Who?

How, what?

Why?

Where, when?

Who cares?

So what?

Negotiation-support toolkit for learning landscapes

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8 | Gender roles in land use and value chains (GRoLUV)

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Gender specificity of land use (decisions, labour, remuneration) and participation in value chains needs to be understood. While preceding methods are supposed to represent the diversity among the farming community, intra-household relations and the position of female-headed households deserve specific attention. Analysis and reliable data can be used by local 'agents of change' to step over the shadow of cultural norms of the status quo and create conditions for greater gender equity. Gender Roles in Land Use and Value Chains (GRoLUV) guides analysis of gender differentiation.

■ Introduction

In most cultures, livelihoods' options differ between men and women. Gender-specific norms usually restrict the freedom of new generations of individuals to realize their potential for self-realization. Educational and social systems influence aspirations and reproduce the norms as desirable and appropriate, so the system conserves itself. Yet, at the level of the Millennium Development Goals, equal access to education for girls has been accepted as an important element of development strategies. Quisumbing and Pandolfelli (2010) estimated that production in agricultural and agroforestry sectors can be expected to increase by 10–20% if women's roles in use of farm inputs and labour were appreciated through proper access to education and other resources. Women and men have different strategies in managing natural resources that lead to different problems and also different types of solutions; they also generate knowledge about environmental changes in different ways. Therefore, taking into account the differences between women and men is necessary in the course of designing and implementing a development program with attention to environmental issues.

Tools such as PALA, PAPoLD, RAFT and RMA will have already provided indications of the gender-specific dimensions of land-use and poverty patterns, livelihoods' strategies, use and knowledge of the landscape and engagement with post-harvest processing and marketing. The GroLUV tool can be used to further elicit gender-specific information and understand the conditions underpinning differences.

In many cultures it is the norm that men are taking the lead in activities in the landscape far from the homestead, except for collection of drinking water from rivers or firewood, which is usually a woman's task, while women focus on activities closer to the homestead. In many situations, harvesting and management of forest products (timber and non-timber) is dominated by men, while processing and marketing may be more of women's task. For example, Martini et al (2012) described for sugar palm the role of women in marketing differed between palm sugar and palm wine as marketed products (Figure 8.1).
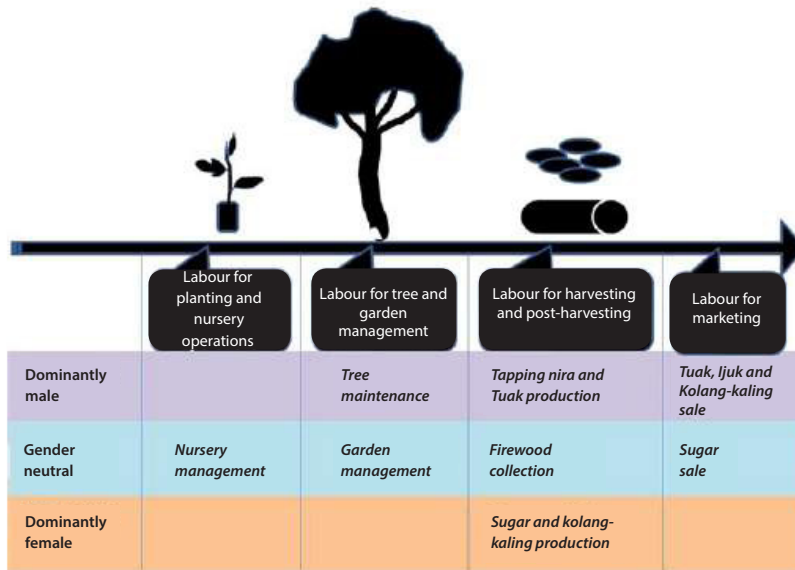
Figure 8.1. Gender differentiation of tasks and responsibilities along the stages of a sugar-palm production cycle in Batang Toru, North Sumatra
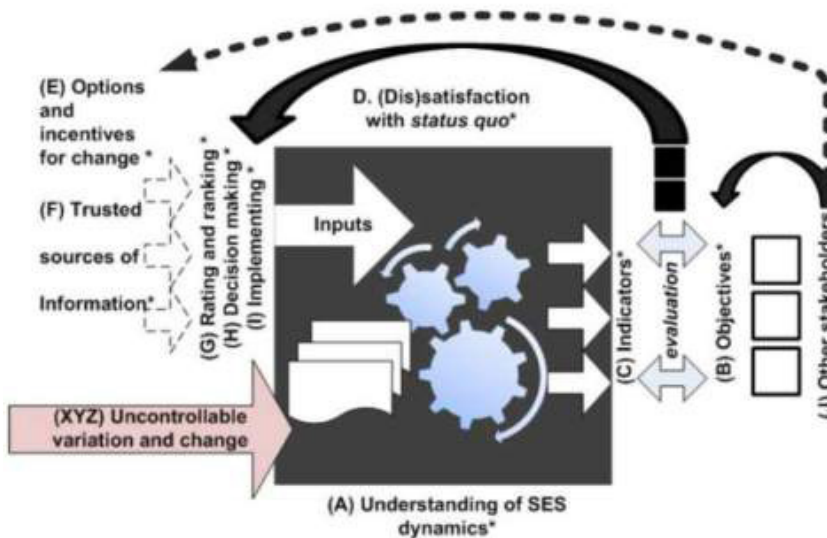
Note: As analyzed by Martini et al 2012

