



Webinar: Design Elements for Gender-Responsive Breeding – starting points and unresolved issues.

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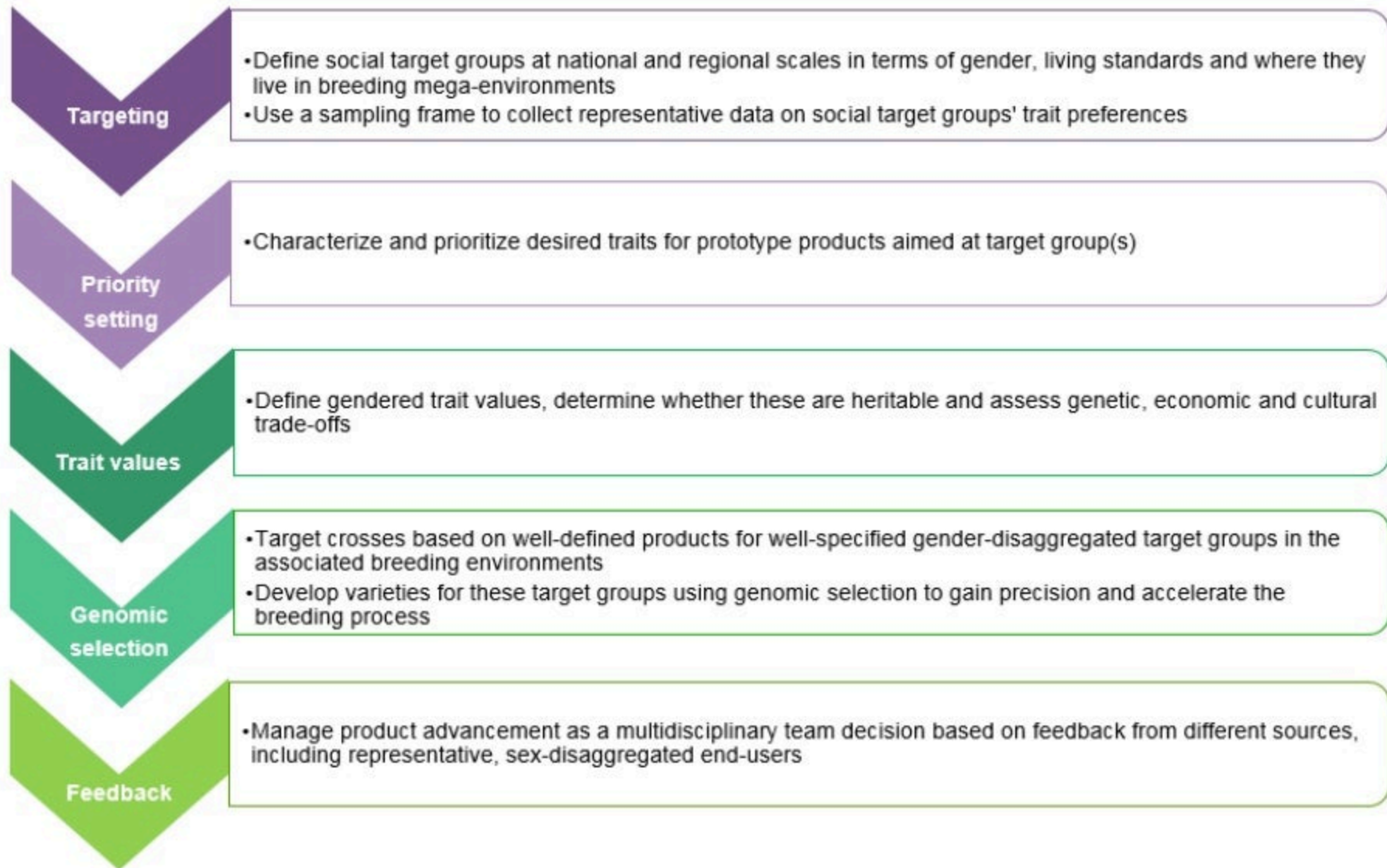
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Topics

- **Where are we coming from? Summarize conclusions from the Gender, Breeding and Genomics workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2016**
- **Unresolved issues? Examine the evidence gap on gender differentiated trait preferences: why it exists and what needs to be done about it?**

“Must-have” features of gender-responsive plant or animal breeding





Conclusion: What's missing?

