CGIAR

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

FTA HIGHLIGHTS OF A DECADE
2011-2021

Advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Ten years of
forests, trees and agroforestry
research in partnership for
sustainable development

About the FTA Highlights series

This publication is part of a series that highlights the main findings, results and achievements of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA), from 2011 to 2021 (see full list of chapters on the last page).

FTA, the world's largest research for development partnership on forests, trees and agroforestry, started in 2011. FTA gathers partners that work across a range of projects and initiatives, organized around a set of operational priorities. Such research was funded by multiple sources: CGIAR funders through program-level funding, and funders of bilateral projects attached to the programme, undertaken by one or several of its partners. Overall this represented an effort of about 850 million USD over a decade.

The ambition of this series is, on each topic, to show the actual contributions of FTA to research and development challenges and solutions over a decade. It features the work undertaken as part of the FTA program, by the strategic partners of FTA (CIFOR-ICRAF, The Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, CATIE, CIRAD, Tropenbos and INBAR) and/or with other international and national partners. Such work is presented indifferently in the text as work "from FTA" and/or from the particular partner/organization that led it. Most of the references cited are from the FTA program.

This series was elaborated under the leadership of the FTA Director, overall guidance of an Editorial Committee constituted by the Management Team of FTA, support from the FTA Senior Technical Advisor, and oversight of the FTA Independent Steering Committee whose independent members acted as peer-reviewers of all the volumes in the series.

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FTA HIGHLIGHTS OF A DECADE
2011-2021

Advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

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The final content remains the sole responsibility of the authors.

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List of acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIAT	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CRP	CGIAR Research Program
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FTA	CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ISPC	Independent Science and Partnership Council
IUFRO	International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
PEN	Poverty-Environment Network
PES	Payments for ecosystem services
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFP	World Food Programme

Executive summary

This publication reflects on FTA's decade-long journey to advance gender equality in forest, tree and agroforestry landscapes to glean lessons and continue building on the achievements of the Program. The discussion follows the two interconnected and mutually-reinforcing strands detailed in the FTA Gender Strategy (2013) and Revised Research Agenda and Action Plan (2020) to achieve this goal. The first strand focuses on the research itself and the partnerships and processes that allow it to translate into outcomes and impacts of various types. The second strand, which this publication tackles at the beginning, focuses on efforts to strengthen gender integration within FTA: generating the necessary capacities, mindsets, and enabling environment to integrate gender across the FTA research portfolio, processes and structures, and to generate quality gender-focused research. The publication moves from local-level changes to high-level discourses and agendas to examine the strategies that enabled change across these scales, critically reflecting on the challenges encountered along the way. Finally, priorities are considered and an agenda for future gender research is proposed, one that can contribute to the creation of equitable, inclusive and sustainable forest, tree and agroforestry landscapes.

1. Introduction

The CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) focuses on enhancing livelihoods through forest, tree, and agroforestry systems, and on enhancing and protecting natural resources. With an estimated 1.6 billion people living in or near forests (Newton et al. 2020), many of whom depend on forests and trees — including trees on farms — for their livelihoods, forest, tree and agroforestry systems have much to contribute to addressing inequalities between women and men, and empowering disadvantaged women in ways that contribute to sustainable landscapes. For the FTA program, with a key focus on policies, institutions and governance, gender inequalities present structural barriers to the change that is needed to support sustainable and equitable development solutions in landscapes and along value chains. Hence, concerns for gender equality have been carefully integrated into FTA. In addition to conducting research specifically on gender and on women's and men's empowerment, FTA has mainstreamed gender throughout its research portfolio, aiming to make transformative change at multiple scales, from local to global levels.

FTA's Gender Strategy (CIFOR 2013d) was one of the first CRP gender strategies to be approved by the Independent Science and Partnership Council and the Consortium Office. It outlines the critical roles that both women and men play in managing forests, agroforestry and tree resources across the developing world, and the importance for research to add more weight to knowledge generation and transmission that can help redress gender inequities in resources and benefits. It recognizes the need to achieve greater gender equity as a goal in its own right, and as a means for more effective natural resource management.

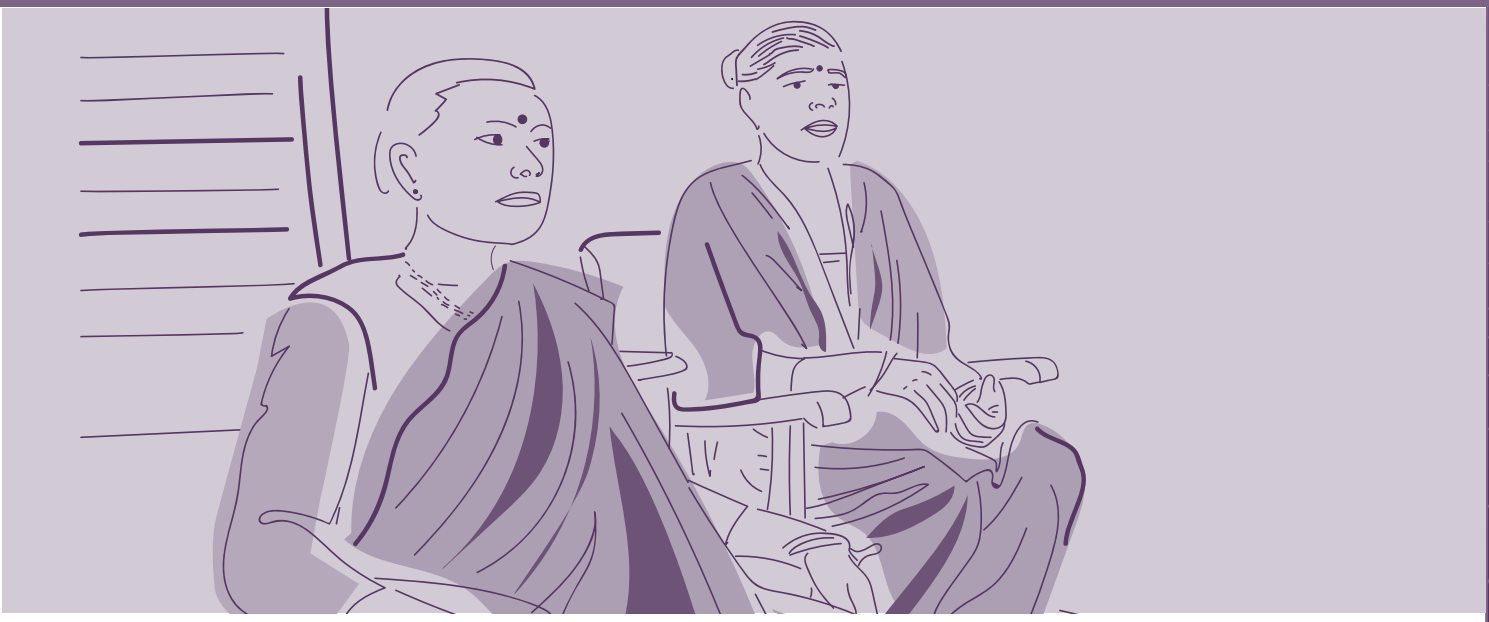
FTA's research agenda has evolved since its inception, and so too has its portfolio of gender and social inclusion research. A revised research agenda and action plan (CGIAR FTA 2020) draws on a tradition of quality gender work within FTA centres and complemented FTA's original Gender Strategy (CIFOR 2013d). It reflects the evolution of the program into areas where gender is key, such as increased emphasis on international policy processes, and on sustainable value chains and finance. It also reflects thematic and methodological developments in gender research and practice, and increased the focus on the links between gender and generation (including youth issues) as well as efforts to make FTA's research increasingly transformative. These two documents have been a roadmap for FTA's gender research over the years.

This publication reflects on FTA's nearly decade-long journey to advance gender equality in forest, tree and agroforestry landscapes to glean lessons and build on the achievements of the program. The discussion follows FTA's Theory of Change related to gender and inclusion, comprising two interconnected and mutually reinforcing strands to achieve this goal (Figure 1).

This publication reviews local-level changes and high-level processes and agendas, examining the strategies that enabled change and critically reflecting on the challenges encountered along the way. It also sets out an agenda for future gender research that can build on the momentum FTA has achieved to further contribute to the creation of equitable, inclusive, and sustainable forest, tree and agroforestry landscapes.

Woman carrying vegetables, Yangole, DRC.

Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR



2. Integrating gender in FTA

2.1 Foundational moments

FTA's commitment to addressing gender equality has been recognized in numerous assessments and evaluations since its inception. In its commentary on the first phase proposal of FTA, the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC 2011, 3) notes that FTA thoroughly and thoughtfully addresses gender "both in terms of the gender-specific aspects of the research questions addressed, and also as a major cross-cutting theme," going "beyond the research stage to recognize the need to ensure that outputs get translated into gender-positive outcomes and on to impacts on the ground" (ibid.). FTA's gender research builds on CGIAR work that preceded the CRP, yet pursuit of this research as a coherent and coordinated body of work across contributing centres grew with the CRP itself. In 2012, as the CRPs were launched, FTA developed a strategy for gender integration and research that included an accountability framework, a substantial budget for gender research and integration, and an envisioned pathway for achieving impacts on gender relations, with clear goals, outcomes and indicators (CIFOR 2013a, b). The strategy emphasized knowledge-sharing on gender in relation to FTA's thematic/programmatic research areas (Flagship Programs) and gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation for adaptive learning. Moreover, it called for a gender team to oversee its implementation.

[1] The CRP had two phases: Phase I from 2012 to 2016 and Phase II from 2017 to 2021.

