



GENDER Impact  
Platform

**CGIAR Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) Impact Platform**

## Methods Module

# WEAI-Climate Learning Grants

RESEARCH GRANTS TO INTEGRATE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX (WEAI) TOOLS IN CGIAR RESEARCH FOCUSED ON CLIMATE CHANGE



## Call for Applications

Last updated: 22 June 2023

*\*In developing this grant funding call and selection process we relied heavily on resources and protocols designed and used by the Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA) programme, which is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), in partnership with Tufts University and the University of Sheffield, and funded by UK Aid from the UK government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform is also grateful for the support of CGIAR Trust Fund Contributors (<https://www.cgiar.org/funders/>) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for this specific grant.*

## 1. Background

The CGIAR Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) Impact Platform aims to catalyze research on gender in agriculture to achieve more equitable, sustainable, productive, and climate-resilient food systems. The GENDER Impact Platform, hosted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), encompasses all CGIAR Research Centers and engages a multitude of partners. GENDER Impact Platform activities will be carried out within 3 modules—Evidence, Methods, and Alliances—working together to develop and promote high-quality evidence, knowledge, methods, tools and alliances around gender that foster transformational change for inclusive and equitable food systems within planetary boundaries.

The Methods Module of the GENDER Impact Platform aims to co-create, consolidate, and share cutting-edge methods and tools to strengthen and facilitate high-quality gender research across key and emerging CGIAR research areas. The module is organized under two work packages (WPs): WP1 identifies priority areas for gender methods research, develops standards for quality gender research, and curates a portfolio of state-of-the-art methods and tools to support communities of practice around these research areas. WP2 develops and implements research projects on innovative methods to further build this state-of-the-art portfolio.

Under WP2, the Methods Module aims to increase uptake of methodologically sound and rigorously validated methods and tools related to the [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(WEAI\)](#) across One CGIAR and the wider research ecosystem to integrate gender more effectively into One CGIAR and partners' investment portfolios. The WEAI Learning Grants are designed to incentivize the application of WEAI-related indicators and tools in priority research areas by providing top-up funding and technical support. Recent reviews have highlighted little evidence on the linkages between women's empowerment and climate action, and limited application WEAI-related tools to climate change research (Bryan et al. 2023). Yet, climate actions have implications for women's empowerment, and women's empowerment also influences climate actions. To contribute to the evidence base on the two-way relationship between women's empowerment and climate actions, while promoting greater application of WEAI-related tools, the Methods module aims to incentivize research on this topic through a second round of learning grants.

## 2. Objectives and Scope

The development and growing use of the WEAI is an important milestone in measuring women's empowerment. Measuring women's empowerment in and through agriculture enables its users to uncover linkages between different aspects of women's empowerment and various outcomes that contribute to more equitable food systems. This is particularly relevant in the context of climate change and resilience. The "Gender in Agriculture and Food Systems: An Evidence Gap Map" study produced by the GENDER Impact Platform Evidence Module reports that a sizable share (18%) of the publications reviewed focus on agriculture, gender, risk, and resilience to shocks and stressors (LEAD 2021). However, a recent literature review suggests that this is a research theme where WEAI-related methods and tools are less frequently applied (Myers et al, 2023). Through these learning grants, the GENDER Impact Platform seeks to promote multi-center strands of gender research around resilience to climate change in agrifood systems, including

along food value chains, and facilitate synthesis and meta-analyses around key gender knowledge gaps in research on climate resilience. To achieve this, the Platform will support collaborative research that uses common WEAI-related methods and tools for measuring women's empowerment impacts.

The Methods Module WEAI-Climate Learning Grants are aimed at strengthening the capacity of CGIAR researchers and their partners to comparably and rigorously measure women's empowerment impacts across One CGIAR projects that include a focus on climate change.

### Examples of WEAI-related tools

- [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index \(WEAI\)](#)
- [Abbreviated WEAI \(A-WEAI\)](#)
- [Project-level WEAI \(pro-WEAI\)\\*](#)
- [Pro-WEAI qualitative protocols\\*](#)
- [Pro-WEAI for Market Inclusion \(pro-WEAI+MI\)\\*](#)
- [Pro-WEAI for Health and Nutrition \(pro-WEAI+HN\)\\*](#)
- [Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index \(WELI\)\\*](#)
- [Women's Empowerment in Livestock Business Index \(WELBI\)\\*](#)
- [Women's Empowerment in Fisheries and Aquaculture Index \(WEFI\)](#)
- [Project-level WEFI \(pro-WEFI\)\\*](#)
- [Women's Empowerment in Migration Index \(WEMI\)](#)

Note: Applicants are encouraged to use the latest versions of the WEAI-related tools, such as those marked with (\*).

