and inclusive transformation.

Many well-intentioned innovations turn out to have unexpected consequences, which exclude some people from the promised benefits. For example, machinery designed for men may be burdensome for women to operate, and may reduce drudgery for male farmers, while women now have to work harder to weed the field and frighten away the birds. According to Erin McGuire (USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture, University of California, Davis), Maria Boa Alvarado (Cornell University) and Eva Marina Valencia Leñero (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), such exclusions can be anticipated and avoided by using equity principles to work on transforming social norms while scaling up an innovation.

## **Benefit, empowerment and transformation are complex**

The panel discussion *Innovations for equity* noted that all innovations are gendered, and while it is important to reach women, “not all women who are reached are benefited, not all who are benefited are empowered, and empowerment is not always transformational.”

The panel left us with this insight: “Recognizing women as farmers is the foremost measure needed to make innovations gender-transformative.” More importantly, perhaps, women must see *themselves* as farmers.

Many other important contributions to the conference theme of *Gender-responsive and -transformative agrifood systems innovations* focused on women's poorer access to information, inputs, capital, markets, land, and appropriate technical solutions to solve complex problems and create more equitable agrifood systems.

As all the conference contributions showed, innovations are gendered, and technical “fixes” can fail to produce our intended impact unless they are gender-responsive and socially sophisticated. Achieving development with gender equality requires that all women and men—not just farmers—have equal opportunities to innovate, and to benefit from changing agrifood systems.

## **Theme 4: Fostering equitable market systems**

Blog from theme leads: <https://gender.cgiar.org/news/3-es-fostering-equitable-markets-supporting-womens-entrepreneurship-employment-and-economic>

**The 3 Es of fostering equitable markets: supporting women's entrepreneurship, employment and economic empowerment**



Photo: Hamish John Appleby / IWMI

Authored by: [Rahma Adam](#) and [Rufaro Madakadze](#)

***A lively session within the ‘Fostering equitable market systems’ theme during the ‘From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems’ conference examined inclusion in value chains and markets from production to consumption. Presenters overall emphasized how important it is to give reliable and regular support for women’s training and capacity building, to nurture women-led agribusinesses and therefore women–women networks, and to improve methodologies and inclusive topics for better insights.***

*The 2023 international research conference [‘From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems’](#) hosted by the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) took place in October 2023. In this series of blog posts, the leads of the event’s [six themes](#) reflect on key takeaways from the presentations and discussions that took place under each theme. Here [Rahma Adam](#) and Rufaro Madakadze (representing [Sabdiyo Dido](#), who was Rahma Adam’s co-lead) explore [Theme 4: Fostering equitable market systems](#).*

Within this theme, a session was held about ‘Supporting women’s entrepreneurship, employment and economic empowerment in agri-food systems.’ Wide-ranging, it touched on inclusion in value chains and markets—spanning the phases linking production to consumption.

Session presentations covered [opportunities for women’s empowerment in Tanzania’s cashew-nut value chain](#) (Aika Aku, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania); [unleashing the potential of women–women networks](#) (Ranjitha Puskur, International Rice Research Institute); and

opportunities for [women's empowerment in agricultural value chains between helping, employing and owning](#) (Manuel Francisco Moreno Bustamante, Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture).

### **Benefits of involving women in value chains go beyond income**

The Tanzania presentation examined the role of women in the cashew value chain relating to their opportunities and constraints. It also assessed the effectiveness of the government's Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) in facilitating those opportunities and relieving constraints for women.

"Women's involvement in the cashew-nut value chain is not only about income; it's about challenging gender norms and fostering women's leadership and decision-making," said Aku.

Despite women being deeply involved in production, processing and marketing for the domestic market, empowerment opportunities in production are limited. Women have much more control in small-scale processing, but other constraints must be addressed to enable women's cashew-nut processing groups to take full advantage of the improved equipment—such as access to finance, hampered by low collateral and lack of alternative collateral; and weak contract-enforcement mechanisms. Researchers also recommended including young men in SIDO processing support.

### **Honduras results turn common empowerment assumption on its head**

A Honduras study examined various indicators of women's empowerment between the production and processing nodes of cashew-nut and dairy value chains to better understand if and how women's participation in value chains is related to their empowerment.

Results suggested that levels of empowerment are not the same between the value chains, and across different nodes—women in the processing nodes of the value chains are less empowered than those in production nodes. This upends the common assumption that women's empowerment is higher in processing due to more employment opportunities.

Further analysis revealed women in processing have a higher employment-associated time burden, leading to a lower empowerment score—leading researchers to conclude that the biggest factor related to disempowerment is workload hampering participation in group membership.

Bustamante recommended, therefore, that "development projects need to focus on supporting women in ways that can reduce their workloads and increase their opportunities for group membership, and provide other avenues for building family wealth."

Chair Adam reiterated the need for women and men to see the benefits of women helping the household make good decisions: "This is where gender-transformative approaches and social and behavior change communication come into play. They promote awareness, challenge harmful gender norms, and generally work to create an inclusive and empowering environment that uplifts women and fosters their holistic well-being."

## **Following grantees' activities for insights into potential for women in African agribusinesses**

Across Africa, AGRA's [VALUE4HER](#) Initiative works on understanding how to best improve the livelihoods of women in small- and medium-sized agricultural enterprises (SMEs). VALUE4HER catalyzes women-to-women supply chains to create learning and market networks among women-owned and women-led SMEs.

After giving grants to 20 SMEs to engage with 20 nano- and micro-entrepreneurs, Puskur and colleagues examined the business activities by the women in the program. Their insights about the potential of women in African agribusinesses revealed challenges such as:

- barriers in market information
- constrained access to formal financial sources
- lack of own land to grow products
- dearth of non-land-based value-addition opportunities
- limited access to digital devices, connectivity, and training
- lack of access to risk-management products
- fewer networks and groups, role models and peers
- less access to government programs, schemes and resources
- gender norms that affect time use for women

“There is a need to engage young women in the agribusiness sector, and also the need to see the potential for women to thrive in livestock and fisheries sector as well, besides crops,” said Puskur.

“Moreover, training women in financial, marketing, production, advocacy for women’s business, digitization and leadership skills is very crucial for them to achieve their full potential.”

## **Connecting women leads to innovative and resilient agribusinesses**

The session’s studies all underscore the importance of continuous support in training and capacity building to women, to empower them and to enable them to remain in agribusiness. Moreover, nurturing women-led agribusinesses is critical because, in most cases, the potential of women–women networks facilitate peer-to-peer learning and mentorship among women in agri-food systems, which can lead to more innovative and resilient businesses.

Researchers also highlighted new research directions such as developing better methodologies for qualitative studies, studying women’s time burden, and including cash crops when studying women’s participation in agriculture activities and investments.

## Theme 5: Delivering nutrition, food security and health for all

Blog from theme leads: <https://gender.cgiar.org/news/equitable-gender-relations-are-heart-food-and-nutrition-security>

**Equitable gender relations are at the heart of food and nutrition security**



Photo: Neil Palmer/CIAT

Authored by [Haley Zaremba](#)

***Although they bear more responsibility for their families' food and nutrition security, women are more likely to go hungry than men, globally. Underlying social inequalities undermine household food and nutrition security, but we know that women's empowerment—not just an honorable goal itself—can boost food security and overall health. Working with men and masculinities is another step along the path to achieving nutrition SDGs, using gender-transformative approaches; coordinated, multistakeholder approaches at multiple levels; robust policies—all informed by excellent data.***

*The 2023 international research conference [‘From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems’](#) hosted by the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) took place in October 2023. In this series of blog posts, the leads of the event's [six themes](#) reflect on key takeaways from the presentations and discussions that took place*

under each theme. Here [Haley Zaremba](#) explores [Theme 5: Delivering nutrition, food security, and health for all](#), guided by theme leads [Neha Kumar](#) and [Sapna Desai](#).

[Women play a significant role in agri-food systems around the world](#). They often shoulder higher agricultural labor burdens and are more dependent on agricultural livelihoods than men, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Women are also often responsible for providing their families with food and nutrition security due to socially prescribed gender norms.

Despite women’s position at the heart of household food and nutrition security, however, women are more likely to go hungry than men. At a global scale, women continue to be disadvantaged by a range of discriminatory norms and practices—such as a relative lack of resources and information, low levels of decision-making power, preferential treatment of men and boys during food allocation—that negatively affect their own health and wellness, and also bear negative outcomes for their families.

Under the key theme ‘Delivering nutrition, food security, and health for all,’ researchers at the 2023 international research conference [‘From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems’](#) presented a range of research digging into the gender issues at the core of global health and nutrition. They touched on a series of critical issues and future research directions, presented below, that will be critical for achieving the [UN SDGs by 2030](#).

### **Underlying social inequalities undermine household food and nutrition security**

Pre-existing gender disparities challenge households’ abilities to achieve and maintain food and nutrition security, which was explored in the session on ‘Women’s time use and Gender Gaps in Agricultural Work and Rural Development.’

Erdgin Mane (FAO) presented a study on the drivers of women’s food insecurity that found the current gender gap in food insecurity would be reduced by at least 57 percent if gender gaps in education, labor-force participation and income were eliminated. This study also highlighted how pre-existing inequalities are amplified during crises such as COVID-19, making women more vulnerable to food insecurity.