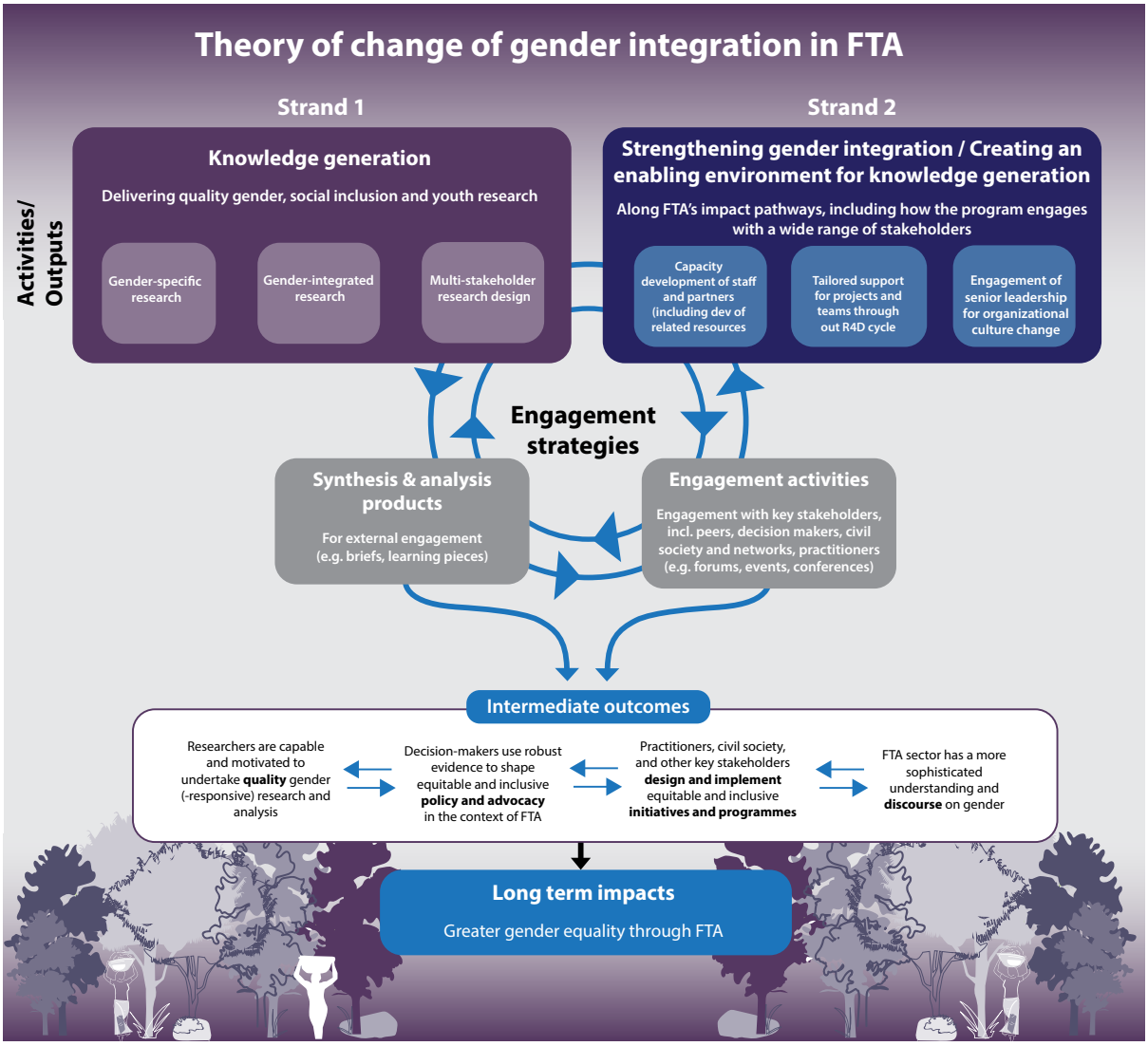


Figure 1. Theory of change of gender integration in FTA. Source: CGIAR FTA 2020

The FTA Gender Strategy (CIFOR 2013d), and later, the Revised Agenda and Action Plan (CGIAR FTA 2020) followed a multi-pronged approach, characterized by two main, mutually supportive strands of work (Figure 1). One strand centres on **knowledge generation and delivering quality gender and social inclusion research**. The other strand, which is discussed first in this publication, focuses on **strengthening gender integration in FTA's institutional structures:** generating the necessary capacities and mindsets and the enabling environment to integrate gender across FTA's research and processes and structures, and to generate quality gender-focused research. This other strand emphasizes engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in order to remain relevant and demand-driven and to enhance impacts. The two strands interact; the enabling environment

(Strand on the right), which nurtures researcher capacities and motivations to undertake gender-responsive research, underpins knowledge generation and impacts (Strand on the left), and FTA research feeds into the resources and approaches in FTA's gender integration processes.

Members of FTA's gender team were gender specialists from four of FTA's managing partners: Bioversity International, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). Gender team members worked and liaised with other FTA scientists and partners, and provided them with sustained, tailored support, working collaboratively to produce gender research, outreach and communications outputs, and to engage stakeholders on gender and natural resource management. Between 2013 and 2021, the gender team had between four and seven members, with dedicated time to support gender integration. Annual work plans were discussed and formulated within the team, with inputs from FTA's thematic flagship leaders and gender researchers. Rotational leadership, vested in the Gender Research Coordinator, ensured that responsibilities, opportunities and budgets were shared among gender team members. One member served as a focal point for each Flagship Program, to contribute to the preparation of gender-sensitive program workplans. The Independent Evaluation Arrangement's (IEA) Evaluation of Gender in CGIAR (CGIAR-IEA 2017, 71) notes this as a good practice. Indeed, the inter-centre coordination team, high-level FTA support, and funding for gender integration and research for each FTA centre proved to be critical components of what would become a successful gender integration strategy for the CRP (CGIAR-IEA 2017; Charles Darwin University 2019).

2.2 Changing mindsets

FTA's gender research and actions sought to effect changes in capacities to integrate gender considerations within FTA itself, and in the forestry and agroforestry sectors more generally, and to translate these changes into enhanced gender equality on the ground. This was achieved in five primary ways:

1. creating tools and resources for integrating gender into project design;
2. strengthening capacities for gender analysis and gender-responsive research through workshops and training;
3. establishing a Gender Research Fellowship Programme;
4. strategic positioning of gender research within the Flagship Programs; and holding interdisciplinary dialogues within FTA.

Since the CRP's inception, the gender team and other gender scientists have developed more than 20 **general tools and resource materials** (as well as thematically-focused ones, discussed below) **to support gender integration**, for the use of FTA scientists and other stakeholders (researchers, practitioners, policymakers) in forestry and agroforestry. These tools ranged from guides and analytical frameworks describing the various ways in which gender relates to forestry research (Manfre and Rubin 2012; CIFOR 2013c; Colfer 2013), to strategies, methods and tools for conducting gender-responsive research and communications (CIFOR 2013b; Elias 2013a,b; Catacutan et al. 2014; Elias and Hermanowicz 2016; Colfer et al. 2018).[2] Resource materials[3] took multiple forms and were written in accessible language for non-specialists. Some were translated into several languages. On the whole, they have been highly used and cited not only within FTA, but throughout CGIAR and beyond, by a range of researchers and practitioners working on natural resources management.

A woman in Indonesia carries a sack of sago pith as her husband harvests sago, known as pangkur.

Photo by Ulet Ifansasti/CIFOR

[2] For example, one tool – the Gender Equality in Research Scale (GEIRS; see CGIAR FTA 2019 and Paez et al. 2019) – was designed to support project design and monitoring and learning for gender integration, and was rolled out across the FTA portfolio in 2015. This enabled research teams to identify strategies for achieving higher levels of gender integration, and the gender team to better direct its support within FTA by examining the distribution of projects along a continuum of gender integration.

[3] https://www2.cifor.org/gender/tools-manuals/.

The gender team also conducted **capacity-strengthening workshops and training** for thousands of FTA scientists, partner organizations and other stakeholders in the forestry and agroforestry sectors. Like the tools produced, these were more basic and general at the beginning of FTA and increased in thematic sophistication throughout FTA's lifespan. Training was delivered according to skill level, and used a range of methods, from agent-based modeling and role-play games to surveys and more participatory approaches, drawing on the latest FTA research (Villamor et al. 2012; Basilio and Fernandez 2014; Elias et al. 2014; Villamor 2014). This training addressed various themes,[4] such as forest landscape monitoring (e.g. Sentinel Landscapes — Rubin et al. 2013), forestry value chains, and tenure relations in Latin America.

In addition, FTA ran two phases[5] of a **Gender Research Fellowship Programme**. Fellows were mentored by FTA gender specialists and integrated in project teams to spread learning out across the FTA portfolio. Fellows participated in learning workshops, wrote papers,[6] including a special issue (Elias et al. 2017b), and participated in international conferences[7] to strengthen their capacities. The Fellowship Programme created a community of practice on gender within FTA and enhanced the overall gender-responsiveness of the FTA portfolio (Thull et al. 2015).

Importantly, FTA **strategically positioned its gender research within the Flagship Programs**, so that key gender considerations could influence the direction of their research agendas. For each program, gender research questions were jointly developed by gender team members and the program leaders (Figure 2),[8] and gender research activities were carried out in the programs' priority geographical areas, where partnerships could be leveraged to inform policy and practice. The CGIAR-IEA (2017) Evaluation of Gender in CGIAR acknowledges the value of this strong collaboration between the gender team and Flagship Program leads in setting priorities. Examples of this integration and alignment include technical workstreams dedicated to inclusive landscape governance and to inclusive value chains, finance and investments at the FTA Science Conference (2020),[9] which included several contributions on gender.

[4] https://www.worldagroforestry.org/sites/default/files/Gender%20cross-cutting%20theme%20newsletter%20N.1.pdf
[5] https://www.bioversityinternational.org/news/detail/round-two-of-the-gender-research-fellowship-programme-takes-off-in-nairobi/
[6] https://blogarchiv.tropentag.de/node/638
[7] https://www.bioversityinternational.org/news/detail/case-studies-from-around-the-globe-show-that-gender-responsive-participatory-research-is-the-way-to/
[8] The five Flagship Programs to which these questions relate, in Phase 2 of FTA, are: 1. Tree genetic resources to bridge production gaps and promote resilience; 2. Enhancing how trees and forests contribute to smallholder livelihoods; 3. Sustainable global value chains and investments for supporting forest conservation and equitable development; 4. Landscape dynamics, productivity and resilience; and 5. Climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities in forests, trees and agroforestry.
[9] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/fta-2020-science-conference-forests-trees-and-agroforestry-science-for-transformational-change/

