

# 'Change in the Making': Building on the Past Gender Trends in CGIAR Agricultural Research

CGIAR gender conference, ILRI, Ethiopia  
September 27, 2018

**dr Margreet van der Burg**

Gender Studies/History,  
related to Food, Agricultural and Rural  
Research and Development

Wageningen University, NL

[Margreet.vanderBurg@wur.nl](mailto:Margreet.vanderBurg@wur.nl)



---

**Please ask the presenter for the original publication  
when you like to quote or want to have the references, thanks!**



# Introduction

*'Development activities cannot achieve their full potentials if women's potentials continue to be neglected. (...)*

*Concrete examples (...) show that it is possible and not unusually difficult to design and implement development activities that include attention to women's productivity and social roles.*

*Development activities cannot have much value for any of us if they do not have a positive value for women.'*

by GEORGE ZEIDENSTEIN, President of The Population Council, New York.

Article *Including Women in Development Efforts*, based on lecture 10 Jan 1978

Population Council founded by Rockefeller III  
(e.g. Rockefeller Foundation, connected to CGIARs)



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



# Introduction

- For 40 years later in 2018 rather contemporary....  
One wonders what happened in-between and what we can learn from it.
- CGIAR first 'Change in the making report' of 2015 (Russell et al. 2015)  
assessing and referring back to the CGIAR Gender Strategy (2011):

CGIAR by then committed itself to making a critical difference  
in gender equity in agriculture:

*'a rapid transition in our research from  
merely enumerating the women affected by science-based innovations  
to a more comprehensive and targeted approach  
for bringing positive change to women as well as men'.*



# Introduction

Not the first time that CGIAR policies addressed women in agriculture.

But, as the 2010 gender scoping study commissioned by the CGIAR:

➤ gender had been integrated poorly so far:

*'In spite of a number of strategic gender initiatives, (...) most CGIAR Centers historically have not had a clear gender policy, have not mainstreamed gender into the research program or conducted strategic gender research (e.g. gender initiatives), have not trained staff in gender analysis and have not consistently published gender-specific research findings.'*  
(Kauck et al. 2010, 7).

➤ As exceptions listed:

- Women in Rice Farming Systems Network around IRRI (1986-1996)
- Intrahousehold Program of IFPRI (1992-2003),
- Participatory Research and Gender Analysis Program (PRGA) (1997-2011)



# Introduction

## QUESTIONS

- Is there indeed this little or hardly any substantial history on the integration of gender in the AR&D of the CGIAR to be proud of?
- What did these mentioned exceptions entail, and, what might have stayed under the radar as not profiled or taken into CGIAR's legacy?
- Are there other ways to look back that give reason for 'cherishing' what has been done, perhaps even despite of the lack of structural consolidation as observed in 2010.
- What can we learn from looking more closely into the integration of gender in CGIAR's past research, and consequently what more positive space in CGIAR's profile and legacy can / should we fill in and claim to support current and future goals?
  - Content-wise: what shoulders we stand on and can build on
  - Institution-wise: what institutional challenges, not as problems but as part of solutions



# Introduction

We come from far.

- CGIAR hardly referred to gender integration ‘milestones’ in its official documentation, nor in annual reports or historical overviews.  
This strengthened the idea of hardly having anything to be reported.
- No good historical overview or analysis available
  - but entry-points in reflections on changes in gender rural social studies, changes in women/gender and development, CGIAR gender reflections and assessments
  - Often partial in scope and time, and/or not well related to specific work or institutional specifics of the CGIAR.
- Work in progress, with today emphasis on 1970s/1980s, still to be advanced!
  - Interesting findings, not linear upstream development, much to take up again!
  - Beyond institutional history: within wider external contexts; not chronology of ‘facts’ only, but also including debates and discussions
  - Many open access documents, conference transcripts, but no personal accounts yet....
  - As start talkshow with ‘Oldies’ last year, please feel invited to contribute and participate!



# Today

- Start of making a time-line
- Framework of analysis
- Niches / opportunities taken & examples early period
- Main points early periods 1970s/1980s
- Discussion fruitful ways to proceed:
  - for both this project and
  - how it can serve better research and help consolidate a more sustainable position in the future.





# Start of making a timeline



- CGIAR-IARCs mandates embedded in Freedom from Hunger and Want:
  - Food as a weapon (political) - Food for social stability;
  - Food for healthy people as condition for development;
  - Food embodies international solidarity and economic interdependence;
  - scientifically 'gender-neutral' but feeding gender-segregated development
- UN 1970s: Women's inclusion in development programming (UN):
  - from 'about and for women' → by and on women's own terms (WID)
  - traditional women's spheres → unmasking western family ideologies
  - 1975: read FAO's resolutions, both aspects of 'home economics' and agriculture
  - 1980s: from Women in Development (WID) to Gender and Development (GAD)
- CGIAR → How to integrate women/gender in agricultural technology development:
  - Part of critique on production and growth narrative (Green Revolution):
    - Women's share and impact on women as invisible → alternative approaches and methods of analysis
    - (Transformative) Systemic change: mandate restrictions?
  - Niches and Pathways through CGIAR
  - Ways forward



# 'Urgencies' to agricultural modernisation / innovation

**Industrial 'revolution'** in support of economic growth:

- intake 'surplus' agricultural labour
- hygiene and medical advancement: more people with longer lives

## ➤ **Agricultural/food crisis**

- 1870s: growing global markets: price falls / export – import problems
- western food security and stability endangered: wartimes and 1920/30s
- Balance hard to keep within socialist and communist revolutions (USSR, China)

## ➤ **stimulation science-based agriculture**

- State influence on agricultural innovation reinforced (research, education, extension)
- **Inter-governmental influence on agricultural innovation** reinforced
- After WWII: global food security, stability and ec growth (UN-FAO/ CGIARs)



# 'Urgencies' to agricultural modernisation / innovation

## 'Green revolution' as 'milestone' of scientific agriculture



→ 1970s Global solidarity and democratization processes:

away from yields only: **'re-peopling agriculture'**:

→ heterogeneities, intra-household/farming system dynamics, on-farm/collective participatory development, wider agro-ecological and rural contexts

- **Social critics:** not serving or harmful to small holders, women; increasing proletarianization, de-skilling and inequalities
- **Environmental critics:** Rachel Carson, Vandana Shiva: protection health, natural resources, future generations, alternatives in e.g. organic, CSAs
- **Critics on technological determinism:** demystifying science-based technological fix and inscribed packaging, value traditional - local knowledge, endogenous innovation

■ Nowadays as 'urgency' again:

