

1.0.4 Gender

The gender research strategy: A focus on transformative gender research

The FTA gender strategy (2013) outlined the critical roles both women and men play in managing forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources across the developing world, illuminating the missed opportunities to generate knowledge that can guide the redress of gender inequities in accessing resources and benefits.

During phase I, the strategy was implemented through a multi-pronged approach, focused on four components: (i) capacity development of scientists and partners in gender concepts, frameworks and methods; (ii) strategic gender research across forests trees and agroforestry (FTA) themes and CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs), and targeted support for gender analysis across Flagship Projects (FPs); (iii) adaptive learning and gender responsive M&E; and (iv) knowledge-sharing across specified themes of tenure, forest use and management, climate change and value chains.

The coordinated implementation of the strategy in participating Centers has built a strong network of gender expertise and increased recognition that addressing gender dimensions is key to achieving development outcomes and better science quality. Tailored support in gender analysis across FPs has influenced the FTA research agenda and supported achievements in addressing key institutional and cultural contexts that determine gender inequity.

A key example of such achievements is the work on the gender [implications of REDD+ schemes](#) in countries such as Brazil, Cameroon, Indonesia, Tanzania and Vietnam, and in [Vietnam](#) and [Indonesia](#), where these recommendations have informed national guidelines and policies.

Another example is the gender work on forest use and management that create new spaces for women's participation and build understanding between women and men about the benefits of inclusiveness in forest management across different geographies and contexts including [Uganda and Nicaragua](#), [India and Malaysia](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Burkina Faso](#).

The gender theme in FTA Phase II will prioritize a transformative approach to gender equality by focusing on analyzing structural barriers and drivers of change in tree-based and forested landscapes, and how these affect men and women's capabilities to: (i) control assets and resources; (ii) value and distribute unremunerated labor; and (iii) meaningfully participate in decision-making at the household and community levels.

The research proposed complements the articulation of gender dimensions undertaken within each of the FPs by exploring the gender norms, institutions and power relations that are structural barriers to gender equality. Gender research and mainstreaming in FTA will link with the PIM-led gender platform to enhance synergies and amplify contributions to the achievement of the CGIAR gender IDO 'Equity and inclusion achieved' (Figure 1).

Studies under this theme will take place in geographies relevant to the FPs where partnerships can be leveraged to inform policy and practice. Research outputs will contribute to the CGIAR gender IDO.

Using a triangulation of methodological approaches, diagnostic and action research will address the following research questions:

1. What are the effects of different sector policies in creating constraining or enabling environments for women's access to and control over forests, trees and other productive resources?

Some countries in the tropics have gender-specific policies, but these are often in conflict or inconsistent with other sectoral policies, creating disincentives for women to get involved and benefit from forestry and agroforestry interventions. For example, family laws often have strong provisions for women's rights over assets acquired during marriage. But social and credit policies limit women's access to credit, as women are not often regarded as household heads and land allocation policies generally award land titles only to men.

Hypotheses: Policies are an integral part of the contextual conditions that affect the capacity of different actors to participate and capture benefits from the management of forests and tree-based production landscapes. Improved synergies among sectorial policies in the target countries can create incentives for women to get involved and benefit from forestry and agroforestry interventions.

Specific outputs include a multi-country comparative report of sector and gender-specific policies and recommendation on ways to harmonize those policies.

2. What types of institutional arrangements promote meaningful participation of men and women in decisions related to forest restoration and management? Under what conditions does such participation translate into more equitable benefit-sharing and sustainable NRM?

A growing body of research highlights the role of gender in shaping access, management and use of forest resources and their associated benefits¹. Women generally face greater constraints than men in their ability to make decisions around natural resource management (NRM) resulting from gender norms and technological biases, among others; this hinders their participation in formal decision-making forums such as forest user groups or in household-level decision-making processes. Studies show that increasing women's participation in forest user groups and decision-making often results in improved incomes from forests and improvements in the management of forest resources, at the community, household or farm level².

Hypotheses:

(i) The active participation of women and marginalized groups in forest and NRM is mediated by the interaction of gender-based constraints and interests. Appropriate mechanisms can promote greater gender equity and social inclusion in forest governance institutions. (ii) Women's participation and decision-making can lead to more sustainable local tree management practices and improved livelihood outcomes.

