

Gender in the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

A summary of the strategy for research and action

Introduction

A number of studies demonstrate the critically important roles women play in managing forests, agroforests and tree genetic resources. Women's participation in making decisions at household and community levels has been demonstrated to improve forest regeneration, increase crop yields, improve financial management, and prioritise funding for pro-poor and empowerment programmes. Women in forest communities can generate more than 50% of their income from forests, compared with about one-third for men. Women's control over income correlates with improved food intake and child nutrition status.

But women continue to be disadvantaged by insecure access and property rights to forest, trees and land resources; by discrimination in the provision of services, including credit and technology; and by exclusion from decisions at all levels. Changes in tree cover and loss of access to forests can therefore have a disproportionate impact on women, with indirect impacts on the livelihoods of 5–10 times as many people. Gender equity in the forestry and agroforestry sector can therefore contribute to achieving broader social and economic goals, both enhancing the prospects for

sustainable forest management and providing a solid foundation for more equitable benefit distribution, household food security and nutrition.

With this rationale, the gender strategy for the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP6) is focused on improving the quality and volume of gender-responsive research in the CRP6. It views gender integration in research as a fundamental part of doing good science and approaches gender integration as a cross-cutting theme, which integrates gender analysis and research into each of the five components/research programmes of the CRP6. The strategy synthesises gender-relevant research questions, outcomes and associated impact pathways that have been identified across CRP6's five research components (see Table 1 and Annex 1 in the strategy for examples of gender-relevant questions and strategies for each CRP6 component).

Overall, the CRP6 gender strategy aims for one principal outcome: *Women are better empowered, and gender equality in decision making and control over forest, tree and agroforestry resources use, management and benefits is improved.*

Table 1. CRP6 Components and gender-relevant research questions

CRP6 research component	Research component's focus	Aspects of on-going gender-relevant research
1	The needs of smallholder producers; with an emphasis on increasing productivity of trees and improving access to markets	How can women's participation in NTFP improve? What platforms can supply timely market information to women?
2	The needs of forest managers; with an emphasis on approaches to conserving forest ecosystems	What are the preconditions for gender-equitable participation and benefits in forest rehabilitation schemes?
3	The needs of landscape-level planners and relevant stakeholders: emphasising the values of environmental services and negotiating trade-offs	What are the gender-specific impacts of payments for environmental services schemes? What approaches are necessary to ensure gender-equitable participation?
4	The needs of policy makers and land managers seeking to include forests, trees, and agroforestry in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies	What are the differential impacts of climate change in adaptation and mitigation on either gender's tenure rights and livelihoods?
5	The needs of policy makers and land managers, to ensure globalised trade and investment are beneficial to forests and the communities that depend on them.	How does access to forest resources linked to global trade affect each gender? What measures are needed to ensure women's rights?

Budget

About 10% of each CRP6 component's budget currently (2012–2014) is dedicated to gender research and analysis: an estimated USD 24 million over three years. In addition, gender cross-cutting has a separate budget of USD 3.5 million. The next operational plan (2013–2015) will have more reliable figures accompanied by a specific annual programme.

Management

The gender cross-cutting theme is under the supervision of the CRP6 director; this and associated activities are coordinated by a gender coordinator. Gender focal points from each of the CRP6 centres report to the gender coordinator. The focal points ensure that gender issues are addressed. Overall, responsibilities for gender integration are broadly embedded.

Capacity

The CRP6 gender theme will initially focus on building capacity within and across participating research centres. Capacity for gender research and analysis will be increased and strengthened in various ways: recruitment; training of scientists; and targeted deployment of gender-specialist consultants. Capacity building will include centre and CRP6-level workshops, seminars, conferences, training for women's leadership, methods and indicator development, mentoring young gender scientists and investing in postdoctoral fellowships.

Annual self-assessment and reviews among scientists will be encouraged; however, we plan to conduct assessments every third year to identify emerging issues and assess progress towards gender literacy.

Goals and outcomes

Gender analysis and research in the CRP6 seeks to achieve three main research goals:

- generate understanding of key institutional, cultural and attitudinal contexts that entrench inequity across a relevant set of issue areas in the CRP6
- identify policies, technologies and practices that will augment gender equity in access, use and management of forests and trees and the associated benefits
- offer guidance on avoiding or mitigating negative impact associated with relevant processes at multiple levels of governance.

These three goals will be achieved through four interrelated outcome categories:

- **Knowledge and priorities** - knowledge, preferences and priorities of women (and men) are reflected in relevant decisions; including, identifying research priorities
- **Effects of policy processes** - differential effects of policy on men and women
- **Differential adoption** - differential capacities to adopt materials, methods and knowledge are accounted for during interventions
- **Participation and influence** - equitable participation in and influence over decision making processes are enhanced.