**Danger of population growth, food and nutrition security,**

in combination with **climate change and global migration 'tsunami'**



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



soyware  
2003 - 2018



# CGIAR– IRRI new and overlapping phases

## 1960s Phase 1:

urgency of increase of production (yield): new high yield varieties (HIV) within package of cultivation control by chemical inputs, mechanization, accompanied by price control: know-how → show-how: → **'Green Revolution'**

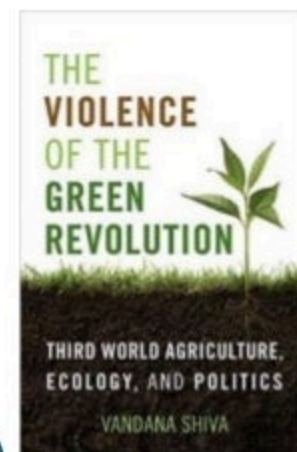
## 1970s Phase 2:

critique and impact research → 'yield gap', unequal social distribution, rural economies, policies/institutions, agro-ecosystems variation, crop and farming systems: differentiation

## 1980s Phase 3:

critique and reaction: embedding research

- Environment protection
- Solidarity: open to 'unheard' voices, esp. also women
  - Breaking myth of social diffusion
  - Breaking myth of family diffusion (female-headed hhs)
  - Breaking myth of universally applicable knowledge / know-how
  - Inclusion anthropologists



# CGIARs – new and still overlapping phases

## 1990s Phase 4:

High credits – AIDS/HIV; emphasis market mechanism, decrease in public funding;  
Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)  
→ secure exclusiveness: profiling by investing in ‘fixes’ by high-tech bio-technology,  
while also new: intellectual property rights, public-private partnerships, biofuels, IPM.



## 2000s Phase 5:

MDGs and systematic attention to food security, health, NRM (water),  
agri-food systems and climate change:  
→ value chains, sustainable precise and conservation farming, biodiversity,  
crop diversity, poor resource smallholders,

- Poverty eradication / pluri-activity / urban agriculture / MDGs

## 2010s Phase 6:

SDGs and context of wider and integrated development programming (CPRs);  
Overarching Cross-cutting: ‘gender’ – gender gaps and transformative change

### Paradigm Shift



# 1970s CGIAR: accidental mentioning women but no analysis

## Examples:

- **1973: Mentioning roles of women and children to be included** (TAC meeting 1973); taken from **FAO contribution on soc-ec aspects of international agricultural research** for International Centres Week (ICW), also Sir John Crawford, Chair TAC: feasibility of technology adaption by users needed **ex-ante research and researchers placing themselves in the shoes of the farmer:** *'see the problems of the farmer as the farmer sees them and come up with solutions meaningful and acceptable to the farmer'*. (farmer as 'he') (CGIAR 1973 soc-ec research)
- **1973: importance of the family factor in introducing a new agricultural system**, CIAT Chair of Board of Trustees Francisco di Sola, though not explicit about men and women. (1973, Cali, Colombia, 13).
- **1974: observed and articulated that female-headed households** exist, but research kept to treating family farms as unitary units and did not interview the women (Bradfield 1974)
- **1974 mentioning of women in line with family planning and nutrition** (Crawford et al. 1974)



# 1970s CGIAR: accidental mentioning women but no analysis

- 1970s: roles (activities) derived from experiences development developed countries (e.g. Flora 1982) / old rural and agricultural home economics (a.o. van der Burg 2002):
  - **educating women** help suppress population pressure  
families will be smaller, accelerates development or at least diminish the alarming effects of population growth
  - **drudgery** has to be taken away (e.g. long repetitive hard work tasks without control; definition M.S. Swaminathan)
  - **farm women's development in complementary roles to farmers** as keepers of well-being and healthy families / communities  
→ **rural / agricultural home economic fields:** hygiene, nutrition, food production and processing, maternal and child health; extra: shelter and energy, family planning;
  - **not discussing women's autonomy and rights, unequal power** structures  
→ **clashes women's studies with (rural/agricultural) home economics scholars;**  
e.g. Wageningen women's studies new next to (rural/agricultural) home economics that was internationalized (o.a. FAO) and supported 1978 honorary doctorate of Ester Boserup.



# 1979 symposium Rural Home Economics Wageningen

Example Wageningen: QUOTES review (Els Postel-Coster 1982)

- *'The definition of household given (...is) based on a somewhat outdated functionalistic approach that leaves little scope for the study of change, conflicts or unequal power relations.'*  
(...) **Little attention to: 'relations between members of the household, who may have very different interests and access to resources, and to political and economic macrostructures which determine the margins of development, also at the household level'.**
- *'Little or no reference is made to the flood of literature (...) since the early seventies. Some contributions even reflect a complete ignorance in this field.'*
- *'No tool for assessing women's position in it, let alone for changing this for the better. Main policy purpose of symposium seems: "the effective use of all human resources", including women, in the process of development; who will use whom to whose benefit is naively left aside. Such a policy will obviously be fatal to those who have least access to power, and may lead in particular to further exploitation of rural women.'*

Review on:

Presvelou, C. and S. S. Spijkers-Zwart (eds) (1980), *The Household, Women and Agricultural Development*. Proceedings of a symposium organized by the Department of Home Economics, Agricultural University Wageningen, The Netherlands, 18-20 January 1979, Wageningen: Veenman and Zonen



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH





# 1970s /1980s CGIAR: Mandate and dealing with equity

- Equity within CGIAR mandate:  
inevitably intrinsic conflicting interests and equity issues
- Mandate  
covering advancing food (and nutrition) security, reduction poverty and gender inequalities (rural development), protection biodiversity and natural resources (environment) → well-being for future generations
- Within early CGIAR three ways of dealing with equity represented, still present:
  - New technologies to fix inequalities
  - Natural course of history
  - Technology and science are no magic tools, but can contribute a.o. by inclusion (by, with and in favour of) / participatory approaches



# 1970s /1980s CGIAR: Mandate and dealing with equity

## Example 1

- IRRI 1975: *'The question is frequently raised as to the degree that the new rice **technology aggravates the inequity in income distribution.***

*Clearly a technology that requires more cash inputs will tend to reinforce this inequity in some of the study villages.*

***Technological innovations cannot be expected to correct serious inequities in access to and benefits from resources.***

One mitigating step that can be taken is for agricultural scientists **to build more resistance to pests and pathogens and tolerance to adverse growing conditions** into the variety itself and thus reduce cash requirements, particularly for agricultural chemicals. Increasing emphasis is being given to this problem in rice research.' (40)

