

ASSESSING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR THEIR IMPACTS ON GENDER ROLES AND NUTRITION

Agriculture extension services (AES) are a key pathway for delivering information on agricultural technologies to farmers to support increased and more efficient production. However, AES often do not differentiate between different types of farmers and their respective needs, including differences between men and women farmers. Designing and disseminating technologies in a gender-responsive way can have payoffs for men and women farmers. These benefits can include increased access to income and improved nutrition.

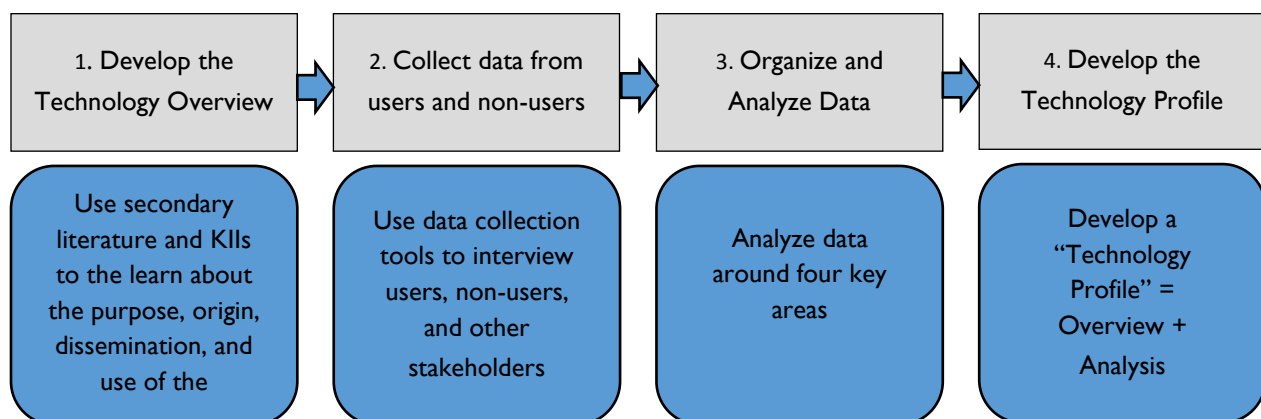
Cultural Practice, LLC (CP), a consortium partner of the Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project, developed a methodology to assess whether agricultural technologies are gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive in terms of design, use, and dissemination. The technology assessment will develop recommendations to make technologies more attractive to men and women farmers, to increase men's and women's benefits from the use of technologies, and to design distribution models for extension agents, input suppliers, and mobile devices to get the technologies into men's and women's hands.



The pedal irrigation pump, "MoneyMaker Max" designed by Kickstart International, saves farmers time spent irrigating in Zambia. Photo credit: Lupiya Sakalar/INGENAES

Methodology

The technology assessment is developed from literature reviews; key informant interviews (KIIs) with technology disseminators and extension agents; and interviews, focus group discussions, and group interviews with both users and non-users of the technology. The methodology was piloted in 2015 in Bangladesh and Zambia.



Analysis

The analysis is based on the data collected through the desktop review and the interviews and focus group discussions with developers, extension officers, and technology adopters. It clarifies gender differences in the use of the technology related to **four key areas**:

1. The potential consequences on men's and women's **time and labor**.
2. Men's and women's **ability to influence the adoption** of the technology.
3. The extent to which the technology alters the amount or the **control of the income** by men and/or women.
4. The extent to which the technology may **affect (positive or negative) nutritional outcomes** through the following pathways:
 - Food availability
 - Food quality
 - Potential for changes in income that affect nutritional outcomes

Product

This methodology results in a Technology Profile. The profile presents salient characteristics and origins of the technology within the local context, and the analysis summarizes the gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive findings drawn from the data sources. The Technology Profiles will be shared on the INGENAES website:

<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/>.

Engage with us

In collaboration with your organization, we can:

- Assess the gender-responsiveness of agricultural technologies disseminated by your organization
- Develop technology profiles
- Provide targeted recommendations to improve:
 - the design and use of agricultural technologies in a gender-responsive manner
 - the design of distribution models to better reach men and women farmers
- Provide training on the technology assessment methodology



Researchers interview farmers in Bangladesh about their experiences using the Digital Fat Tester disseminated by CARE. Photo credit: Cortney Eisenmann /INGENAES

Contact Information

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