The gender-related outcomes target both practical and strategic gender needs and form the basis for the CRP6-wide synthesis of gender-specific research results, lessons learned, and good practice. We have developed an analytical framework for CRP6 that will guide scientists and partners in their research work.

Impacts

Social and political change can occur through multiple avenues, such as improved knowledge and technology, collective organisation or contestation. Research and action in the CRP6 will use these methods to strengthen women's access to benefits and decision making in forests, trees and agroforestry research.

The impact pathway illustrates how outputs and outcomes under each theme affect each other. However, the linearity of the impact pathway does not necessarily convey certain aspects: that outcomes can have multiple impacts; that partnerships can amplify impacts; or that learning and feedback can prompt rethinking of methodologies.

The achievement of this impact pathway is conditioned on the combination of research, advocacy, training and capacity building as well as innovations in policy and practice. Other activities will include gender-differentiated cost benefit analyses, capacity building and use of pilot projects to demonstrate the value of increased attention to gender.

Transforming outcomes to impacts will further include:

- awareness campaigns
- success stories
- advocacy for equitable resource allocation and acquisition and securitisation of land or forest rights
- strengthening of women's forums.

CRP6 research teams will undertake global dissemination and outreach with all national level partners adopting the same criteria through workshops and campaigns.

Activities

To effectively incorporate gender in the research cycle in CRP6, we will employ sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis methods, partnerships and alliances, knowledge sharing and adaptive learning. For the highest impact, these approaches will be applied in combination with each phase of the research cycle.

Sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis

The regular and consistent gathering and analysis of gender-disaggregated data will help identify perceptions, experiences, contributions and priorities. It will ultimately help to define interventions that will enhance gender equity.

We will pursue multiple methodologies to generate insights into gender-relevant questions; including, household surveys, experimental games and participatory techniques.

