

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

Methods Module Innovation Grants

RESEARCH GRANTS TO DEVELOP AND/OR VALIDATE INNOVATIVE
METHODS AND TOOLS FOR GENDER RESEARCH

Call for Applications

Last updated: 10 March 2021
(*revisions/updates are in red font)

**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 Platform is also grateful for the support of CGIAR Trust Fund Contributors (<https://www.cgiar.org/funders/>).*



1. Background

The CGIAR Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) Platform aims to catalyze research on gender in agriculture to achieve more equitable, sustainable, productive, and climate-resilient food systems. The GENDER Platform, hosted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), encompasses all CGIAR Research Centers and engages a multitude of partners. GENDER 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 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 will identify priority areas for gender methods research, develop standards for quality gender research, and curate a portfolio of state-of-the-art methods and tools to support communities of practice around these research areas. WP2 will develop and implement research projects on innovative methods to further build this state-of-the-art portfolio.

2. Objectives and Scope

The Methods Module Innovation Grants are aimed at developing rigorous, transdisciplinary, cutting-edge methods and tools to support global gender researchers in conducting high-quality research in food systems. We aim to have an initial portfolio of research projects that will address existing methodological gaps, bridge disciplinary siloes, and create tools, protocols, guidelines, and instruments that will add value to the GENDER Platform's resource hub.

The Methods Module will fund innovative research activities to **develop and/or validate methods and tools** that address at least one of the following priority gender research themes¹:

- 1) Nutrition and health
- 2) Institutions and governance
- 3) Gendered labor dynamics and time use
- 4) Food systems transformation and women's empowerment
- 5) Agricultural value chains, markets, and entrepreneurship
- 6) Gender-sensitive design of CGIAR technologies and innovations
- 7) Transformation of gender norms at scale
- 8) Gender and climate change

Additionally, we invite research proposals that demonstrate relevance to, and linkages across, the One CGIAR impact areas:

- 1) Nutrition & food security
- 2) Poverty reduction, livelihoods & jobs

¹ These research areas were identified through a series of consultations led by the GENDER Platform and the Methods Module during 2020, culminating in the final selection of topics at the Virtual Kickoff Workshop in December.



- 3) Gender equality, youth & social inclusion
- 4) Climate adaptation & greenhouse gas reduction
- 5) Environmental health & biodiversity

We are particularly interested in proposals that:

- 1) Develop new, creative, and/or transdisciplinary approaches to the collection, measurement, or analysis of data
- 2) Apply existing methods or tools in new, creative ways in under-researched contexts to generate new insights
- 3) Assess the cross-context validity of existing innovative methods or tools

Each grant will be a maximum of **USD 250,000**, and up to four (4) grants will be awarded through a competitive selection process. The maximum duration for each awarded grant is 18 months with an estimated start date of 1 July 2021.

Funds will be allocated in 2021 and 2022 through GENDER Platform Program Participant Agreements (PPAs) with the respective Centers. Grant funds should be expended by 31 December 2022. Detailed timelines are set out under Section 3.3.

The Principal Investigator of each project (or alternate) will be expected to attend the annual GENDER Platform conference in 2021 (virtual) and 2022 (in person). An inception workshop and follow-up workshop for grantees will be organized alongside the GENDER conference dates in 2021 and 2022.

At the end of the grant, each project is expected to deliver the following outputs, for inclusion in the GENDER Platform resource hub:

- Final research instruments/tools produced (survey questionnaire/s, interview guides, manuals, protocols, etc.)
- Presentation at the Annual GENDER Platform Conference
- Webinar
- Blog
- Working Paper, under the GENDER Platform Working Paper Series (10,000-12,000 words)
- Brief (2-4 pages)

3. Application Process

3.1. Eligibility

Applications must be led by a CGIAR Center, and 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 the 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 specified in Section 2.

CGIAR Centers are eligible to lead or be included in multiple applications. **The Centers not joining One CGIAR (including CIFOR-ICRAF and ICRISAT) are not eligible to lead applications but are eligible to participate as partners in proposals. Only one successful proposal per lead Center will be selected for funding.**

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 12-18 months.

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
- Data collection
- Standard class travel related to implementation of the proposed research
- Equipment
- Travel and costs related to attendance at the 2022 (in-person) GENDER Platform conference (mandatory for one representative per grantee)
- Indirect costs – Centers should use CGIAR negotiated rates

All applications will be assessed for value for money.

