



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services

Tip Sheets on Gender-responsive EAS

Accounting for Differences in Men's and Women's Time and Mobility Constraints

Purpose

To identify appropriate times and locations to meet with rural clients, hold field demonstrations, conduct training.



Good Practice Examples

There are some great examples of programs and organizations that account for women's time & mobility constraints.

The **Kenyan Horticulture Development Program** held their training for female farmers outside of lunch hour to avoid conflict with their household responsibilities. They also limited the length of the training so that women could attend and still see to their other activities.

The **World Vegetable Center in Tanzania** provides transportation and daily stipends to encourage men and women to participate in extension programs. They also offer on-site residential facilities for long term training.

Why is this important?

In many rural parts of the world, the agricultural and household work typically done by women and men differs. It differs in terms of what they do, how much time is taken up, and how flexible they are in making changes to these norms. Often, women spend a disproportionate amount of time (in comparison to men) on activities such as household chores, childcare, collecting water and firewood, tending to kitchen gardens, and informal income generating activities. And there is an expectation that they will contribute time and labor to the production and processing of crops and taking care of livestock that are otherwise managed by their spouses.

For you to successfully get your information to both men and women, you need to understand when men and women are available and plan to meet them at a time and place that is convenient for them. Take into account whether it makes sense to meet with women and men together, or separately. Time is valuable, and women especially may not be able to travel far.

Action Steps

1. Make the meeting valuable enough for women to actually want to attend
 - Focus on content that is interesting and relevant for your clients
 - Conduct the meeting in a format that is engaging and rewarding
2. Work within women's time constraints:
 - Be conscious of the times when women are available for meetings and schedule training at those times
 - Women should have the ability to attend your training and still manage day-to-day tasks
 - Divide your training into short modules to accommodate women's schedules.



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3. Work within women's mobility constraints:

- Hold your training where women farmers are already located to reduce the time and resource burden on women traveling to meet you.
- Work with women farmers on their own plots or on demonstration plots close to their homes.
- Provide transportation or subsidize the cost of a woman taking transportation to and from training.
- Take into account whether it is deemed appropriate for women to travel alone or as a group and whether it may be conducive to have respected male chaperones present
- Offer organized childcare near the location of the meeting or training.

Have you remembered to...

- ✓ Determine what day of the week and time of the day is appropriate and best for reaching women farmers?
- ✓ Think about how much time women have available to attend your meeting?
- ✓ Think about how far women can travel to come to your meeting? Can you provide resources to help them attend your meeting?
- ✓ Determine if your location is suitable for women to meet?
- ✓ Check if your clients have child-care needs and how they can be addressed during the meeting?

References and Resources

Manfre, C., Rubin, D., Allen, A., Summerfield, G., Colverson, K., & Akeredolu, M. (2013). [Reducing the gender gap in agricultural extension and advisory services: How to find the best fit for men and women farmers](#). MEAS Discussion Paper 2. www.meas-extension.org/meas-offers/best-practice

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