Capacity for strategic assessment of
(1) “Who are we breeding for?” and
(2) “What is the economically, culturally and
socially important demand for gender-
differentiated traits and products that breeders
can realistically develop?”



Review of evidence on gender differences in trait preferences

- **Documentation of gender differences in trait preferences**
- **Methods used**
- **Patterns in gender-differentiated trait preferences (GDTPs)**

Literature search: 'gender', 'farmer', 'woman', 'traits', 'plant breeding', 'preference', 'seed', 'selection' 1985-2016, Web of Science, EVFA, SOWIPORT, JSTORE, CAB, PRGA cases, dissertations. Of 300 studies reviewed, 39 explained rationale for GDTPs

Big Gaps

Deficit of evidence on gender-differentiated preferences relevant to breeding in

- **Studies of agricultural marketing and demand**
- **Women's crops**
- **Roots, tubers and bananas**
- **West Asia and North Africa**

- **Most studies of traits preferences are one-off and not designed to provide broad geographical coverage or extrapolate generalizable conclusions to a well-defined population**
- **The vast majority of 300 studies reviewed did not investigate causal relationships between trait preferences and gender roles or norms**

Findings: Some trait preferences are unique to women or men



Identified only by women

- Vigour
- Tall height for ease of harvest
- Adapted to diverse growing conditions
- Leafiness
- Storage life
- Ease of dehulling
- Quantity of useable flour
- Fuel quantity from stover
- Cooking time
- Taste
- Grain colour

Identified only by men

- Resistance to water logging
- Adapted to intercropping
- Yield/ha
- Suitability for local dish

Source: E. Weltzien, A. Christinck, F. Rattunde, J. Ashby

Findings: gender differences are not clear-cut --Some trait preferences are shared but more important to women



Production traits more important to women:

- **Earliness**
- **Ease of harvesting, and transport**
- **Grain traits**
- **Pest and disease resistance**
- **Multiple, successive harvests**
- **Requirements for weeding**

Other post-harvest and food processing traits

E. Weltzien, A. Christinck, F. Rattunde, J. Ashby



Patterns

Men and women

- Farm same crop under similar conditions
 - trait preferences tend to be similar.
- Farm same crop under different conditions
- Farm same crop with different objectives
- Farm different crops (“women’s crops vs. men’s”) - trait preferences tend to diverge.

****Preferences and patterns are not static



What's missing?



Capacity for strategic assessment of

(1) “Who are we breeding for?”
and

(2) “What is the economically, culturally and socially important demand for gender-differentiated traits and products that breeders can realistically develop?”