Expected outputs include: protocols for engaging women and marginalized groups in community forestry institutions and in restoration; data sets on gendered constraints and interests in forest management and restoration; locally-defined, community-level institutions, policies and strategies that enhance women's participation in forest management and restoration.

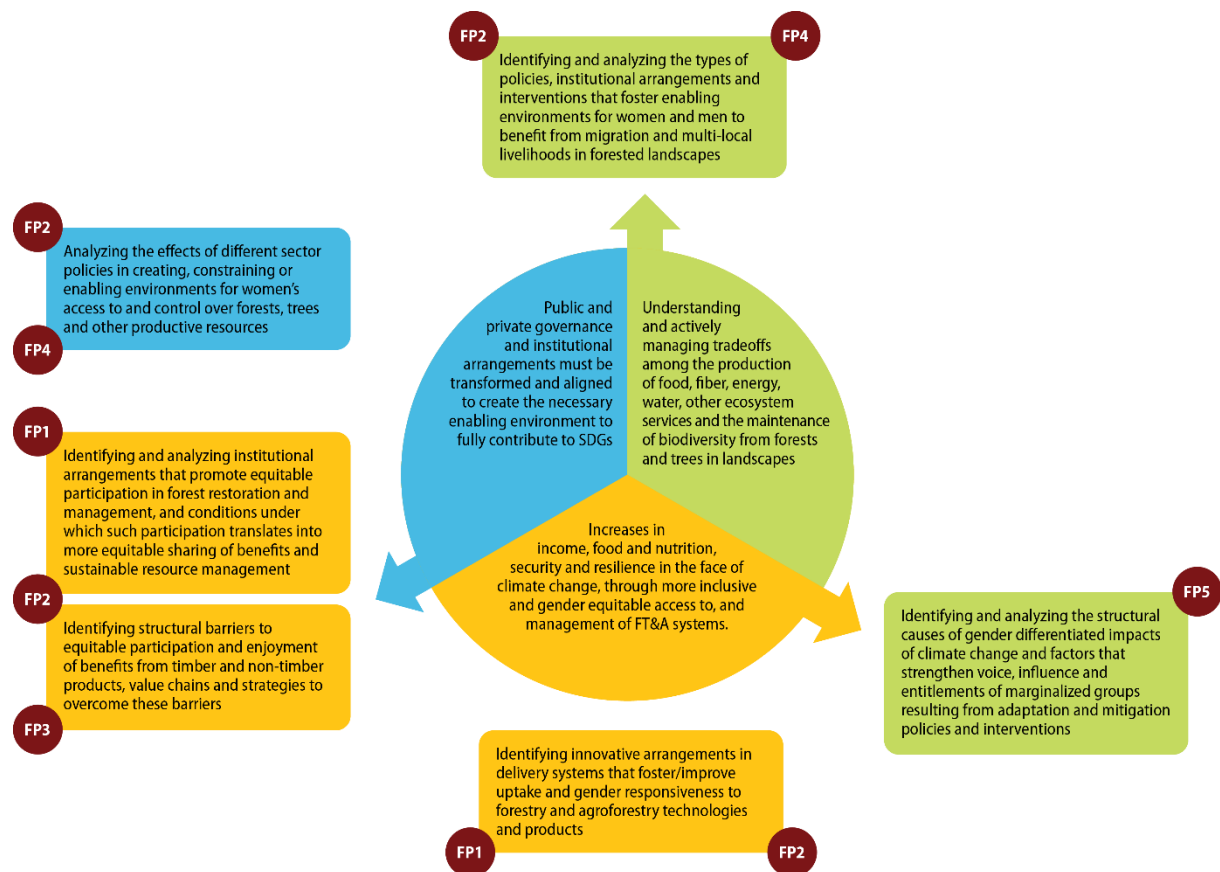


Figure 1. Gender research in the Forests and Agroforestry Agri-food Systems Research Program.