- **THUS: new technologies as way out**



# 1970s /1980s CGIAR: Mandate and dealing with equity

## Example 2

- IRRI 1975: *'In villages where the **caste system** is important and where it reinforces the inegalitarian land structure, the new rice varieties could never hope to level the caste hierarchies so that everyone would gain equally from whatever benefits go with them, especially if the dominant caste also controls the local institutions such as the cooperatives and the panchayats. **However, if these benefits have contributed toward heightened consciousness of the inequalities (...), then the technology has served an unanticipated function – that of facilitating a confrontation with the status quo. The natural course of history has apparently failed to produce alternations in social structures because those who are privileged continue to benefit more from anything beneficial than those who are less privileged.'** (354-355)*



# 1970s /1980s CGIAR: Mandate and dealing with equity

Example 3 Technology and science no magic tools, but can contribute a.o. by inclusion

- IRRI 1985: Swaminathan after introduction start of Women in Rice Farming Systems Network: Despite of this call for action, to stay realistic and to not expect magic change:  
*'... it is important to recognize that **science is not a magic wand with which sex inequalities in workload and income can be made to vanish.** (...) otherwise false hopes about the capacity of science and technology to remove **deep-seated social maladies** arise.'* (IRRI 1985ln60)
- Influence agricultural research on women's participation in agricultural development as relatively limited; though influence CGIAR as important and not be ignored (ISNAR/RF 1985,2)
- Inclusion:  
*'**Scientists will have to listen and learn from resource-poor rural women.**  
The greatest challenge (...) lies in motivating scientists and technologists to undertake a process of "listening and learning" through collaboration with poor women while developing their research priorities and strategies.'* (IRRI 1985, 60)

In lign with 1978 CGIAR first stripe review, on FSR but farmer as 'he':

*'To improve our understanding of the farmer, **his** skills, preferences and aspirations.'* (21)



# 1980/81 First explicit policy discussion / statement

- **Consultative Group Meeting Oct 1980 concerning second CGIAR review:**

**Agreed:** *'The value of the system to the most disadvantaged groups, including resource-poor farmers and women, should be analyzed.'* (54., p22).

- **1981 Second Review of the CGIAR, Report Review Committee:**

*'In many parts of the developing world, **women play an important role in agricultural production**, for example as farm owners, managers, unpaid family workers and hired laborers.*

***Too often, these roles have been overlooked resulting in reduced impact or even total failure of programs** related to agricultural research and development. (...)*

*In particular, Centers should review their programs, particularly those on farming systems, to ensure that the role of women is specifically considered in the technology generation process and that the possibility of differential benefits of men and women is analyzed.*

***The Technical Advisory Council should ensure that the impact on women of the Systems work is fully taken into account in designing and evaluating programs of work'** (p. 97)*

➤ **Though** recommendation only in Human Resources paragraph: more women

in trainings



**WAGENINGEN**  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



100years  
1918 - 2018



# 1982 MUCIA (USA) proposal to collaborate with IARCs

- 1982, Barbara Knudson and Jean Weidemann of the Midwestern Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA)- Women in Development Network - : presentation at International Centers Week on a proposal for
  - **collaborative program on women and agriculture** between the MUCIA Women in Development Network and the IARCs (ref to MUCIA 1983):
    - \* consultation services
    - \* development of educational materials and training modules on women's productive roles in agriculture.
  - not funded....
  - still first time directing IARC research activities towards specific technological needs of women farmers discussed among donor and IARC representatives in plenary session at an ICW.  
(Poats 1990, 8; Poats 1991, 13)



# 1982-1988 first CGIAR-wide Assessment

CGIAR Executive Secretary Curtis Farrar highlighted the need for evaluation:

**1. returns of the investments to be studied in farmers' fields:**

*'No matter how good the programs of the international centers, they must ultimately be judged by the results in farmers' fields.'*

**2. the inclusion and effective addressing interests of the poor and women:**

*'... since a frequently heard criticism of the green revolution was that the new varieties of wheat and rice were prejudicial to the interests of the poor, (...)*

*whether the research outputs helped women in farm families, who in many parts of the world not only do the bulk of farm labor but also make most of the important decisions.'*

(Anderson et al. 1988, foreword)

**Janice Jiggins (1986)** commissioned for study on **gender impacts:**

*'disregarding gender issues in agricultural research and technology development would hold output, productivity and welfare below the potential'*. If women's roles in production and food systems were not taken seriously, the set goals could not be reached. (Jiggins 1986)

→ only one box 'women in farming systems' in final report (Anderson et al. 1988, 48)



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



CIAT  
1982 - 2018



# 1987-International Centers week: Gender Issues

Consultative Group Meeting, October 26-30, 1987, Washington, D.C.

- Reviews
  - IFPRI to do more on women (p.7);
  - IRRI under dispute but to retain RFS and work on women in rice farming (17-18)
- CGIAR chairman W. David Hopper: *'The original CGIAR agenda was building the "pile of rice" but with success in that task came issues of food and income distribution, and employment. Today there were also issues related to sustainability and the environment, the special problems of agriculture in Africa, women in development, the changing role of national research systems, new biological science and the opportunities it creates, and donor coordination.'* (2)
- In his summary: *'the first concerned the role of women, which was a very hard one in the societies in which the Group was working, something we should never forget. Technologies which were sex-neutral or even favorable to women in principle did not turn out to be so in practice.'* (28)