The Methods Module will provide top-up funding for **existing or soon-to-be started projects** that incorporate at least one of the following research components, using WEAI-related methods and tools:

- A **diagnostic** study that will collect and analyze data on women's empowerment and outcomes related to agrifood system resilience, and climate change at various scales (individual/household/community/value chains). This may consider the adoption of climate-smart practices, food security and nutrition, and/or livelihood sustainability under reoccurring climate shocks and long-term stressors. The objective is to improve the design of the planned project or inform possible mid-course corrections.
- An **experimental or quasi-experimental** study designed to assess the impacts of CGIAR interventions with specific climate change resilience objectives or climate-smart innovations on women's empowerment and other outcomes, such as food security and nutrition, and livelihood sustainability. Conversely, the study could be designed to assess the extent to which women's empowerment facilitates the adoption of climate innovations and contributes to improved well-being outcomes under climate change.
- A **validation** study designed to test methods and tools that enable the measurement of women's empowerment in decisions related to climate change and resilience including along food value chains for reliability and validity across contexts using a combination of mixed quantitative and qualitative methods.

We invite proposals from collaborative and interdisciplinary research teams that seek to address at least one of the following key knowledge gaps related to the relationship between women's empowerment and climate actions, innovations, and interventions (both adaptation and mitigation) (Bryan et al. 2023):

- Explicit attention to **assessing impacts on women's empowerment** in evaluations of climate change programs in the agrifood systems (both adaptation and/or mitigation) and/or alternative climate-smart agriculture practices or innovations.
- Explore the extent to which women's empowerment facilitates the **adoption of climate-smart strategies or innovations in agricultural production and along agricultural value chains, and/or contributes to improved well-being outcomes under climate change.**
- Promising **interventions or approaches to simultaneously increase women's empowerment and resilience to climate change**, including group-based approaches, social protection, gender-transformative approaches, gender-smart climate information services, etc.

Three (3) proposals will be selected to receive a maximum of **USD 100,000** in top-up funding. The maximum duration for each awarded grant is 16 months with an estimated start date of 1 September 2023 and estimated completion date of 31 December 2024.

In addition to top-up grants, grantees will also receive technical support and guidance through workshops and one-on-one consultation sessions with subject matter experts on the following issues:

- Defining and prioritizing research questions that address the key knowledge gaps described above
- Training on the use and implementation of mixed-methods WEAI tools
- Guidance on standardized methodologies for data analysis that would allow for broader comparisons

Funds will be allocated in 2023 and 2024 through Research Agreements with the respective Centers (TBC). Grant funds should be expended by 31 December 2024. Detailed timelines are set out under Section 3.3.

The Principal Investigator of each project (or alternate) will be expected to attend a stakeholder consultation workshop in 2023 and the GENDER Impact Platform conference in 2024.

At the end of the grant, each project is expected to deliver the following but not limited to:

- Final research instruments/tools produced, including survey questionnaire/s, interview guides, manuals, protocols, etc., accompanied by a summary of the tools and methods for publication on the GENDER resource hub. A template will be provided.
- At least one presentation at the GENDER Impact Platform Conference, Science Exchange, webinar, or another conference
- Associated brief (2-4 pages) or blog (suggested outlet: [EnGendering Data](#))
- Report on learning from the application of WEAI-related tools to climate change research. The input provided will inform the development of the pro-WEAI climate change add-on module. The Methods module will provide a report template.

### 3. Application Process

#### 3.1. Eligibility

Applications must be led by a **CGIAR Research Initiative or other One CGIAR-led research activities**, and satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- Presence of an **existing or soon-to-be started project** that is willing to incorporate a **diagnostic, experimental/quasi-experimental, or validation** study on women's empowerment and climate change, using WEAI-related tools (as described in Section 2).
- Demonstrate potential to influence and build capacity to adopt and use WEAI-related tools for climate change research in CGIAR Research Initiatives and other CGIAR-led research activities after the grant is completed.
- Demonstrate strong and equitable partnerships across the CGIAR and especially with national agricultural research systems (NARS) and other partners operating on the ground in low- and middle-income countries. Proposals must clearly show meaningful, collaborative relationships through management and scientific contributions, as well as capacity and learning exchange between senior and early-career researchers. The added value arising from bringing together complementary expertise and partnerships must be clearly described. All named researchers must have clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate relevance to at least one of the key knowledge gaps in climate change specified in Section 2.