Another study found that closing gender gaps does not only benefit women’s nutritional status, but the nutritional and economic status of entire countries—as presented by James Thurlow from IFPRI. Specific modeling for Nigeria and Ethiopia found that “closing gender gaps in and beyond agriculture could raise national GDP by around 3 percent and reduce national poverty and hunger headcount rates by around two percentage points,” reducing the risk of undernourishment for two million people.

One of the key gender inequalities undermining better and more equitable nutrition security outcomes is women’s undue labor burdens and time poverty stemming from their societal role as homemakers and caretakers. In an example from Uganda, women’s dietary diversity was found to be lower when their workload was higher (Shimali Fred, Makerere University). On top of their disproportionate reproductive work, agricultural work can be a particularly large burden for many

rural women. Anil Kumar (ICAR) found that in India, women in agriculture work for longer hours than those not in agriculture, while Anjali Sharma (International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai) found that the prevalence of undernutrition is higher among both mothers and children if the mother was working in the agricultural sector, compared to women in general.

Gender is not the only axis of marginalization affecting food and nutrition security, however. Various studies emphasized that age, life stage, birth order, ethnicity, caste and belonging to an Indigenous Peoples group can be equally (and in some contexts more) important. An intersectional lens is therefore key to understanding nutrition challenges and opportunities. However, data on nutrition security analyzed with an intersectional lens is still sparse, indicating that this is a critical area for future research.

### **Women’s empowerment: key for food security, and as a standalone goal**

Presentations in the session ‘Enhancing Gender Equality in Nutrition, Food Security and Health’ showed that women’s education and improved status in the household and society are correlated with greater dietary diversity and overall household nutrition.

In Eastern Uganda, for example, women with control over income were more likely to provide diverse diets to their children, and also enjoyed greater spousal respect (Shimali Fred, Makerere University). In India, the prevalence of undernutrition among both mother and children decreased with an increasing autonomy index (Anjali Sharma, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai).

Importantly, presenters emphasized how women’s collectives can contribute to gender equality. Monica Shrivastav (PopulationCouncil Consulting Pvt Ltd) presented that their study in South Asia found that “working with women’s groups and movements can ensure justice and equity in nutrition agendas, where women are at the forefront of deciding their priorities, demanding their rights and services, and through collective action, acting and pushing for social change and accountability.”

Fostering women’s movements can therefore have associated health and nutrition outcomes.

### **Gender-transformative approaches can help engage men and masculinities**

Closing critical gender gaps, creating an enabling environment for improving women’s status, and challenging the harmful norms that perpetuate social inequalities require in-depth engagement with men and masculinities. Gender equality and nutrition security can be fostered together in a virtuous cycle when men are meaningfully engaged in providing nutrition, doing reproductive work, and are aware of how gender equality can uplift their household and community.

Avani Verma (GiZ) presented a study from India’s Madhya Pradesh which asked why some families of low socioeconomic circumstances had well-nourished mothers and young children, while others struggled with malnutrition in the same set of circumstances. The difference was found to be a result of how engaged the husband was in conscious financial planning to ensure good nutrition for

mother and child, attaining knowledge about good nutrition, not consuming alcohol, feeding the child in the morning before work, eating together, and joint decision-making.

The question, then, is how to encourage and enable men to adopt such behaviors and attitudes. This can be extremely difficult, as discriminatory gender norms are deep-rooted and persistent. Many presenters consequently suggested gender-transformative approaches that call for critical reflection on and engagement with entrenched gender norms and discriminatory attitudes. Activities such as community dialogues, games and street theater were presented as promising examples of approaches that can adopt a gender-transformative approach and retain wide community outreach.

Humphrey Jumba (ILRI) explained how in India, Bangladesh and Tanzania, better household nutrition security outcomes were associated with exposure to gender-transformative interventions, especially when used in tandem with technologically-oriented nutritional interventions—like the introduction of improved chicken breeds in Tanzania.

### **Sustained support and strong policies critical for lasting positive change**

Redressing structural and social inequalities, fostering women’s empowerment, and engaging men and masculinities through gender-transformative approaches are essential to achieving the SDGs. Fostering these changes requires coordinated, multistakeholder approaches at multiple levels based on nuanced, longitudinal data, supported by robust policy measures.

These include integrated and multidisciplinary approaches that target poverty, hunger and social inequalities simultaneously and at multiple scales. In practice, this could range from training extension workers to share nutrition- and gender-sensitive information at the grassroots level (e.g., through [capacity-building sessions](#), such as those presented by [MANAGE](#)), to addressing gender and nutrition together in national policy frameworks. The theme’s sessions underscored the urgency of such changes, while highlighting that gender-transformative social protection programs are particularly crucial in times of crisis, when women are more likely to go hungry.

## **Theme 6: Youth and agri-food systems**

Blog from theme leads: <https://gender.cgiar.org/news/rethinking-how-young-people-engage-agrifood-systems-and-busting-myths>

### **Rethinking how young people engage with agrifood systems and busting myths**



Photo: C. Schubert/CCAFS.

authored by [Dorte Thorsen](#), [Indika Arulingam](#)

***Young people are increasingly being recognized as key actors in agrifood systems. However, new approaches and further work are needed to fully understand how young people can find productive, sustainable and rewarding livelihood opportunities within agrifood systems.***

The 2023 international research conference [‘From research to impact: Towards just and resilient agri-food systems’](#) hosted by the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) took place in October 2023. In this series of blog posts, the leads of the event’s [six themes](#) reflect on key takeaways from the presentations and discussions that took place under each theme. Here [Dorte Thorsen](#) and [Indika Arulingam](#) explore [Theme 6: Youth and agrifood systems](#).

From exploring how young people engage in farming in the present to thinking about the agrifood system workers of the future, the four sessions focusing on youth offered insights into the importance of youth orientation in agrifood systems research and programs.

### **Strengthening academia–industry–government links**

Some universities are seeking to strengthen the academia–industry–government links so that graduates will be able to take advantage of and foster job, trade and innovation opportunities in agrifood systems. For example, universities in India and the Republic of Benin are increasingly approaching education about agrifood systems by training graduates to work with the rapid technological transformation of agrifood systems and by integrating (in tertiary degrees) the challenges facing agrifood systems, such as climate change adaptation and the ecologically and socially sustainable production.

In India, universities are also emphasizing experiential learning; for example, by connecting students with farming families. This education-oriented approach is valuable in settings where young people pursue school-based education and opt for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects in tertiary education.

While these directions in tertiary education are encouraging and welcomed, they do raise questions such as: What type of jobs are available for agricultural university graduates that will complement their training? What type of jobs are available for young people who drop out of school? Are the experiences of engaging with schooling similar for young women and men? Are the connections between formal schooling and university education based on Western knowledge frameworks, despite the experiential and indigenous knowledge used in smallholder production systems?

### **Contrary to anecdotal evidence, many young people are engaging in the sector**

Contrary to a common fear that youth leave rural and farming areas, many young people are in fact engaging in agriculture to a greater extent than ever before.

In the sessions exploring what young people do and how their initiatives and ideas can be supported in agrifood systems, we heard about various government-led programs supporting engagement in agriculture that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs ranged from channeling Fijian rugby players' attention from their sport to their home gardens at a time when they could not train and play, to using online seminars and youth clubs to advance practical and business skills of youth involved in community gardens in the Philippines.

The session revealed that it is important to consider the appropriateness of these programs for different groups of young people, such as youth from smallholder households who may already be familiar with agricultural work, or youth from communities and geographies that are located far from these opportunities.

### **“Youth” is not a homogenous group**

In dismantling the myth about young people not being engaged in agriculture and the wider agrifood system, there is often an overemphasis on “youth” as a homogenous category without sufficient attention to heterogeneity among young people.

While there are increasing efforts to consider programs that target young women and men separately, there is a need for deeper investigation into how power relations based on age intersect with gender, class, caste and ethnicity, and how such intersections shape young people's involvement in agrifood systems.

How do we continue to build on the existing methodologies in a way that will allow us to contextualize youth-focused strategies and pathways in agrifood systems in relation to power hierarchies and patriarchal relations? How do we capture diversity among youth? How can we better understand young people's actions without being limited by the lens of individualism?

## Other blogs

### 1. Blog by storyteller trainee:

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/mali-women-conflict-zones-aim-expand-markets-tasty-nutritious-millet-products>

### Mali women in conflict zones aim to expand markets for tasty, nutritious millet products



Photo: ICRISAT.

authored by [Jemima Mandapati](#)

***Mariamama Maiga\* from western Mali makes ready-to-cook products from a new locally grown millet bred to be higher in iron and zinc. She is part of a women's group that provides nutrient-rich millet to school canteens and health-care centers in conflict zones. The women aspire to mechanize the processing, brand their products, and market them to more communities.***

*This blog post was authored by Jemima Mandapati as part of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform training on telling stories about agricultural solutions that work for women. This training took place, in part, during the 2023 [CGIAR GENDER conference](#) on October 9-12, 2023, in New Delhi, India. The blog post was first published by [ICRISAT](#), but it is re-posted in full below.*

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As a woman, earning a living in a conflict zone is no easy task. Access to food and health care can be challenging, and the danger of violence is a reality here. However, being part of a group that helps to earn a living and is also part of a bigger mission serving the community can give life meaning and direction.

