



GENDER Impact
Platform

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

Evidence Module Research Grants

CASE STUDIES ON GENDERED PATHWAYS AND TRAJECTORIES OF BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN FOOD SYSTEMS



Call for Applications

Last updated: 30 June 2023

1. Background

The CGIAR Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) Impact Platform aims to catalyze research on gender in agriculture and food systems to achieve more equitable, sustainable, productive and climate-resilient food systems. It is developing and promoting high-quality evidence, knowledge, methods, tools, and alliances around gender that foster transformational change for inclusive and equitable food systems within planetary boundaries.

The Evidence Module of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform aims to co-create, consolidate, and share robust evidence, identifying emergent issues, and closing data gaps in the area of gender in agriculture and food systems. The module aims to use research-generated evidence around key themes to identify solutions and pathways to reduce gender inequalities within the dynamics of a changing food system.

The Evidence Module under the GENDER Impact Platform has developed a learning agenda (Puskur and Mishra, 2023) that identifies key evidence and knowledge gaps and associated activities to improve the gender responsiveness of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). The learning agenda has proposed various questions and activities from documented knowledge gaps to guide future research and interventions. One of the learning gaps identified is unpacking the pathways through which climate smart agriculture can build resilience of women and stimulate gender transformative change.

Women and men experience and respond to climate change in different ways depending on their roles and responsibilities, resource access, power in decision making (Bryan et al., 2023). Thus, initiatives designed to build resilient agr-food systems need to take into consideration the gendered dimensions of climate change. However, climate smart agriculture as an integrated approach for increasing productivity, adapting climate change and reducing emissions (FAO, 2010) rarely addresses the issue of social and gender inequality. As a result, there is a gender gap in adoption of climate smart agriculture (Bryan et al 2021; Bernier et al 2015). Adoption of climate smart agriculture among the poor including women is low (Balehey et al., 2018). Partly, this is a result of poor integration of gender in designing climate smart agriculture technologies and interventions. It is urgent to pay attention to making CSA Gender Smart as well to make the approach useful for both women and men and widen its impact.

Resilience is defined differently by different people and in different disciplines. For this study we adopt the definition by Njuki (2022) that states resilience as the ability of individuals or households to cope up with adverse effects of stressors including climate change and bounce back with no long-term damage to the livelihood outcome, particularly food security.

Shocks and stressors happen in local contexts with different power structures, institutions, socio-cultural norms, infrastructure and economic conditions (Bryan et al., 2023b). This contributes to the differential impacts and response to shocks among different social groups. Studies show that women and men experience shocks differently, have different preferences and capacities to respond (Theis et al., 2019; Njuki et al., 2022) that results in differential wellbeing outcomes including food security. Women are more vulnerable to the impacts of shocks and stressors due to their low endowment, poor access to services, high work burden and low decision-making power at household and community levels (Bryan et al., 2023a). The structural inequality embedded in the existing social and gender norms affect the capacity to respond to shocks between women and men. The pathways and trajectories of resilience building of women and men are influenced by the existing gender relations. Although the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and their vulnerability are well documented, there is little evidence on context specific solutions to build their capacities and building their resilience.

In order to start filling this gap, the Evidence Module is commissioning case studies and is inviting research proposals focused on “Analysing gendered pathways and trajectories of resilience building in food systems facing climate change” from CG centers.

2. Objectives and Scope

The Evidence Module under the GENDER Impact Platform is looking to commission case studies focused on generating evidence using appropriate, rigorous and cutting-edge mixed methods research and tools and, building on literature and evidence on the topic **“Analysing gendered pathways and trajectories of resilience building in food systems facing climate change”**. The evidence from the case studies will inform better and gender responsive pathways and trajectories for resilience building of women and men in food systems in different contexts.

Mixed methods that creatively combine qualitative and quantitative research will be encouraged to generate a deeper and more reliable and nuanced body of evidence. We encourage building on ongoing work to deepen understanding in some areas or address new questions that have emerged as a result of the ongoing analyses. We encourage collaboration among centers and with NARES. The use of an intersectionality lens would add much value to the research. Focus on vulnerable populations, such as poor female-headed households, disabled, rural households in geographically remote locations, indigenous farming communities and elderly farming households are welcome.

Four (4) grants for four case studies will be awarded. Once the proposals are reviewed and grant decisions made, the four grantees would be expected to collaborate in developing a conceptual/analytical framework and a common set of methods, tools and indicators (coordinated by the Evidence module of the GENDER Platform) to apply in their case studies (with necessary adaptations to suit the local context) to allow for a comparative analysis and draw higher level learnings.

Each grant will be a maximum of **USD 75,000** and will be awarded through a competitive selection process. The maximum duration for each awarded grant is 12 months with an estimated start date of September 2023.

USD 60,000 will be disbursed in 2023 and US 15,000 in 2024 on achievements of key milestones.

