

**Integrating gender in  
aquaculture and small scale  
fisheries agri-food systems  
research:  
Pitfalls, principles & practical  
ways forward**

*Seeds of Change, 2-4 April*

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# WHAT?

**Gender integration is a journey**



*Gender integration  
in practice*

1. Pitfalls
2. Principles
3. **Practical ways forward for  
gender integration**

**Begins with a-ha moment =>  
demystifying gender**

**Value of two approaches:**

- Theory of Change
- Research Project Cycle



# *The Team* Egypt



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# Gender integration pitfalls

## Common pitfalls

- Gender = women
- Looking at gender roles rather than relations
- Overlooking intersectionality
- Not selecting the appropriate respondent, or limiting to one respondent/gender in the household
- Inaccurate comparisons of households (MHH vs FHH)



## Common Assumptions

- Access to technology= results in uptake
- Access to knowledge (extension, nutrition etc) = improved aquaculture practices
- Targeting women = women empowerment
- Women's labour is elastic



# 1. Engendering the Theory of Change

## WHAT IS THE THEORY OF CHANGE?



Most theory of changes =  
gender blind



### Outcome:

1. Trigger a-ha moment
2. Improve and re-design ToC

# How do we use the Theory of Change to support gender integration?



Access to  
Resources

Decision  
making

Gender  
division of  
labour

Norms

1. Introduce gender analysis concepts
2. Embed concepts within specific project Theory of Change
3. Unpack gender assumptions collectively