Perhaps this is why the region's close-knit women's entrepreneur groups are not just content to survive but aspire to thrive, even in these difficult situations.

For Mariamma Maiga from Gao village and the 29 other women she works with, their job starts with procuring grains for making nutritious cereal-legume flour and semolina mixes. [Biofortified pearl millet](#) and [sorghum](#) are the base ingredients, with rice, groundnut, and cowpea added to improve both nutrition and taste. Women’s groups were trained on how to produce the products with the biofortified millet.

The biofortified and higher-yielding pearl millet variety *Chakti* with its higher iron and zinc content, can prevent anemia in women and children. It was developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) breeders and spearheaded by HarvestPlus. It was first officially released in Niger in 2018 and later spread to Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Senegal.

**“The variety has passed the taste test with children in school midday meal schemes. It was tailor-made to survive the desert-like conditions of the region,”** said Dr Almamy Sylla, Scientific Officer at ICRISAT.



*File photo of a farmer in Niger where Africa’s first biofortified pearl millet variety was introduced. Photo via ICRISAT.*

Currently, the women hand-pound the flour and hand-mill the semolina. The ready-to-eat products in their product line, like doughnuts and peanut butter, are also handmade. Despite the hard work, the women persist in what they do, and they have their reasons.

Maiga said, “Our group makes a profit of CFA100,000 [about US\$162] a month, which is saved in a thrift group, and being in the group contributes to participating in community life. I am respected because of my work. Other women want to join too, as they see it as a stable activity.”

“Men, too, are part of the group as they are needed to facilitate activities that must be vetted by community leaders, in keeping with the cultural norms.”

There are 30 women’s groups throughout five regions (Koulikoro, Segou, Bandiagara, Gao, and Tombouctou), with at least 30 women in each group. Except for Koulikoro, the rest are conflict zones.

#### Plans to expand and identify avenues for building capacity

The women are keen to spread the benefits of this biofortified millet and foods beyond their local neighbors, which means finding ways to improve their processing or saving time to scale up production. Now, the women’s group is looking at mechanizing the process.



A typical day at the processing center. Photo shows a manually operated groundnut sheller. Photo via ICRISAT.

Dr Sylla, who presented the [findings](#)\*\* of his study about what capacities the women wanted to develop, said the women were looking for opportunities to grow their processing group to generate higher revenues and stable jobs for women.

The next planned training will enable women to brand their products, apply for food safety certification, learn to maintain their business accounts and sell their products outside Mali.

This pilot project that introduced the women's group to biofortified millet was started in 2022 with the support of the UN World Food Programme and ICRISAT.

## 2. Blog by storyteller trainee:

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/accelerating-gender-transformative-change-agri-food-systems-lessons-cgiar-icar-gender>

**Accelerating gender-transformative change in agri-food systems: lessons from the CGIAR–ICAR GENDER Conference 2023**



authored by [Alie Peter Galeon](#)

***Reporting from Delhi: We speak with researchers examining gender dynamics and disparities widespread across agri-food systems. Through participatory and gender-transformative approaches, researchers could accelerate meaningful impact on the ground.***

*This blog post was authored by Alie Peter Galeon as part of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform training on telling stories about agricultural solutions that work for women. This training took place, in part, during the 2023 [CGIAR GENDER conference](#) on October 9-12, 2023, in New Delhi, India. The blog post was first published by [Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT](#), but it is re-posted in full below.*

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From being drivers of accelerated change to embracing the empowerment that such change entails, people are inarguably central in every development initiative. But more than halfway to the 2030 Agenda, [recent evidence shows the world is lagging in its goal to achieve gender equality](#), displacing women to further disadvantage amid persistent and interlinked health, climate and humanitarian global crises.

To contribute to redressing these inequalities, over 20 researchers from the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT participated at this year's international [CGIAR GENDER Conference, From Research to Impact: Toward Just and Resilient Agri-Food Systems](#).

Consistent with the Alliance's commitment to tackling inequality and social exclusion with a more intersectional approach (i.e., how gender issues are embedded across agriculture, nutrition and environment landscapes), researchers shared their research across conference themes on gender-responsive innovations, women's empowerment and gender-transformative change, and equitable market systems—among other themes.

Alliance Director General Juan Lucas Restrepo said:

Eliminating gender inequalities and advancing social inclusion in agriculture and food systems is at the core of our work at the Alliance. By participating in this year's CGIAR GENDER Conference, hosted in partnership with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), our researchers had the chance to participate in thought-provoking discussions and interact and exchange with others on how to further expand CGIAR's work to achieve gender-equitable, socially inclusive food systems and landscapes that sustain the planet, drive prosperity and nourish people.

### **Taking participatory, gender-transformative approaches forward**

The Alliance's extensive gender research has been supporting progress on meeting targets and monitoring progress toward gender equality, says [Marlène Elias](#), Alliances Module Leader for the [CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform](#) and Gender Research Coordinator for the Alliance.

*Our contributions range from developing methodologies that challenge discriminatory gender norms that limit women's benefits or voice in agri-food systems, to having methodologies that track progress towards achievement of SDG 5 [Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls].*

Within CGIAR's [Low-Emission Food Systems Initiative \(Mitigate+\)](#), researchers employed the framework of [Living Labs for People \(LL4P\)](#), a participatory approach in a specific place for stakeholders to all together “design, test, demonstrate and advance their sociotechnical innovations and associated modes of governance within a facilitated organizational structure.”

## LL4P CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Framework of living labs for people.

Living Labs put the project’s target “users” at the center of the research. In this case, Mitigate+ researchers will combine this approach of co-creation with a gender-transformative approach, collaborating with various public actors (government), private sectors, and experts (knowledge institutes). They want to collectively understand and accurately find ways to integrate low-emission objectives with the locals’ identified needs—ensuring benefits reach the target stakeholders in the context of their real-life, everyday environments.

This process, which entails holding a series of discussions among different groups, helps promote gender-equitable development and ensure social inclusion in the Living Labs.

For associate scientist [Anne Rietveld](#) integrating LL4P with a gender-transformative approach is important because the Living Lab approach does not automatically benefit marginalized people and communities or directly contribute to gender equality or women’s empowerment.

She further underscored the need to deliberately incorporate gender equality and social inclusion considerations in every research endeavor, saying: *“I really think we should be pushing for this, because you can easily do a Living Lab without giving any attention to gender and social inclusion— but I don’t think we should!”*

Anne explained that buy-in from colleagues and from other LL4P stakeholders, coupled with a with a gender-transformative approach, is essential for the success of the Living Labs. *“We will have to build reflection and awareness raising on inequalities, into our stakeholder engagement processes.”*

Knowledge and understanding of power relations, gender norms and gender dynamics in the LL4P sites are important in this respect as well.

Gender Conference 2023.

### **Living Labs in action: Kenya**

In Nandi County, Kenya, the Alliance led the initiation of a Living Lab while implementing several studies to understand how existing power relations or politics directly or indirectly affect women farmers' access to innovations and other opportunities related to their work.

For instance, using new technologies that reduce the emissions from dairy cattle are not always taken up—and researchers have found that there is a difference between men and women in adopting such innovations. But a general situational analysis explains a part of why that is the case, and can help people in the future who are encouraging new technology take-up.

As such, results like this need to be included in stakeholder discussions and feed into processes to co-create these low-emission innovations.

Rietveld and colleagues will also study the LL4P approach and its potential to contribute to gender equality and social inclusion itself. This will be supported by a top-up grant which was awarded to the initiative by the GENDER Impact Platform.

The grant allows Mitigate+ researchers to further explore what barriers need to be addressed that perpetuate gender inequality in agriculture, particularly in low-emissions development, using the context-based framework of the LL4P approach.



Mitigate+ team in Nandi County, Kenya. Photo by: Birgit Habermann/ILRI.



Site visits with LL4P stakeholders in Nandi County, Kenya. Photo by: Birgit Habermann/ILRI.

### **The Asian context: ethnic minorities in Vietnam**

“A lot of things still need to be done; understanding how the researcher can facilitate the engagement of stakeholders is such a big issue,” said researcher Lan Nguyen, a PhD student at Wageningen University & Research. “If you invite stakeholders, we need to consider how to make sure that everyone has a say, everyone has equal contribution, and how to reach an agreement.”

Nguyen’s [previous work](#) with the Alliance examined empowerment of ethnic minorities in Northern Vietnam. While both men and women experienced disempowerment, data revealed that women from ethnic minorities were overwhelmingly disenfranchised compared to their male counterparts due to the patriarchal culture.

In Nguyen’s study, the Alliance and local women’s union provided women with nutrition and agriculture training, as well as seeds for vegetables and legumes. Although the researcher worked with the locals prior to the training and seeds distribution, she said that co-designing tools and approaches would be a better way.