Funds will be allocated in 2023 and 2024 through IRRI via LoAs with the respective grantees. Grant funds should be expended over two years.

At the end of the grant, the grantees are expected to deliver the following outputs, for inclusion in the GENDER Platform Resource Hub:

- Research instruments/tools produced (survey questionnaire/s, interview guides, manuals, protocols, etc.) for open access.
- Final research design aligning with standards for robust research including pre-analysis plan.
- Anonymised data set following FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.
- Working paper, under the GENDER Platform Working Paper Series.
- Cross-case study webinar in the GENDER Platform webinar series.
- Blog posts/op eds in the GENDER Platform resource hub or elsewhere.

3. Application Process

3.1. Eligibility

Applications must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrate the ability to conduct research to international standards of excellence in the topic proposed.
- Demonstrate strong and equitable partnerships across CGIAR and especially with national agricultural research systems (NARS) and other low- and middle-income country partners. Concept notes must clearly show meaningful, collaborative relationships through management and scientific contributions, and capacity and learning exchange. 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 gender research themes and linkages to the One CGIAR impact areas namely: (i) Gender equality, youth, and social inclusion (ii) Nutrition, health, and food security; (iii) Poverty reduction, livelihoods, and jobs; (iv) Climate adaptation and mitigation; and (v) Environmental health and biodiversity.

- CGIAR Centers are eligible to lead or be included in multiple applications.
- ICRISAT, CIFOR and ICRAF cannot be lead centers, but can be partners.

There is no co-financing requirement for applications. Research activities that propose to add on to existing funded, ongoing, or soon-to-be launched projects are preferred, although new projects are also eligible if they can be feasibly completed within 12 months.

Applications must also provide an indicative timeline and a budget summary, with estimates of each institution's costs (see section 3.2 on eligible costs).

3.2. Eligible Costs

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

- Salary costs for research staff
- Data collection
- Standard class travel related to implementation of the proposed research
- Equipment
- Indirect costs – Centers should use CGIAR negotiated rates

All applications will be assessed for value for money.

3.3. Proposal Submission process and Timelines

Applications must be submitted by no later than **2 August 2023, 17:00 EAT** via email to CGIAR GENDER Platform GenderPlatform@cgiar.org with a copy to Rachael Mwangi R.Mwangi@cgiar.org and Isidora Markicevic I.Markicevic@cgiar.org . Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Submissions must include 3 documents:

1. Cover letter and letter of support from the Deputy Director-General of the Center (not longer than one page).
2. Full application (Word and PDF formats, including annexes).
3. CVs of the researchers.

Proposals must be submitted using the template provided alongside this call document. To facilitate an on-time review, applications must adhere to the requirements and template length set out in the proposal format.

All enquiries on submissions must be made in writing to Ranjitha Puskur at r.puskur@irri.org .

4. Selection Process

The proposals will be assessed by a panel of external peer reviewers, with oversight provided by the GENDER Platform Director and the GENDER Platform Science Officer.

Eligibility criteria

- Does the proposed research address the topic specified?
- Does the proposed research demonstrate the ability to conduct robust high-quality case study analysis to international standards of excellence in the topic proposed?
- Does the proposed team have appropriate expertise?
- Does the proposed research demonstrate meaningful, collaborative partnerships with any of the following:
 - Multiple CGIAR centers
 - NARS
 - Other partners in low- and middle-income countries
- Are researcher roles, responsibilities, and contributions clear and complementary?
- Does the proposed research have clearly identified linkages to the One CGIAR impact areas?

Proposal Assessment criteria

The proposal will be judged based on the following criteria:

1. Strong gender and intersectionality focus
2. Robust theoretical foundations
3. Clear research questions
4. Methodological rigor
5. Innovation
6. Robust outcome pathways defined for the evidence generated and communication and engagement plans to achieve outcomes
7. Strategies for capacity strengthening, particularly of NARES
8. Deliverables and value for money
9. Meaningful collaboration, especially with NARES
10. Relevance of project for the GENDER Platform and OneCGIAR initiatives and impact areas

5. Dissemination, data Sharing and Intellectual Property

Information on awarded grant will be made publicly available on the GENDER Platform website, and methods and tools, open access data generated by the project will be shared in the GENDER Platform Resource Hub. Publications produced as a result of the project will be subject to the GENDER Platform branding guidelines.

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 this grant should acknowledge CGIAR Fund Donors, using the statement “This work was carried out as part of the CGIAR GENDER Platform and supported by CGIAR Trust Fund Contributors (<https://www.cgiar.org/funders/>)”.

Grantees will be expected to collaborate with the GENDER 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.