3. What are the structural causes of gender differentiated impacts of climate change, and what factors strengthen the voice, influence and entitlements of marginalized groups resulting from adaptation and mitigation policies and interventions?

Strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change depend on management of the world's forests and tree resources, with implications for the diverse, numerous populations who depend on them. Men and women face varying challenges and opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts due to gender-differentiated roles and responsibilities. Fewer women than men can access productive resources such as land, technology and financial and extension services. Societal roles contribute to the development of gender-differentiated risk perception and knowledge of FTA resource management, with implications for smallholder adaptation strategies.

Hypotheses: (i) Climate change policies and interventions that address gender inequalities can promote equitable benefit distribution, harness producers' innovative capacities and create long-term, positive mitigation and adaptation effects. (ii) Policies can anticipate risks and reverse harmful inequalities when they are informed by understanding of socially differentiated interests and needs, and when they incorporate mechanisms for meaningful participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes in their development and implementation.

Expected outputs include: regional and national-level policy recommendations and learning platforms on gender equity in REDD+ processes, and socially differentiated analyses of

climate change impacts on men's and women's livelihood strategies in relation to forest and tree resources.

4. marginalized groups face in different FTA business models and value chains across different institutional, economic and cultural contexts? What types of strategies, institutional arrangements, interventions and safeguards should be used to improve gender responsiveness of FTA value chains and business models? How can potential synergies be amplified – and trade-offs mitigated – between the gender responsiveness and the environmental and economic sustainability of such business models?

There is an urgent need to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while meeting a growing global demand for food, feed and fiber. In order to enhance their uptake and sustainability, public and private governance arrangements aimed at reducing the adverse environmental impacts of FTA value chains and business models will have to address issues of economic viability and social inclusion and equity. While gender roles and relations often structure the extent and nature of women and men's engagement with FTA value chains, systematic sex-disaggregated data on male and female participation, activities and benefits is scarce. As various private initiatives are gaining traction, discussions about their potential gendered impacts is limited. There is a need for further research on how gender norms and relations structure women and men's engagement with FTA value chains in various contexts, as well as understanding what kind of institutional arrangements foster gender-inclusive participation.

Hypotheses: (i) Gender norms structure the extent and nature of women and men's participation in FTA value chains. (ii) Gender-blind policy interventions and business models can exacerbate gender inequalities. (iii) Gender-responsive interventions and business models improve gender equality and may offer synergies for enhancing their environmental and economic sustainability.

Expected outputs include: sex-disaggregated data sets on participation and gendered constraints in various FTA value chains and policy options for more gender-responsive value chain governance.

5. What is the impact of gender differences in patterns of migration and mobility (male-led, women-led, mixed-gender) on women's voices and influence in forest governance? Which types of policies, institutional arrangements and interventions foster enabling environments for women and men to benefit from migration and multi-local livelihoods in forested landscapes?

Forest and tree-based landscapes are changing due to high levels of internal and transnational migration. But the literature portrays peoples' relations to forests as geographically bounded. Understanding how different groups of women and men in varying forested landscapes are affected by economic migration will ensure that policies, interventions and advocacy on migration, forest governance, smallholder livelihoods and gender equality are more effective at empowering women. The following research questions will contribute to the goals of FP2.

Hypothesis: In the highly globalized world that forested landscapes are a part of, women are increasingly migrants, left behind, and/or both. These are likely to have different and contrasting consequences for women's empowerment, work burden and social capital.

Expected outputs include consolidated country-level analyses and a stakeholder workshop to disseminate results and validate findings.

6. What type of extension arrangements will improve the uptake and gender responsiveness of forestry and agroforestry technologies and planting materials and create opportunities for women's empowerment?

While extension services play a critical role in: NRM, agricultural development for food and nutrition security and for improving productivity and livelihoods, they do not adequately serve rural women³. Little attention is given in extension to empowering women.

Overcoming gender bias requires attention to what stands in the way of equitable service provision, rather than trying to increase extension contacts with women⁴.

Hypothesis: Extension and delivery approaches that seek to transform gender roles and promote more gender-equitable relationships between men and women will achieve more equitable participation in household agricultural decision-making and improve uptake of forestry and agroforestry technologies.