For Nguyen, learning about the LL4P provides her an avenue to reflect about what she could do better in her future research—noting how often researchers forget that, at the community level, people use their own agency to think of solutions. According to Nguyen:

“Co-designing is not just organizing one or two workshops. It’s a whole learning process. As such, we need to give the community enough time to be able to understand [itself], and we learn with community members, rather than try and ‘fix’ them in the first place.”

### **Time check: fewer than seven years left**

With just over six years left until the culmination of the 2030 agenda, Rietveld reminded fellow researchers to always strive towards gender equality as a principle in every initiative. Integrating

gender equality and social inclusion considerations into research approaches can also steer researchers away from unintended consequences, potentially accelerating a meaningful impact on the ground.

Marlene Elias, who chaired the recently concluded conference in New Delhi, added that the wide-ranging discussions during the conference will serve as a basis for an evidence-based set of recommendations to be delivered jointly by the conference organizers—the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and ICAR—to India’s Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Organizers hope that the recommendations bolster gender responsiveness in both agricultural research and policies.

As Elias summed up:

“We hope for concrete outcomes, and that we’re going to be speaking to important and influential actors who will be able to move these discussions forward in collaboration with us [Alliance and CGIAR] and partners.”

### 3. Blog by storyteller trainee:

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/decolonizing-agricultural-science-are-we-ready-embrace-change>

#### Decolonizing agricultural science: Are we ready to embrace change?



Image by starline on Freepik.

authored by [Shivani Chemjong](#)

***Decolonizing science is increasingly discussed within the CGIAR community. Recently, a panel of researchers explored whether we are prepared for this transformation and ready to embrace the change.***

*This blog post was authored by Shivani Chemjong as part of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform training on telling stories about agricultural solutions that work for women. This training took place, in part, during the 2023 [CGIAR GENDER conference](#) on October 9-12, 2023, in New Delhi, India. The blog post was first published by [IWMI](#), but it is re-posted in full below.*

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The continued influence of colonialism on research and the need to structurally transform the processes and practices of science were the focus of a panel discussion at the CGIAR [GENDER Impact Platform Conference in 2023](#). Centering local voices to break down the underlying power relationships between the researcher and the researched is a key part of decolonizing science. The discussion, focused on food production research, featured panelists from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), World Fish, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).



Photo: IWMI.

### **Navigating the contradictions of colonial legacy in research**

IWMI's Karen Nortje explained, that "Colonial ideas, and the legacy of outdated tools and frameworks that originate from them, often drive the behaviors of scientific and CGIAR researchers, even without us realizing this, and can affect research outputs.

"There seems to be a constant contradiction between what we say we need to do and what we actually do," said Marlène Buchy, Senior Social Scientist at IWMI. "And what we need to do is listen to local voices, co-develop sustainable, inclusive innovations, and break down power relationships between researchers and food producers."

The panelists pointed out the context of researchers constrained by artificial time frames driven by funding cycles and by key performance indicators revolving around publication in English-language refereed journals in the global north. Unfortunately, therefore, researchers often do not have the space to conduct genuine participatory and emancipatory research.

"In the initial stage of research ideation, we believe our approach will be successful, but we sometimes rush through projects to meet budget constraints," said Rahma Adam of World Fish.

### **Bridging the gap and shifting the paradigm**

Buchy pointed out that to close the “disconnect between our intentions and the actual implementation, we should not be scared to challenge our system.”

The panel suggested that change must come from senior management level to provide space for researchers to gradually close that gap between intention and implementation. But they also highlighted that donors need to be involved to better understand the gap between project objectives, ground realities and the constraints in bridging these distinctions.

The panel noted that the way many of us collect and value knowledge and “science” often neglects the diversity of knowledge and local contexts that could offer valuable insights to achieve more sustainable food-system management.

Feminist political ecology offers appropriate tools to challenge our ways of doing research, to locate and transform seats of unequal power relations.

### **Fresh perspectives on doing science to tackle complex problems**

Huge, complex problems like the climate crisis, environmental degradation, farmer suicides, growing food insecurity and dependency, and pervasive under- and malnutrition in many countries cannot be addressed by the ideal models for agricultural developmental imagined in the global north and imposed around the world through various political and economic measures. Consequently, it is imperative to collaboratively design research projects with the community.

Additionally, Adam made a crucial recommendation to researchers to “gain a fresh perspective on problem-solving and develop a thoughtful strategy for disseminating our ideas.”

In the quest to decolonize agricultural science and embrace the change required by complex global challenges, it is essential that we draw on courage to challenge our existing systems, seek to bridge the gap between intention and implementation, and give power to local communities and their knowledge.

The panel featured Marlène Buchy – IWMI; Rahma Adam – WorldFish; Darshan Karki affiliated to IWMI; Purnima Menon – IFPRI; Eileen Nchanji representing the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT; Karen Nortje – IWMI, and Charity Osei-Amponsah – IWMI.

#### 4. Blog by storyteller trainee:

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/empowering-women-aquatic-food-systems-helpers-change-agents>

#### Empowering women in aquatic food systems: from ‘helpers’ to change agents



WorldFish Photo Photo Credit: WorldFish.

authored by [Agness Chileya](#)

#### **Highlights**

- ***The role of women in aquatic food systems is critical to the development of the sector, promoting nutrition, ending poverty and upholding the potential of aquatic food systems.***
- ***Women need to be recognized as change agents and not just helpers.***
- ***Through a number of impact pathways, WorldFish is addressing the invisibility and equity of women in aquatic food systems.***

*This blog post was authored by Agness Chileya as part of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform training on telling stories about agricultural solutions that work for women. This training took place, in part, during the 2023 [CGIAR GENDER conference](#) on October 9-12, 2023, in New Delhi, India. The blog post was first published by [WorldFish](#), but it is re-posted in full below.*

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Despite making up [around 50 per cent of the fisheries and aquaculture value chain workforce](#), women are largely invisible in the sector.

Speaking at the [CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform–Indian Council of Agricultural Research conference](#) in New Delhi, India recently, Rahma Adam, WorldFish gender focal point for the [CGIAR](#)

[Initiative on Aquatic Foods](#), pointed out that women participate in all parts of aquatic food systems (AFS) but are most visible in post-harvest processing and trade of fish.

“We see women in every node of the fisheries or aquaculture value chain participating, working hard in the production of fish, in the selling of fish, in the input supply of fish materials—as well as in the processing and consumption for nutrition by producing food for the family,” Adam highlighted.

She added that women are seen more as ‘helpers’ in the economy, rather than in the front seat of producing wealth for the household and communities, and that the way societies view women—especially patriarchal societies in the global South—tends to marginalize them.

The invisibility of women in the sector is further exacerbated by gender and social norms that exist in these societies.

Speaking at the conference, Adams outlines three ways to empower women in Aquatic Food Systems.



Rahma Adam speaking at the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform–Indian Council of Agricultural Research conference in New Delhi, India. Photo: WorldFish.

### **Three Ways to Empower Women in Aquatic Food Systems**

#### **1. Financial Inclusion**

Financial inclusion for women is currently insufficient to enable those aspiring to move from small-scale production or street vending to owning boats or establishing their own ponds. This hinders

the women from participating fully and contributing in the higher nodes of the value chain, where there is more profit.

To help the women and build their capacity to be competitively involved in the sector, there is a need to advocate more for gender-sensitive budgeting to Ministries and Departments of Fisheries and Livestock.

## 2. Social Protection Schemes

Capacity building for women to be involved in multiple livelihood streams and strategies is key. Moves such as integrating agriculture with aquaculture or livestock will assist in cushioning women so that when one business is failing or not fetching a good price in the market, they can then rely on other income streams.

Adam mentioned that social protection mechanisms such as providing training for women in other avenues that have easily available markets should be created. She pointed out the promotion of eco-tourism as one of these avenues. She added that through capacity building, WorldFish has been promoting better resource governance and [Community-Based Resource Management](#) so that communities are able to work with donors and partners to attract tourists to these areas.

“Aquaculture, if well invested, is lucrative. There is so much that can be harnessed from that and to bring the visibility that women deserve,” stated Adam.

## 3. Better and Gender-Disaggregated Data

As to how research can help to reduce the invisibility of women, Adam emphasized the need for sex- and gender-disaggregated data on each sector of the whole blue economy (economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts)—for instance, data that reveals where these women are, what they do, and the challenges and opportunities that they face.

The data can be used to build a policy case for gender equality and social inclusion in the aquatic food sector. A recently published report—[Illuminating Hidden Harvests: The Contributions of Small-Scale Fisheries to Sustainable Development](#) highlights how such disaggregated data can be used.

### Using ‘Impact Pathways’ to Address Gender and Social Equity

WorldFish is using a number of impact pathways for change to address gender and social equity in AFS in low- and middle-income countries. ‘Impact pathways’ is an analysis method that is used for planning and measuring the potential impact of research on development outcomes.

“We are using these impact pathways through Research for Development (R4D) in order to improve women’s economic empowerment and financial inclusion,” Adam emphasized.

WorldFish has been able to measure women’s empowerment with the [Women’s Empowerment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Index](#) (WEFI) to see where they are in terms of agency, inclusivity and economic empowerment relative to men.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 clearly commits to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” in their own right. Yet gender inequalities and barriers remain prevalent in rural areas of low- and middle-income countries, including where people rely heavily on aquatic food systems.

