



SECURING WOMEN'S RESOURCE RIGHTS THROUGH GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

The Global Initiative

In 2020, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invited a consortium of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry Centre (CIFOR-ICRAF), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to work with selected IFAD projects **to promote and strengthen women's land rights through the integration of gender transformative approaches (GTAs) in rural development interventions by improving policies, tools and practices.**



Alliance



The Challenge

Access to land and resources and control over them are vital components of women's empowerment. Land is a critical physical asset but also has a social role, defining social status and political power and structuring relationships both within and outside the household.



Sustainable Development Goal 5 calls for equal rights to economic resources, ownership and control of land, and women's access to resources. However, women continue to be disadvantaged by lack of recognition and insecure rights to land and resources and by exclusion from decision making and governance systems from local to national levels.

Barriers that prevent women's access to, control and use of land and other productive resources depend on local contexts. Such barriers include inadequate legal frameworks, ineffective implementation of policy at national and local levels, and discriminatory cultural attitudes and practices at institutional and community levels. If not recognized and proactively addressed, investments and development initiatives in the agricultural sector can reinforce or even exacerbate such inequalities.

Understanding and addressing the institutional barriers women face across different scales is essential both to achieve gender equality and to secure rights and access to land.

Initiative objectives

- ▶ To enhance the recognition and protection of women's land rights (WLR) in targeted countries.
- ▶ To contribute to the creation of conditions that would enable women's enjoyment of land rights over time.

Specific initiative objectives

- ▶ To design and deploy innovative and participatory gender transformative approaches (GTAs) that contribute to the increased recognition and protection of WLR in targeted countries.
- ▶ To engage key stakeholders at local and national levels to build capacities and ensure that evidence and experiences from country-level pilots inform relevant policy and implementation processes.
- ▶ To generate evidence-based recommendations and share best practices for integrating GTAs into IFAD's global portfolio and advocacy strategy.



WHAT IS RESOURCE TENURE?

Resource tenure arrangements define the set of rights and responsibilities over who uses, extracts, manages and controls the natural resources (e.g., soil, water and wood) of the land. Resource tenure covers more than formal property rights recognised by governments, such as land titles or state forests. It also refers to the unwritten, informal practices through which rural people gain (or are restricted from) access to natural resources.

WHAT ARE LAND RIGHTS?

When we talk about land rights, we refer to a broad set of formal and informal rules, norms and practices that regulate the ways in which women and men access, manage and benefit from land under different tenure arrangements. These factors influence the ways in which women access land, and also their abilities to make decisions over land, the security of tenure, and their abilities to benefit from their land rights.



WHAT ARE GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES (GTAs)?

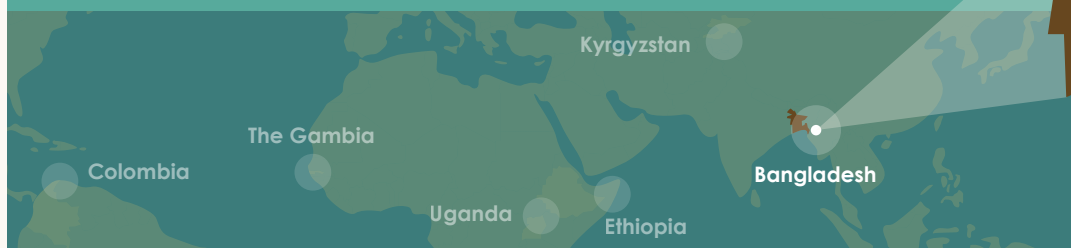
Gender transformative approaches challenge the underlying barriers that sustain gender inequality, such as norms and institutional structures. Rather than addressing the symptoms (e.g. unequal income), these approaches identify factors that enable and catalyze changes to achieve more equitable involvement of women and girls in decision making, control over resources, and agency of their own labour and future. Transformational changes aim to foster enabling environments that ensure change is deep, lasting and pervasive. For example, see the **compendium of good practices for gender transformative approaches for food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture** (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb1331en>) which was co-produced by IFAD.

Initiative approach

The three-year initiative (2021-2024) will conduct gender analyses, pilot context-appropriate GTAs to advance the recognition and protection of women's land rights in different IFAD projects, and scale up the GTA agenda. The initiative team will **work collaboratively with IFAD project personnel in each country to share, add value and learn from ongoing efforts. Appropriate and relevant approaches will be identified for scaling women's land rights initiatives.**

Each IFAD project is unique, entailing different phases and timelines of project implementation, approaches to addressing gender, and issues concerning rights to land and resources. While few of these projects explicitly focus on land and resource rights or gender equality, these issues underpin project implementation with multiple entry points for intervention. **The initiative will work across a diversity of projects and contexts to harvest lessons and promote cross-learning. The lessons will be shared with a wider pool of approximately 30 IFAD supported projects and beyond.**

Engaging with IFAD projects - Bangladesh



IFAD has been investing in poor rural women and men in Bangladesh for almost 40 years. The current approach aims to:

- ▶ Enable poor people in vulnerable areas to adapt their livelihoods to climate change;
- ▶ Help small producers and entrepreneurs benefit from improved value chains and greater market access; and
- ▶ Empower marginalized groups, including poor rural women, both economically and socially.

Char Development and Settlement Project IV

The project builds on decades of investments by the Government of Bangladesh and development partners aimed at developing improved and more secure livelihoods for poor people living on newly accreted coastal islands known locally as chars. It adopts an integrated approach to coastal zone development to:



- ▶ Improve drainage and enhance land accretion;
- ▶ Finance climate-resilient infrastructure for communications;
- ▶ Improve access to markets, potable water and sanitation in all five chars;
- ▶ Facilitate joint land titling for 20,000 households;
 - Provide farmers with technical assistance to make the best use of limited land resources; and
- ▶ Establish a team to disseminate lessons in coastal zone development planning for the future development of new chars.

Targeted support is provided to the most disadvantaged members of the community, including landless households and women.

Source: IFAD, n.d., Char development and settlement project IV. IFAD, viewed 26 May 2021, <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/-/project/1100001537>.

GENDER ANALYSIS AND PILOTING TOOLS

The initiative will:

- ▶ Conduct in-depth gender analysis in six target countries to examine the relationships between local context, gender and land rights; and
- ▶ Provide global and context-specific recommendations to inform project implementation, interventions, and policy options.

The team will:

- ▶ Identify gender transformative approaches and methods that can support the achievement of WLR through rural development interventions; and
- ▶ Adapt and pilot these approaches, together with the IFAD local project teams, in order to enhance the recognition, participation in decision making, and enjoyment of women's rights.

Promoting gender transformative approaches for **global scaling**.

Integrating **evidence into national policy** processes.



ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The initiative will systematize the knowledge and lessons generated and use the IFAD and CGIAR scientific and communications infrastructure to target decision-makers and development practitioners with demand-driven tools, guidelines, frameworks and knowledge products.



Facilitating **cross-project learning** and exchange.



Integrating **gender transformative approaches** into projects.

SCALING UP THE GTA AGENDA

The initiative will facilitate co-learning processes, knowledge exchange and capacity building, the scaling out of good practices and lessons learned, and the integration of evidence into advocacy and policy processes through four levels of engagement: project, cross-project, national and global.



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Investing in rural people

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