# 1987-International Centers week: Gender Issues

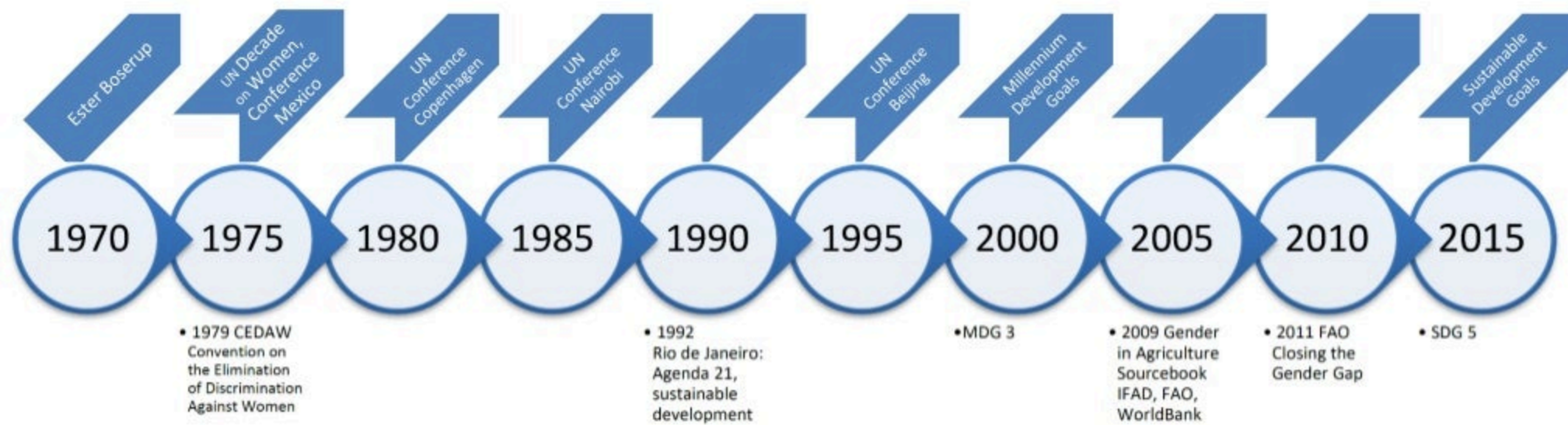
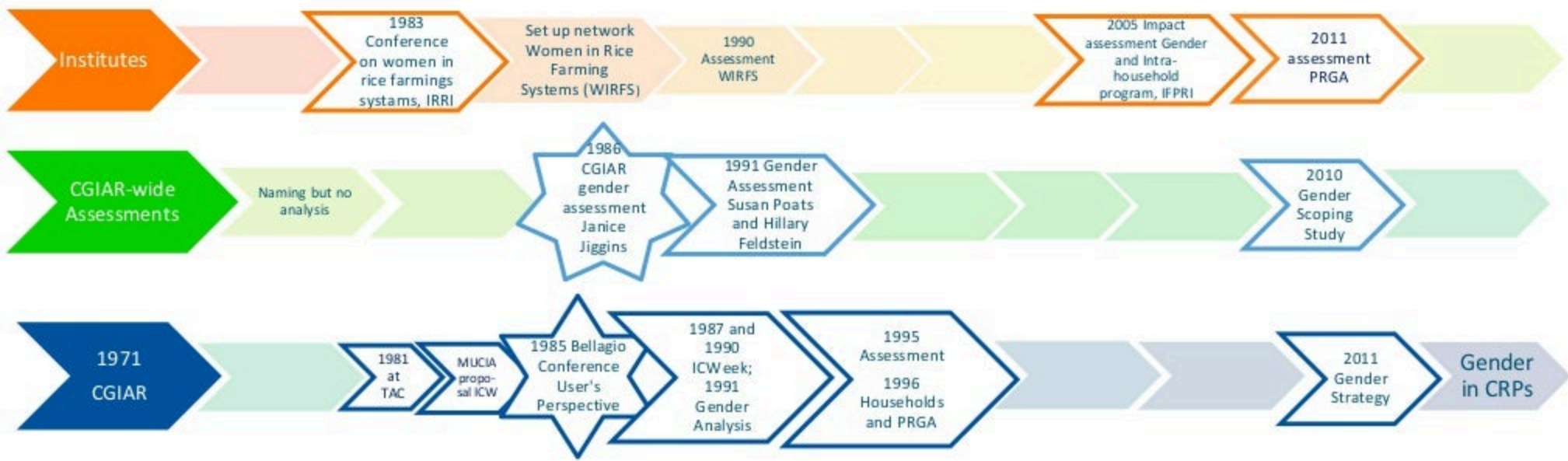
- Day Seminar on "Gender Issues: User Impact, Agricultural Technology and the Global Agricultural Research System", chaired by Margaret Catley-Carlson, President CIDA: report as Appendix I (3 pp); booklet separately.
  - Consistent with 1985 (ISNAR/Rockefeller)
  - Fear of isolation for women's projects → mainstreaming:  
*'Country experience has shown that concern for currently disadvantaged user groups is best shown, not by special women's projects which may isolate the problem and solution from the general bureaucracy, but by increased sensitivity and improved process within the mainstream of research administration.'* (l. 2)
  - Political worries:  
*'responsibility for the assessment of potential impact rests with the national agricultural research and policy systems (...) acknowledged that policy on the gender issue rapidly ran into politics which the centers had to keep out of. Center/national program links are so vital to the working of a global agricultural research system that forays into politics can only damage the credibility of effective collaboration.'* (l. 2)



# 1987-International Centers week: Gender Issues

- Day Seminar on "Gender Issues: User Impact, Agricultural Technology and the Global Agricultural Research System", chaired by Margaret Catley-Carlson, President CIDA: report as Appendix I (3 pp); booklet separately.
  - Recommendations:
    - Centers play a role in bringing processes and methods to national systems (...) in the light of the needs of and potential impacts on different user groups.
    - Group should receive information on progress in this area on a routine basis.
    - External reviews of centers take up gender as an explicit issue
    - Possible usefulness of a Stripe Review raised
- → 1989 ICW Participants called for a report on the progress,
  - Poats assessments 1990/1991 (see there as well!)





# 1: CGIAR niches to integrate gender throughout the years

---

- From beginning support to NARES = support to research for impact
- 1970s Introduction of impact studies → User perspective (ISNAR/Rockefeller 1985)
- Regional differentiation → (a.o. Jacqui Ashby women L-A, ISNAR/Rockefeller 1985)
- New policy research but careful about interfering in state policies (incorporation IFPRI)



## Example 1985 ISNAR/Rockefeller: women from user perspective

1985 First CGIAR-wide gender-oriented event:

### Intercentre seminar 'Women and Agricultural Technology: Relevance for Research'

- In CGIAR presented as '*start to a system-wide dialogue on the subject of women and agricultural development.*' (CGIAR News, 1985)
  - \* CGIAR Upper management levels and stakeholder representatives present.
  - \* **Ester Boserup** was invited to lead one of the panels.
  - \* IRRI DG M.S. Swaminathan prepared a paper with recommendations to be discussed
  - \* Concluding statement in the full report afterwards. (RFF and ISNAR 1985)
- **Objectives:** to assess the current activities and ways to effective integration of women in the modernization of agriculture, and to seek possible ways to improve the performance of the CGIAR system on this. (RFF and ISNAR 1985).
- **Addressing technology from an user perspective**, specifically focusing on women.
  - \* women's specific constraints to use technology and
  - \* how related to their position in agriculture, agricultural innovation processes, technology adoption.