## Aquaculture

Access to  
technology

Input:  
fingerings,  
nets, cage



Increased  
productivity of  
fish

Linkage to  
market:  
livelihood  
activities



Improved  
income



Reduced  
poverty

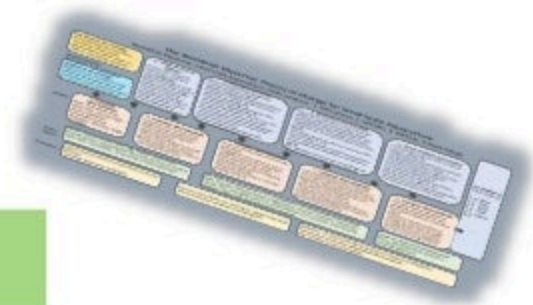
Improved  
practices

Aquaculture  
extension: pond  
management,  
stocking, etc



Nutrition  
counselling

Improved  
dietary  
diversity





Access to technology



Improved aquaculture practices



Increased productivity of fish



Improved income

Women and men can equally decide  
-to sell fish  
-what to use income for



Reduced poverty



Improved dietary diversity

Income will be used to purchase more nutritious food

Fish + nutritious food will be distributed equitably in the household

Access to Resources

Decision making

Gender division of labour

Norms

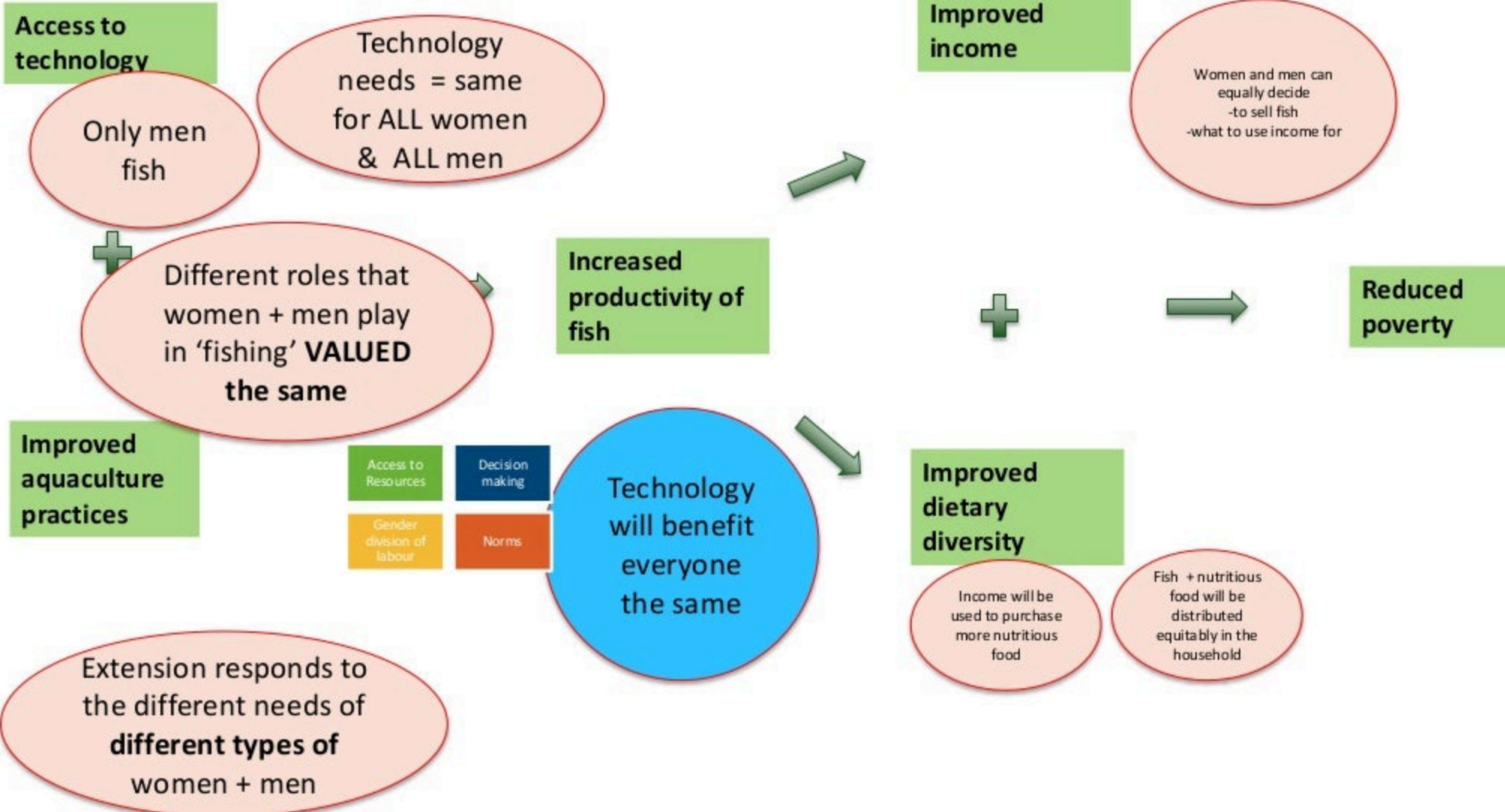
Access to Resources

Decision making

Gender division of labour

Norms





## Theory of Change in Action: Step 1: Bare bones



## Step 2: Collectively unpacking the gender assumptions











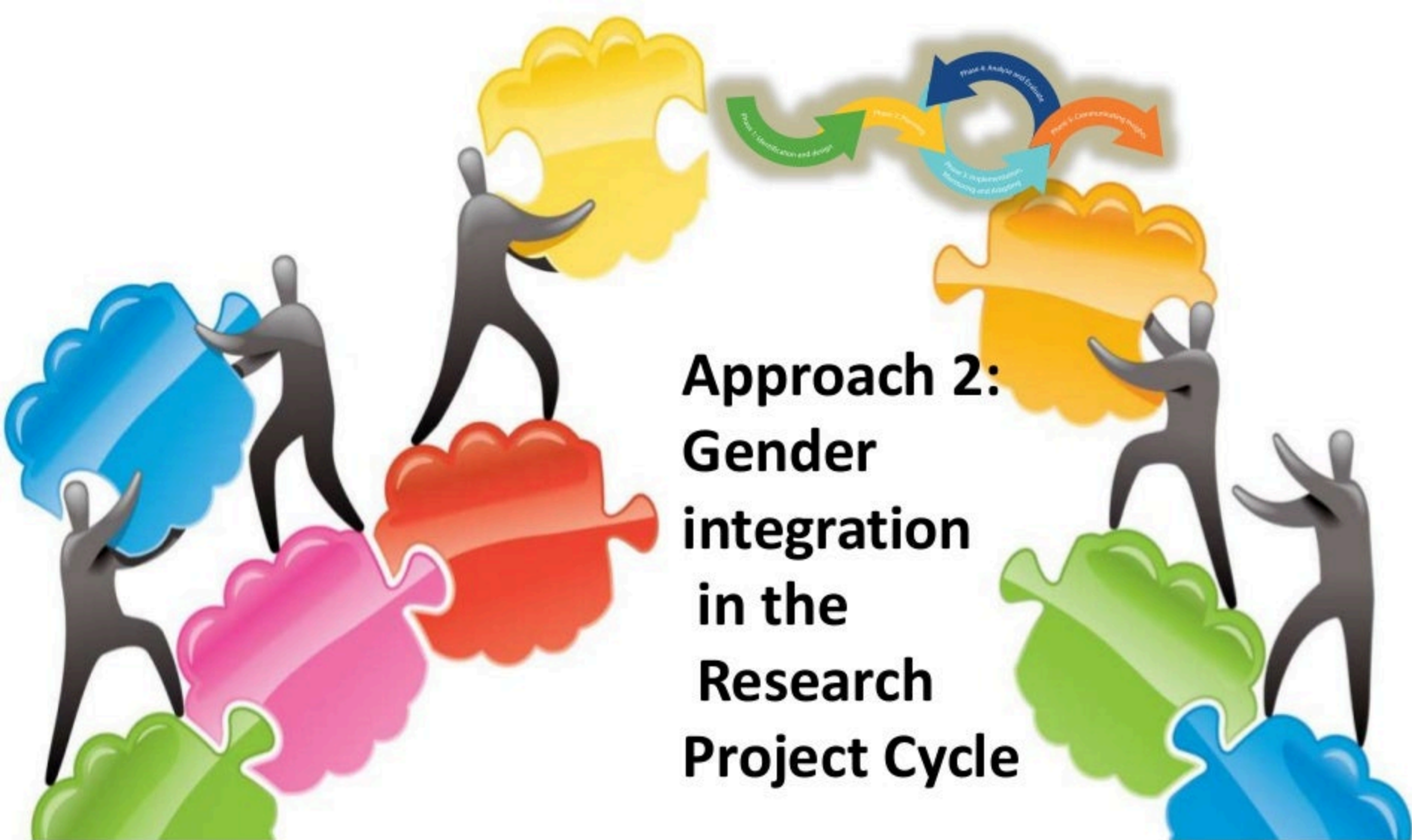
- Theory of change allows **collective levelling off**
- **Makes explicit what gender concerns need to be addressed in the cause –effect links**
- Indicates gaps and implications for development and equality outcomes
- Highlights change needed to:
  - **Content:** revised or new areas of inquiry
  - **Process:** changes is how the research is delivered/implemented

How do I link this to  
practice?  
How do I 'do gender'?



Now What?!!





# With this new perspective, what would you do differently?



Tips on:

- common pitfalls
- guiding questions for gender integration







***With this new perspective, what would you do differently?***





How can we better track the quality of participation of different types of women and men in community based fisheries management?