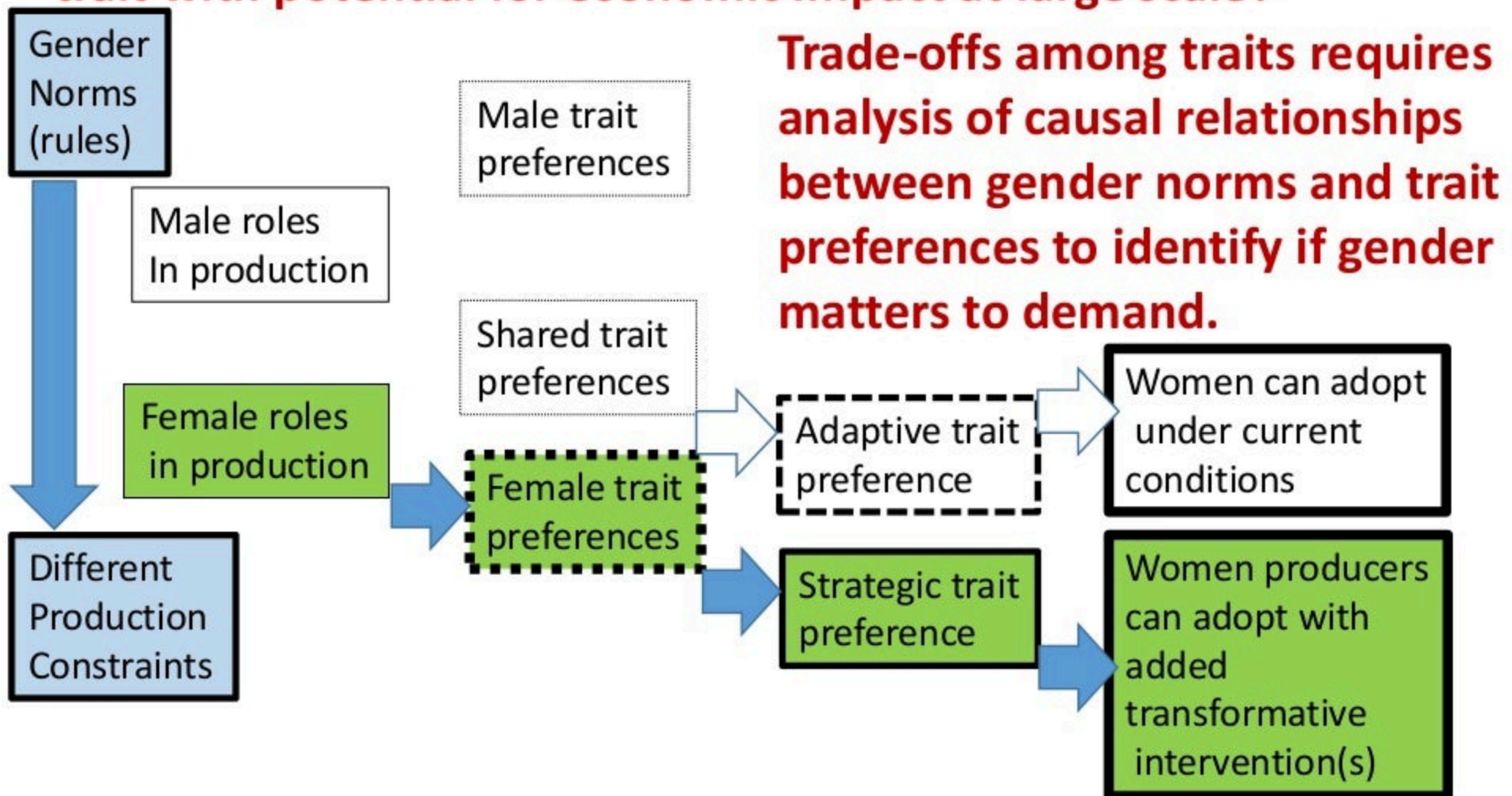
1. Who are we breeding for?

<p>Who is the priority CGIAR target beneficiary (end user) for the breeding program ?</p>	<p>Targeting Consumers</p>	
<p>Targeting producers</p>	<p>Poor consumers Men Women</p>	<p>Non-poor consumers Men Women</p>
<p>Non-poor producers Men Women</p>	<p>Breeding to improve low-cost staples (classic green revolution)</p>	<p>Not CGIAR Mission</p>
<p>Poor producers Men Women</p>	<p>? Unique female trait preferences</p>	<p>Breeding to improve competitiveness in high-value, export or boutique markets</p>

Trait prioritization is not allied to well-defined targeting of the intended beneficiary group and their trait preference(s): generalizable at scale!

2. What's the (gendered) trait most in demand?

Breeders' question: what's the feasible, high priority gendered trait with potential for economic impact at large scale?



Next Steps : better targeting and trait prioritization



Progress towards gender-responsive breeding programs requires an improved evidence base

- **with comprehensive geographical coverage**
- **representation of well-identified target populations**
- **profiles of the gendered trait preferences associated with different gender roles and constraints**

Challenge – next workshop



What kind of research is needed from social scientists and breeders to target well-defined beneficiary group(s) at scale

and identify where, how and for whom gender matters

in the demand for improved crops or animal breeds?



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