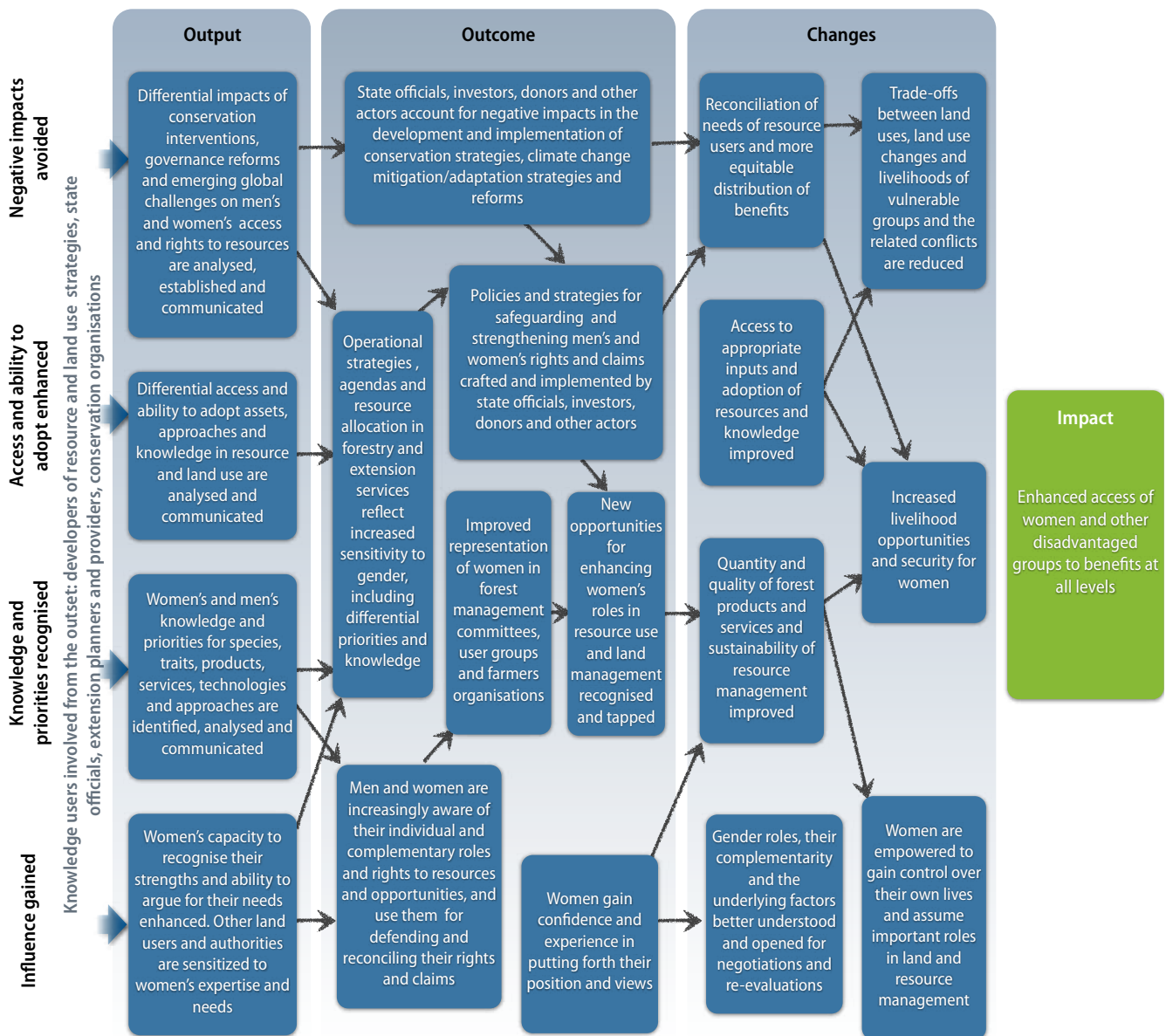


Figure 1. Gender impact pathway

Because gendered outcomes may vary, each CRP6 component has not only identified specific gender-related research questions (see Annex I in the full-length strategy) but has identified geographic priorities where culture and social norms may differ.

Partnerships and alliances

Since gender inequality is rooted in societal relationships, broad changes are necessary for closing or narrowing the gender gap. Strengthening links to advocacy networks and platforms (including media and women's organisations) is critical for raising awareness and mobilising action toward gender inclusion. Specific attention will be paid to encourage partnerships between the partners of CRP6 and gender-specific organisations.

Knowledge sharing

Systematic documentation and circulation of information will include production of good practice guides, training guides, policy briefings and scientific articles spanning aspects of gender in forest, tree and agroforestry use and management. Documentation will articulate the interconnections between new behaviours and will provide insights into how changes can be embedded into ongoing practices.

The CRP6 gender focal points will work with each CRP6 centre's communication team to prepare annual events where gender research-related materials would be appropriately circulated. Other social media will also be used, such as Twitter, Facebook, and blogs.

Adaptive learning

Researchers will develop and track indicators to capture inclusion, to improve gender equity, to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes, projects and interventions and to improve data collection and analysis systems. These indicators will span the breadth of forestry and agroforestry concerns. We will select and apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the true magnitude of impacts. Such assessments allow critical analysis of activities and the incorporation of new information.

Monitoring and evaluation

The achievement of the principal outcome will be tracked using the following measurable indicators:

- gender equality in decision making and control over forest, trees and agroforestry resources and relevant results in increased incomes and benefits for women
- the number of women newly empowered to plant and manage forests, agroforests and tree resources in programme countries
- incomes from forest, trees and agroforestry goods and services have increased such that gender inequality in income have decreased by at least 30%
- at least 20–30% of women and their families have improved health conditions or have a reduced incidence of common illness in CRP6 programme countries
- 20–30% of members elected/appointed to forest management committees are women
- 10–15% of women in programme areas have control over forests, agroforests and tree resources at household and community levels.

To increase the likelihood of learning at each phase, the effectiveness of the process will be monitored and evaluated at three levels:

1. *Gender integration* – identifying the effectiveness of integration; for example, whether a congenial atmosphere for gender research support has been established
2. *Outputs* – identifying the extent to which gender is incorporated into proposals and outputs; for example, whether gender-disaggregated data is collected and analysed and gender-responsive knowledge is shared
3. *Impact analysis* – identifying the extent to which gender-responsive research has achieved the CGIAR system's strategic results of poverty reduction, enhancing food security, improving health and nutrition, and environmental sustainability.

The three-tier monitoring and evaluation plan reflects the impact pathway and articulates a framework for monitoring and evaluating progress towards implementing the gender strategy.

Incentives to encourage successful gender integration will be jointly negotiated between managers and scientists during the annual performance appraisal process. They may include supplemental funding, targeted training and presentations at international forums, as well as showcasing effective integration efforts in the outcome stories of annual reports.



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry

This research was carried out by CIFOR as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry. This collaborative program aims to enhance the management and use of forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources across the landscape from forests to farms. CIFOR leads the program in partnership with Bioversity International, CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and the World Agroforestry Centre.

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