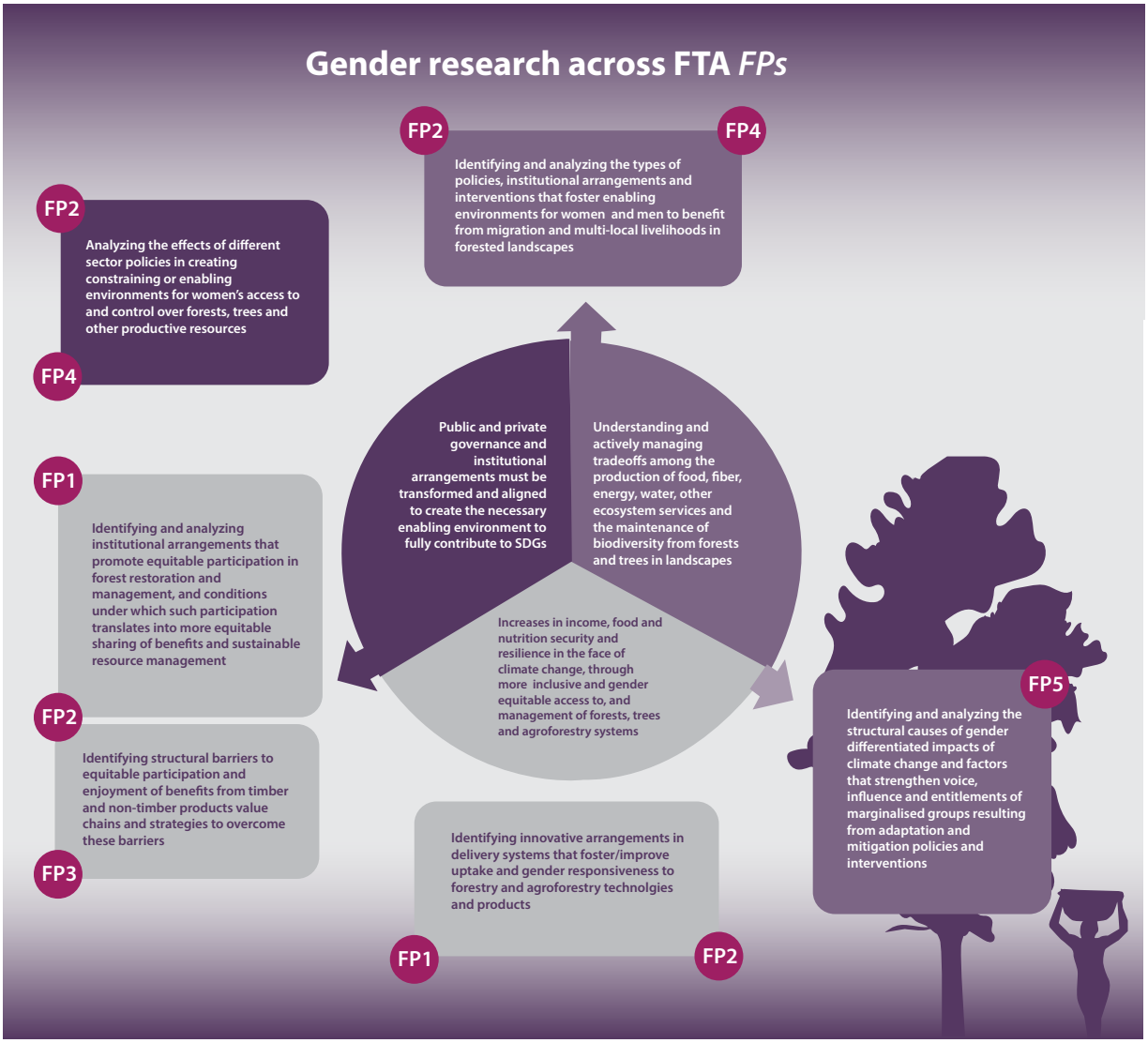
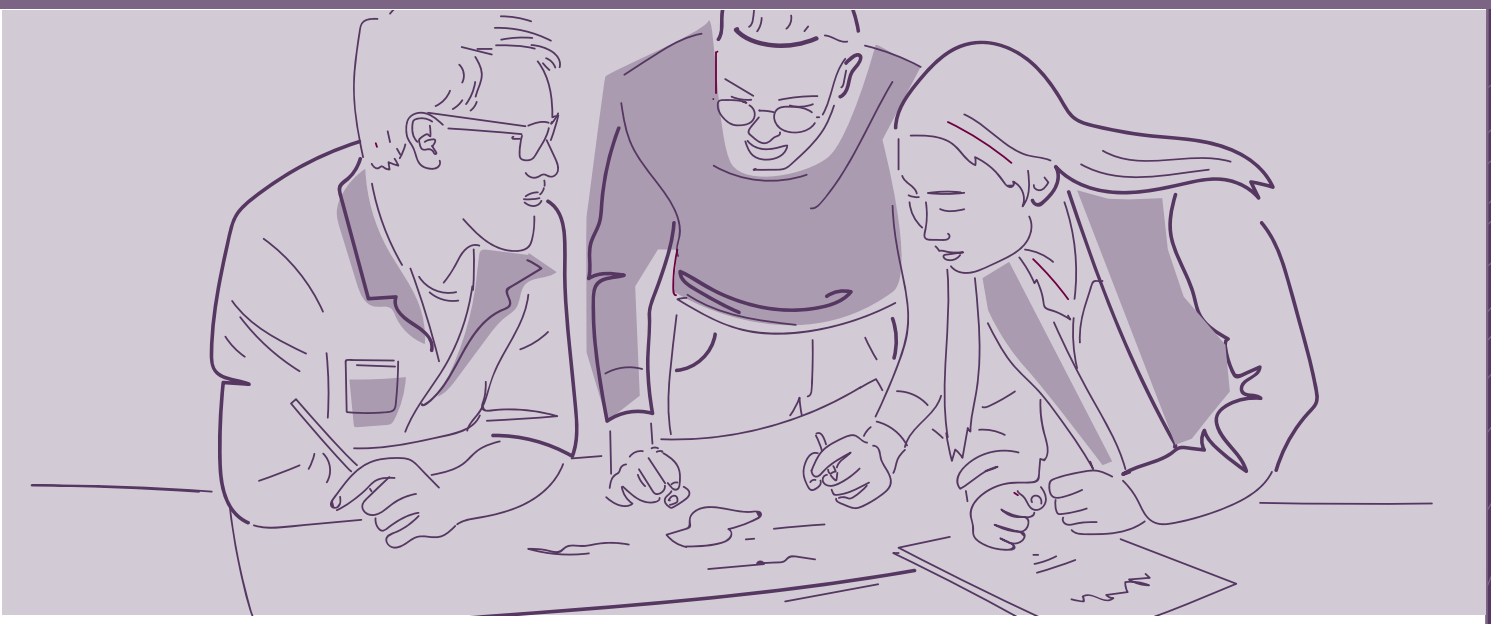


Figure 2. Gender research across FTA FPs. Source: CGIAR FTA 2020

The gender team also worked closely with colleagues across FTA's Flagship Programs to engage in **interdisciplinary dialogues and to ground gender research in specific forest, tree and agroforestry issues**, providing tailored support for gender integration. Gender scientists were embedded in FTA proposals and led gender research-focused proposals, and gender served as a platform for convening FTA scientists (e.g. around a gender-responsive research agenda on forest and tree-based value chains). Lessons learned from FTA's effective interdisciplinary, experiential learning process have been shared with other development and environmental organizations who seek to meaningfully integrate gender in their institutions and agendas (Elmhirst et al. 2020).



3. How the research is carried out

Building the evidence

Gender integration processes within FTA, including tools and training, rely on FTA's growing body of evidence on the gender inequalities that shape rural women's and men's ability to influence decisions about, have access to and control over, and benefit from forest and tree resources. Much of FTA's gender research has focused on how these inequalities are produced and perpetuated through institutions and structures, both formal (e.g. policies, programmes) and informal (e.g. norms, traditions and beliefs). The work aims to improve gender research methodologies, concepts and approaches in relation to: 1) intersectionality; 2) rural youth; 3) gender norms and gender transformative approaches; and 4) participatory research. Moreover, FTA research has contributed to filling gaps in evidence and knowledge on gender in relation to forests and agroforestry under five key themes:

1. gendered agroecological knowledge, roles, preferences and priorities;
2. land and forest tenure and governance, including the use of multi-stakeholder forums;
3. non-timber forest products, value chains, and inclusive business models;
4. climate change; and
5. ecological restoration.

A woman harvests the leaves from a *Gnetum* spp. (okok) Centre Region, Cameroon.

Photo by Olivier Girard/CIFOR

3.1 Methodological and conceptual contributions

In an important conceptual advance in forestry, agroforestry and natural resource management, FTA has challenged researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to move beyond the men-versus-women dichotomy and adopt an **intersectionality** approach in their analyses. Intersectionality refers to the ways in which multiple aspects of social differentiation, such as gender, age, ethnicity and caste, and socio-economic status, interact with each other to create social marginalization (Crenshaw 1989). As systems of oppression or discrimination intersect their effects are compounded. This means that engaging with women as a homogeneous category underestimates the marginalization of groups and individuals who are disadvantaged due to multiple aspects of social differentiation. Intersectionality generates a more complex and nuanced notion of gender, and calls for understanding the particularities that different social inequalities bring to resource management processes.

FTA works on forest product value chains (e.g. Elias and Arora-Jonsson 2017; Gallagher et al. 2020), climate change (Djoudi et al. 2016), community-based forest management (Chomba et al. 2015; Asher 2016; Duguma et al. 2018;

Elias et al. 2020a), as well as reviews of global perspectives on gender equality in the sustainable development goals (Asher and Sijapati Basnett 2016; Arora-Jonsson et al. 2019), among others, demonstrate the need to adopt such a perspective in order to identify and reach and deliver outcomes to the most vulnerable people. These works have informed FTA's development of a manual (Colfer et al. 2018) and a chapter in a handbook (Colfer et al. in press) on intersectionality to support scientists and practitioners in pursuing a deeper and more meaningful analysis of how power inequalities in multiple social relations interact to create and perpetuate marginalization. FTA's work on intersectionality has reached large audiences within CGIAR and beyond, including through scientific conferences, webinars[10] and capacity-building workshops.[11]

Workshop on tenure in Maluku province, Indonesia.

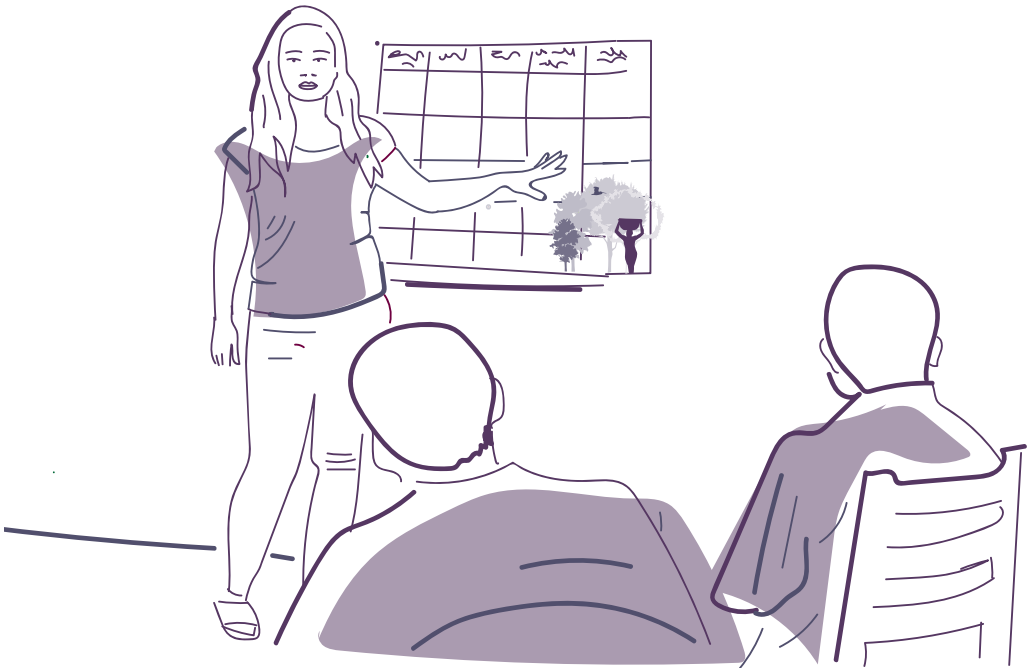
Photo by Ulet Ifansasti/CIFOR

[10] https://dev.ckm.ilri.org/cgiar-gender/webinar-2018-intersectionality/
[11] https://www.slideshare.net/CIFOR/intersectionality-80634434?qid=639372bb-031f-45ef-9404-e64ae9defb-cf&v=&b=&from_search=2

An intersectionality approach has allowed the program to broaden the scope of its focus on inequalities beyond gender, to encompass other dimensions of social exclusion that are relevant to its research. For example, it provided an entry point for engaging with issues related to **rural youth**, as featured in FTA's revised agenda for research and action (CGIAR FTA 2020). FTA's approach to youth[12] is rooted in an analysis of the social relations and structures that shape rural people's capacities to lead the lives they wish to in (and often beyond) tree-based landscapes. This perspective is described in a working paper (Clendenning 2019) and a brief (Clendenning et al. 2019) that provide a conceptual framework for FTA's research on youth, and in an FTA webinar on youth[13] that discusses the challenges and prospects facing rural young women and men across regional contexts. FTA inroads with rural youth are reflected in influential studies, including a cross-country comparative analysis of rural young men's and women's aspirations (Elias et al. 2018c), which was cited in background papers for the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD's) 2019 Rural Development Report (White 2019) and in the report itself (IFAD 2019). FTA has conducted research on and with youth in various countries to shed light on the context-specific ways in which age, generation and stage in the life cycle intersect with gender to shape agriculture and natural resource management (Li 2015; Elmhirst et al. 2017; Crossland et al. 2021a; Mausch et al. 2021). Dialogues with young women and men in Peru[14] identified both barriers and ways to support youth to pursue careers cultivating high-quality varieties of cacao, in order to help address the critical issue of inter-generational succession in this value chain. In Mesoamerica, FTA research shed light on the potential risk for forest user associations whose members are aging, and the need for a succession plan as part of community planning processes (Stoian et al. 2018b). These works contributed to shifting the analysis from youth as an undifferentiated category of victims or saviours, towards the gendered and inter-generational relations and structures that influence the aspirations, capacities and constraints of rural young people in forests and agroforest landscapes.