6. References

Balehey, S., Tesfay, G., & Balehegn, M. (2018). Traditional gender inequalities limit pastoral women’s opportunities for adaptation to climate change: Evidence from the Afar pastoralists of Ethiopia. *Pastoralism*, 19(1), 1571–1584. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10113-019-01528-1>

Bryan, E., Alvi, M., Huyer, S., and Ringler, C. 2023. Addressing Gender Inequalities and Strengthening Women’s Agency for Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems. CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform Working Paper #013. Nairobi, Kenya: CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/129709>

Bryan E., Ringler C, and Meinzen-Dick R. 2023. Gender, resilience, and food systems. Resilience and food security in a food systems context, book chapter ed.by Christophe Béné C. and Devereux.S. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-2353>

Njuki, J., Eissler, S., Malapit, H., Meinzen-Dick, R., Bryan, E., & Quisumbing, (2022). A review of evidence on gender equality, women’s empowerment, and food systems. *Global Food Security*, 33, 100622. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2022.100622>

FAO. (2010). Climate Smart Agriculture: Policies, Practices and Financing for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation.

Theis, S., Bryan, E., & Ringler, C. (2019). Addressing gender and social dynamics to strengthen resilience for all. In A. Quisumbing, R. Meinzen-Dick, & J. Njuki (Eds.), 2019 Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR): Gender equality in rural Africa. From commitments to outcomes. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Annex 1: Frequently Asked Questions

Applicant's Eligibility

Are non-CGIAR organizations eligible for funding?

The applications have to be led by a CGIAR center, but collaboration with non-CGIAR, particularly NARES, is highly encouraged and will be a key criterion for selection.

Are there restrictions in terms of the number of concept notes and proposals a center or an individual can submit? Can a Center lead more than one proposal?

There is no limit to the number of proposals in which a center or an individual may submit or be involved. However, only one proposal will be selected per lead Center.

Do all proposals need to include partners based in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)?

Yes, this is an eligibility requirement. Partners can be either local or international organizations operating in LMICs.

What makes a Center qualify as “lead”?

The “lead Center” is the Center responsible for ensuring overall project performance, coordination with partners, timely delivery of outputs, and grant reporting.

Can the Centers that are not in One CGIAR (e.g. CIFOR-ICRAF, ICRISAT) lead proposals?

Those Centers not in One CGIAR will not be eligible to lead proposals, but are eligible to be partners on proposals. The GENDER Platform is taking the approach that the Centers will still be a partner in the future regardless of what happens at the One CGIAR level. Should the situation change, we will inform you as soon as possible.

If a Center has already received a grant from another platform module (e.g. Methods), would that have implications for eligibility on this call?

It does not disqualify you from being selected for funding under this call if you have received funding from another platform module or previously from the Evidence Module. In fact, we are looking for good synergies across the GENDER Platform and One CGIAR as indicated in the Call for Applications, which means that this could make your proposal stronger if you well articulate this synergy component in your proposal i.e. what the value added of your proposal would be to our portfolio as well as to other activities undertaken by the Platform and across CG.

Application Requirements and Rules

Is there a specific time by when submissions must be submitted?

Proposals must be submitted by *17:00h East Africa Time on Wednesday, 2 August 2023*. Please see section 3.3. of the Call for Applications for details.

Is there a template that we are required to use for the submission of proposals?

Yes, you are required to use the application form provided by us, which is provided in this call document.

Is there a limit to the length of a proposal?

Please abide by the word limits indicated in the application form.

Are appendices accepted with the concept note?

CVs and letters of support should be included as appendices to the proposal document. Figures and tables may also be included as appendices. For consistency and to facilitate the review process, we are asking all applicants to follow the application form template. Submissions that do not use the template will not be accepted.

For the review of literature/citations, can we add them as footnotes so it will not add to the number of words?

Yes, it is fine to cite references as footnotes, endnotes, or in a separate reference list at the end of the document. Regardless, it will not be counted against the word limits.

Budgeting Rules

What is the upper limit of the individual grant applications?

The budget is up to USD 75,000 per grant. The Evidence Module will award up to 4 grants.

Does the \$75,000 exclude indirect costs?

No, the \$75,000 grant limit is the total amount that can be allocated to any one grant, including any indirect costs.

Are there any requirements for co-financing?

There is no co-financing requirement for applications, but it is welcome.

Selection Process and Criteria

Does Evidence Module consider qualitative methods, tools and approaches?

Absolutely. We particularly welcome applications proposing the innovative use of qualitative or mixed methods.

Are there any priority countries for research?

The proposed projects must focus on MENA and South Asia regions and consider the regional gaps in evidence as described in the call document.

How will you assess whether a project offers “value for money”?

We will look for projects that 1) have a greater potential impact of the outputs and outcomes generated by the project compared to its overall cost and 2) are cost-effective i.e. making sensible efforts to reduce expenditure, such as limiting nonessential trips and holding meetings virtually.

Other

What are the required deliverables under this grant?

In addition to the project outputs that you include in the proposals including communication and knowledge management products, all projects are required to submit an annual project report as well as an annual financial report.

What are the contractual requirements of the grant?

Funds will be allocated from IRRI through an LoA and adhere to the terms and conditions therein.