Figure 8.2. Conceptualization of management decision cycles that involve satisfaction with status quo and/or active search for new options; potentially all steps are gender-differentiated

Source: Villamor et al 2014

Not only the portfolio of practices and preferences but also the style of learning can be gender specific (Figure 8.2). As stated before, learning landscapes need two types of learning: 1) local actors and stakeholders will learn by experience if there is political space for innovation; while 2) external stakeholders want to understand the types of change that occur in comparison with a properly documented baseline. These dual aspects of learning can be mutually supportive through appropriate combination of approaches but their differences (reminiscent of sentinel versus learning landscapes in Fig. 0.10) need to be respected.

■ Objectives

1 Appreciate gender specificity, in the local cultural context, of production factors: labour; access to, and control of, land; access to credit; knowledge and access to innovation; and product value chains.

2 Understand gender specificity within the local cultural context and of the different stages along a management cycle and participation in market-based value chains of major agroforestry components.

3 Understand gender specificity of preferences for trees (or absence thereof) in the farmed landscape.

4 Assess the degree to which gender specificity of preferences gets expressed on farms and in the landscape.

■ Steps

1 A baseline survey prior to project implementation aimed at portrayal of the real condition, using the Harvard Analytical Framework and the Moser Gender Planning Framework. The Harvard framework makes women's roles and work visible (Overholt et al 1985, Rao et al 1991). The Moser framework (Moser 1993) provides clear guidance for identifying strategic gender needs. Descriptive statistical analysis quantifies the captured information regarding gender access and control.

2 Focus-group discussions on access to land, daily and seasonal time schedules, input requirements and output prospects of the main agroforestry products and services.

3 Focus-group discussions on gender specificity related to
   a.   the stages of a tree's lifecycle and associated value chain;
   b.   access to (and perceived security in) areas of increasing distance to the village or homestead;
   c.   access to, and control of, agroforestry benefits.

4 Descriptive statistical analysis to quantify captured information regarding gender access and control over resources and benefits.

5 Landscape walks, with informants from both genders, to identify the major trees, discussing their utility for domestic use and/or marketing, triangulating possible differences between men and women with information obtained in steps 1 and 2.

6 Focus-group discussions similar to the WNoTree method that clarify any gaps between desirable tree cover, tree diversity and species portfolio, and what is present.

7 More detailed analysis of gender differences in decision making and access to new information from trusted sources that can lead to identification of communication priorities.

8 Ensure that gender specificity of current and potential future agroforestry practices is appreciated and that appropriate steps are taken to reduce or remove inequities in access to external resources and opportunities as part of broader action plans and based on local initiative.

■ Case study: GRoLUV in Indonesia

As suggested by Step 1, at the start of the Agroforestry and Forestry in Sulawesi (AgFor) project in Indonesia, considerable effort by the researchers and partners was put into detailed description of the baseline, both to assist in prioritization of subsequent project activities, and to have a proper reference for future impact studies, aimed at structured learning of what worked well and what not or less so.

Data collection employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches closely related to the research question. The range of data collected was implemented based on consideration of the methods best able to address detailed questioning. The detailed research questions and methods are described in Mulyoutami et al (2012). The primary data collection methods employed were full-day mini-workshops or group discussions with village representatives (Box 8.1). Separate discussions were held with female and male groups, using the same set of questions to compare the different points of view. Household surveys were conducted using descriptive statistics to capture current situations. Some individual interviews were undertaken to gain general views of village and community conditions. Data from the bureau of statistics and reports on the Human Development Index, Gender Development Index and Gender Empowerment Index were used to illustrate how gender issues at district and provincial levels were situated in the national context.

Box 8.1. Focus-group discussions in practice

A full day mini-workshop or focus-group discussion was held in each village with participants comprised of invited villagers and key people indicated by leaders of the village prior to the discussions. The aim was to gain basic information about land use and sources of livelihoods, demography and migration patterns, land-management practices, poverty, information related to training, extension and village organization, marketing practices, sources of, and access to, planting materials, communication and gender roles within natural resource management. They were implemented utilizing participatory principles and applied triangulation processes from multiple sources of information. This information was consolidated within the discussions. Mini-workshops or group-based interviews usually started at 9 am and ended at 4 pm. In each village, the participants were divided into three different groups consisting of 4–8 farmers. The first group consisted of mostly male participants and discussed issues of land use, history of livelihoods' sources, land-management practices, demography and migration. The second group consisted of only male participants and discussed gender roles in land management, communication, village institutions, gender perceptions of land use, values and poverty and basic information about their needs for extension. The third group used the same set of questions as the second group but consisted of only female participants. Discussions were held in village offices or in houses belonging to local leaders.

