



Gender Responsive Livestock Research

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Across Africa, women face a fairly consistent gender 'gap' in access to productive assets, inputs and services, compared to men. Eliminating such discrimination and promoting equal access to and use of resources can help ensure that women and men are equally prepared to cope with future challenges.

A focus on gender can increase productivity of agriculture and livestock systems, and improve food security and nutrition:

- Increasing the access of women to productive resources, to be on a par with men, would increase yields by 20-30%. This in turn would raise agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4%, reducing the number of hungry people by 12-17%, roughly 100-150 million people (FAO, 2010).



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Kemeria Hussien at an Ethiopian milk market

Facts

The World Bank's *Report on Gender Equality* demonstrates that:

- removing barriers that prevent women from having the same access as men to education, economic opportunities and productive inputs can generate productivity gains.
- improving women's absolute and relative status improves outcomes for their children, and limits the 'reproduction of poverty'.
- levelling the playing field - where women and men have equal chances to become socially and politically active, make decisions, and shape policies - is likely to lead over time to more representative and more inclusive institutions and policy choices and thus to a better development path (World Bank, 2012).
- Improvements in women's status and their control over resources are associated with increased investment in children's education, health and nutrition, and the ability of women to accumulate assets.

Livestock research, development activities and policies can reduce 'gender gaps', so long as they are carefully designed to be gender responsive and to promote women's empowerment.

Integrating gender equality goals throughout the livestock value chain will take planned effort and investment. But it will give the livestock sector the best opportunity to enhance productivity and food security, and forge collaborations with other sectors, to ensure its rightful place in the future of African agriculture.

Mainstreaming gender

1) Place livestock and gender in a wider context

Livestock researchers and development practitioners need to understand the social and political context in which livestock keepers make decisions and respond to incentives, and why and how to include women in training, sharing of information, market participation and policy development.

It is essential that livestock are understood to be only one of the economic and non-economic activities that households engage in. Hence, interventions that increase the time women spend on livestock keeping have implications for the time they spend on other essential activities, including childcare and cooking.

2) Use gender transformative approaches

Gender transformative approaches (Figure 1) require that gender and power inequalities are addressed, and that gender is integrated in programme approaches to boost equality and improve livelihoods, agricultural productivity, food security, market engagement and nutrition. The use of these approaches requires: changes in women's capacity to improve their skills and capabilities; addressing unequal gender and social relations at household, community and institutional levels; and changing structures that perpetuate gender inequalities. These approaches actively examine, question and change rigid gender norms and imbalances of power,

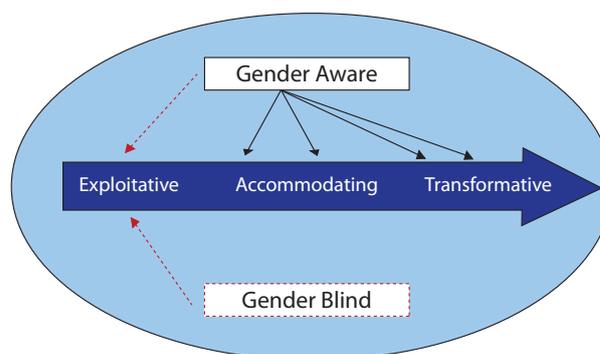


Figure 1. Gender and women's empowerment continuum

encourage critical awareness among men and women of gender roles and norms, and challenge the distribution of resources and power between women and others in the community.

3) Conduct gender analysis

To understand the specific constraints and opportunities that exist for men and women in the livestock sector, a gender analysis should be used in project or policy design. Identification of the issues is a pre-requisite for integrating gender in a practical and systematic way.

4) Integrate gender in project design

The 'project cycle' can be used to ensure that objectives are relevant and gender responsive and that men and women's strengths and weaknesses have been identified (Table 1). Gender should be systematically and practically included in operational plans in the form of concrete activities and relevant

Problem & Context Analysis	Use existing national, regional, local data sets and studies (national agriculture surveys); Qualitative approaches that integrate gender analysis frameworks and tools; Gender and value chain analysis tools and gender and risk assessment tools; Rapid/Qualitative appraisals
Setting Priorities, Identifying Goals & Objectives	Using secondary data; Using existing knowledge of key gender issues related to the context of the research
Research & Development	Some examples may include: Participatory technology/value chain development with men and women farmers; Group-based approaches e.g village savings and loan associations with men and women groups; Gender training for staff and communities; Engaging men and boys for equitable gender relations
Work Plan Development	Three sets of activities should be distinguished in the work plan: Activities where gender is integrated or mainstreamed (gendered value chain analysis); Activities where gender is a strategic approach or research area; Activities directed at certain groups of people (women, female-headed households, youth) e.g formation of women groups to increase women's participation in marketing activities
Budgeting	Gender responsive and activity-based budgeting e.g gender analyses included in costs
Monitoring & Evaluation	Having gender specific outputs, outcomes and impacts; Disaggregating all indicators and data collection by gender; Measuring women's empowerment

Table 1. Tools for integrating gender within the project cycle

indicators. Making objectives or research questions gender responsive goes beyond adding ‘including women’ or ‘especially women’ at the end. Budgets within gender activities for staffing, implementation and capacity building should be clearly specified and allocated. This ensures that gender is not an add-on activity for which no budget is allocated.

