

This year's theme for
International Women's Day is:
*Equality for women is progress
for all.*

Here's a look back at some
highlights of gender focused
research across the CGIAR
Consortium.

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Source: CIAT Flickr Collection. Photo: Neil Palmer/CIAT.

What do we mean when we talk of gender strategies for agricultural research?

Gender strategies need to guide agricultural research, and we must ensure that these translate to visible results to sustainably change the lives of women and their communities.

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Bringing gender into focus

Few are aware of the contributions that women make to agriculture, nor how best to serve their needs or tap their potential.

Addressing gender in agriculture requires specific guidelines, practical tools, and a capacity development strategy that explicitly articulates gender training as a key output.

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Gender focused research: the tools and the strategies

Women are involved in all aspects of agriculture. Their role however, often goes unseen and unrecorded given social, cultural and economic barriers.

Gender research, therefore, is a crucial component of agricultural research for development.

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No cutting corners; methods and standards for research on gender and agriculture

“It’s now well understood that new seeds, and practices in agriculture must increase food security and income for women just as much as for men if we are to successfully reduce rural poverty, so understanding how gender relations can help or hinder that from happening has to be a routine part of how we develop those innovations.”- Jacqueline Ashby, CGIAR’s Senior Advisor on gender and research.

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Rice, gender and social dynamics: setting the stage for women

“Understanding gender roles in the rice value chains and recognizing women’s perspectives in technology and dissemination processes matter. This understanding will be crucial in achieving the goals of reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security, while protecting the environment, for thousands of poor rice-farming households living in unfavorable rice environments.” - Thelma Paris, socio economist and gender specialist

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A Proactive Gender and Youth Strategy for Drylands Agriculture

Creating new opportunities and niches for women and youth can increase integrated productivity while reducing conflict of interest among different groups within the population – a win-win situation to equitably improve livelihoods.





Creating parity under the canopy

“If women’s rights are acquired through their relationships to men, it would be foolhardy not to include men in processes of women’s empowerment,”
Esther Mwangi, Senior Scientist, CIFOR

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Towards gender equity in agricultural development


The effort to increase gender equity and women's empowerment is gaining ground. Concrete efforts are needed to lock in these gains. Partnerships, participatory research, and political will should be directed at ensuring the active inclusion of men and women in the development, implementation, and monitoring of gender-equitable agricultural development. They cannot be a passing trend, but must endure, if all the talk of battling hunger and improving lives is to become a reality.





Source: Gates Foundation Flickr Collection.

Gender is a crucial element of agricultural innovation and needs to be embedded in agricultural research so that rural lives and livelihoods can be improved for all, including women, men and children. **#IWD2014**

A woman with a blue and white patterned headwrap and a blue long-sleeved shirt is seated on a green plastic chair. She is looking down at papers in her lap. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A blue corrugated metal structure is visible in the upper left corner.

This International Women's Day, a call to greater focus on gender research with the right mix of tools and appropriate strategies is one means of helping to achieve equality for women and thereby, progress for all.

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