Other FTA conceptual and methodological achievements include a growing focus on how **gender norms** underpin inequality and block women's capacities to innovate in forestry and agroforestry. FTA sat on the Executive Committee and led case studies in the global comparative study GENNOVATE, which paid attention to such norms at a time when they were still poorly explored in natural resource management.[15] FTA work emphasized

[12] http://foreststreesagroforestry.org/research-portfolio/gender-equality-and-social-inclusion/
[13] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/diverse-and-invisible-understanding-rural-young-people/
[14] https://alliancebioversityciat.org/stories/sharing-vision-youth-women-and-future-fine-flavor-cacao
[15] https://gennovate.org/



how gender norms shape the management of forests and trees, and how normative constraints contribute to some of the groups that depend on these resources staying in poverty (Elias et al. 2018b). Significant achievements in this area include a special issue,[16] co-led by FTA, on the study's findings, and contributions to several papers in the issue (Badstue et al. 2018a,b, 2020; Elias et al. 2018c; Petesch et al. 2018), as well as contributions to several tools for scientists, practitioners and decision-makers (Petesch et al. 2017; Elias et al. 2018a). GENNOVATE caused many ripples within CGIAR and beyond, including by influencing the direction of the joint programmatic work (FAO, IFAD and WFP 2020) of the Rome-based agencies — UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFAD and World Food Programme (WFP) — on Gender Transformative Approaches (FAO et al. 2020).

Drawing on this empirical evidence that substantiates the relevance of gender norms to forestry and agroforestry, FTA has engaged in research to test approaches that can redress discriminatory norms and enable greater equality (aka **Gender Transformative Approaches**). In the context of a large restoration project in Ghana, a study[17] showed that gender transformative approaches can support behavioural change towards a more equitable sharing of household chores, and that gender transformative approaches could be accepted by participants as an opportunity to improve household well-being.

[16] http://agrigender.net/all_issues.php
[17] https://www.worldagroforestry.org/blog/2018/12/21/challenging-gender-norms-around-trees-and-land-restoration-in-west-africa-can-research-be-transformative

These approaches were also piloted as a means to address systemic issues that hinder gender equality in Fairtrade supply chains, to inform Fairtrade's Gender Strategy[18] (Gallagher et al. 2020). Moreover, a current six-country FTA study is gathering evidence on how gender transformative approaches can enhance women's land rights[19] across regional contexts and land-use systems. Early research findings and engagement in this field have shaped FTA's emphasis, in the CRP's Phase 2, on transformative approaches that challenge the power dynamics and structures that underlie gender inequality, rather than merely addressing its symptoms, such as unequal income and access to resources (CGIAR FTA 2020).

FTA's methodological work also includes a body of work on **participatory research approaches** for enhancing gender equality in natural resource management and forest and agroforestry landscapes. Several FTA studies developed, adapted and tested such approaches, and published guides, tools and peer-reviewed papers to demonstrate their usefulness in specific contexts (Elias and Morgan 2016; Mathez-Stiefel et al. 2016). For instance, work on adaptive collaborative management and a related field guide illustrate the value of this collective problem-solving and management approach, which facilitates gender-equitable negotiations and encourages broader participation by women in decision making (Evans et al. 2014, 2020). In one project, the creation of contact zones in India, where women and men from different age groups and castes come together to discuss forest management through participatory research, showed that such approaches can dismantle social divisions and promote unity in collective natural resource management (Hegde et al. 2017). Cross-country research in the context of the Gender Research Fellowship Programme facilitated the design and testing of participatory research approaches for studying social inclusion across multiple countries, and illustrated the strengths and challenges of various methodologies (Elias et al. 2017b; Faridah et al. 2017; Karambiri et al. 2017; Nchanji et al. 2017). FTA further showed the value of participatory approaches for working with government and development practitioners on gender-responsive tenure reforms, using 'participatory prospective scenarios' (Rodríguez Cortés and Ospina Rojas 2016; Bourgeois et al. 2017; Larson et al. 2019a; Monterroso et al. 2019; Jhaveri 2020), and for linking local, national and global needs, aspirations and capacities for forest restoration through participatory monitoring (Evans et al. 2018). These studies, among others, provided evidence of these actors' readiness to adopt and scale a set of participatory approaches in specific contexts; they also contributed significant concepts to FTA's work on governance and inclusive multi-stakeholder forums and platforms, discussed below.

[18] https://www.fairtrade.net/library/womens-access-equity-and-empowerment-study
[19] https://www.ifad.org/en/gender_transformative_approaches ; https://forestsnews.cifor.org/73913/new-global-initiative-transforming-gender-norms-in-land-and-resource-rights?fnl=en

Local villagers discuss participatory natural resources mapping in Honitetu village, Indonesia.

Photo by Ulet Ifansasti/CIFOR

3.2 Thematic contributions linked to FTA's operational priorities

Gendered knowledge, roles and priorities in natural resource and biodiversity management

FTA conducted foundational gender research on **gendered knowledge, roles, preferences and priorities** of diverse social groups with respect to forestry and agroforestry, natural resources and biodiversity, including species and traits for conservation, domestication, utilization and management (Carney and Elias 2013; Dewi et al. 2013; Elias and Fernandez 2014; Kiptot et al. 2014; Degrande and Arinloye 2015; Elias 2015, 2016, 2017; Gutiérrez Velásquez 2016; Karambiri et al. 2017). This work increased the awareness of gendered differentiation, complementarity and inequalities in these areas and in relation to land use decisions, and substantiated the legitimacy of women's and men's voices in natural resource management matters (van Noordwijk et al. 2013; Villamor et al. 2013, 2014, 2017). Research in the Andean forest underscored the importance of incorporating local, gendered knowledge systems to achieve effective climate change adaptation (Mathez-Stiefel 2016; Mathez-Stiefel et al. 2016). A special issue[20] on gender and agroforestry looked at often ignored issues and dynamics that affect the adoption of sustainable agroforestry practices (Colfer et al. 2015c), including

[20] https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/cfa/ifr/2015/00000017/a00404s4

gender roles and the gender division of labour (Catacutan and Naz 2015; Gélinas et al. 2015; Kiptot 2015; Villamor et al. 2015), gendered land tenure and access to resources (Bose 2015), and gendered knowledge (Blare and Useche 2015; Bourne et al. 2015; Mbosso et al. 2015; Mulyoutami et al. 2015). FTA research linked gendered differences and inequalities in these areas to gender norms and dynamics at various scales (intra-household, community and beyond), and to gendered decision-making and adoption of innovations in natural resource management (Colfer et al. 2015b; Gumucio et al. 2017; Elias et al. 2018b). This body of work offers insights for identifying and addressing the constraints — asset- and resource-based, decision-making, normative, legislative, and other — and capacities of various groups of women and men in order to develop inclusive, equitable and effective agricultural extension and input delivery systems, agroforestry options, and resource management approaches.

Resource tenure

FTA also produced extensive knowledge on gender in relation to **forest, land, and tree tenure and governance** by documenting differences in the recognition of diverse rural people's rights under a range of tenure systems (e.g. private, collective, collective on public lands, etc.). Studies examined how social inequalities on the basis of gender and other forms of discrimination influence the capacities of Indigenous and forest-dependent women and men to benefit from the devolution of forest rights and responsibilities, and identified mechanisms for securing people's rights (Banana et al. 2012; Bose 2013; Coleman and Mwangi 2013; Narváez Guerrero 2014; Bose et al. 2017; Rosman Hernández 2017; Larson et al. 2018a). For instance, findings from a global comparative study on forest tenure reforms in Indonesia, Peru and Uganda demonstrated how age, socio-economic status and ethnicity influence marginalized groups' rights to resources, and the conditions under which reform processes have improved outcomes for women and other marginalized groups (Monterroso et al. 2019). A set of briefs (CIFOR et al. 2015) emphasized the need to address social differentiation in reforms that recognize collective rights in forestlands, and the relevance of disaggregating results to analyze how tenure formalization processes influence rights for vulnerable groups (Nsita et al. 2017; Cruz-Burga et al. 2018; Durán et al. 2018; Larson et al. 2018a; Monterroso et al. 2018; Monterroso and Larson 2018a,b). In Latin America, an FTA guest-edited Special Section of *Women's Studies International Forum*[21] provided recommendations for policies to secure women's forest tenure rights in farms and communal forests (Bose 2017; Bose et al. 2017; Evans et al. 2017; Lastarria-Cornhiel et al. 2017; Mello and

[21] https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/cfa/ifr/2015/00000017/a00404s4

Schmink 2017; Radel et al. 2017; Vázquez-García and Ortega-Ortega 2017). This global research on tenure has culminated in a practitioners' sourcebook (Jhaveri 2020), which provides empirically-informed guidance on how to promote gender-responsive forest tenure reform in community-based forest regimes.

FTA has also contributed to revealing the distinctiveness of, and interrelations between, land tenure and tree tenure. For instance, a detailed mapping of rights (Pehou et al. 2020) to néré (*P. biglobosa*), a valued tree species in West Africa, as well as work on shea (*V. paradoxa*) (Elias and Arora-Jonsson 2017), showed that rights to these trees' products, and exclusions from these critical resources, are separate from rights to land, and are dynamic, and mediated by gender, lineage, marital status and residence status. These works offer policy-relevant evidence for enhancing gender equality and social inclusion amid rapid changes in land use, governance and markets. They are also highly relevant in the context of climate change interventions and restoration, which pose tenure risks to smallholders and in which insecure tenure rights often restrict women's engagement (Larson et al. 2018b).