## Example 1985 ISNAR/Rockefeller: women from user perspective

### Concluding statement (ISNAR/RFF 1985, 1):

- **affirmed user perspective: gender** was ‘an **important variable** in distinguishing among potential beneficiary groups for agricultural technology research and policy analysis’
- **Far from a homogeneous group:** at least three categories:
  1. direct producers of crops and livestock;
  2. participants in the family farm through processing, marketing, storing, and preparing food; and
  3. wage labourers.
- **Ex-ante women’s impact assessment + ‘do not harm’ formular**

If suggested technologies seem to narrow some women’s opportunities and choices:  
*‘additional attention should be directed to ensuring that such reduction of women’s opportunities is not inevitable and that women are not placed into a marginal position as a result of technological change.’*

need to develop alternatives to compensate to the better and prevent worsening:  
*‘alternative income-producing opportunities to prevent damage to some individuals, while encouraging changes beneficial to society as a whole.’*



## Example 1985 ISNAR/Rockefeller: women from user perspective

**Concluding statement to CGIAR system (ISNAR/RFF 1985, 2):**

**Long-term strategy:**

*'consideration of women, where possible, in all phases of its research and development works, including feedback from female farmers'.*

**BUT also:**

- **Influence agricultural research relatively limited** on women's participation in agricultural development; still influence CGIAR important and not to be ignored.
- **Distinct identity and work methods among centres** wisely secured: CGIAR system had a multiple role but autonomous entities, with different mandates and approaches.
- **National organizations considered key** for beneficial interaction in problem identification and utilization of the research products of the IARCs.
  - **attention to gender issues in all impact assessments** of the IARCs' work (only!) at the national systems level.
  - **Cooperation with NARS and systematic use of national media** to effectively increase awareness among policy-makers and scientists, and to obtain feedback.



## 2: CGIAR niches to integrate gender throughout the years

### Farming Systems Approach: as alternative to 'component' research →

- **Re-peopling agriculture:** acknowledgement of farmers as agents
- **Rocky Docs (1974-2001):** among social scientist fellows also anthropologists: connect to ethnographic observations and research: cultural meanings, family/kin labour and care - survival constellations, Traditional /local Knowledge (TEK, TAK, TFK):
- **Complexity of farming systems:** discussing dynamics within farming households
- **Acknowledging projected Western development assumptions** (a.o. Flora 1982)
- **Acknowledging local specifics** → ex ante research and elaborating on-farm participation
- **Data collection for computer simulation / modelling** by classification of major farming systems as within mandate
  - Mandate: not possible quite 'holistic' → optimizing production yield but within soc-ec-political contexts





## 2: CGIAR niches to integrate gender throughout the years

### Farming Systems Approach, room for continental differences → Heterogeneity of Women in farming

- **Africa** (Ingram WIRF conference 1983, FSR conference Zambia 1984; Moock 1986):
  - Regions women doing most agriculture; dominate markets / trade
  - High percentage female - headed households (migration)
- Esp. in **Asia**:
  - Issues of labour substitution, shifts in labour arrangements
  - Proletarianization of small-scale farm families
  - More work load for women when not rich enough to hire substitution
  - Complexity called for integrative perspectives to rural economy and productivity / wages
- **Latin America**: diversified agriculture, proletarianization, labour conditions (Ashby 1985)



# Example 1980s: IRRI: Women in Rice Farming Systems

**1983 CGIAR first women's / gender conference** 'Women in Rice Farming Systems', IRRI,

- **conference book 'Women in Rice Farming'**

tangible result of 78 participants from 27 countries. (IRRI-WIRF 1985, foreword).

- **real treasure of papers:**

rich understanding of contributions of women to rice farming in Africa and Asia, not only in agricultural activities, but also in non-farming activities providing income, also in care-oriented family, community and household activities.

- **Recommendations** agreed upon by the participants as annex.

- **M.S. Swaminathan as IRRI DG** in foreword, conference was convened

1. to learn more about women's roles in rice farming,
2. whether women had benefited from past introductions of new rice technologies,
3. how they could better benefit

*'Any technology that can increase rural women's productivity, allowing them to work less and earn more, will be beneficial to the welfare of rural households.'*



# Example 1980s: IRRI: Women in Rice Farming Systems

- conference book **'Women in Rice Farming'**; complexity stressed, e.g. Jennie Dey (419- 445):
  - how **social norms** affected farming systems and practices, besides physical environment and biological characteristics of plants or animals.
  - to include (changing) organisation of production as well as consumption, at both the household and village level.
  - to look into **family structures**, otherwise evidenced that women end up with less control and opportunity to provide for their own, thus a weakened self-determination and gender status (e.g. irrigation and (re)settlement projects).
  - to relate production factors to **core social dimensions**:  
*'class, caste, economic status, religion, ethnic groups or gender of the household head'* (420) + differentiate in region, household composition, life cycle position.
  - **as list of research topics**: 'sexual division of labour (crops/farming operations); access to/ remuneration of household and non-household labour; access to/control of land, capital resources, crops and livestock, income derived from sale or by-products; managerial and technical skills.' (420)



# Example 1980s: IRRI: Women in Rice Farming Systems

## ■ **Women in Rice Farming Systems Network** (1986-1995)

1984: Together with NARES (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand) three principles:

- active involvement of biophysical scientists;
- active involvement of women in design and testing, actively adapting and transferring existing and emerging technologies;
- actively using all avenues for generating new on-farm and off-farm employment within the wider rice-based farming systems
- To secure an integrative approach, the WIRFS became part of the Asian Rice Farming Systems Network (ARFSN).

■ 1988 WIRFS meeting, devoted to **training in gender analysis**, with Hilary Feldstein and Cornelia Flora: connection with gender researchers in **US academia**. IRRI case study included in 1989 'Working Together. Gender Analysis in Agriculture' (Feldstein & Poats)

■ 1989 Ten day 'travelling' WIRFS seminar through China; 'simple' technologies useful to rural women in farm and rural enterprises (Zandstra 1989)