Only CGIAR Research Initiatives and bilaterally-funded projects led by One CGIAR Centers are eligible to apply. Centers that have not formally joined the One CGIAR, such as ICRISAT and CIFOR-ICRAF, are not eligible to lead but may partner in applications. IFPRI is not eligible to lead a bilaterally-funded project application, but may lead or partner in a CGIAR Research Initiative application (as a lead or partner Center). Only one successful proposal will be selected **per lead Initiative**. Similarly, only one successful proposal will be selected **per lead Center**. All Initiatives and Centers are eligible to **partner** in multiple applications.

There is no co-financing requirement for applications. All applications will be assessed for value for money.

#### 3.2. Eligible Costs

All research costs that are attributable to the project are eligible for funding, including, for example:

- Salary costs for research staff, including data analysis
- Data collection, including piloting and enumerator training
- Standard class travel related to implementation of the proposed research and attendance at the 2023 stakeholder workshop and/or 2024 GENDER Science Exchange
- Workshops
- Consultants
- Equipment and other direct supplies
- Indirect costs – Centers should use CGIAR negotiated rates

All applications will be assessed for value for money.

### 3.3. Proposal Submission Process and Timelines

Projects will be selected through a single-stage process, with applicants submitting full proposals plus supplemental information.

Proposals must include the following:

- A summary of the research to be carried out, its location, scope, and objectives.
- A description of the proposed diagnostic, experimental/quasi-experimental, or validation study, including specific research questions to be addressed and methods to be used, and how WEAI-related tools will be integrated.
- A description of the scientific significance of the research topic, including how the research builds on existing knowledge, and the rationale for using WEAI-related tools in climate change research.
- A description of collaboration and partnership mechanisms through management and scientific contributions, as well as capacity and learning exchange across the CGIAR and with national agricultural research systems (NARS) and/or other low- and middle-income country partners. Note: The added value arising from bringing together complementary expertise and partnerships must be clearly described. Proposals should also specify clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the researchers involved and describe the strategy for capacity and learning exchange between senior and early-career researchers.
- A description of the grant management structure.
- A description of key risks to the project and plans to address them.
- A list of the applicant's relevant publications and projects.
- Indicative timeline and a budget summary with estimates of each institution's costs (see Section 3.2 on eligible costs).

Successful proposals will be selected by an interdisciplinary and independent GENDER Methods Experts Panel.

Proposals must be submitted using the template provided alongside this call document.

Proposals should be submitted via email to the **[CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform GenderPlatform@cgiar.org](mailto:GenderPlatform@cgiar.org)**, with a copy to Rachael Mwangi **[R.Mwangi@cgiar.org](mailto:R.Mwangi@cgiar.org)** and Isidora Markicevic **[I.Markicevic@cgiar.org](mailto:I.Markicevic@cgiar.org)**, by 11:59 PM US Eastern Time on 21 July 2023 (see below timetable). Late submissions will not be accepted.

The submission and review of proposals will follow the following timetable (subject to minor changes):

Milestones	Dates
Call announced	23 June 2023
Q&A session	July 2023 (TBD)

Submission of proposals	21 July 2023
Notification of awards	25 August 2023
Grants start	1 September 2023
In-depth WEAI training and Q&A session ( <i>open to awardees only</i> ) – TBD based on needs	September 2023 (TBD)
Stakeholder consultation	October/November 2023 (TBD)

For any questions about the grant application process, please contact us via email at [IFPRI-WEAI@cgiar.org](mailto:IFPRI-WEAI@cgiar.org).

## 4. Selection Process

### 4.1. Eligibility Criteria

All eligibility criteria must be met, before the proposal can be assessed further:

Eligibility criteria	Yes/No
1) Does the proposed research have an existing project where WEAI methods and tools can be feasibly applied? Preference will be given for projects proposing to apply the latest version of the WEAI tools, such as pro-WEAI and pro-WEFI, and those using add-on modules, such as pro-WEAI+MI (see the box on page 3 for preferred WEAI-related tools marked with (*)).	
2) Does the proposed research have potential to influence and build capacity to use WEAI-related tools for climate change/resilience in CGIAR Research Initiatives and other CGIAR-led research activities after the grant is completed?	
3) Does the proposed research demonstrate meaningful, collaborative partnerships with any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multiple CGIAR Centers?</li> <li>- NARS?</li> <li>- Other partners operating on the ground in in low- and middle-income countries?</li> </ul>	
4) Are the roles, responsibilities, and contributions of researchers clear and complementary? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the team include both senior and early-career researchers?</li> </ul>	
5) Does the proposed research address <u>at least one</u> of the key knowledge gaps in relation to climate action and women's empowerment specified in Section 2?	