Governance

FTA has also addressed the institutional arrangements that promote meaningful participation by and the voice and influence of marginalized groups in **governance processes**, and the impact of these processes on sustainable resource management and benefit-sharing among smallholders at the forest margins. For instance, analysis across 10 countries in Africa and Latin America shows that women's participation, especially when women sit on forest councils or attain leadership positions, is highly correlated with less disruptive conflicts, and that women are more likely to participate in these decision-making processes where education levels are higher and there is less income inequality (Coleman and Mwangi 2013). FTA's research in this area spans and is often comparative across various countries, including Indonesia, Nepal, India, Cameroon, Nicaragua and Uganda, revealing the exclusions from forest governance that are based on gender and other sources of inequality (Sunderland et al. 2014; Chomba et al. 2015; Colfer et al. 2015a; Mukasa et al. 2013; Sijapati Basnett 2016; Elias et al. 2020a; Maukonen et al. 2020). In Nepal and other contexts, research has shown that high migration rates are reshaping forest access and governance through interlocking relations of gender, caste, class and ethnicity (Sijapati Basnett 2013; Hecht et al. 2015).

In Nalma village most of the adult male population has gone abroad for work, leaving only children, women and the elderly.

Photo by Mokhamad Edliadi/ CIFOR

[21] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/womens-studies-international-forum-special-section-on-latin-american-womens-farm-land-and-communal-forests/

FTA's work on participation in forest user group committees, co-management groups and forest commodity roundtable meetings includes the role of **multi-stakeholder forums** in improving equity and inclusion. Although these forums are often promoted as platforms for more inclusive and equitable decision-making, FTA research finds that the organizers of these forums spend little effort addressing the power inequalities among participants and the lack of participation by historically under-represented groups (Sarmiento Barletti et al. 2020a,b). This finding has resulted in the development of an innovative approach to support more equitable and effective forums that promote the inclusion of women and Indigenous Peoples in natural resource management and governance processes (Evans et al. 2021).

Value chains and inclusive business models

Forest and tree-based value chains and inclusive business models, particularly with regard to tree crop commodities and non-timber forest products, have received an increasing gender focus in FTA. Too often the issue of inclusive value chains ignores gender dimensions, focusing instead of issues of scale (i.e. smallholders versus big corporations). Over the past decade, FTA has generated empirical evidence on value chains where sex-disaggregated data on roles, participation, and benefit distribution was scarce, such as charcoal (Ihalainen et al. 2020) and fuelwood (Gautier et al. 2020); and on tree crops such as coffee and cocoa (Ambruster et al. 2017; Blare and Useche 2015; Gumucio et al. 2016b, 2017). In FTA's early years, the Poverty-Environment Network (PEN) cross-country study produced some of the most definitive evidence on gender differentiation, specialization, complementarities, and overlaps regarding non-timber forest product collection, processing and trade, revealing global trends as well as regional specificities (Sunderland et al. 2014). FTA investigated the gendered implications of cash-crop expansion and of various private-sector commitments to uphold social and environmental standards, such as zero-deforestation and product certification schemes. Research has also focused on the development, piloting and analysis of tools and methodologies that promote inclusive market systems and value chains. A global FTA review of gender in forest value chains (Haverhals et al. 2014; Ingram et al. 2016), and a subsequent review, focused on Latin America (Gumucio et al. 2018), analyzed the fragmentary evidence arising from case studies on the issue. They used a common framework that emphasized three aspects: i) the nature of gender differences in FTA value chains; ii) where these differences are concentrated; and iii) the factors underlying these differences. The reviews underscored the challenges that women face in access to more remunerative value chains and nodes, and the structural constraints that value chain development

interventions must address to enable women to participate in, and to equitably benefit from forest and tree-based value chains. These findings provided the basis for guidance for developing more equitable interventions.

Other FTA studies continued to build evidence around the high but uneven reliance of rural women and men from socio-economically disadvantaged groups on non-timber forest products for subsistence and income (Asfaw et al. 2013; Pouliot and Elias 2013; Ingram et al. 2014; Elias and Arora-Jonsson 2017; Rousseau et al. 2019; Sithole and Byakika 2020). Work on timber and charcoal showed that improved production practices and more equitable distribution of benefits along value chains can help reduce pressure on forest resources (Njenga et al. 2013; Ihalainen et al. 2020), illustrating the links between equity in value chains and other forest outcomes. Women's fundamental roles in the sustainability of natural resource management were shown in a study[22] on shea value chains in Burkina Faso. Women's interests in preserving shea trees as sources of nuts for shea butter production, enhanced by growing opportunities to participate in global shea value chains, were reflected in their efforts to safeguard shea trees in parklands. Competing aspirations for these parklands across gender and livelihood groups (e.g. beekeepers, charcoal producers, non-timber forest product traders) result in negotiations and trade-offs, which play out against a complex political and economic background.

Member of a womens' association with charcoal produced from surplus wood production, Kisangani, DRC.

Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR

[22] https://forestsnews.cifor.org/73741/women-producers-in-burkina-faso-face-hardship-if-shea-industry-dwindles?fnl=

Planting peanuts in a pilot plantation plot in Yangambi, DRC.

Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR

Understanding gendered roles and dependence on forest products, as well as the socio-cultural (norms and beliefs), technical (access to information, inputs, credit and markets), policy (public and private), and other barriers that prevent women and marginalized groups from participating in forest product value chains provided the basis for developing approaches to overcome these obstacles and enhance equality (Shackleton et al. 2012; Mulyoutami et al. 2013; Blare and Useche 2015; Gumucio et al. 2016a; Ingram et al. 2016; Blare and Donovan 2017; Armbruster et al. 2019; Ramos et al. 2019). A review of guides for gender-equitable value chain development (Stoian et al. 2018a) offered suggestions to practitioners who seek gender equality and poverty reduction outcomes through markets. Guidelines from FTA partner Bioversity offered field-tested strategies and good practices on how to achieve the multiple goals of gender equality and social inclusion, environmental integrity, and livelihood improvement through the sustainable management, use and trade of non-timber forest products (Jalonen et al. 2018). Research also informed the design of technologies to process non-timber forest products that respond to the specific needs of women and enable them to earn more income and reduce drudgery. For example, in Cameroon, FTA research supported the development of a method and a machine to drastically reduce the labourious, time-intensive processing of *njansang* fruit into a paste, a job traditionally carried out by women and children (Mbosso et al. 2015).

Research focused on agribusiness expansion, particularly in oil palm landscapes (Li 2015; Sijapati Basnett et al. 2016), underscored the necessity for value chain studies and interventions to consider not only the extent of participation, but also the quality of that participation and the broader risks and trade-offs that landscape changes entail (Elmhirst et al. 2017). Further FTA work on **inclusive business models** shed light on marginalization in value chains for palm oil and other forest and agroforest commodities, showing the limits of market-driven mechanisms in overcoming gender inequalities (Sijapati Basnett et al. 2016; Gallagher 2016; Gallagher et al. 2020). These studies proposed mechanisms for tackling the intersectional drivers of marginalization, exclusion from, and adverse inclusion[23] of women in plantations and tree crop commodity sectors.

Palm oil production near Yangambi, DRC.

Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR

[23] Adverse inclusion occurs when people are able to participate in markets or services but under unfavourable terms or conditions.

A worker shells Brazil nuts, Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru.

Photo by Marco Simola/CIFOR

Climate action

FTA research has also advanced the understanding of and approaches to challenge the structural causes of gender-differentiated impacts of **climate change**; see also FTA Highlight #12 in this series (Meybeck et al. in press). It has considered how climate change impacts — as well as strategies, policies and interventions to mitigate climate change and adapt to those impacts — constitute challenges or opportunities to reduce gender gaps in access to productive resources, redistribute labour, and make decision-making power more equitable. This research has focused on how gender and intersecting social variables, such as class and ethnicity, shape vulnerabilities and capacities to adapt to climate change (Djoudi and Brockhaus 2011; Brockhaus et al. 2013; Djoudi et al. 2013). Findings substantiate that gender and vulnerability assessments must go beyond static ideas of women's and men's respective capacities, needs and priorities (Djoudi et al. 2016). For example, as the effects of climate change become more tangible in China's Yunnan province, community responses to shocks such as droughts are challenging traditional gender roles and perceptions of these roles.

FTA research (Su et al. 2017) showed that although women were traditionally excluded from being village "water managers" (responsible for water tank and pipe maintenance and domestic water allocation at the village level) and considered incapable in this area, they became increasingly active in

monitoring the allocation of water as water scarcity and related conflicts increased, and were positively recognized by their community for their capacity to solve conflicts and promote equal distribution of water through negotiation. These findings call attention to the possibilities that can open up for women to take on multiple and non-traditional roles amid climate-related changes. In Latin America, FTA's work on silvo-pastoral systems showed that mitigation actions can affect gender relations by imposing new labour demands on the household, and by altering access to technical information and monetary benefits (Gumucio et al. 2015). Assessing the potential impacts of planned climate actions on women's and men's adaptive capacities is thus needed to identify potential trade-offs between gender equality and climate goals, and to develop options to generate co-benefits. For example, FTA research showed the greater prospects that indigenous tree-based parklands (Vitellaria paradoxa and Parkia biglobosa trees) provide for women's adaptive capacities in West Africa, compared to monoculture tree plantations (Koffi et al. 2017; Djoudi et al. 2015[24]), despite monoculture tree plantations stocking more carbon than parklands.

An important body of work focused on how to better align mitigation and adaptation policy and action with global mandates to advance gender equality. A comparative, long-term study on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+); see FTA Highlight 11 (Martius and Duchelle in press), conducted in six countries, showed that unrealized expectations for REDD+, combined with little attention to gender in REDD+ initiatives, led to an important drop in the subjective well-being of women living in REDD+ villages (Larson et al. 2015, 2018b). Research in Vietnam showed that because benefit-sharing schemes ignored women's preferences and women struggled to receive REDD+ benefits, their

GCS REDD+ research field team, Peru.

Photo by Yoly Gutierrez/ CIFOR

[24] https://fr.slideshare.net/CIFOR/linking-adaptation-and-mitigation-to-achieve-climate-compatible-development-in-dry-lands

willingness to participate in REDD+ initiatives diminished over time (Pham and Brockhaus 2015; Pham et al. 2016). FTA work further illustrated the significance of women's participation in achieving the goals of REDD+; the opportunities for and limitations to gender-equitable participation in REDD+ (Bee and Sijapati Basnett 2017); and assessed various mechanisms, such as performance-based budgeting,[25] by which climate finance can advance gender equality and poverty reduction (Atmadja et al. 2020a,b; Liswanti et al. 2020; IIX 2021).

