

Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services

SIERRA LEONE

The Network for Gender and Nutrition Strengthening in Extension

Addressing Gender Issues in Agricultural Technology Design, Use, and Dissemination

Workshop Summary

January 17-18 at Njala University



INGENAES Network members participating in the Workshop on January 17th



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Introduction

The USAID-funded INGENAES Project in Sierra Leone is led by the University of Illinois (UIUC) with Njala University and local partners, growing on an over 50-year partnership. As a central engagement, the project has launched a network of extension providers from the public, NGO and private sectors, working together to improve nutrition in the country through strengthened extension that empowers women farmers while engaging men farmers. INGENAES has also established a growing partnership with WorldFish to collaborate to support the Feed the Future Scaling up Aquaculture Production Project in the Tonkolili District.

In January 2017, INGENAES conducted two workshops in Sierra Leone on “Addressing Gender Issues in Technology Design, Use, and Dissemination.” The first workshop (January 3 – 12, 2017) brought together UIUC and Njala U students who, following 2.5 days of in-classroom training, conducted two field-based gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive technology assessments with technical guidance from INGENAES consortium partner Cultural Practice, LLC (CP) and support from University of Illinois INGENAES Director, Dr. Paul McNamara (UIUC) and local INGENAES staff. One assessment focused on rice processing mechanization, especially looking at Agri-Business Centers, primarily in Moyamba District. The other assessment examined the use of locally produced fish feed among farmers targeted by the Feed the Future Scaling Up Aquaculture Production pilot project in Tonkolili District implemented by WorldFish. Data for the assessments is being analyzed and the completed technology profiles will be made publicly available in the coming weeks on the INGENAES website.¹ The second workshop engaged members of the INGENAES Network for Gender and Nutrition Strengthening in Extension and is summarized below.

Workshop Summary: “Addressing Gender Issues in Agricultural Technology Design, Use, and Dissemination” (January 17 and 18, 2017 at Njala University)

Over forty participants from the Network for Gender and Nutrition Strengthening in Extension participated in a two-day USAID-funded INGENAES project workshop “Addressing Gender Issues in Technology Design, Use, and Dissemination” hosted at Njala University. The workshop developed under the INGENAES project and facilitated by Caitlin Nordehn from INGENAES consortium partner CP, focused on strengthening members’ knowledge and ability to address gender issues related to technology design, men’s and women’s use of technologies, and dissemination of technologies.

- Over 40 network members from the NGO, private and public sectors participated in the workshop
- Over two days, members participated in 11 sessions focused on building capacity around gender issues related to agricultural technology design, use, and dissemination. The main objectives included:
 - Understanding key issues related to gender, extension and advisory services, and agricultural technologies
 - Understanding principles of integrating gender analysis into technology design, use, and dissemination
 - Development of skills to conduct a preliminary gender analysis of agricultural technologies
- In teams, members completed preliminary analysis of the social dimensions of agricultural technologies, including the different impacts technologies could have on men and women.
 - The analysis included an overview of the purpose of the technology, identification of value chain actors impacted by the introduction of the technology, men’s and women’s roles related to the crops targeted by the technology, and how men and women could be affected differently by the introduction of the technology, considering both advantages and disadvantages for men and women.

¹ Technology assessments under the INGENAES project have been conducted in Bangladesh, Nepal, Zambia and most recently Sierra Leone. For more information visit (<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/apply/technology-profiles/>).

- The technologies selected included a cassava grinder, greenhouse vegetable production, tractor, oil palm processing, and the system of rice intensification (SRI). Network members assigned to each technology were either familiar with these technologies or are currently promoting them through their organizations.
- Each participant completed an Action Plan on how he or she will apply or share knowledge from the workshop, how to achieve those actions, when the actions will be completed, and the expected results. INGENAES staff will follow up with participants next month, and then participants will receive a follow up survey in 3 months to fully understand how the information from the workshop is being used.
- Four participants, from the Northern and the Southern regions of the country, were interviewed for a radio show program at Njala University about the INGENAES network and workshop.
- After completing the workshop, each member received a flash drive with the PowerPoint slides from the workshop, the technology assessment questionnaires, and other relevant publications.