3.3. Proposal Submission Process and Timelines

The call will follow a two-step process:

- Step 1: Open call for concept notes
- Step 2: Short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal

The first step in the application process is the submission of a concept note, which describes the proposed research, including the following:

- A summary of the research to be carried out, its scope, and objectives.
- A description of the specific method or tool that the proposed project aims to develop or validate, including how it builds on, or is distinct from existing methodologies and tools within a given research theme, and how it will be tested or applied.
- A description of the scientific significance of the research topic and rationale for the development or validation of the tool or method.
- A description of collaboration and partnership mechanisms.
- A description of synergies with other activities undertaken by the GENDER Platform, and relevance to One CGIAR.



- A description of the interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and/or multi-sectoral aspects of the project.
- Plans around research uptake, capacity strengthening, and pathways to impact, including the ways in which it will strengthen research capacity.
- 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.

Concept notes and proposals must be submitted using the template (download [here](#)) provided alongside this call document.

Concept notes and proposals should be submitted via email to GenderPlatform@cgiar.org with a copy to Grecia Tibayrenc (G.tibayrenc@cgiar.org) by **11:59 PM Eastern Time on the deadline dates** (see below timetable). Late submissions will not be accepted.

****EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS****

To allow sufficient time for collaboration between Centers, the Methods Module is extending the deadline for submission of concept notes to **11:59 PM ET on March 15, 2021**. See the updated dates (highlighted in red) below:

Milestones	Dates
Call announced	22 January 2021
Informational webinar	12 February 2021
Submission of concept notes	15 March 2021
Invitation to submit full proposals	29 March 2021
Submission of full proposals	3 May 2021
Notification of awards	7 June 2021
Grants start	1 July 2021

4. Selection Process

4.1. Review of concept notes

Concept notes will be assessed by the Methods Module Team, with oversight provided by the Co-Chairs of GENDER Methods Experts Panel and the Platform director.

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

Eligibility criteria	Yes/No
1) Does the proposed research demonstrate the ability to conduct research to international standards of excellence in the topic proposed? - Does the proposed team have appropriate expertise?	
2) 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?	
3) Are researcher roles, responsibilities, and contributions clear and complementary?	
4) Does the proposed research address <u>at least one</u> of the gender research themes specified in Section 2?	
5) Does the proposed research have clearly identified linkages to the One CGIAR impact areas?	

Concept notes that meet all the eligibility criteria will be further assessed by the Methods Module Team according to five equally-important criteria, each scored from a scale of 1 (not competitive) to 5 (outstanding):

Criteria

1. Innovation	1 2 3 4 5
<u>Development of new methods/tools:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the proposed research present a new and creative approach to collecting, measuring, or analyzing data in the specified research theme/s? Is there a clear justification of demand or identified need for the new tool or method? To what extent does the proposed research draw on multiple disciplines? <u>Application/Validation of existing methods/tools:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the proposed research present a new and creative application or validation approach for an existing method or tool? Is there a clear justification of demand for the proposed application/validation of the method or tool? To what extent does the proposed research draw on multiple disciplines? 	
2. Scientific excellence	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the proposed research add value to existing research in the specified theme? Are the proposed research methods clearly described and appropriate for the questions to be answered? To what extent does the proposed research consider intersectionality? 	
3. Collaboration	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the proposed research add value to other activities undertaken by the GENDER Platform? Is the proposed research relevant to One CGIAR? Does the proposed research reflect equitable partnerships and collaboration, including but not limited to: project governance, decision-making, work allocation, responsibilities, and resources? To what extent does the proposed research reflect interdisciplinary or multi-sectoral expertise? 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposed research plan to build research capacity through bringing together senior and early-career investigators? 	
4. Research uptake, capacity strengthening & pathways to impact	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there evidence of stakeholder demand and expressed interest to use the potential results and outcomes? Does the proposed research have concrete plans to disseminate lessons learned, and promote adoption and transferability of the method or tool? Does the proposed research have plans to strengthen research capacity in LMICs? 	
5. Study feasibility and value for money	1 2 3 4 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can all deliverables be completed within 18 months with the requested resources? Do the resources requested justify the anticipated deliverables and products to be contributed to the GENDER resource hub? 	

Concept notes that score highly overall and show balanced scores across criteria will be invited to submit a full proposal. Reviewer comments will be shared with the application decision at the concept note stage.

4.2. Review of full proposals

Full proposals will be subject to a single blind peer-review process using the same criteria above. External peer reviewers will be assigned by the Methods Module Team. The GENDER Methods Experts Panel will then assess full proposals and the peer-review reports and select applications for funding. To the extent possible, the Panel will aim for portfolio balance across coverage of topics, regions/contexts, and quantitative/qualitative approaches. Only one successful proposal per lead Center will be awarded. Reviewer comments will be shared with the application decision at the full proposal stage.

5. Dissemination, Data Sharing, and Intellectual Property

Information on awarded grants will be made publicly available on the GENDER Platform website, and methods and tools developed by the project will be shared in the GENDER Platform 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 reuse 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, 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.