Ecosystem restoration

Linking with these many areas of research, and with a proliferation of initiatives focused on **ecosystem restoration** around the world, FTA has contributed to developing the evidence base for and raising awareness of gender issues in land and ecosystem restoration, with an emphasis on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR); see Volume 4 of this FTA Highlights series (Guariguata et al. 2021). In response to the high demand for policy and implementation guidance in this area, FTA produced a framework for integrating gender considerations in FLR (Sijapati Basnett et al. 2017), and is completing an online learning module on gender-responsive restoration that targets researchers, practitioners and decision-makers. FTA sees landscape restoration as people-centred, ecosystem-focused actions to improve degraded ecosystem functions, including productive functions, with attention to gendered implications. Yet, inclusion and equity are too often neglected by restoration projects and programmes. An FTA-led special issue on social inclusion in restoration brought together the empirical evidence and guidance for enhancing inclusion and equity through landscape restoration (Crossland et al. 2021a; Elias et al. 2021; Sigman and Elias 2021; Mansourian 2021; Sen et al. 2021; Singh et al. 2021). At the country level, research in Kenya generated empirically grounded lessons and recommendations for addressing gender in FLR (Ihalainen 2018), and for on-farm restoration options that reduce demands on women's time and increase their agency (Crossland and Paez Valencia 2020). A comparative study in Kenya and Burkina Faso links some types of men's outmigration with new opportunities for rural women through restoration by increasing their exposure to knowledge and their ability to negotiate access to farming resources, and by enhancing their recognition as farmers (Crossland et al. 2021b). In Burkina Faso, research showed the potential of land restoration to advance gender equality through group-based approaches that strengthen women's collective rights to land, access to resources, and technical and financial capacities to engage in restoration activities (Tiendrébéogo 2020).

[25] https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=urzSAF_xFQY

Three women farmers separate the seeds from the fibre of freshly harvested cotton in Zorro village, Burkina Faso.

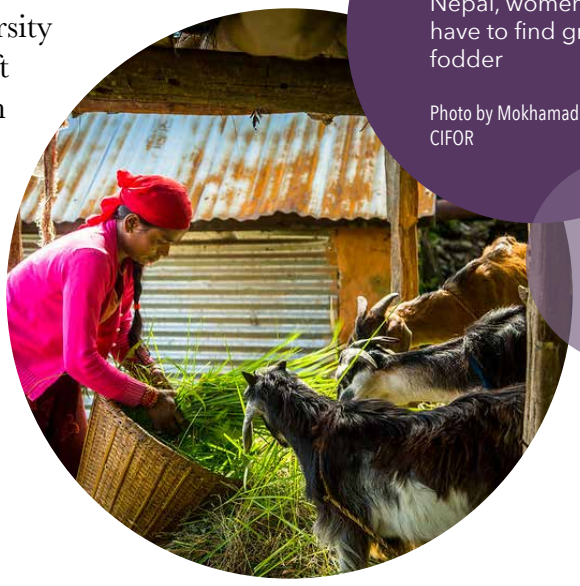
Photo by Yoly Gutierrez/CIFOR

Synthesizing evidence and becoming a global clearinghouse on gender in forestry and natural resource management

FTA's efforts to advance gender research in forestry and agroforestry began with reviews of gender analysis in forestry research (Mai et al. 2011, 2012). Over the years, as the body of evidence, methodologies, frameworks, tools, and approaches grew, FTA sought to consolidate and synthesize evidence to become a **global clearinghouse** in this area. This entailed the production of several synthesis products, including special issues, papers, book chapters, and briefs (CIFOR et al. 2015; Colfer et al. 2015d; Asher and Shattuck 2017; Elias et al. 2017a; Asher and Varley 2018; Butali and Wekesa 2018; Conroy et al. 2018; Elias 2018; Kakungulu 2018; Kristjanson et al. 2018a; Mukasa and Tibazalika 2018; Nijbroek and Wangui 2018; Paez Valencia and Crossland 2018; Siles and Prebble 2018; Elias et al. 2020b). In 2016, an FTA-edited book (Colfer et al. 2016) on gender in forests provided the fundamentals for the range of actors working in the sector. Distributed to 500 developing country libraries and scholars, it was named Book of the month in April 2016 by Book Aid International. One year later, a prequel to this book, *The Earthscan Reader on Gender and Forests* (Colfer et al. 2017), was launched at the 125th anniversary congress of International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO).[26] The reader was the first of its kind to bring together an accessible collection of theory, analysis, methodologies, and case studies from gender and forestry classics published over the last forty years, laying out key debates in the field.

[26] https://forestsnews.cifor.org/51699/a-long-awaited-reader-on-gender-and-forestry?fnl=en

Synthesis work was anchored in ongoing processes of global importance. For example, as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were identified, FTA produced several works linking gender, inequality and natural resource management and forest outcomes to this global agenda (Sijapati Basnett 2018; Arora-Jonsson et al. 2019; Sijapati Basnett et al. 2019). FTA further contributed to assessments of the implementation of global agendas, including IUFRO's Global Assessment on Forests and Poverty (Hajjar et al. 2020) and the Assessment of the New York Declaration of Forests' Goal 10, which addresses the persistence of gender bias in forest governance (Conway et al. 2018, NYDF 2018). Other contributions, both general (i.e. gender and forests/agroforests/natural resource management) and thematic (e.g. gender and value chains, climate change, restoration, etc.), helped position **FTA as a knowledge broker on gender in natural resource management**, as did FTA's gender webpage,[27] which is a resource hub for policymakers, practitioners, academics and students worldwide. This wide-ranging review work provided the basis for informing and influencing international policymaking on climate change, biodiversity, restoration and other issues. For instance, FTA research on climate change was synthesized to inform the equitable implementation of REDD+ schemes (Larson et al. 2014) and the revision of the Green Climate Fund's Gender Policy and Action Plan (Ihalainen et al. 2017). An FTA submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Body for Implementation on gender and climate change synthesized FTA's work in this area and facilitated the inclusion of FTA scientists in UNFCCC processes. Submissions to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in relation to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and to its draft Outline for a Gender Plan of Action, as well as to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration on its Draft Strategy, played a similar role.



In addition to working in the rice fields in Nepal, women also have to find grass for fodder

Photo by Mokhamad Edliadi/ CIFOR

[27] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/research/cross-cutting-themes/gender-equality-and-social-inclusion/

4. Outreach and outcomes

Engaging stakeholders, forging partnerships, and gaining a seat at the table

As noted earlier, **stakeholder engagement** is a key component of FTA's original Gender Strategy (CIFOR 2013d) and revised research agenda and action plan (CGIAR FTA 2020). The CGIAR-IEA (2017) Evaluation of Gender in CGIAR notes that FTA was among the CGIAR Research Programs that were most actively building strategic partnerships to enhance uptake of gender research. FTA made substantial efforts to bring its research to the attention of the intended users, informing dialogues and collaborations with policymakers and development practitioners in various countries, across diverse themes, to effect change in mindsets, discussions and behaviours related to gender in forestry and agroforestry research, policy and practice. These dialogues and collaborations allowed FTA to keep abreast of the needs of stakeholders, which is critical to the relevance and demand-driven nature of FTA research. As noted by the CGIAR-IEA (2017, 38) evaluation, "FTA's experience is that investment in developing their profile in gender research and building partnerships has yielded tangible returns in the uptake, demand and quality of gender research." Examples of these partnership building processes are provided here.

Collaborations in writing and producing joint outputs with influential partners, drawing on FTA gender research, strengthened partnerships and gave FTA the opportunity to influence high-level processes. For instance,

UNFCCC (2018) recognized the usefulness of an FTA-led set of briefs on gender and climate action (Bioversity International et al. 2015) produced with 13 partner organizations, including UN bodies and international non-governmental organizations, for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21 in 2015) in Paris. FTA partnered with UN Women to develop a research paper on gender issues under the CBD (UN Women 2018a) that was later submitted as a note by the Executive Secretary[28] and considered at COP 14 in Egypt. FTA established and coordinated a Gender Constituency at the Global Landscapes Forum, which brought together 26 local, regional and international organizations and agencies to share knowledge of, and advocate for, inclusion in the field of gender and restoration. Under FTA's lead, the Constituency organized a set of briefs[29] on gender and restoration (Kristjanson et al. 2018b) and a webinar on gender equality in restoration,[30] among other events, keeping gender on the forum's agenda.

FTA used **several communications outputs** to reach intended stakeholders, including periodic *Focus on Gender* newsletters,[31] blogs, photobooks (Bose and Savyasashi 2014; Tavenner 2018) and documentaries[32]

A woman in an acacia plantation near Yangambi, DRC.

Photo by Axel Fassio/CIFOR

[28] https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/34b8/2445/f3c7ee9df40a841577c51638/cop-14-inf-21-en.pdf
[29] https://www.globallandscapesforum.org/publication/joint-infobrief-set-on-gender-equality-and-forest-landscape-restoration/
[30] https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/beyond-land-gender-equality-in-restoration/
[31] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/fta-gender-newsletter/
[32] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJ1z3r67LeE [In Vietnamese, with English subtitles].

for diverse audiences. FTA also contributed to putting gender on the agenda at several **high-level events, conferences**, United Nations Committees and Conventions, **and global convenings**. They include the Committee on World Food Security,[33] World Forestry Congress,[34] Global Landscapes Forum, [35] IUFRO World Congresses, World Congress on Agroforestry,[36] World Bank Land and Poverty Conference,[37] Society for Ecological Restoration World Conferences,[38] FLARE Conference,[39] UNFCCC COP 23,[40] and accompanying Global Landscapes Forums.

Gender research findings were also presented in more **targeted contexts** to influence partners around the globe, including ministries, research organizations, private sector actors and the media, through book[41] launches, film screenings,[42] webinars[43] and knowledge sharing events,[44] which got attention in national news[45] and influenced national policy dialogues. FTA's research, outreach, and partnerships gave FTA gender scientists **a seat at the table in several relevant national and international processes**. Through capacity- strengthening events, expert panels, roundtables and participation in scientific committees, FTA has been able to share findings, tools, and innovations.[46] For example, FTA was invited to bring a gender perspective and/or deliver gender training to the FAO Secretariat of the Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture;[47] International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) staff on intersectionality and masculinities; MS Swaminathan Research Foundation's virtual consultation[48] on "Science for Resilient Food, Nutrition and Livelihoods;" the Global Landscapes Forum on Biodiversity webinar[49] on Indigenous rights; the UNFCCC constitutive body on Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples; the UNFCCC Least

[33] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/news-article/feminism-forests-and-food-security/
[34] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/news-article/yes-we-could-and-we-did-gender-specialists-share-success-stories/
[35] https://www2.cifor.org/cifor-at-glf-2017/enhancing-tenure-security-and-gender-equality-in-the-context-of-forest-landscape-restoration/
[36] https://www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2019
[37] https://www.cifor.org/corporate-news/follow-cifor-at-world-bank-conference-on-land-and-poverty/
[38] https://www.bioversityinternational.org/news/detail/why-gender-matters-in-forest-restoration/
[39] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LP5JqRTam8ez0Xw9r_ie_spd7mBpQmaz/view
[40] https://forestsnews.cifor.org/52685/cop23-special-recognizing-gender-bias-restoring-forests?fnl=en
[41] https://www.worldagroforestry.org/blog/2017/08/18/why-china-should-include-a-gender-perspective-in-its-climate-change-policies
[42] https://forestsnews.cifor.org/52982/films-spur-dialogue-on-inclusive-agriculture-in-tanzania?fnl=en
[43] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/news-article/webinar-genero-agroforesteria-y-cambio-climatico-en-america-latina/ [In Spanish; English version also available]
[44] https://www.cifor.org/event/forest-tenure-reform-implementation-in-uganda-what-lessons-for-policy-and-practice/
[45] https://kathmandupost.com/miscellaneous/2017/10/28/what-migration-means-on-the-home-front
[46] FTA scientists also sit on journal editorial boards and scientific committees, including IUFRO Division 6.08.01: Gender Research in Forestry.
[47] https://fao.adobeconnect.com/_a1026619000/pv6uyg7jhy4r/?proto=true [sound recording]
[48] https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=O3FpeYKT374
[49] https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DqYbx31AVxI

Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG); the Drylands Development Programme,[50] the Regreening Africa Project[51] and the Resilient Food Systems programme funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF),[52] among many other initiatives.

