



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Policies,
Institutions
and Markets

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Collecting Sex- Disaggregated Data

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What are sex-disaggregated data?

- Data that are collected and analyzed separately on men and women
- For agricultural household surveys, this usually involves asking the “who” questions: Who provides labor? Who makes decisions? Who owns and controls resources?

Typical CGIAR areas of research

- **Baseline, formative or descriptive** research
- What are the **constraints** facing farmers?
- Where are the **opportunities** for increased production and livelihoods?
- How do farmers respond to living in a **risky environment**?
- What is the **impact** of projects, programs, and policies? How can projects be **designed** and **monitored** to be gender transformative?

Asking the right questions: Consider the context

- Both research and survey questions must be adapted to the context
- Those collecting and analyzing sex-disaggregated data need to understand gender roles and other dimensions of identity
- Conducting qualitative research prior to survey development can help identify most useful research questions
- Understanding the context will allow researchers to:
 - Develop survey questions that are culturally sensitive
 - Ensure that survey questions are relevant

Unit of analysis

- Individual
- Household
- Intrahousehold
- Community
- Region or nation
- Land area
- Asset
- Resource unit
- Formal or informal organizations
- Value chain

Individual

Explanation

A farmer or a worker along a value chain. Understanding individual choices, preferences, or decisions requires interviewing the individual.

Sample Research Question

What is the average daily wage for an agricultural worker? Does it differ by gender?

Household

Explanation

Agricultural households are both producers and consumers. To consider all of these activities, the household may be the appropriate unit of analysis. Important information about the household may include the sex and age composition of its members.

Sample Research Question

How much of their income do households spend on food?

Intrahousehold Dynamics

Explanation

To understand what happens within the household, the focus may be on intrahousehold analysis. This does not treat the household as a single unit, but seeks to understand how multiple individuals within the household interact and affect outcomes.

Sample Research Question

How is food allocated among household members?
Who is involved in decisions about agricultural production?

Community

Explanation

Communities may be the focus of policies or interventions.

Sample Research Question

How do we improve local governance? How do we ensure that women are involved?

Region or Nation

Explanation

For cross-country comparisons, including those of trade or policies, national or regional analysis is appropriate.

Sample Research Question

How do trade policies affect agricultural exports?

Land area

Explanation

Spatial analyses of how various policies affect land use may use land areas as the appropriate unit of analysis. Land parcels may be the unit of analysis for analyses of agricultural production.

Sample Research Question

How much land is irrigated?
What is the potential for
additional land to be irrigated?
Who owns the land?

Asset

Explanation

An asset such as livestock, houses, or savings may be the focus of policy or program interventions.

Sample Research Question

What proportion of cattle are vaccinated?
Who are the owners of the cattle?

Resource unit

Explanation

A forest, watershed, or lake may be the appropriate unit of analysis for questions about natural resource management.

Sample Research Question

What proportion of forests have active management groups? And have groups with women leaders?

Formal or informal organization

Explanation

These may be farmer cooperatives, extension service providers, credit banks, water user groups, micro-finance groups, self-help groups, etc.

Sample Research Question

What proportion of cooperatives have women in leadership positions?

Value chain

Explanation

The value chain, or a node along it, may be the unit of research on the sustainability, inclusivity, or efficiency of value chains.

Sample Research Question

What is the value added at each node along a value chain?
How many men/women,
youth/adults work at each node?

Who to interview?

- Sex-disaggregated data is data that is collected on men and women. But who should it be collected from?
- When unit of analysis is the individual, it should be collected from the individual farmer, worker, consumer, etc.

- When the unit of analysis is the household, farm, or intrahousehold dynamics, then who should be interviewed?
- Options include:
 - One household member who is a proxy respondent for all members e.g. person most knowledgeable about the relevant subject
 - Principal couple, husband and wife
 - An adult man and an adult woman
 - Randomly select one or more individuals
 - All adults

- For some research questions, one person can provide information on everyone in the household.
 - Who lives in the household?
 - Who takes care of the cattle?
 - Who is responsible for weeding?
- Some questions, individuals must answer for themselves
 - What are the maize characteristics that are most important to you?
 - Which characteristics are most important in a good leader?
 - Which foods are highest in iron? (to identify level of knowledge)

- Intrahousehold analyses
- Some analyses are based on responses from one person –
 - How does women's share of asset ownership affect household expenditure patterns?
- For other analyses, need to interview multiple people per household.
 - WEAI modules – Interviews the principal man and woman in the household. Calculates a women's empowerment indicator and a gender parity indicator.

So who to interview?

- It depends on the research question.
- And depends on the budget.
- Researchers must also be aware of how gender and other social norms might inform responses. (who is most knowledgeable, who is the farmer)
- The setting of the data collection can also inform responses
- Always note who the respondent is, with basic identifying information (sex, age, marital status, education, etc.)

Household Roster

For household surveys, those sampling by household, rather than individual, it is useful to have a household roster.

List all members of the household

Include some basic information on each: sex, age, marital status, relationship to head or respondent

Assign each an id number that allow you to refer to them in the coding throughout the survey.

Ask the “who” questions

- The key to gender analysis: know the sex of the people involved in various tasks such as the owner of the land, the farm manager, the laborer, or the decision-maker
- Changing a question from “Does the household...?” to “Who in the household...?” can generate a wealth of data
- Coding the “who” questions:
 - Code by sex (man, woman, boy, or girl) OR
 - Code by household member ID (this approach facilitates additional analysis through disaggregation across a range of characteristics)

Costs of collecting sex-disaggregated data

- Simply adding a few of the “who” questions will not significantly increase the cost
- Randomizing the respondent should not alter costs
- Interviewing multiple people within the same household. The amount depends on the length of the survey, the number of respondents, and the survey setting
- It is important to identify who must be interviewed and the appropriate sample size to sufficiently answer your research questions before finalizing the project budget

Then what?

- Sex-disaggregated data can be used for gender analysis, but this next step is needed.
- Gender analysis is more than including a dummy variable for sex or analyzing separately for men and women.
- Link the analysis to a theoretical or conceptual framework to guide the analysis.

What do I do if?

- I have done everything right and there is no statistical significance on my gender coefficients?
- I am asked to do a gender analysis of data that does not have good enough sex disaggregated data?