The results clearly demonstrated that women and men had different roles in managing households, faming activities and natural resources. In the areas of household, farm production, land-use management and marketing, women were mostly responsible for domestic tasks and maintaining the land located close to the settlement. Men were mostly responsible for earning income from working in the public domain and were fully responsible for maintaining the land that was located far from the settlement and for physically heavy work. The close proximity of the area of work to the house was favourable for women so that they could still undertake other productive work while doing household chores.
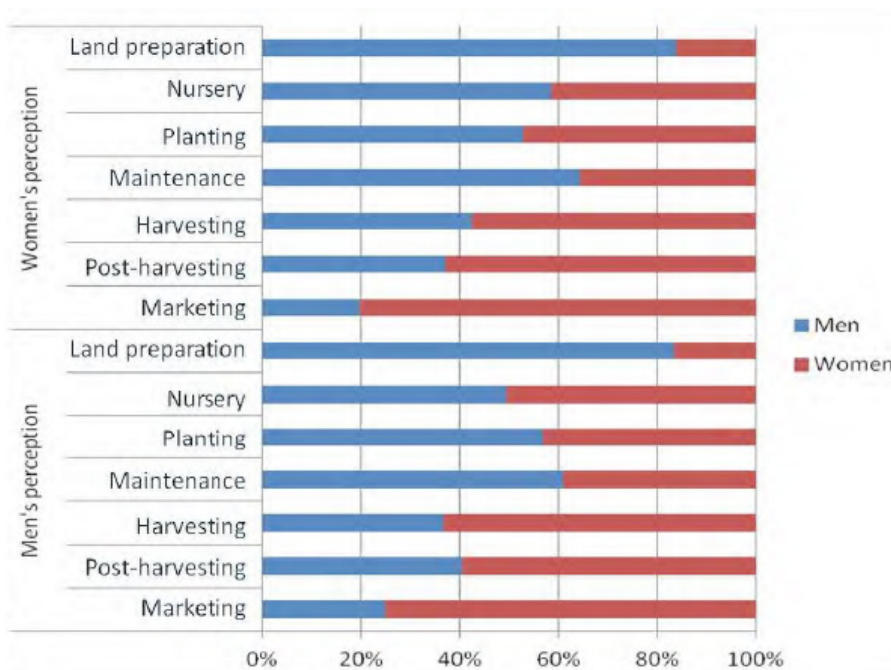

Figure 8.3. Gender roles in selected farming activities in the AgFor Sulawesi case study

Source: Mulyoutami et al 2012

The relationship between gender and land, particularly in terms of land rights and ownership, as well as how gender influences perceptions of land use and function was clearly observed. Women were not acknowledged as legal landholders since most of the land certificates were under the name of men. Clearly, providing a more conducive condition for women to become land owners, legalized in land certificates, would increase equity in terms of land rights and ownership. This is specifically an issue for female-headed households. Gender was also found to influence men and women's perceptions of land-use values, their importance and function.

Furthermore, the data showed that women were more knowledgeable about land-use values with regards to environmental issues related to the use value of biodiversity, especially medicinal plants, while men were more aware of conservation or protecting the environment. The market chain in

Sulawesi, in particular in South and Southeast Sulawesi, had already taken women into account. Women had equal positions in marketing, with responsibility for cocoa, clove and coffee. However, the producer or villager is at the end of the market chain and without access to knowledge of markets and related product (quality, price) information so they have little room to expand their income.

The study led to a number of recommended criteria and indicators for gender empowerment in the local context that informed further project-level discussions.

■ **Key references**

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The landscape scale is a meeting point for bottom–up local initiatives to secure and improve livelihoods from agriculture, agroforestry and forest management, and top–down concerns and incentives related to planetary boundaries to human resource use.

Sustainable development goals require a substantial change of direction from the past when economic growth was usually accompanied by environmental degradation, with the increase of atmospheric greenhouse gasses as a symptom, but also as an issue that needs to be managed as such.

In landscapes around the world, active learning takes place with experiments that involve changes in technology, farming systems, value chains, livelihoods' strategies and institutions. An overarching hypothesis that is being tested is:

> Investment in institutionalising rewards for the environmental services that are provided by multifunctional landscapes with trees is a cost-effective and fair way to reduce vulnerability of rural livelihoods to climate change and to avoid larger costs of specific 'adaptation' while enhancing carbon stocks in the landscape.

Such changes can't come overnight. A complex process of negotiations among stakeholders is usually needed. The divergence of knowledge and claims to knowledge is a major hurdle in the negotiation process.

The collection of tools—methods, approaches and computer models—presented here was shaped by over a decade of involvement in supporting such negotiations in landscapes where a lot is at stake. The tools are meant to support further learning and effectively sharing experience towards smarter landscape management.