## Key take aways

- Gender integration is a process (journey)
  - **Theory of change:** can trigger the 'a-ha' moment: show what gender concerns need to be addressed to achieve targeted development and equality outcomes (why gender)
  - **Research project cycle:** a bridge to operationalize what gender integration looks like in practice (how+ what of gender integration)
- Doesn't stop there: Need to complement with regular inter-disciplinary reflections + ongoing capacity building



## Next steps



Launch of gender integration guidelines (May 2019)

**Please register your interest**



Case studies illustrations across agri-food systems about gender integration (positive + negative)



## For more information:

For more information:

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## More about FISH gender work:

<https://www.worldfishcenter.org/content/gender>

## More about KIT Gender

<https://www.kit.nl/gender-agriculture/>

<https://www.kit.nl/gender-equality-social-justice/>



Photo: Michael Akester

# More about KIT agriculture research for development (AR4D)

- Gender capacity development program ([CIMMYT](#), [AWARD](#), [ILRI](#), [WorldFish](#))
- Livestock and Fish gender coaching (ILRI + WorldFish)
- Gender Audits and gender strategies ([CIMMYT](#), ASARECA, ILRI)
- [Case-studies of gender integration](#) (CIMMYT)
- [Typologies of gender strategies and gender outcomes of Canadian International Food Security Research Fund](#)
- Gender dimensions of small-scale farm [mechanization](#) in Ethiopia and Kenya
- [Women's empowerment and approaches to measurement](#)
- Monitoring evaluation and learning (MEL) capacity building around intra-household nutrition security, gender, inclusive food systems and value chains
- [Coordinate CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research](#)





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Photo: Neil Palmer/IWMI