With the [CGIAR Gender Impact Platform](https://gender.cgiar.org) now having a specific remit in CGIAR to address gender inequalities, and youth and social inclusion, WorldFish can contribute to the identified gaps to ensure that women are not so invisible—especially women in aquaculture.

## Conclusion

Women play a crucial role at the very heart of ending hunger and poverty. Harnessing the role of women could be one of the means to create a ‘pull’ effect for the aquatic foods sector to grow in similar ways to livestock consumption.

Unlike the agriculture sector, the blue economy is underrepresented in the gender narrative and has a lot of untapped potential to increase women’s economic status, gender equality and social inclusion.

### 5. Blog by storyteller trainee:

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/experts-call-massive-shift-gender-research-sustainable-agri-food-systems>

### Experts call for massive shift in gender research for sustainable agri-food systems



AWARD Photo. Photo Credit: AWARD.

authored by [Joan Onyango](#)

**Experts and development leaders in agriculture have called for a shift in how research is implemented to achieve more resilient agri-food systems. While speaking at a plenary on “From Research to Impact: Towards agri-food systems transformation” at the [CGIAR GENDER Research Conference](#) in New Delhi, India, the leaders agreed that effective research must reflect the realities on the ground to be transformative.**

*This blog post was authored by Joan Onyango as part of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform training on telling stories about agricultural solutions that work for women. This training took place, in part, during the 2023 [CGIAR GENDER conference](#) on October 9-12, 2023, in New Delhi, India. The blog post was first published by [AWARD](#), but it is re-posted in full below.*

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Held on [October 12, 2023](#), the plenary saw contributions from leading agriculture and development experts, including [Dr. Lauren Phillips](#), Deputy Director, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)), [Dr. Meredith Soule](#), Division Chief, Inclusive Development, The United States Agency for International Development ([USAID](#)), [Dr. Michèle Mbo’o-Tchouawou](#), Deputy Director, Programs, African Women in Agricultural Research for Development ([AWARD](#)), [Ms. Neena Joshi](#), Interim Senior Vice President, Asia, [Heifer International](#), [Mr. Nishant Gupta](#), Social and Environmental Impact Advisor, Walmart India and [Dr. G.V Ramanjaneyulu](#), Executive Director, [Center for Sustainable Agriculture](#).

The plenary outlined five strategies needed to make gender in agri-food systems research more impactful, including gender-responsive policies, gender- disaggregated data, research collaboration, capacity building, collective action, and deliberate investments.

While speaking at the plenary, Dr. Mbo’o-Tchouawou emphasized that we urgently need to investigate how we use and apply research to support the specific needs of women and men along the agricultural value chain. She stressed that researchers and policymakers must speak one language for research to achieve impact on the ground.

“Impact is long term. So then, we must really look at the research we do to achieve our desired impact,” said Dr. Mbo’o-Tchouawou.

Drawing from the recent FAO report on the [Status of Women in Agri-food Systems](#), Dr. Philips highlighted that even though more than 75 percent of agricultural policies analyzed by the report recognize women’s roles and/or challenges in agriculture, only 19 percent had gender equality in agriculture or women’s rights as explicit policy objectives.

“This is clearly an area where we need to do much better if we want to have a genuine impact,” she said.

While discussing the meaning of research for impact, Ms. Soule spotlighted the significance of gender-disaggregated data in closing the productivity gap in agriculture. She pointed out that

research must look at different kinds of households in varied places to better inform our agri-food systems work.

The panel also reiterated that it is imperative to align smallholders with the right market to improve sustainability, create more ambitious approaches and initiatives to addressing gender, be more intentional in addressing social norms, and scale up expenditure on gender and projects that address women empowerment.

“We must invest in people, and we must invest in women. Personal transformation and growth mindset are important for upscaling sustainable innovation and investment”, concluded Ms. Joshi.

#### 6. Blog by storyteller trainee:

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/transformational-research-provides-pathways-including-gender-and-socially-marginalized-groups>

**Transformational research provides pathways for including gender and socially marginalized groups**



Photo: CIMMYT.

authored by [Nima Chodon](#)

***Generating evidence and contributing to discussions and policy actions for inclusive and impactful agrifood systems, leading researchers from CIMMYT working with various stakeholders—including rural women farmers in Asia and Africa—converge in New Delhi at the 2023 CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and ICAR Conference.***

*This blog post was authored by Nima Chodon as part of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform training on telling stories about agricultural solutions that work for women. This training took place, in part,*

during the [2023 CGIAR GENDER conference](#) on October 9-12, 2023, in New Delhi, India. The blog post was first published by [CIMMYT](#), but it is re-posted in full below.

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Intention, collaboration and commitment are critical to bridging the research and practice gap. Gender development practitioners and researchers from CGIAR centers, universities, national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES), civil society, and donor representatives this week shared insights from their research and work at the [gender conference in New Delhi, India](#).

The discussion and exchange promises to create collaborations and opportunities devoted to improving the conditions and agency of women, youth and Indigenous communities in the Global South. “Transformative research can lead to meaningful impact,” said Angela Meentzen, senior gender researcher at CIMMYT. “We have been looking forward to this conference because coming together as researchers, scientists and development practitioners, we can discuss and share insights from each other’s practices and experiences from the field.”



Angela Meentzen (third from left) with CIMMYT colleagues from Asia and Africa at the CGIAR Gender 2023 conference in New Delhi. (Photo: Nima Chodon/CIMMYT)

Leading researchers and scientists from CIMMYT Asia and Africa presented their research and enriched the gender discussions at the conference. Meentzen said that CIMMYT is proud to support gender research that contributes meaningfully to transformative change and impact.

***Below are highlights of four research poster presentations by our researchers (of the six presented by CIMMYT) at the conference:***

**Increased participation in agricultural processes does not mean more decision-making power for women farmers**

Scientist Vijayalaxmi Khed examined how women manage excess workload (working inside and outside the house), a clear trade-off between productive and leisure time without change in domestic responsibilities. Due to domestic workload, she found that women’s time away from farms does not translate into leisure. Another important finding was that women with more agency had less time for leisure, unlike for men.

In her [poster](#) presentation, she concluded that rural women’s nexus of time poverty and decision-making has “clear implications for the development and diffusion of laborsaving technologies in agriculture.”

Working on the same study with Khed, Vijesh Krishna explored the relationship between women’s involvement in agricultural activities and decision-making. His presentation, ‘Farm managers or unpaid laborers?’, from the study covering 347 wheat-farming households across two years, concludes that “despite playing a crucial role in wheat farming in central India, most women lacked the ability to influence decisions.”

**Gender-intentional maize breeding for better adoption and productivity in sub-Saharan Africa**

Michael Euler, agriculture and resource economist, in his [poster](#) presentation explained how an on-farm trial to improve gender-intentional breeding and varietal adoption in maize was designed by CIMMYT breeders and researchers.

The study hypothesized that gender dynamics in household labor allocation and decision-making in maize systems influence trait preferences and farmers’ adoption of varieties. So, researchers conducted on-farm trials and household surveys with individual women and men household members to capture differences in their trait preferences in maize cultivation—production systems, seed demand and seed access—with 800 smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Euler emphasized the influence of socioeconomic and agroecological factors, including biotic–abiotic stress, in the household decisions on maize varietal adoption.

He concluded that the study results will help “guide the product development of regional maize breeding programs and strengthen communities’ adaptation to the changing environmental conditions for maize cultivation.”

**Adoption of a weeding technology may lead to labor displacement of marginalized women laborers**

Presenting a [poster](#) for the same session as Euler, Maxwell Mkondiwa—in a study coauthored with colleagues Khed and Krishna—highlighted how rapid diffusion of a laborsaving technology like

herbicides could exclude the marginalized further. The study occurred in India's state of Bihar, looking at nonfarming rural poor, primarily women, from socially marginalized groups.

From data on chemical weeding, the study analyzed the technology's impact on inequality—highlighting how marginalized women laborers who work on manual weeding are then replaced by men who apply herbicides.

He stressed that not enough research is devoted to understanding whether farmer adoption of laborsaving technologies worsens economic inequalities or reinstates labor into better tasks. “We hope the evidence we generated will help researchers and policymakers develop relevant actions toward more inclusive innovations, and support laborers with new skills for the transitions,” said Mkondiwa.



Maxwell Mkondiwa presents his poster under the session Gender Dynamics in Agri-Food System Innovation at the CGIAR Gender 2023 conference. (Photo: M Mkondiwa/CIMMYT)

### **Women exhibit limited technical knowledge and experience social benefits differently in male-headed households of CASI technology adoption**

Emma Karki, in her [poster](#), explained that there is limited knowledge of the impact of technology adoption on women in a male-headed household in South Asia—with decision powers generally resting with male household members. The research tried to understand the gendered differences in the evaluation of technology adoption in male-headed households using conservation agriculture-based sustainable intensification (CASI) technology as a case study.

The study focused on identifying the commonalities and differences in the experiences and evaluation of CASI technology. Results indicated that “despite technology adoption, women had

limited mechanistic understanding compared to men, with similar limitations on women’s time use and capacity development,” said Karki.

