

## 9. Mainstreaming gender and equity in CPR5

The inclusion of gender as a key analytical variable is good science. It will provide more detailed knowledge and insights into farming systems and practices, technology adoption rates, extension methods, and will lead to the development of agricultural policies that will be of equal benefit to male and female farmers, fishers, and pastoralists.

It has long been recognized that women are central actors in agricultural production but that most have unequal access to land, technology, credit, education and other resources. This is mainly due to prevailing cultural norms, which are often reinforced by legal instruments. Figure 9.1 illustrates five key areas of agricultural research that can be, and usually are, strongly impacted by gender. Men and women have different levels of access to all of these resources, but there are also big differences within groups of men and groups of women, depending on their social class, caste, wealth, level of education.

Figure 9.1. Gender differentials in rural livelihoods



CRP5 recognizes that a rethinking of approach is necessary to ensure that the rural poor gain adequate access to and input into the development of science and technology-based applications aimed at making their work easier. Women farmers should be seen as the innovators they are, rather than as passive recipients of information through extension systems. A bottom-up approach is needed where they are seen as actors and fully involved in the process of science and technology development and dissemination. By introducing gender analysis as a core methodology within CPR5, the SRPs will be able to isolate and analyze the extent to which the uptake of new technologies and approaches will be affected by gender-related obstacles and barriers.

## 9.1. Approach

Several measures will be taken to ensure that gender is mainstreamed through CPR5 and all the SRPs:

- A CPR5 Gender Strategy will provide guiding principles for research in all the SRPs.
- A gender and equity (G&E) leader will be appointed, reporting directly to the CRP leader.
- Certain team members will be appointed as G&E focal points in each SRP.
- A G&E team made up of the G&E Leader, focal points and outside specialists as needed will work with the SRPs to provide expertise and resources to support consideration of gender within each of them and to ensure that programs are designed so that later monitoring and evaluation can examine gender and equity impacts.
- The G&E team will oversee the creation of internal capacity building for gender disaggregated research and partnership building with policymakers, NGOs, senior program managers, private investors, and centers of excellence in gender studies.
- A small G&E grant competition will be established to cover innovative research components or projects that link gender, equity issues, environment and food production.

The role of the gender focal points in each SRP will be of primary importance in implementing the CRP5 gender strategy. Focal points should be experienced and respected scientists, both male and female, who have a good understanding of the role of gender analysis in research on agriculture. Similarly, the G&E team should have a good balance of male and female members.

## 9.2. The CRP5 gender strategy

The gender strategy contributes to the CRP5 goal to sustainably improve livelihoods, reduce poverty, and ensure food security through research-based solutions to water scarcity, land degradation and ecosystems sustainability. The gender team must ensure that gender and equity objectives, indicators, analysis and evaluations are incorporated into research projects where and whenever this is relevant. The work supported under CRP5 is intended to be pro-poor and, since women are overrepresented among the rural poor, explicit attention will be given to gender-based inequities. An gender analysis should be undertaken whenever and wherever it is appropriate.

“Not appropriate” – and therefore not necessary – is too often the default assumption. For example, remote sensing data do not seem to relate to people directly, but when you look at who farms in rainfed areas, we find quite a high proportion of women. When we look, for example, at how irrigation systems are spreading, we will find that women are less likely to be benefiting. When we look at how river basins are being reengineered, we will find that planners are not given due attention to women’s needs. Finally, when remote sensing researchers talk to communities about land and water use, they have in the past been less likely to be talking to women or to the least empowered members of the community.

The specific objectives are to:

- ensure that all research and associated work undertaken in CRP5 is pro-poor and benefits both men and women

- ensure that, where appropriate, all data are sex-disaggregated and analyzed from the perspective of gender and other factors that relate to equity issues
- examine the extent to which male and female farmers have different adoption rates and identify gender-specific barriers that may work against adoption
- identify gender bias in agricultural policy and in extension systems
- improve women's access to and involvement in the management of major resources, including land, water, infrastructure and other public services
- develop gender-sensitive policies for land and water management.

While not all projects in CRP5 will directly address all these objectives, most should include one or more in their research design.

### ***Implementation of the gender strategy***

**Research Design.** The G&E focal point in each SRP should work with his/her colleagues to introduce gender-sensitive questions and tools into the research design. When necessary, additional technical support can be provided by the G&E team.

At least some of the research objectives for each project should refer explicitly to anticipated gender outcomes. Baseline studies will be undertaken to collect information on male and female stakeholders, their separate and communal activities, and their separate needs and priorities. Gender-sensitive baseline data will provide a standard against which project impact can later be assessed. The type of data will vary depending on the specific project, but it could include:

- age
- education
- marital status/stage in the life cycle, i.e. whether women have young children whose care limits their time for agricultural and/or community works to improve water, land, soils or ecosystems, or have older children/daughters-in-law who can provide labor
- wealth, i.e. access to land, livestock and productive assets, experience/skills in agriculture and indigenous knowledge, etc.

**Research implementation.** While the gender focal points in each SRP will act as resource persons, team members will be responsible for doing the gender-related research themselves. Ideally, the gender aspect of research projects will not be 'add-ons' but will be a central part of the research design, with full support from all research team members.

**Monitoring and evaluation.** Monitoring and evaluation should be ongoing throughout the projects, and each SRP will develop a set of gender indicators that will allow it to judge at different stages whether it is meeting the project objectives and to make corrections as necessary. Research teams can make use of the impact pathways methodology developed within the CGIAR system or other appropriate tools, but in either case they will set gender-specific outcome targets. For example, researchers might question the extent to which women farmers are receiving support from extension services or they might ask whether the views of both men and women have been sought in testing an innovation.

**Small grants program.** The G&E team will manage a small grants program to support innovative research on gender and/or to test new tools and methodologies. Grants will be made

available annually on a competitive basis to researchers in CRP5. While most grants will support stand-alone projects, a few will be available to add a gender component to larger projects that are already underway.

*Capacity building.* In some cases, gender analysis skills are not present in SRPs. It may be necessary for the person assigned as G&E focal point to participate in short training programs set up by the G&E team to learn about the methods and tools that can be used to do gender-sensitive research. When teams already include an experienced member, he or she may be the only researcher with such knowledge. However, there is great potential for these isolated researchers to network across SRPs and to learn from one another. The G&E team will organize regular research fora where focal points can present their ongoing work and receive constructive feedback from other members of the team. Since CPR5 considers gender analysis to be good science, it is important that all team members have at least a rudimentary understanding of gender concepts and applications. Consequently, the G&E team will prepare a set of introductory tools that can be used for reference.

*Global gender conference.* As part of its commitment to gender-sensitive research, CRP5 will co-organize as one of its first activities a Global Conference on Gender in Agricultural Land and Water Management. There has not been such a conference since the Gender Analysis and Reform of Irrigation Management conference held in Sri Lanka in 1997.

*Accountability framework.* Senior management has made a firm commitment to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into CPR5. It is expected that all SRPs will appoint a gender focal point and will incorporate gender-sensitive objectives into their research.