Workshop Session Topics

Day 1: January 17, 2017

- I. Welcome and Introduction
 - a. Introduction of workshop participants
 - b. Overall workshop objectives:
 - i. Understand key issues related to gender, extension and advisory services, and agricultural technologies
 - ii. Understand principles of integrating gender analysis into technology design, use, and dissemination
 - iii. Be able to conduct a preliminary gender analysis of agricultural technologies
2. Purpose and Role of Technologies in Agricultural Development
Session Objectives
 - i. Understand the role of technologies in agricultural development
 - ii. Become familiar with different types of agricultural technologies
 - iii. Understand social dimensions of technologies
3. Gender Concepts and Gender Issues in Agricultural Development
Session Objectives
 - i. Be able to define key gender concepts
 - ii. Be able to identify gender-related challenges and opportunities in agricultural development
4. Agricultural Value Chains, Technology Design, Use, and Dissemination, and Extension & Advisory Services
Session Objectives
 - i. Become familiar with agricultural value chains
 - ii. Be able to describe relationships between extension and advisory services and technology development, use, and dissemination
 - iii. Become familiar with gender issues in agricultural value chains
5. Introduction to Gender Analysis and the Gender Dimensions Framework and Gender-based constraints
Session objectives
 - i. Define gender analysis
 - ii. Review key analytical components of the Gender Dimensions Framework
 - iii. Apply the Gender Dimensions Framework to a case study
 - iv. Be able to identify gender-based constraints

Day 2: January 18, 2017

6. What is a technology assessment?

Session Objectives

- i. Understand the purpose of a gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive technology assessment
- ii. Understand the elements of a gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive technology assessment

7. Time and Labor

Session Objectives

- i. Understand the relevance of time and labor to the design, use, and dissemination of agricultural technologies.
- ii. Understand how gender differences impact technology design, use, and dissemination.
- iii. Be able to assess the impact of technology on different groups of men's and women's time and labor.

8. Food Availability, Safety, and Quality

Session Objectives

- i. Understand the area of inquiry of food availability, quality, and safety
- ii. Become familiar with technologies that improve food availability, quality, and safety
- iii. Understand the gender dimensions of food availability, quality, and safety
- iv. Understand the potential for technologies related to food availability, quality, and safety to reduce gender-based constraints

9. Gender Issues in Interviews

Session Objectives

- i. Understand the area of inquiry of food availability, quality, and safety
- ii. Become familiar with technologies that improve food availability, quality, and safety
- iii. Understand the gender dimensions of food availability, quality, and safety
- iv. Understand the potential for technologies related to food availability, quality, and safety to reduce gender-based constraints

10. Income and Assets

Session Objectives

- i. Understand the area of inquiry of food availability, quality, and safety
- ii. Become familiar with technologies that improve food availability, quality, and safety
- iii. Understand the gender dimensions of food availability, quality, and safety
- iv. Understand the potential for technologies related to food availability, quality, and safety to reduce gender-based constraints

11. Presentation of Preliminary Technology Assessments

Photos from the Network Workshop



Next Upcoming Activities for the Network

February 2017:

- Follow-up on action plans from January Workshop
 - Field visits with organizations for monitoring and coaching led by INGENAES staff Fatmata Binta Jalloh and Augustine Amara
- Regional Committee Meetings
- Media and publicity engagements in North and South

March 2017:

- Gender and Nutrition Workshop and Field Learning Day (exact dates TBD) led by Dr. Jan Henderson of the INGENAES Project visiting Sierra Leone for approximately 14 days in March

REMEMBER- The success of the Network for Gender and Nutrition Strengthening in Extension relies on your input and ideas:

Contact us at extensionstrengtheningnetwork@gmail.com