

Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services

Tip Sheet on Gender Responsive Extension and Advisory Services

What about Gender? Integrating Gender into Agricultural Projects

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Definitions

Gender: social identity and roles associated with being a man or a woman that are usually learned through early socialization and reinforced by social norms.

Gender responsive: being aware of how gender identities and roles influence the opportunities of men and women in society and designing activities and policies that are structured and operate to demonstrate a commitment to gender equality.

Integrating gender: methods and institutional arrangements necessary for achieving gender equality.

Introduction

Addressing gender in agricultural extension and advisory service (EAS) projects can result in increased household income and wellbeing. Acknowledgement of the cultural context including gender issues is a critical component of project design and implementation. Building a plan to address gender concerns into a project during the design phase is ideal, as it can help to ensure all implementers are on board AND? However, if a project is already underway, it is still possible to integrate gender into ongoing activities. This tip sheet will explore some of the main topics for project managers to consider when integrating gender issues into project implementation.

When a decision is made to consider gender integration the first step is to look at project indicators. If sex-disaggregated data exists, what does it say about the differences between men and women? How can project implementation be responsive to those differences? If no sex-disaggregated data exists, is the project equipped to collect baseline information about men and women?

Based on this reflection, the next step will be to consider different dimensions of gender issues that impact project efficacy and the ways that projects impact pre-existing gender norms. The following dimensions will be explored in more detail in the table below.

Dimensions to Consider

- Audience
- Access to Inputs
- Time and Labor
- Income and Assets
- Supply Chain Participation
- Leadership

Issue	Solutions
Audience Does your intervention target an activity that is carried out by men or women?	Involve more of your target audience into extension activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Including more women involves gaining the support of men. ○ Gain the support of community leaders and men by explaining the benefits of women's participation. Ensure activities are gender sensitive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activities should take place during the day and in a place convenient for women: close to home where they have other responsibilities. ○ Women should be encouraged to bring their children and meetings should be child-friendly (i.e. women can take breaks to attend to children when needed, activities or food for children provided).
Access to Inputs Does your intervention require access to inputs? Women often face constraints in terms of capital to purchase inputs or mobility to access places to purchase these inputs.	Understand whether your target audience has access to financing for inputs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partnering with other organizations that provide loans, microfinancing or support savings and loan groups. ○ Leverage existing loans, microfinancing or savings and loan groups: Do both men and women have access? Can you support that access financially or by making it a requirement for your activity? Ensure that your audience has the ability to access agricultural inputs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partner with other organizations or dealers that sell or provide inputs.
Time and Labor Does the project require additional time or labor? Women often have many responsibilities that compete for their time and energy.	Ease time and labor burdens for men and women. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does your target activity reduce time spent on agricultural activities? ○ Is there a way to make your target activity reduce time spent on agricultural activities? How will reduced time spent on activities be used?
Income and Assets Who sells agricultural products? Control over the income often stems from who controls the sale and market of a good.	Support market opportunities for men and women. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify what prevents men or women from participating in the market. Can you provide opportunities for participation? Support partnerships with agro-dealers, supermarkets, hotels. ○ Can you help ensure transportation to markets? Leveraging financial networks to purchase means of transportation.
Supply Chains Are there roles for men and women in the supply chain?	Support opportunities for both men and women along the supply and chain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leveraging existing roles for women ensures that participation is culturally appropriate. ○ If new roles for women are created to strengthen the supply chain they should be designed with time, mobility and input access in mind.
Leadership Women tend to have less ability to participate in community leadership and decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does your project impact women's ability to participate and lead within the public sphere? ○ Are there opportunities to increase women's decision making power within their community?

References: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. www.ifpri.org/publication/womens-empowerment-agriculture-index



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