In addition, CIFOR-FTA was invited to sit on the gender subgroup of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) human rights working group (Sijapati Basnett et al. 2016). Following a joint FTA side-event on gender and climate finance at the UNFCCC COP 25, FTA and UNDP were asked by the member states of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force[53] to design and deliver online workshops[54] on mainstreaming gender in low-emissions development. These workshops, based on FTA research, offered evidence-based recommendations to support gender integration into the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force's forests and climate agenda. Most recently, results from work on gender and climate finance were launched as part of UNDP's SDG Talks,[55] and key findings were shared at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review. FTA gender researchers contributed to task forces, such as FAO's "Best Practices - UN Decade on Ecosystem restoration" and "Socio Economic Sub Task Force on UN Decade on Ecosystem restoration," and to the GEF-8 expert group on gender, which seeks to advance synergies across the GEF's programmatic areas through consideration of gender. FTA scientists were also among the only representatives of research institutions invited to join the For All Coalition,[56] which aims to inform gender integration under UN multilateral environmental agreements and conventions.

[50] https://www.worldagroforestry.org/project/drylands-development-programe-drydev
[51] https://www.worldagroforestry.org/project/reversing-land-degradation-africa-scaling-evergreen-agriculture-regreening-africa
[52] https://resilientfoodsystems.co/
[53] The Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (https://www.gcftf.org/who-we-are/) is a subnational collaboration of 38 states and provinces working to promote pathways to forest-maintaining rural development. It represents a significant platform for advancing forest and climate solutions at the jurisdictional level.
[54] https://forestsnews.cifor.org/68417/mobilizing-to-address-gender-in-forests-and-climate-change-actions?fnl=en
[55] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5s8dE4r5ZU [In Indonesian]
[56] https://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/ConceptNote-ForAllCoalition%5bEN%5d.pdf

Outcomes

Comprehensively assessing the outcomes of such a wide-ranging gender mainstreaming program is challenging. The following highlights, along the two strands of FTA's gender strategy (see Figure 1), range from changes in discourse, programmes and policies to changes in behaviour and in gender equality at multiple scales (local, national, international) and across geographical contexts.

At the **local level**, building on earlier CIFOR achievements (Colfer 2005; Prabhu et al. 2009), FTA's gender work on forest use and management used participatory, qualitative and quantitative research methods, and gender transformative techniques such as Adaptive Collaborative Management. This created new opportunities for women to participate in forest management (McDougall et al. 2013; Evans et al. 2014). In Uganda, the approach provided a safe platform and allowed women's voices to be heard in the presence of men without intimidation or retribution (Mukasa et al. 2016a, b). This resulted in an 18-fold increase in the number of women in community forestry leadership positions and in a more gender-balanced forum where women's interests and priorities are taken into account. This, in turn, resulted in reforestation of degraded forests by local communities, women's involvement in the management of these forests, and women's increased capacity to receive benefits from forest reserves (Mukasa et al. 2016a). Inter-gender dialogues promoted through Adaptive Collaborative Management have resulted in some women in Uganda having their own plots and planting a greater diversity of tree species, including trees that women were formerly forbidden from planting, such as *Eucalyptus* spp., *Pinus* spp., and *Maesopsis* spp., for income (ibid.). Women's participation in decision-making, as well as their confidence, engagement and agency, increased, and they felt empowered to seek external assistance (Evans et al. 2014; CIFOR 2017). The Adaptive Collaborative Management approach further improved coordination among communities, state forestry agencies, and NGOs, and increased local people's access to resources.

At the **national level**, FTA findings and recommendations from research on REDD+ informed Vietnam's guidelines[57] for gender mainstreaming in national PES policies, and have been incorporated in the UN-REDD planning in Vietnam and the UN-REDD (2011) guidelines on The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+. Country-specific findings from a multi-country comparative REDD+ study have also supported efforts to

[57] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/news-article/update-on-gender-research-projects/#cifor

mainstream gender in REDD+ and the forestry sector; e.g. in Indonesia[58] (Arwida et al. 2017). In Indonesia, research on gender and REDD+ led to a close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection to mainstream gender into REDD+ and has informed the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Directorate General of Climate Change's position in international negotiations. Oxfam has used the results of research on the social impacts of oil palm in West Kalimantan (Li 2015) to inform its Gender Transformative and Responsible Agribusiness Investments in South East Asia programme, and as a basis to increase the gender-responsiveness of the Roundtable on Sustainable Oil Palm criteria, indicators and guidance. In Peru, FTA contributed to the development of the national Climate Change Gender Action Plan,[59] led by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Woman and Vulnerable People, and supported by IUCN. FTA research on the gendered effects of migration on forest governance in Nepal (Sijapati Basnett 2013) has been used by the country's multistakeholder forestry programme to deliberate on the implications of migration and multi-local livelihoods on women and men in forested landscapes.

Three women harvesting lemongrass, Nepal.

Photo by Chandra Shekhar Karki/ CIFOR

[58] Ibid.

[59] https://www.climatelinks.org/blog/climate-change-gender-action-plan-developed-peru

At the **international level**, FTA has contributed to mainstreaming gender in the Rio Conventions through a close collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Convention Secretariats. FTA has participated in and contributed to several meetings of experts led by the UNFCCC secretariat (CIFOR 2019) and the CBD secretariat (UN Women 2019c). This included a workshop[60] to strengthen the gender-integration capacities of convention delegates, and others dedicated to influencing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.[61] FTA co-hosted a technical discussion,[62] which resulted in key messages and recommendations for the First Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) for the framework being formulated (UN Women 2019a,b). Through this dynamic engagement with UN Women, the CBD secretariat and these expert groups, FTA has contributed to joint submissions with other organizations to inform the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including during the Regional Consultation of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo (UN 2019). FTA's work with the Rio Conventions has heightened the visibility of the CGIAR Research Program and demonstrated that gender is a legitimate field of concern in research and policy, and a relevant entry point for engaging with global policy processes.

FTA has contributed to other global initiatives to establish and track progress towards gender equality targets. For instance, FTA's recommendations on an indicator on "women's inclusion in national decision making on climate policies" for SDG 13 on climate change were retained in the global report *Equal Measures 2030* (Equal Measures 2030 2018, 94). The report referenced FTA's submission to the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation and two FTA studies (Coleman and Mwangi 2013; Pham and Brockhaus 2015), and underlined the importance of including women in national decision making on climate policies. FTA's submission was also widely cited in a recent synthesis report on gender and climate change developed by the UNFCCC secretariat (UNFCCC 2019). As a result of FTA engagement, a gender-specific indicator (1.1.e) is included in the Chatham House Forest Policy Assessment Framework.[64] A number of FTA recommendations regarding the Green Climate Fund's Gender Policy and Action Plan (Ihalainen et al. 2017) are reflected in the fund's updated Gender Policy and Action Plan. FTA recommendations have also informed the gender strategy for the Roundtable

[60] https://www.cbd.int/kb/record/meeting/5818?Country=ca
[61] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/news-article/reversing-dangerous-decline-of-nature-requires-global-initiatives-to-engage-both-men-and-women/
[62] https://www.worldagroforestry.org/blog/2019/11/11/icraf-and-fta-host-first-technical-discussion-development-gender-responsive-post
[63] https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201804032135---CIFOR_CGIAR%20FTA%20submission%20to%20SBI.pdf
[64] https://forestgovernance.chathamhouse.org/media/policy_assessment_framework_processing_consuming_countries.pdf

Women who harvest lantana as part of the Binayi Community Forest User Group, Nepal.

Photo by Chandra Shekhar Karki/ CIFOR

on Sustainable Palm Oil and prompted renewed attention to the gender responsiveness of its criteria, indicators and guidance (Sijapati Basnett et al. 2016). Fairtrade Foundation is drawing on recommendations from FTA's work on Fairtrade[65] (Gallagher et al. 2020) to better guide and measure gender-transformative change in the context of Fairtrade standards, strategies and projects.

Challenges along the way

Truly integrating gender across the FTA portfolio, breaking down barriers, and enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration to solve the complex challenges that FTA seeks to address has been an ongoing challenge, requiring continuous time and effort. As FTA scientists have stated, the presence of gender specialists in international environmental, development, and research organizations does not necessarily ensure their influence or result in a reorientation of the sustainability debate in terms of commitments to promote equality and justice (Arora-Jonsson and Sijapati Basnett 2018). In the areas of environmental management and agriculture where FTA operates, the natural sciences and their paradigms (concepts, research methods, theories, and postulates) dominate, and they typically give greater value to biophysical aspects than the social sciences. Attempts to address gender often

[65] https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/media-centre/news/new-fairtrade-study-highlights-successes-and-ways-forward-towards-gender-equality/

remain technical and superficial rather than involving the deep engagement and meaningful analysis that are needed to generate transformative change (Elmhirst et al. 2020). FTA has sought to go beyond these shortcomings in gender mainstreaming towards a genuine recognition and influence of gender in its research, in order to stimulate profound and lasting change for greater equality. In this regard, in addition to strengthening capacities, FTA's gender team worked with scientists from various research traditions to have them recognize and engage with the diversity of human experiences and with marginalization in their work. Some scientists met this process, which requires open-mindedness and reflexivity, with hesitation and resistance. The continuous presence of gender on the agenda of the CRP's leaders; constant interactions with gender team members and other colleagues championing gender research; the availability of resources to support gender research; and the demonstrated value of FTA's gender research over time has encouraged scientists to engage, and has contributed to shifts in the mindsets of even some of the most resistant scientists.

In comparison to other CRPs, the CGIAR-IEA (2017, 78) Evaluation of Gender in CGIAR noted that FTA was "exceptional in having a very large pool of 'other' social scientists working on gender," including a number of men scientists. Yet, large in comparison does not mean large in absolute terms of number of gender specialists working across FTA, as gender expertise in research teams was generally one-person deep, if that, and unevenly distributed across FPs and FTA managing partners. Engaging with the complexity and context-specific nature of gender-power relations in projects requires dedicated time and capacities, which was in relatively short supply for a research program of FTA's size. Given this context, the many resources that FTA has produced to support gender integration in forestry/natural resource management research is particularly noteworthy. It highlights the value of the substantial continued investment of FTA program-level funding to that critical dimension of FTA work.