## 4.2. Selection Criteria

Proposals that meet all the eligibility criteria will be subject to a single blind peer-review process according to five equally-important criteria, each scored from a scale of 1 (not competitive) to 5 (outstanding):

<b>1. Integration of WEAI and Climate</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>
<p><u>Diagnostic study:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a clear justification of demand or identified need for collecting and analyzing women’s empowerment and climate action to inform project design?</li> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research address key knowledge gaps on the linkages among gender, agriculture, women’s empowerment, and climate change?</li> <li>• Does the proposed research use mixed methods?</li> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research draw on multiple disciplines?</li> </ul> <p><u>Experimental/quasi-experimental impact study:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a clear justification of demand or identified need for assessing impacts of climate change interventions, innovations and actions on women’s empowerment in the context of the project?</li> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research address key knowledge gaps on the linkages among gender, agrifood systems, women’s empowerment, and climate action?</li> <li>• Does the proposed research use mixed methods?</li> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research draw on multiple disciplines?</li> </ul> <p><u>Validation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research present a new and creative approach to collecting, measuring, or analyzing women’s empowerment and climate change data?</li> <li>• Is there a clear justification of demand or identified need for the tools or methods being tested and applied?</li> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research address key knowledge gaps on the linkages among gender, agrifood systems, women’s empowerment, and climate action?</li> <li>• Does the proposed research use mixed methods?</li> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research draw on multiple disciplines?</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Scientific excellence</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent does the proposed research build on existing knowledge and add value to existing research in the specified theme?</li> <li>• Are the proposed research methods clearly described and appropriate for the questions to be answered?</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent does the proposed research consider intersectionality?</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Collaboration</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the proposed research reflect equitable partnerships and collaboration, including but not limited to: project governance, decision-making, work allocation, responsibilities, and resources?</li> <li>To what extent does the proposed research reflect interdisciplinary or multi-sectoral expertise?</li> <li>Does the proposed research plan to build research capacity through bringing together senior and early-career investigators?</li> </ul>	
<b>4. Study feasibility and value for money</b>	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can all deliverables be completed within 16 months with the requested resources?</li> <li>Do the resources requested justify the anticipated deliverables and products to be contributed to the GENDER resource hub?</li> </ul>	

The GENDER Methods Experts Panel will assess proposals and the peer-review reports and select applications for funding. Reviewer comments will be shared with the application decision.

## 5. Dissemination, Data Sharing, and Intellectual Property

The Information on awarded grants will be made publicly available on the GENDER resource hub, and the methods and tools developed by the projects will also be shared on the GENDER resource hub.

Publications produced as a result of the project should be published under a suitable open access license, preferably CC version 4.0 license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which encourages unrestricted re-use and adaptation of content. Outputs should also be in line with the “CGIAR Branding Guidelines”, available at <https://library.cgiar.org/handle/10947/4373>, and any other relevant policy and/or guidelines adopted by the Platform and CGIAR and communicated in writing to the grantees. All products produced under these grants should acknowledge CGIAR Fund Donors (<https://www.cgiar.org/funders/>) according to the latest guidance on branding and donor acknowledgments provided by the Platform.

All proposals must undergo Institutional Review Board clearance for ethics in data collection, including protection of personally identifiable data.

Grantees will be expected to collaborate with the GENDER Impact Platform and its partners on research uptake and dissemination activities, including but not limited to, presentations at seminars and conferences, webinars, trainings, workshops, blogs, briefs, and interviews.

Data sharing and ownership details will be finalized and specified in the research agreement once the grant awardees are selected.

## 6. References

Bryan, E., M. Alvi, S. Huyer, and C. Ringler. 2023. Addressing gender inequalities and strengthening women's agency for climate-resilient and sustainable food systems. Background paper for Report on The Status of Rural Women in Agri-food Systems: 10 Years after the SOFA 2010-11 of FAO. Nairobi, Kenya: CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform. <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/129709>.

Leveraging Evidence for Access and Development. 2021. Gender in agriculture and food systems: An Evidence Gap Map. Chennai, India: LEAD at KREA University. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114123>

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