Expected outputs include: data sets on the effect of various extension and delivery approaches on women's empowerment, and options to integrate gender transformative mechanisms in extension and delivery systems.

Theory of change/Impact pathway

The CRP gender research strategy contributes to the IDO 'Equity and inclusion achieved', and to sub-IDOs 12.1 and 12.3 through an integrated approach that combines at least two impact pathways:

Pathway 1. Informing policy-making to address institutional barriers to women's control over and access to FTA resources and their benefits

In collaboration with a wide network of boundary partners, we will create knowledge hubs and hold workshops to identify the entry points for affecting policies and institutions, and promote uptake of research findings. Boundary partners (policy-makers, practitioners, advocacy organizations) will be equipped with: (i) greater evidence on the relationship between forests and women's empowerment and options for reforming policies, institutions and interventions to foster women's empowerment and sustainable forest management; (ii) evidence on the disconnect between sectoral policies that affect men and women differently and options for creating enabling policy conditions for women to benefit from forests, trees and agroforestry resources; and (iii) improved information on how gender shapes forest/tree-based livelihood strategies, adaptation to climate change and benefit-sharing in REDD+ schemes and mitigation measures.

Pathway 2. Enhancing women's participation in decision-making on management of forests and agroforestry landscapes through action research

Innovative methodologies involving women and men, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable community members, will improve awareness, develop capacity and increase gender-balanced influence in joint forest management. They will involve women and vulnerable groups more actively in agroforestry and restoration and will focus on helping them to enhance their role in NRM decision-making. This will open up a space for women's wider decision-making at the household and community levels. These represent a key channel for strengthening women's voices and promoting their interest in and claims for priority forest resources and related income.

The above impact pathways rest on three key assumptions.

- Partnerships built in Phase I will continue and increase their engagement; the entry points identified to influence policies and institutions will ensure uptake of research findings.
- Evidence on the relationship between sustainable forest management and tree-based livelihood strategies and the empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups will influence the design/reform of policies, institutions and interventions.
- Improving awareness, capacities and more gender-balanced participation in forest and NRM, will help women's access and control over forest and tree-based resources and related income.

These assumptions will be monitored throughout the implementation of Phase II and will be continuously reflected on to adjust our approach, if and when needed.

Reinforcing gender mainstreaming

Building on progress made in Phase I, the strategy will focus on:

- **strengthening capacities for gender analysis**, to equip scientists and partners with the latest thinking on gender through:
 - a fellowship program for junior scientists across the FTA FPs to deepen understanding of contemporary issues around gender in NRM
 - periodic workshops to raise awareness among scientists about basic concepts and approaches to gender integration in NRM.
- **developing learning and knowledge-sharing platforms** to share data, information and evidence-based strategies on gender and forestry issues, and mobilizing partnerships that influence policy and action
- **supporting the integration of gender dimensions in monitoring and evaluation frameworks** to: (i) gather best practices and evidence for impact of research towards achieving the equity and inclusion IDO; and (ii) generate gender relevant information in the CRP ToC and impact pathway
- **leveraging inclusive partnerships** to broaden the social networks on gender to inform research priorities and goals, develop institutional capacities and communicate results for advocacy and scaling-up impact
- **providing support to HR units** by training and developing gender-responsive workplace policies.

Monitoring progress in gender research and gender integration

Monitoring will be done by: (i) gender integration in research and action across FP portfolios; and (ii) contribution of strategic gender research to transformative outcomes on equity and inclusion in particular FPs.

In (i), the Gender Equality in Research Scale (GEIRS) will be used to monitor and track gender integration in relevant FPs. Application of the tool will facilitate assessment of the application of gender analyses and collection of sex-disaggregated data, and will identify projects that will require support from the GIT.

In (ii), the GIT will work closely with the monitoring and impact assessment team to conduct impact studies on selected projects. Selected studies will examine gender-differentiated impacts and gender relations in forests and agroforestry landscapes. The focus of the studies will be: (i) to identify which types of interventions foster greater equality between men and women of different ages and socio-cultural backgrounds in forests and agroforestry landscapes; and (ii) to monitor contributions towards sub-IDOs 1 and 3.