For future CASI promotion, Karki concluded: “Reducing information gaps and incorporating technological preferences of women needs prioritizing, including creating opportunities for them to access knowledge and engage both men and women in critical discussions surrounding gender norms.”

Similarly, Moti Jaleta’s research presentation highlighted the challenges of mechanization adoption for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, primarily women. “Intentional research, whether in gender or social development, helps identify problems and opportunities for change,” endorsed Jaleta.

### **Meaningful research helps achieve gender and social inclusion goals**

The ‘From Research to Impact: CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and ICAR Conference 2023’, between October 9-12, 2023, in New Delhi, gathered researchers from 68 countries. In her inaugural address at the conference’s opening, the President of India Smt. Draupadi Murmu affirmed, “For ecologically sustainable, ethically desirable, economically affordable and socially justifiable production, we need research which can enable conditions to reach these goals.”

At the end of the four-day conference—with 60 research presentations and six plenary sessions—the organizers and participants reflected on their resolve ‘From Research To Impact,’ and the promise to recognize and collectively address the gender and social inequities in agrifood systems development.

## Poster awards

The conference included a poster award for each of six parallel poster sessions (Table 4), which was voted on by poster session attendees based on four criteria:

- relevance and contribution of the content to the conference theme
- clarity and organization of the content
- quality of the visuals and design
- effectiveness of the poster presentation (content and delivery)

Session attendees were provided with these criteria at the beginning of the poster session and voted anonymously at the end of the session via a link to a Google Forms survey. Voters were encouraged to give special consideration to early-career researchers, who were marked with an asterisk on the survey.

Table 4. Poster award winners

Poster session	Winner	Poster title
Session 2.2a Towards systemic change: Challenging inequalities in institutions and policies	Ning Ma IFPRI	Gender attitudes on politics and leadership: A framing experiment
2.2b The gendered face of climate change, adaptation and resilience	Prapti Barooah IFPRI	Understanding drivers and barriers for adoption of climate-smart agriculture through a gender lens: Evidence from India
2.2c Advancing and assessing empowerment in agri-food systems	Swetasmita Das Heifer International	Empowering smallholder farmers by sustainable fodder development for improved animal management in Odisha
2.2d Unpacking gender in agri-food value chains, markets, entrepreneurship, employment and income	Dheeraj Singh ICAR	Fostering gender dimensions in henna ( <i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.) production under arid and semiarid conditions
2.2e Gender dynamics in agri-food system innovations	Sonali Singh IFPRI	From seeds of change to harvesting equality: Women in India's agro-ecology based agri-food system

2.2f Enhancing gender equality in nutrition, food security and health	Karunesh Shukla Heifer International	Kitchen gardening: Empowering smallholder women farmers for nutrition, food security and health in Bihar's sustainable livelihood development project
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Poster award winners received a certificate and a memento, and were publicly recognized in the closing ceremony.

## Post conference evaluation

A post-event survey ( $n = 162$ ) was conducted via Google Forms (see [Annex 4](#)) during the closing session on day 4 of the conference to receive participant feedback on the event.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. The **conference realized or exceeded the expectations of 100% of respondents** (Figure 13).

When invited to explain their responses, common themes from the written answers ( $n = 68$ ) included the rich scientific content of the conference, the opportunities for networking, the conference organization, and an overall feeling of being energized and inspired by the event.

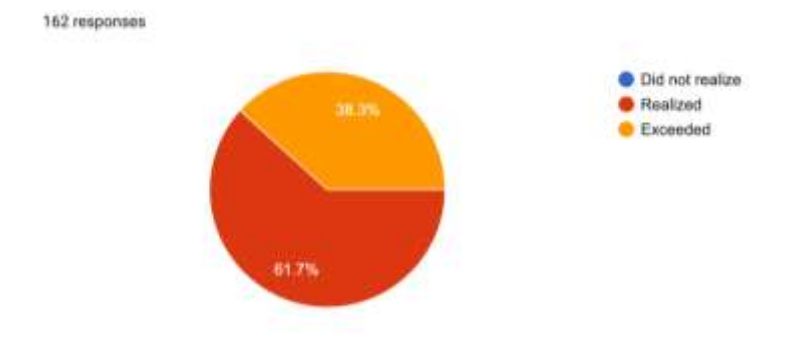


Figure 13. To what extent did the conference realize your expectations? ( $n = 162$ )

The overall evaluation of conference logistics was also overwhelmingly positive, with “excellent” as the most common response for all types of logistics assessed (Figure 14).

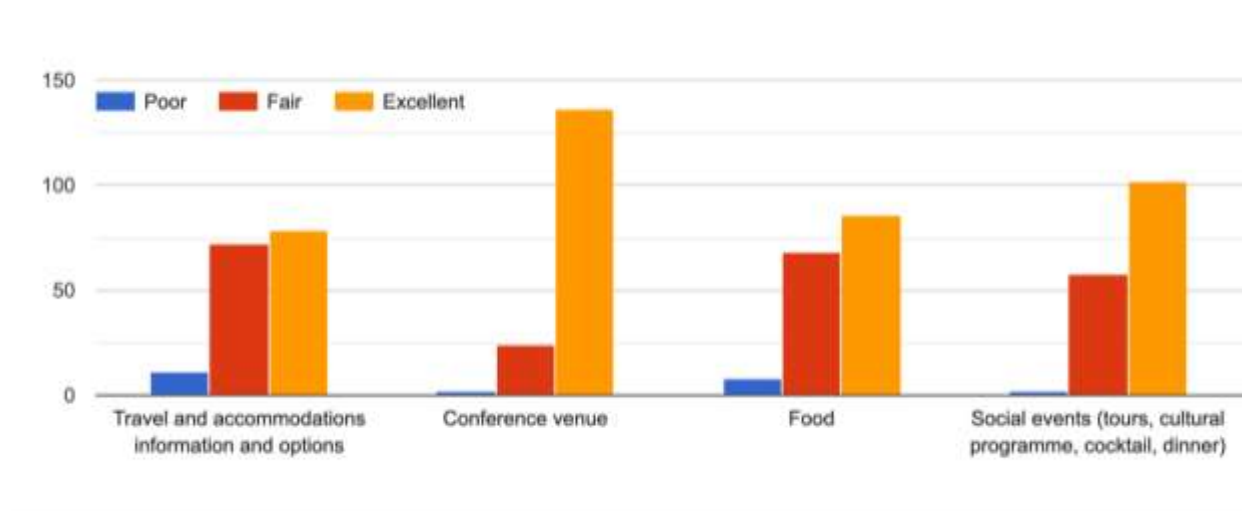


Figure 14. How would you evaluate the logistics of the conference? ( $n = 162$ )

The survey asked participants to rate **to what extent the conference achieved each of its objectives:**

1. Sharing advancements, evidence and innovations in research on gender and social inclusion in agri-food systems.
2. Strengthening capacities for gender and social inclusion research and practice on/in agri-food systems.
3. Strengthening social networks and partnerships among researchers, practitioners and other actors working toward just and resilient agri-food systems.

Responses were positive overall for all three objectives to different degrees (Figure 15). While participants overwhelmingly felt that the conference achieved goals 1 (knowledge-sharing) and 3 (networking) to a large extent, responses for goal 2 were more equally distributed between those who felt that this goal was achieved ‘to a large extent’ and those who believed it was achieved ‘to some extent.’ As such, if capacity-strengthening is a key objective of the conference, it may require increased emphasis in future conferences.

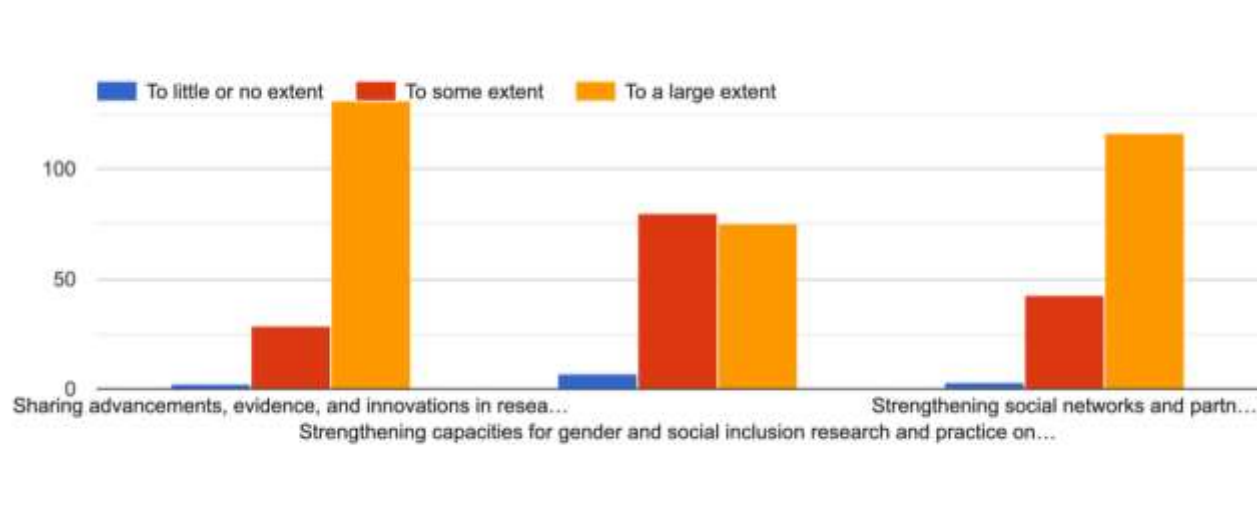


Figure 15. To what extent did the conference achieve its stated objectives? (*n* = 162)

Participants were also asked to identify critical gaps in the research presented that should be addressed as a priority. The strongest theme that arose from the responses was a perceived lack of concrete and actionable practical pathways for impact and solutions-based research (mentioned in 15 responses). Aside from this response, answers were extremely diverse, but the most common key words beside “impact” and “solutions” (with a combined eight mentions) were intersectionality (seven mentions), youth (four), and policy (four) (figure 16).