Elmhirst et al. (2020) identify several challenges related to integrating gender meaningfully in FTA and in other environment and development programmes and organizations. One such challenge is the slow pace of social change, especially when measured against the short timelines of project funding and the high donor demand for rapid outcomes. The 10-year horizon of FTA has been critical for transcending some of the constraints associated with the program's shorter-term projects and advancing both strands detailed

[65] https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/media-centre/news/new-fairtrade-study-highlights-successes-and-ways-forward-towards-gender-equality/

in FTA's Gender Strategy (CIFOR 2013d) and revised research agenda and action plan (CGIAR FTA 2020). Creating a strong and integrated gender team across FTA centres, enhancing capacities, and fostering an enabling environment for gender research, amid a turnover of FTA scientists, requires continuous investment (in time and monetary resources). Likewise, developing FTA's strong external partnerships and coalitions, some initiated through serendipitous encounters, required years of collaboration built incrementally, with occasional breakthroughs in influence and funding. Developing the empirical evidence that would solidify these partnerships, and FTA's reputation and influence, was a long-term endeavour, as was being able to make and demonstrate change on the ground. As the FTA program ends, the challenge ahead is to capitalize on its momentum and achievements to drive the next generation of gender research to enhance equality and inclusion in forest and agroforestry landscapes.

Tambopata river fishing, native community ese'ejja Infierno, Peru.

Photo by Chandra Shekhar Karki/ CIFOR

5. Moving forward

Among its recommendations, the final CGIAR Advisory Services Shared Secretariat Evaluation of FTA (CAS Secretariat 2020, 3) mentions gender as one of the "emerging and global issues" to which "FTA should continue [making] scientific contributions." FTA has set a path for continuing to advance gender integration and research in landscapes experiencing rapid **rural transformations**. Future research on tomorrow's landscapes should continue to address this rapid pace of rural change, including the various effects[66] of migration[67] and livelihood diversification among rural women and men, and **aspirations** among young men and women in forest landscapes that are different than those in the past (Kawarazuka et al. 2020; Mulyoutami et al. 2020; Simelton et al. 2021). FTA's work on gender and **migration** has begun to identify the types of policies, institutional arrangements and interventions that foster enabling contexts for women and men from different generational groups[68] to benefit from migration,[69] mobility and livelihoods of people who live in multiple places in forested landscapes, and the links between migration, aspirations and rural innovation and investments (Juniwaty et al. 2019; Crossland et al. 2021b). Comparative research on migration[70] has shown that migration plays a key role in influencing the

[66] https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DBrUEITjnGc
[67] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/news-article/impact-of-migration-on-people-and-landscapes-in-nepal/?utm_source=October%202018&utm_campaign=FTA%20NEWS%20UPDATE&utm_medium=website
[68] https://forestsnews.cifor.org/52018/left-behind-the-women-and-elderly-of-nalma?fnl=en
[69] https://forestsnews.cifor.org/42192/unpacking-migration-and-gender-in-nepals-community-forests?fnl=en

In Nalma village most of the adult male population has gone abroad for work, leaving only children, women and the elderly.

Photo by Chandra Shekhar Karki/CIFOR

composition and use of forests (Hecht et al. 2015; Sijapati Basnett 2016). Further work is needed to examine the availability and reliability of data on forests and migration from a gender perspective, and to obtain additional quantitative and qualitative data.

The engagement of FTA gender researchers in high-level processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the Global Environment Facility's expert group on gender has demonstrated an increasing emphasis on achieving synergies among a range of environmental targets and among environmental and gender equality goals. This has led to FTA gender-focused work exploring **synergies and trade-offs** among such goals, as well as strategies and approaches that support the achievement of mutual benefits (Djoudi et al. 2013; Arora-Jonsson et al. 2019; Sijapati Basnett et al. 2019; Elias et al. 2020b). This work has generated considerable interest among multilateral conventions and organizations, exemplified by an ongoing collaboration with UN Women for a paper on achieving synergies across the Rio Conventions from a gender perspective. Based on evidence gathered over years of FTA research, further work on trade-offs and synergies is needed to strengthen the business case for gender equality and advance this goal through environmental agendas.

Yet, as FTA has argued, advancing gender equality should not be contingent on the value of equality to achieve other forest and environmental goals. FTA's recognition that gender equality has intrinsic value (i.e. value in its own right) leads to the understanding that reconciling gender equality and environmental objectives may at times be required (CGIAR FTA 2020). FTA's commitment to gender equality, and its work on **rights-based approaches**, which takes gender equality as an inherent human right, should be accelerated to inform debates and policies in this field (Larson et al. 2019b; Monterroso et al. 2019). Efforts are now underway to use these approaches in multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance the social inclusion of underrepresented groups, in particular women and Indigenous Peoples (Sarmiento-Barletti 2020b; Evans et al. 2021).

Likewise, more research is needed to address the root causes of inequality, including **norms** that discriminate against women and other marginalized groups. In its commentary of the FTA Phase 2 proposal,[71] the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC 2015, 3) commends FTA's "renewed focus on transformative gender research." FTA's foundational work on norms (Elias et al. 2018b) and gender transformative approaches[72] — and its current six-country comparative study co-funded by IFAD on gender transformative approaches to advance women's land rights — can lead the way for future research in this area. Moreover, FTA's trailblazing work on **masculinities** explores how men and boys experience gender-specific forms of vulnerabilities in the context of rural transformations, including a book that challenges biases and perceptions of forestry and agroforestry as masculine domains (Colfer 2020), can pave the way towards notions of "constructive masculinities"[73] in research and development.

In the current context of **COVID-19** and of rapid climate change, future research should build on FTA's work on gender and **resilience** (Djoudi and Brockhaus 2011; Paez Valencia 2021) and on rural women's lives amid the pandemic[74] to build forward better and support more inclusive forest and agroforest landscapes. Ongoing FTA research in Vietnam is investigating the impact of payments for ecosystem services (PES) and REDD+ schemes on forest communities' resilience in the face of COVID-19. The research community should continue to fill critical evidence gaps in information on equitable natural resource management institutions (both

[71] https://www.foreststreesagroforestry.org/forests-trees-and-agroforestry-landscapes-livelihoods-and-governance/
[72] http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2018/12/21/challenging-gender-norms-around-trees-and-land-restoration-in-west-africa-can-research-be-transformative/
[73] https://gender.cgiar.org/news-events/striking-new-tune-gender-researchers-re-examine-their-focus-men
[74] https://alliancebioversityciat.org/stories/burkina-faso-rural-womens-perspectives-covid-19

formal and informal) that can enable resilient livelihoods and landscapes. Such an ambitious research agenda can help unlock solutions to the many environmental and socio-economic crises that humanity faces, to advance sustainable development and embed justice in the fabric of society.

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16. Capacity Development
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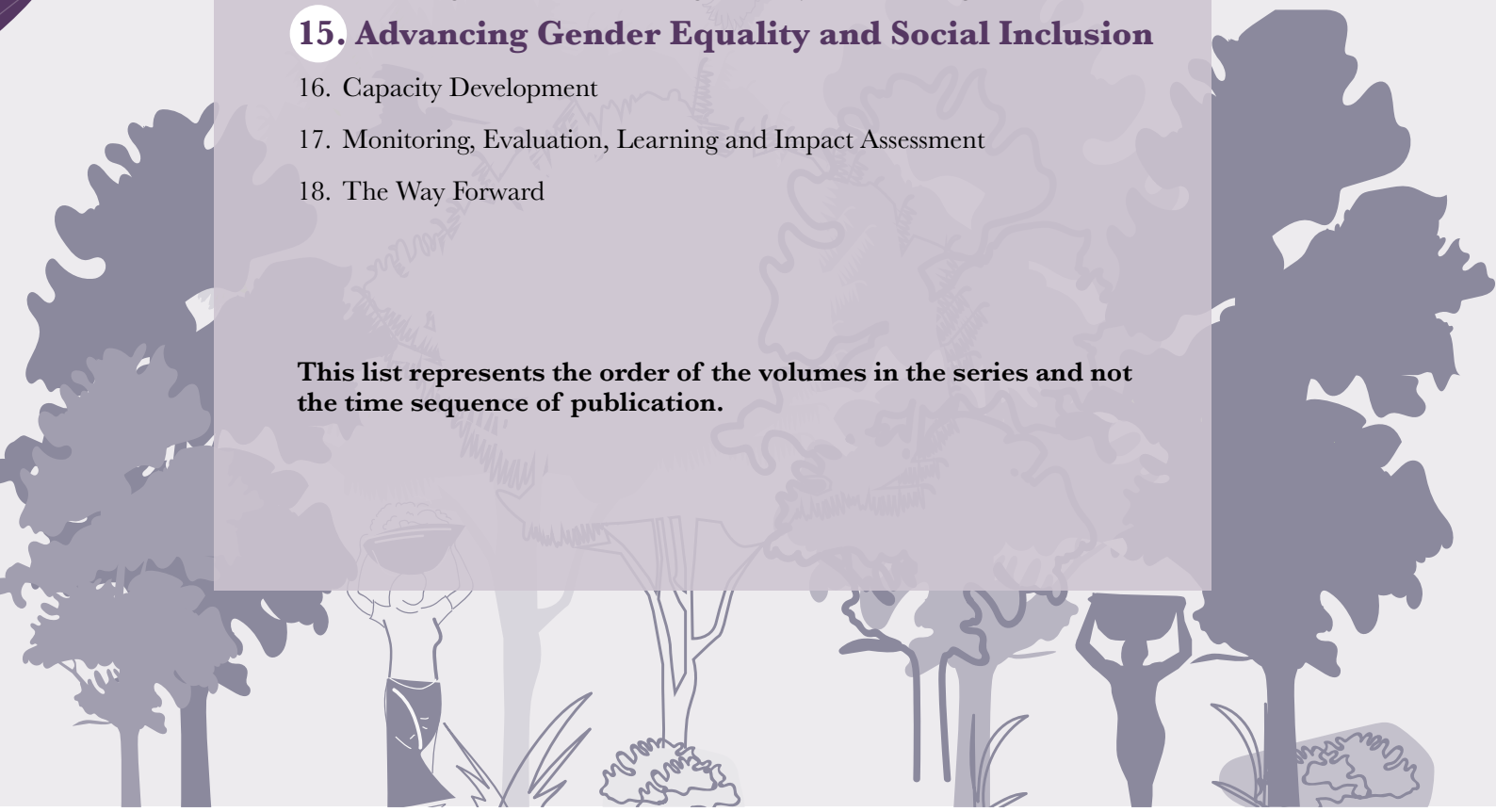

FTA HIGHLIGHTS OF A DECADE
2011-2021

Advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

The CGIAR Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) has worked for the last 10 years to advance gender equality and social inclusion in diverse treed landscapes. Continuous scientific inquiry coupled with targeted efforts to constantly strengthen gender integration across the FTA research portfolio characterise this decade-long journey. This publication highlights some of the key FTA results and strategies that enabled change across scales, translating FTA's efforts into outcomes and impacts.

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This is No.15 of the FTA Highlights of a Decade series.
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