# WOMEN IN RICE FARMING

International Rice Research Institute



IRRI

1989

1983



## *Women in Rice Farming Systems*

SEMINAR REPORT

May 7 - 17, 1989

Appropriate Technology  
for Rural Women:  
Lessons from China

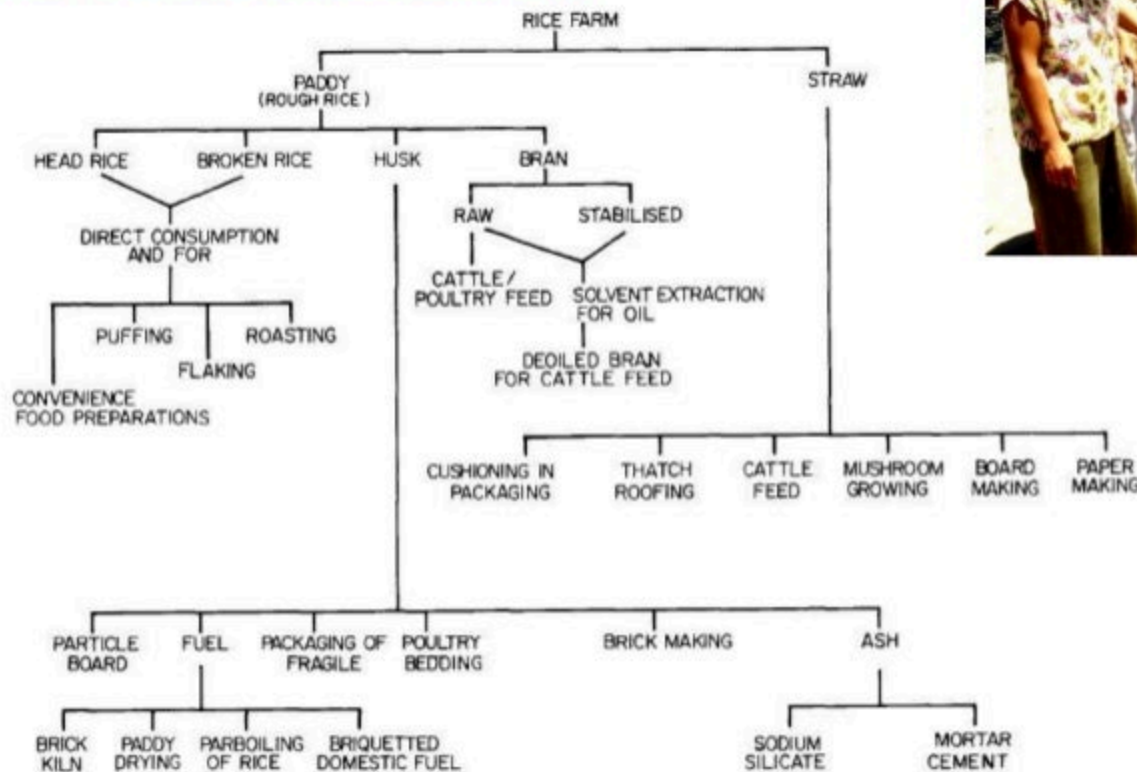
SPONSORED BY  
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences  
The International Rice Research Institute

SUPPORTED BY  
Canadian International Development Agency  
Danish International Development Agency  
Ford Foundation



# Examples:

- Inclusion of post-harvest processing: seen as specific domain and opportunities for women
- To women's tasks adjusted technology



## SPECIFICATION

- CAPACITY: 500 kgp. paddy/hr.
- SPELLING: Centrifugal Sheller
- MAIN PARTS:
  - Paddy Cleaner
  - Centrifugal Sheller
  - Husk Aspirator
  - Paddy Separator
  - HULLER
- OVERALL DIMENSIONS:
  - 850 x 700 x 1700 (mm)
  - 11000 x 1400 x 2200 (mm)
- DRIVING MOTORS:
  - One 3 H.P. 1440 RPM Motor
  - One 5 H.P. 1440 RPM Motor (for huller)

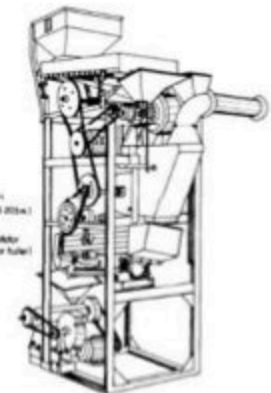


Figure 22.1 | The mini rice mill.

Figure 22.2: Technological perspective for the utilization of rice and its by-products.

Mini rice mill!

# 1990 Assessment 'GENDER ISSUES IN THE CGIAR SYSTEM'

## LESSONS AND STRATEGIES FROM WITHIN

**Report by Susan Poats, 1990**, for 1990 CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting, The Hague, 21-25 May

Thanks to Hilary Feldstein, Michael Collinson, Cheryl Danley, Janice Jiggins, Jacqueline Ashby, Abe Goldman, Myra Buvinic, Jean Weidemann and Judith Carney

Herself : Co-Director of the Gender and Agriculture Project, Population Council, New York.  
As of April 1, 1990, CIAT Social Scientist for the Cassava Program, Quito, Ecuador.

**to a request by several of the CGIAR donor representatives at International Centers Week (ICW-1989).**

With some corrections and additions later published as Poats 1991



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



# 1990 Assessment GENDER ISSUES IN THE CGIAR SYSTEM:

Report by Susan Poats, prepared for 1990 CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting:

- Commonly gap between sensitization and incorporation of gender varies, but in agricultural research institutions: *'sensitization is, unfortunately, not widespread, and the gap between the few sensitized voices and actual incorporation is deep.'*
- **"Culture" of agricultural research institutions** reflect deep-seated values;
  - ✓ **belief that technology alone will solve problems;** technology as "neutral" to socio-economic differences among users:
  - ✓ **technical fixes rather than integrated approaches** encouraged by increasing disciplinary and technical specialization and reliance on reductionist research methods;
  - ✓ **absence of relevant gender sensitive methodologies** due to its relatively recent, scanty inclusion;
  - ✓ **conservative political climate** institutionally makes the subject of gender seem like a **radical intrusion rather than a call for greater efficiency of resource use;**
  - ✓ **male orientation in research agenda:** language mainly refers to farmers and researchers as "he"; low numbers/absence of women in research and extension institutions





# 1990 Assessment GENDER ISSUES IN THE CGIAR SYSTEM:

Report by Susan Poats, prepared for 1990 CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting.

- Tools of gender analysis: are more than checklists or guidelines for data collection: **analytical frameworks** designed specifically to deal with gender issues (Overholt et al. 1985; Feldstein and Poats, 1990).

