



CGIAR Gender Research Action Plan Brief Series: An Overview

About gender in agriculture

Agriculture is under-performing because of women's unequal access to productive resources. At the same time agriculture also faces formidable challenges; from increased food demand to climate change impacts. Closing these gender gaps, therefore, is beneficial for not only women and men but also agriculture.

Integrating Gender

The integration of gender in CGIAR research has been described as “the litmus test of the CGIAR reform.” For decades, CGIAR has paid only modest attention to the implications of gender inequality and social difference, thereby limiting its potential for impact.

CGIAR Reform

Throughout the reform and the first phase of CGIAR Research Programs (2010-2016), the System has taken various concrete steps to further gender research across the system.

The first, was to commission a Scoping Study on Gender (2010) to analyze the performance of the CGIAR system in gender research over the past 20 years.

The second, was the development and approval of the Consortium Level Gender Strategy (2011) and the development of a Gender Research Strategy by all CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs).

A third was the systematic, annual monitoring of gender in research planning, budgeting and reporting.

The fourth and final, was the Gender Research Action Plan which undertook some additional measures designed to improve the process of mainstreaming gender research in all the CRPs, including technical support from a Senior Advisor for gender research, and the formation of a Network of CRP gender researchers which, in December 2016, included more than 200 members from across CGIAR, including partners.

A Gender Research Action Plan

CGIAR was charged by the Fund Council to build on gender and diversity programming initiated in the early 1990s, as well as the opportunity created by the new, global research programs, to adopt a more systematic approach for addressing gender issues in agriculture.

With the aim of accelerating the development of capacity for research on gender in CGIAR, the System undertook the Gender Research Action Plan (CGIAR Consortium, 2014) developed with support from the CGIAR Fund Council. Consortium, 2014).

The Action Plan has accelerated the building of a critical mass of gender research capacity by expanding the intake of young scientists who are developing the unique expertise necessary, to apply gender analysis in technical, agricultural and natural resource management research. A cohort of young gender researchers has been formed, who

are supported with mentoring and training by their CGIAR supervisors and University partners, including a commitment from the Programs to hire them as staff when the opportunity exists to do so.

Added to this, the Action Plan has fostered knowledge sharing and research collaboration towards more impactful research, especially in agri-food systems and natural resource management.

About gender in CGIAR

Adopted in 2012, the CGIAR system level gender strategy set the agenda for how all new global CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) would integrate gender into research activities.

The Gender Research Action Plan (GRAP) was resourced by the CGIAR Fund Council to address the need to enhance capacity development in gender analysis for agriculture in the CRPs.

The CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network was a cross-CGIAR Research Program community of practice for researchers, principally social scientists, whose work focused on or included gender. As of 2017, the Network has evolved into the CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research hosted by the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM) and coordinated by the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam.

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About this brief series

The four briefs in this series provide a final report of the activities, achievements and lessons learned in the Gender Research Action Plan.

These briefs are intended to (1) provide an overview of activities, achievements, lessons learned and opportunities in key areas, (2) provide support and resources for members of the network to more rapidly implement collaborative work in Phase II of the CRPs, and (3) facilitate members' knowledge sharing, given different levels and types of gender expertise, through more effective and accessible mechanisms for cross-learning and good practice exchanges via the Gender Network.

These briefs were prepared for the CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network by the CGIAR Gender Network Coordination Team at the CGIAR System Management Office with support from the knowledge sharing support team of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

The views expressed in this document are solely those of the authors and cannot be taken to reflect the official opinions of the CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network.

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Cover photo: Innovation in Dakar's suburbs A young mother selling fish in the urban region of Yoff, Senegal. Photo from Bioversity International. Credit: Sandro Bozzolo, 2016.



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