



Gender dynamics in seed systems

Insights and analysis

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Thursday April 4 2019

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Five co-funded grants

Ranjitha Puskur (IRRI/Rice): Assessing institutional innovation to promote women led informal seed systems in Eastern India

Esther Njuguna-Mungai (ICRISAT/GLDC): Gender dynamics in non-hybrid cereals and legumes seed systems in Ethiopia and Uganda

Birhanu Lenjiso (ILRI/Livestock): Gender dynamics in fodder seed systems: evidence from East Africa

Margaret McEwan (CIP/RTB, WUR): Gender and the moral economy of sweetpotato vines. A study in Tanzania

Netsayi Mudege (CIP/RTB, PIM/IFPRI): Integrating gender into Kenya's evolving seed policies and regulations for roots and tubers



Gender Dynamics in Seed Systems



The CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research is working with five CGIAR research teams to better understand different aspects of gender dynamics in seed systems. In July 2017, the CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research put out a call for proposals on gender relations vis a vis technological and institutional innovation, with a specific focus on gender dynamics in seed systems.

Themes

- Gender and breeding >
- Gender, Agriculture and Climate Change >
- GENNOVATE >
- Gender and big data
- Gender Dynamics in Seed Systems**
- Water and Gender (WAGI)
- Foresight

Gender dynamics in fodder seed systems

Birhanu Lenjiso

- Revised research questions
- revised FGD guide

Integrating gender into Kenya's evolving seed policies and regulations for roots and tubers

Netsayi Mudege

- Revised proposal
- Partner guide IDI
- Guide questions seed producer groups
- Guide questions potato / non seed producers
- Focus group name
- Farmer group work 1

Gender and the moral economy of sweet potato vines – a study in Lake Zone, Tanzania

Margaret McEwan

Special Issue framing – why this matters!

- **Quality** of seed used is a key determinant of yield potential
- When seed is not of good genetic, physical and health quality, yield will be sub-optimal
- **Availability** and **access** to high quality seed is a major concern for farmers
- We look at the **gender aspects** of **access to high quality, non-hybrid, seed** for smallholders in the global South
- Different farmers have different demands for seed
- Seed production and marketing systems provide access to high quality seed but do not work equally well for each crop and every seed user
- For non-hybrid seed traded volumes are lower, as farmers can recycle the seed for a number of seasons with limited yield losses
- Lower demand, and lower profit margin means **less incentive for commercial seed enterprises** to make an extra effort to reach a diverse set of seed users, with their different needs

What do we tackle?

- **What is quality seed?** Male and female farmer concepts, perceptions and parameters
- **Changing gender roles** with commercialization and specialization of seed production and the implications for inclusion/equity
- **Seed information, seed sourcing and seed use** for non-hybrids in Africa and Asia
- **Dynamics of moral economy** in access to quality seed and sustainability
- Quality seed provision: **business models** that work for women
- Gender dimensions of seed policy and regulation – **seed certification**

Seed information, seed sources, seed use

- 'Other farmers' are the main source of non-hybrid seed information [*seed system concern – what is the quality of information 'other farmers' are sharing about seed, where do they get their information from – 'other farmer champions for seed information?'*]
- 'Other farmers', 'cereals grain stockists' are major sources of 'new' seed for men and women farmers [*seed system concern – sourcing new seed from other farmer is negatively, significantly correlated with non-use of improved varieties*]
- Only 7.6% of farmers report replacing groundnuts seeds, average of 2.5 seasons to change; replacement seed from 'other farmers', cereal grain stockists [*how to enhance the practice of seed change, availability of improved varieties*]
- Commercialization significantly drives farmers, men and women, investment into use of improved varieties [*commercial links to crop production*]

Changing gender roles in commercialization and specialization

- **Requires additional and different resources:** technologies, land, water, marketing – who has access to these?
- If knowledge and skills are available to women **increases agency** to negotiate access to and use of resources
- Women **share knowledge** in household and community - contributing to household income, increases voice, respect and self-esteem
- Men perceive themselves as delegating and issuing instructions however when household resources are allocated, women take on a more active role; **household decision-making becomes more inclusive**
- **Gender-based constraints analysis** for seed production – essential to understand equity and inclusion in seed production



Business models that work for women

- Engagement of women as seed producers is often the result of deliberate targeting strategies by projects/interventions
- Engagement often through collectives and proves to be an effective strategy – strong **moral economy**
- Access to new germplasm and good quality seed main motives for women to engage to enhance their food security, followed by market demand (income generation)
- Less formal the institutional models, higher is the engagement of and benefits to women
- Enhanced knowledge and capacity of women seed producers influence intra-household negotiation and decision-making processes
- Higher engagement in value chains beyond production, but increased drudgery too
- Women users prefer seed from women producers – access and trust
- Diversification into other seeds, market demand and linkages, institutional linkages critical for sustainability and viability

Seed certification

- While seed certification can guarantee improved seed quality, it does not guarantee access and has the effect of **dispossessing women** of their role and knowledge in maintaining and conserving seed
 - *'Illegal', 'fake' 'criminalized' and 'redundant'*
 - *Women's social capital is threatened*
- Informal non monetary seed exchanges are not protected by seed policies that push formalization and certification
 - *'Overregulation' 'exclusion' 'vulnerable people'*
- Control of resources such as land and intergenerational power relations may have the effect of hierarchically concentrating seed certification and commercialization under the control of male heads of households
 - *Weaknesses of institutions (including markets, households and communities)*



Discussion

We would like to acknowledge all CGIAR Research Programs and Centers for supporting the participation of their gender scientists to the *Seeds of Change* conference.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Policies, Institutions, and Markets



Collaborative Platform for Gender Research



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