Programme plans should describe all the activities that will be carried out to deliver on gender objectives. It is not enough to have gender responsive goals and objectives if these are not backed up by activities to achieve them. Gender training for all staff to create awareness and build basic skills for facilitation and for integrating gender is critical. This capacity building needs to go beyond understanding gender issues and conducting gender analysis; inclusion of behaviour change and facilitation skills is a pre-requisite for the use of gender transformative approaches. Working with men and women to change unequal gender relations

and define change from their own perspectives, and engaging men and boys to support women’s empowerment, can lead to desired long term changes in gender inequality.

5) Mainstream gender in monitoring and evaluation

Empowerment is complex and can have many meanings, often including people’s subjective feelings of power or helplessness. It is thus important to be clear about exactly what empowerment indicators measure and show, and complement this with qualitative gender analysis. In addition to having livestock related objectives, it is crucial to include the empowerment of women and change in gender and social relations as objectives in their own right in any development programme. These goals and objectives also need to be tracked and documented.

In collecting, monitoring and evaluating data, who is asked for information and who does the asking are also important considerations. The collection and

Outcome and Impact Area	Indicators
Asset Accumulation	<p><i>Domestic Assets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household domestic asset index for male and female headed households % of women who own different assets Gender asset disparity <p><i>Livestock (by and across species)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of households where women own livestock % of livestock in survey owned by women % of total Tropical Livestock Units (TLU) under women’s ownership Average number of livestock owned by women per household
Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual farm and off farm income % of total annual income managed by women (total and by source) Cash income from livestock and livestock products Contribution of livestock to total farm/household income % of livestock income managed by women (total and by source)
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Dietary Diversity Score for female adult, male adult, female child under 5 and male child under 5 Proportion of men, women, girls and boys consuming at least one animal source food per day Number of months of adequate household food provisioning in male and female headed households
Labour Use in Livestock Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of labour used in livestock, by activity and gender
Access to Inputs, Services and Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of households with access to a technology or input % of women with access to different technologies or inputs Women’s decision-making on use of technology or inputs (% of households where women made the decision to use a specific technology or input) % of households with savings in formal and informal savings mechanisms % of women with savings in formal and informal savings mechanisms

Table 2. Six core gender sensitive outcome and impact indicators (developed by ILRI)

analysis of information is subject to gender bias and gender-laden cultural attitudes. Teams collecting M&E and impact data should be gender aware and appropriately trained, otherwise they may disregard certain important data or play down the importance of particular gender differences.

Every programme needs to develop indicators that are gender disaggregated to track outcomes and impacts. For example, at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), a collaborative effort drawing on expertise came up with six key outcome and impact areas, for which a core set of gender disaggregated indicators were developed (Table 2).

Involving men and women in gender responsive M&E and impact assessment

Men and women often have different priorities and indicators for measuring change. Involving both ensures these differences are captured and taken into account in designing M&E systems, as well as in the implementation of the programme, project or policy.

Using multiple tools and methods to measure change

Gender issues are inextricably linked to cultural values and social attitudes, which means multiple methods are required to provide an in-depth understanding of what is changing, why, for whom and with what implications. Combining quantitative tools that give an indication of the magnitude of changes and qualitative methods that help in understanding these changes, is critical.

Useful tools include focus group discussions with men and women, ranking and scoring tools, and ethnographic techniques. Participatory impact diagrams also provide an opportunity for men and women to discuss the positive and negative impacts of interventions on their lives. A careful selection of a combination of tools can yield important lessons on how change is happening to men and women, boys and girls and other community members.



In Uganda, Yayeri Nanyonga has helped her neighbours sell milk

Livestock: an opportunity to close the gender gap

While women contribute about 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, they control less land and are less likely to use purchased inputs (fertilisers, improved seeds, mechanical tools and equipment) and participate in agricultural markets, due to gender based constraints such as low mobility and lack of access to information. Despite acknowledging these gender gaps, many agricultural projects still fail to consider the differences and potential impacts of interventions on the resources, status, roles and responsibilities of men and women. It is often assumed that improved technologies or interventions will benefit men and women equally.

Livestock development programmes offer an opportunity to reduce gender disparities especially in ownership of assets and market participation. Using gender transformative approaches and integrating gender in a systematic way in livestock research and development programmes can lead to more equitable development outcomes for men, women, their households and communities. Beyond livestock-specific activities, livestock programmes must also address social inequalities in access to resources and household decision-making and seek to reform structures, including social structures, that perpetuate gender inequalities.

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