*'to the design of interventions and action strategies which will ensure that men and women are better integrated into on-going development efforts.'*

- From FAO study, the incorporation of gender frameworks linked to five conditions:
  1. making changes in **policy mandates**;
  2. having **senior management and leadership support and involvement**;
  3. implementing **gender-explicit evaluation and monitoring mechanisms**;
  4. having **sufficient professional staff** with gender expertise; and
  5. enhancing **overall human resource capacity** through training

Examples that gender analysis matters

More or less same in publication Poats 1991( esp. 6-23)



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



100years  
1918 - 2018



# Progress:

1991-1995  
gender analysis  
program

State of affairs in 1995  
(Feldstein 1995)

1996  
Intra-household and  
PRGA program  
(Jackson 2005; PRGA 2011)

**Table 1. Center activities to encourage a gender perspective in research. April 1995.**

CENTER	Gender is a category in project proposal and reporting	Gender Specialist	Gender research committee	Use of external assistance (all)	CGIAR Gender Program Gender Analysis Consultancies	CGIAR Gender Program Grants
CIAT	-	-	X	X	-	-
CIFOR	-	-	-	-	-	-
CIMMYT	-	-	-	-	-	-
CIP	X	-	X	X	X (2) <sup>a</sup>	-
ICARDA	-	-	X	X	X	X
ICLARM	-	-	-	-	-	-
ICRAF	-	-	-	X	X (2)	-
ICRISAT	X	X	X	-	X (2)	-
IFPRI	-	<sup>b</sup>	X <sup>c</sup>	X	-	X
IIMI	-	X	X	X	X	-
IITA	-	-	X	X	X (2)	-
ILRI	-	-	-	-	-	-
IPGRI	-	X <sup>d</sup>	-	X	X	X
IRRI	-	X	-	X	-	-
ISNAR	-	X <sup>e</sup>	-	-	-	-
WARDA	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	5	7	9	7 (11)	3

<sup>a</sup> Number of consultancies provided by CGIAR Gender Program.

<sup>b</sup> Most researchers in FCND and some in EPTD do intrahousehold analysis as a regular part of their research.

<sup>c</sup> Part of their multicountry program on intrahousehold analysis.

<sup>d</sup> Not a gender specialist *per se*, but hired for those credentials and his terms of reference make this a major part of his research program.

<sup>e</sup> Half of her responsibility.

Feldstein, H. (1995) Report on the CGIAR Gender Program I. Gender Analysis in the CGIAR: Achievements, Constraints, and a Framework for Future Action II. Gender Staffing in the CGIAR: Achievements, Constraints, and a Framework for Future Action.

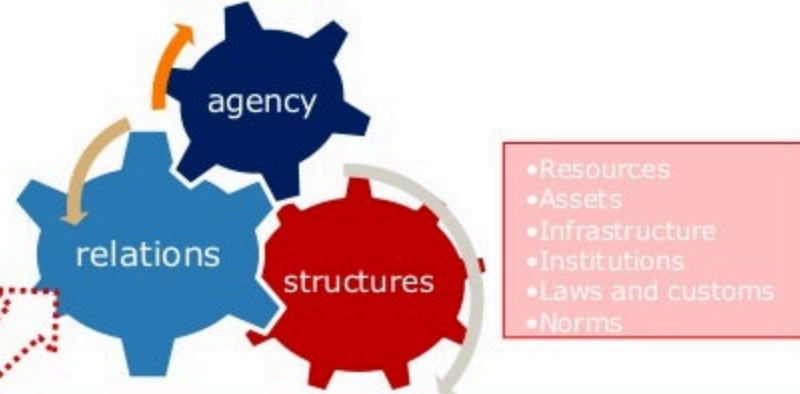
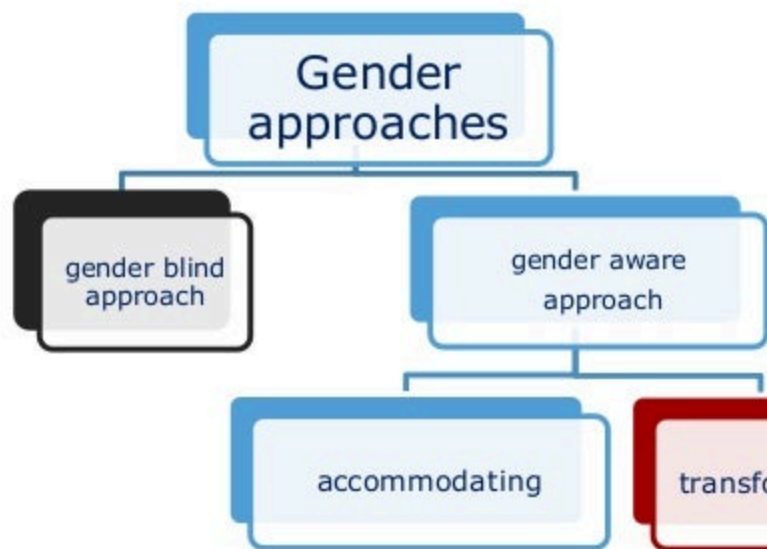


### 3: CGIAR niches to integrate gender throughout the years

- While Intra-households and PRGA; mandate not that 'holistic' → optimizing yields but in soc-ec-political contexts (towards gender gaps)
  - Main profiling through high-tech exclusiveness to secure donor funds
  - Choice for modelling versus ethnographic research of local specifics: classification of farming systems with typology like agro-climatic zones ect
  - Other farm system research into margins in support of NARES:
- Agricultural or Food Security 'transition' limited; social justice issues as tolerated, on own strength by individual scholars with exceptions:
  - IRRI, CIP built onto tradition to support gender initiatives, support at specific times (from DGs), public appearance, also examples where men can contribute: e.g. male champions DGs M.S. Swaminathan and Richard L. Sawyer
- **New élan 2000s** when Africa and subsistence farming again central into the picture:
  - renewal social justice (equity) and farming system approaches, including
  - \* wider approach beyond the farm to reduce gender gaps in agriculture
  - \* gender norms as one of structuring dynamics beyond the farm

➤ But here more research needed!





**Holistic, systemic, interdisciplinary**

**Intersectionality**

- gender intersecting with class, generation, ethnicity/race, religion, urban/rural, civic status, health status, sexual orientation

**Integrated scales**

- From individual, hh, kin, community etc up to global

**Inclusion (visibility, representation, voice)**

- from representation up to levels of participation and decision-making
- stakeholder approach
- about. by and in favour of

**Six levels of analysis**

- Data collection m/f sexe-segregated
- Identification of m/f differences, trends and/or patterns according to sexe
- Identification of gendered trends and/or patterns (interrelated = gender relations)
- Analysis what gendered trends and/or patterns constitute gender (in)equalities (education, extension, credits etc)
- Relating gender differences to broader social contexts: gendered patterns and structures (labour – care arrangements)
- Relating gender differences to culturally embedded phenomena and concepts; genderedness of concepts (labour, technology, food, farming, fishing)

**Impact assessments / pathways whole project cycle**



**Gender Change into social, economic and ecological Sustainable Development**

## Continuum of Gender Integration

- To help further analyse the gender rigour in studies and approaches
- first as drafted as on next page