Figure 16. Word cloud created from responses to “Did you identify any critical gaps in the research presented that should be addressed as a priority?” ( $n = 105$ )

When participants were asked to select what they **liked most about the conference** ( $n = 162$ ), the most common answer was networking opportunities (44%), followed by capacity-strengthening opportunities (28%) and the scientific program (25%). The fourth and last response option—the exhibition and marketplace—was selected by just one respondent.

In terms of what participants **liked least about the conference**, responses were more fragmented ( $n = 162$ ). The most common answer was capacity-strengthening opportunities (24%), followed by the scientific program (15%) and networking opportunities (11%). However, when the text-based responses were included, the response that there was nothing participants disliked about the conference becomes the second-most common response at 21%. The remaining text-based responses are extremely varied, ranging from having too many session options to choose from and feeling overwhelmed, to finding the food too spicy.

Participants reported that they **would recommend participation in the next GENDER conference**, with 76% selecting that they would “very likely” recommend such a conference, and the rest (24%) selecting “likely” (Figure 17).

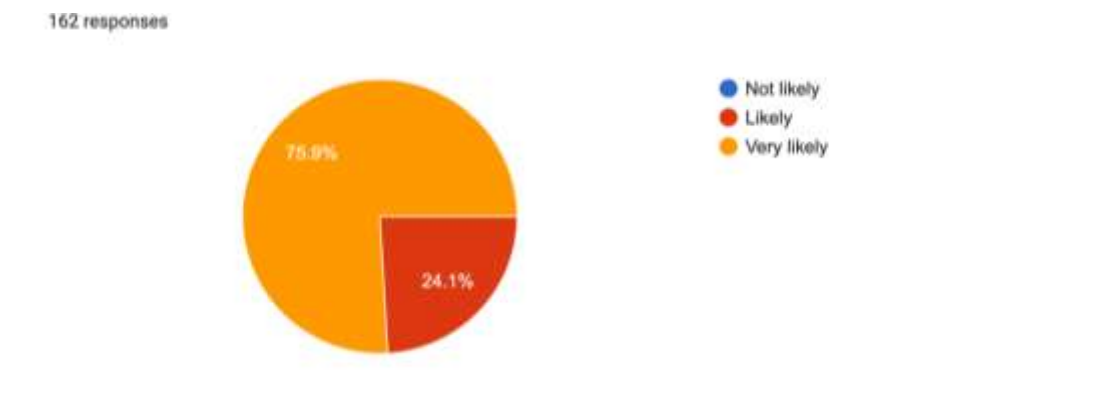


Figure 17. How likely are you to attend and/or recommend participation in the next GENDER conference? ( $n = 162$ )

When asked **what they would like to see (more of) in future conferences**, the most common themes in responses ( $n = 111$ ) were:

1. more diverse participation (22 mentions)
2. more interactive experiences including more capacity-building sessions (15 mentions)
3. more and different scientific content (12 mentions)
4. more time for formal and informal discussions and networking (10 mentions)
5. a less busy schedule (8 mentions).

In terms of more diverse participation, respondents especially wanted to hear more farmer and stakeholder voices and to have more representation of the private sector, civil society and practitioners. They also wanted to see a higher diversity of scientific disciplines, and especially to see a higher level of engagement of biophysical scientists in gender discussions.

Participants that called for a more interactive conference experience highlighted an interest in more capacity-building sessions, workshops, field trips and exposure visits; and more interactive formats such as theater and the arts. Suggestions for more and different content were extremely varied, but two key topics were most common: more materials focused on gender-transformative approaches, and more concrete evidence and implementation for impact.

In the spirit of this outward-facing event, participants were asked: “Drawing from the discussions this week, what is the **one key recommendation** you would offer **for researchers, policymakers and/or investors** in relation to gender in agri-food systems?” The written responses surfaced four key themes:

1. bridging research and impact
2. working closely with local actors with a sensitivity to local contexts
3. collaborating across sectors
4. using more responsible and innovative research approaches

More detailed recommendations gleaned from the open-ended responses are summarized according to these four themes in Table 5.

Table 5. Key recommendations for researchers, policymakers and/or investors ( $n = 126$ )

Recommendation	Key points for improvement
<b>Support the bridge from research to impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set action-oriented goals to keep up momentum toward impact.</li> <li>• Identify the bottlenecks impeding impact.</li> <li>• Identify what works and generate evidence for scalability.</li> <li>• Prioritize products that are accessible, actionable and results-oriented.</li> <li>• Measure and evaluate impact-oriented indicators.</li> <li>• Produce and disseminate impact stories.</li> </ul>
<b>Work more closely with local partners and local contexts to ground research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center stakeholders as the protagonists of initiatives.</li> <li>• Foster decolonial approaches and co-design development initiatives with stakeholders.</li> <li>• Design context-specific approaches and indicators.</li> <li>• Base research and development design in grounded realities and include ground-level impact targets.</li> <li>• Build capacity at the grassroots level to enable greater collaboration.</li> </ul>
<b>Foment greater interdisciplinary, multistakeholder and cross-sectoral collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize interdisciplinary networking during and outside of the conference.</li> <li>• Contribute to greater collaboration and cooperation between researchers, policymakers and/or investors.</li> <li>• Include a wider variety of stakeholders, researchers, policymakers and funders in discussions and decision-making spaces, with an emphasis on bringing those working at the grassroots level and the highest levels of policy and governance into the same space.</li> <li>• Co-create goals and pathways with actors at multiple scales and in multiple sectors for coordinated approaches.</li> <li>• Leverage collaboration among actors at different scales and experience levels to empower and build the capacity of those needing more support.</li> <li>• Create new multisectoral spaces, platforms and communities.</li> </ul>
<b>Innovate for future-leaning responsible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include gender from the earliest planning stages of initiatives.</li> <li>• Prioritize solutions-based approaches.</li> <li>• Support the development and implementation of rich and nuanced</li> </ul>

<p><b>research and programs</b></p>	<p>methodological approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include men and masculinities as a core tenet of gender work.</li> <li>• Foster multisectoral research for impact.</li> <li>• Focus on long-term funding and sustained support.</li> <li>• Coordinate research with policy for maximum impact.</li> <li>• Include youth as protagonists in agricultural development.</li> <li>• Focus on capacity-building at multiple levels and for different stakeholders, including for early-career researchers.</li> <li>• Employ and appropriately budget for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ strong gender analyses</li> <li>○ intersectional approaches</li> <li>○ gender-transformative approaches</li> <li>○ robust risk assessment and impact evaluations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Focus on accessible tools and actionable outputs rather than just academic outputs.</li> <li>• Place greater emphasis on supporting women’s leadership, building women’s confidence, and enabling women’s entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• Think big and be bold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Go beyond current priorities of development to imagine lasting positive change at multiple levels.</li> <li>○ Consider how to scale and coordinate solutions for maximum impact.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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# Lessons learned and issues for consideration in future conferences

Based on the reflections from the organizing committee and participant responses from the conference evaluation, the following points should be considered when planning future conferences:

- Make more concerted efforts to **promote balanced geographical diversity** in terms of research and participants. In particular, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe, South America, and Central America and the Caribbean were underrepresented in this year's content and attendance.
- Include **more community and stakeholder voices**.
- **Partner with more private sector and governments (via NARES) and nongovernmental organizations**.
- Bring **grassroots stakeholders and high-level policy makers together** in the same space and same discussions.
- Include structured and unstructured opportunities for **more networking at the multi and cross-disciplinary interface**.
- Encourage **more interactive activities and session formats**.
- Include **more diverse forms of knowledge-sharing**, such as theater and art.
- Use areas of research highlighted in the post-conference evaluation as **gaps or themes that attendees would like to see more of** in future conferences, by drawing attention to them (e.g., through the call for abstracts and selection criteria for scientific content). These areas were found to include;
  - o co-development, co-design and community-led development with a special emphasis on indigenous communities and decolonial approaches
  - o implementation, actionability and operationalization for impact and solution-based research and development outcomes
  - o research that includes men and masculinities as central to gender work
  - o a nuanced understanding of youth and youth issues
  - o robust intersectional approaches and empirical intersectional evidence
- For online voting, **ensure that access is restricted to the intended voter group** and that voting capabilities are turned off after the voting period is over.

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Conference committees and members

### International Advisory Committee

- Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR
- Dr. Temina Lalani-Shariff, Regional Director, Asia, CGIAR
- Dr. Chandra Shekara, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE
- Dr. Noline de Haan, Director, GENDER Impact Platform, CGIAR
- Prof. Andrew Campbell, Interim Executive Managing Director, CGIAR

### Core Organizing Committee

- Dr. Marlène Elias, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Dr. Seema Jaggi, ICAR (Organizing Secretary)
- Dr. Ranjitha Puskur, CGIAR (Organizing Secretary)
- Dr. Bikash Mandal, ICAR
- Dr. Veenita Kumari, MANAGE
- Dr. Jai C Rana, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Sonal D'souza, CGIAR

### Scientific Committee

- Dr. Marlène Elias, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Dr. Ranjitha Puskur, CGIAR, IRRI
- Dr. Seema Jaggi, ICAR
- Dr. Eileen Nchanji, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) (Theme 1 Lead)
- Sahar Alnouri, Mercy Corps (Theme 1 Lead)
- Dr. Esther Achandi, CGIAR, ILRI (Theme 2 Lead)
- Dr. Amon Mwiine, Makerere University (Theme 2 Lead)
- Dr. Vivian Polar, CGIAR, International Potato Center (CIP) (Theme 3 Lead)
- Dr. Vidya Vemireddy, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) (Theme 3 Lead)
- Dr. Rahma Adam, CGIAR, WorldFish (Theme 4 Lead)
- Sabdiyo Dido, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) (Theme 4 Lead)
- Dr. Neha Kumar, CGIAR, IFPRI (Theme 5 Lead)

- Dr. Sapna Desai, Population Council (Theme 5 Lead)
- Dr. Indika Arulingam, CGIAR, IWMI (Theme 6 Lead)
- Dr. Dorte Thorsen, Institute of Development Studies (Theme 6 Lead)
- Dr. R. R. Burman, ICAR
- Dr. Srinivas Rao, ICAR-NAARM
- Dr. Mridula Devi, ICAR-CIWA
- Dr. Pratap Birthal, ICAR-NIAP
- Dr. B. K. Das, ICAR-CIFRI

### Logistics Committee

- Celine D'Silva, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, ICAR
- Kris Ivanov, CGIAR
- Dr. Anil Kumar, ICAR
- Ravi Prakash, ICAR
- Vinay Prabhakar, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Dr. Marlène Elias, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Avni Mishra, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Alpcord Network representative

### Publicity, Press and Media Committee

- Marianne Gadeberg, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Dr. S. K. Malhotra, ICAR
- Mitali Ghosh, ICAR
- Vivian Atakos, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Nathan Ronoh, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Aparajita Kujur, CGIAR, IRRI
- Dr. Veenita Kumari, MANAGE
- Sarika Mittra, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Grey Matters Communications.

### Registration Committee

- Vivian Atakos, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Dr. Rajender Parsad, ICAR-IASRI
- Dr. Alka Singh, ICAR-IARI
- Prithivi Karinje, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Rashmi Yadav, ICAR-NBPGR
- Kriti Sharma, ICAR
- Rachael Mwangi, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Alpcord Network representative

### Partnerships and Invitation Committee

- Vivian Atakos, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Dr. S. K. Sharma, ICAR
- Dr. C Vishwanathan, ICAR-IARI
- Dr. Marlène Elias, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Sonal D'souza, CGIAR
- Dr. Nicoline de Haan, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform

### Publication Committee

- Marianne Gadeberg, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Dr. Neeru Bhushan, ICAR
- Dr. Anupama Singh, ICAR-IARI
- Dr. Rabindra Padaria, ICAR-IARI
- Nathan Ronoh, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Sarika Mittra, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Haley Zaremba, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Alpcord Network representative

### Stage and Hall Management Committee

- Vivian Atakos, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Dr. Anil Raj, ICAR
- Dr. K. P. Singh, ICAR

- Mr. Sumit Kumar Jindal, ICAR
- Mr. Kumar Rajesh, ICAR
- Kris Ivanov, CGIAR
- Manjusha Verma, ICAR
- Alpcord Network representative
- Nathan Ronoh, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform

### Poster Committee

- Avni Mishra, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Dr. Ranjay Kumar Singh, ICAR
- Dr. Satyapriya, ICAR-IARI
- Dr. Abolore Bello, CGIAR, IITA
- Rakesh Bhardwaj, ICAR
- Katie Tavenner, CGIAR
- Alpcord Network representative

### Local Organizing Committee

- Dr. Marlène Elias, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Dr. Rajbir Singh, ICAR
- Dr. Rashmi Agarwal, ICAR-Emeritus Scientist, ICAR-IARI
- Dr. Alexandra Schindler, CGIAR, IWMI
- Avni Mishra, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Dr. Gaudiose Mujawamariya, CGIAR, AfricaRice
- Niyati Singaraju, CGIAR, IRRI
- Dr. Olamide Nwanze, CGIAR, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- Dr. Sonali Singh, CGIAR, IFPRI
- Susan Ajambo, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

### Social events and tours

- Celine D'Silva, CGIAR, Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Kris Ivanov, CGIAR
- Dr. Bimlesh Mann, ICAR
- Dr. Robin Gogoi, ICAR-IARI

- Dr. Monika Viswanathan, ICAR-IARI
- Avni Mishra, CGIAR, GENDER Impact Platform
- Alpcord Network representative

### Showcase/craft market

- Roma Oli, CGIAR, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Dr. Veenita Kumar, MANAGE
- Dr. D. K. Yadav, ICAR
- Dr. Shubhadeep Ghosh, ICAR
- Dr. Anuradha Agarwal, ICAR
- Dr. A. K. Panda, ICAR-CIWA
- Aparajita Kujur, CGIAR, IRRI

## Annex 2: Plenary recordings

Day 1: Inaugural ceremony with Chief Guest Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cirQK0vDyZ4>

Day 1 (Opening) Plenary: Keynote by Amitabh Kant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKFUS20YXH0>

Day 2 Plenary: "Grounding the research: Experiences from the field."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUTj8-1BhU0>

Day 3 Plenary: "From research to impact: Towards agri-food systems transformation"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbKB0FWBI\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbKB0FWBI_s)

Day 4 (Closing) Plenary: "Looking forward: Reflections and learnings for inspiring change"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a87SPqSNTe4>

## Annex 3: Rapporteur template

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session name and number:

Session date:

Presenters:

Name of rapporteur:

Approx. number of participants (# of women & # of men):

**A. Please provide 3-5 main points from presentations and/or discussions**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**B. Highlights: Interesting quote(s), question(s), issue(s) or idea(s) emerging from presentations and discussions**

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**C. Were any research gaps identified?**

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**D. Did any new research directions emerge from the session?**

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## Annex 4: Post conference evaluation questionnaire

\*Indicates that the question is required

1. To what extent did the conference realize your expectations? \*

Did not realize       Realized       Exceeded

Please feel free to explain your answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. To what extent did the conference achieve each of the following objectives: \*

a. Sharing advancements, evidence, and innovations in research on gender and social inclusion in agri-food systems

To little or no extent     To some extent     To a large extent

b. Strengthening capacities for gender and social inclusion research and practice on/in agri-food systems

To little or no extent     To some extent     To a large extent

c. Strengthening social networks and partnerships among researchers, practitioners, and other actors working towards just and resilient agri-food systems

To little or no extent     To some extent     To a large extent

3. Drawing from the discussions this week, what is the one key recommendation you would offer for researchers, policymakers, and/or investors in relation to gender in agri-food systems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Did you identify any critical gaps in the research presented that should be addressed as a priority? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did you like the most about the conference? [choose one] \*

Scientific programme

Capacity strengthening opportunities

Networking opportunities

Exhibition and marketplace

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did you like least about the conference? [choose one] \*

Scientific programme

Capacity strengthening opportunities

Networking opportunities

7. What would you like to see (more of) in future conferences? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

—

8. How would you evaluate the logistics of the conference? \*

a. Travel and accommodations information and options

Poor       Fair       Excellent

b. Conference venue

Poor       Fair       Excellent

c. Food

Poor       Fair       Excellent

d. Social events (tours, cultural programme, cocktail, dinner)

Poor       Fair       Excellent

9. How likely are you to attend and/or recommend participation in the next GENDER conference?

Not likely     Likely       Fairly likely



GENDER (Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results) puts equality at the forefront of global agricultural research for development to kick-start a process of genuine change towards greater gender equality, improved opportunities for youth and social inclusion.

GENDER is a CGIAR impact platform that synthesizes and amplifies research, fills gaps, builds capacity and sets directions to enable CGIAR to have maximum impact. CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future dedicated to transforming food, land and water systems in a climate crisis.

GENDER is grateful for the support of CGIAR Trust Fund contributors.

<https://gender.cgiar.org/>



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The Council is the apex body for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture, including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. With 113 ICAR institutes and 74 agricultural universities spread across the country, this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world. It is engaged in cutting-edge areas of science and technology development and its scientists are internationally acknowledged in their fields.

<https://icar.org.in/>