Gender-blind: no gender or women addressed at all

Harmful to reinforcing gender equalities

Inclusion women in data (variable) and as target group - accommodating

When adjusting: reinforcing and maybe partly transformative

Gender: addressing constraints in agency, relations and structure, partly transformative

Acknowledging intra-household dynamics, beyond production to productivity and well-being, participatory methodologies, gender structures a.o. norms (opportunities and constraints)

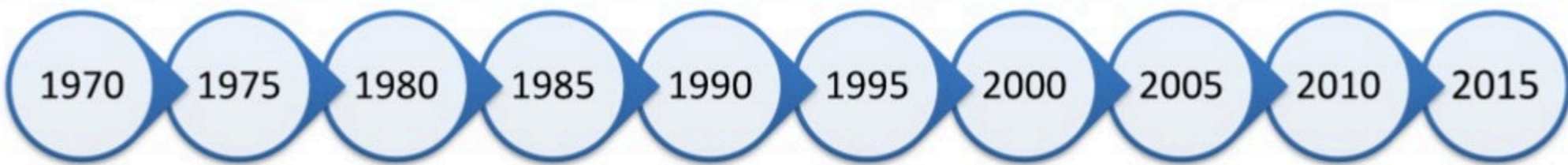
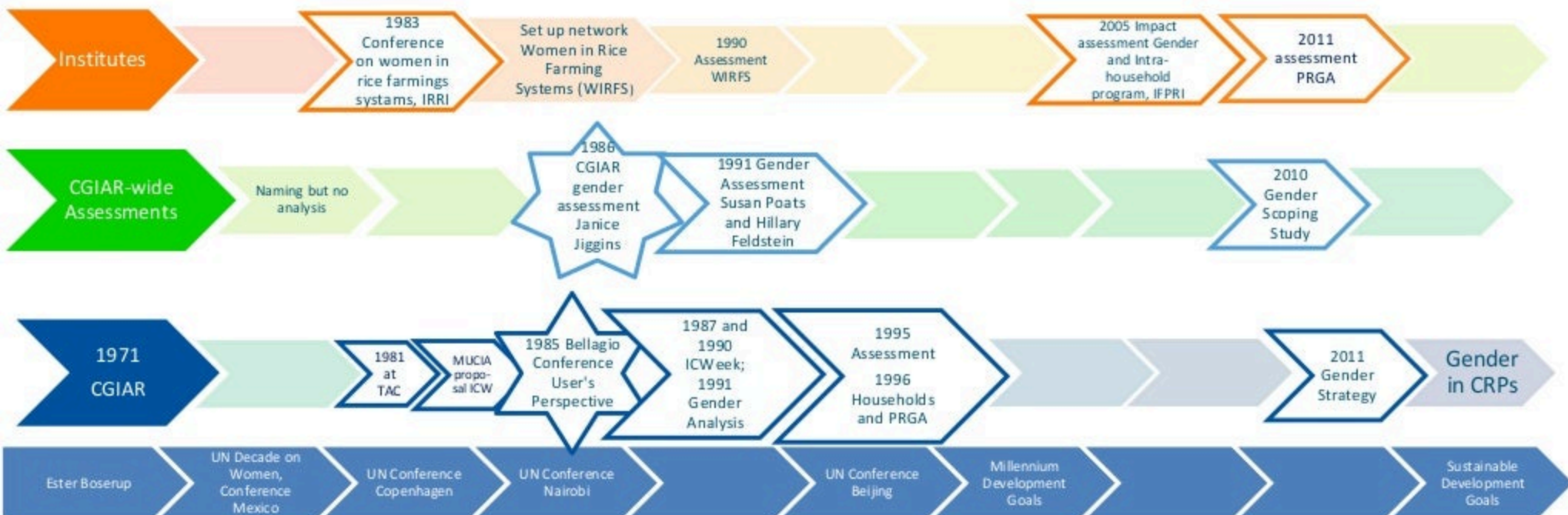
Gender intersecting with other social dimensions, addressing heterogeneity

Systematic analysis: intersecting dimensions with gender (youth, class, ethnicity, health status, civic status etc)

Power relations among women

Questioning women's relations of power

## Overall draft time-line with gender approaches



• 1979 CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

• 1992 Rio de Janeiro: Agenda 21, sustainable development

• MDG 3

• 2009 Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook IFAD, FAO, WorldBank

• 2011 FAO Closing the Gender Gap

• SDG 5

# FUTURE: Out in the open, out of isolation

Coming from:

- A history of 'need' and 'claims' instead of integrated embeddedness
- A mainstream (engrained past) culture that nurtured reluctance, neglect or resistance  
→ scales of so-called 'gender-fatigue' ↔ in-depth gender studies

To stay in the open: cherishing

- **Proudness on legacy as foundation / building stones of current and future work by:**
  - **addressing what as treasure** to be more formally acknowledged (e.g. success work/results often within and outside of CGIAR international networks, volumes, projects, women NGOs, leadership programs, etc)
  - **Increasing visibility of legacy** through addressing on Wiki-links, website, interactive timeline, interviews and bio's oldies -champions (still alive and many documents available), accessibility facilities much improved!
  - **Further digging in and further analysis**



## Lessons and ways forward:

- **Taking Leadership** is crucial: but must also be enabled
  - to move forward with **expertise building and profiling**
  - **to mingle / share even more** with outside (programs, disciplines, stakeholders); participating in other conferences with well-prepared panels
- **Competences as gender experts to be seen as assets, not career blockers:**  
culture of cherishing 'outsiders' within
  - adequate terms of reference needed; both integration and expert 'rigorousness'
  - Specific assets to be rewarded:
    - ^both disciplinary and gender expertise, generalists as covering many fields
    - ^inevitably leaders in capacity building and institution building
- **Strengthening exchange and solid networks for support**  
(as Platform, both internal + external)
  - dream of last year: 2020 Open blended conference in Wageningen!

That would include:



## Lessons and ways forward:

- **Connecting Stakeholders**
- **Thematic Synthesis Series** of literature > 10 years old to better ground research
- **Gender in Agriculture Plan 2025** (as presented PIM; good idea!)
- **Strengthen strategic gender studies; cooperative work with academia:**
  - More **philosophical / science dynamics input:** ontologies/epistemologies / TOC
  - **Other disciplines:** e.g. social justice aspects of law and international regulations
  - Spatial: GIS mapping → connecting scales
  - Symbolic and behavioural aspects (part normative structures)
  - **Intersectionality**
  - **Out of Taboo: power among women**
  - **Ethics** (what to change, what help dream for..., tensions fundamental rights)







Let us move forward together  
**THANKS!**

