

Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services

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Great Content

Purpose

This series of Tip Sheets is geared at extension and advisory service providers (managers, field staff; public or private sector, NGOs).

It sets out simple suggestions for making sure **women** and **men** - including youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups:

- feel wanted and included in training events,
- are fully informed about technological, production, or process options,
- learn effectively, and
- have the confidence to implement what they have learned.

Over time, both women and men should be able to build on the training to innovate by themselves in response to changes in the wider environment and their specific resources and needs.

Good training events need more than great content. **How you train is vitally important.**

It is essential that both women and men are able to speak their minds and have opportunities to shape the training event for their own requirements.

As future farmers, the needs of young women and men in farming households need special attention in order to encourage those interested to stay in the sector.

Making sure your course is relevant to both women and men is key. After all, they farm together.

Collect information to make your training relevant

- Find out women and men's priorities in relation to the technology or practice you plan to train them on. The perspectives of women and men are likely to be different as a consequence of their gender and other factors such as age, caste, class, and ethnicity. They probably have different responsibilities in their crop/livestock production systems, and are likely to have different needs, interests, experiences and resources.
- Find out what members of your target group already know, respect that knowledge, and build on it.
- Work with the ideas of women and men technology users when designing training events. Conduct focus group discussions with target groups and key informants to develop training content.
- Pilot your event before rolling it out.

Promote technologies and practices as menus rather than packages

- Promote the ability of participants to select from and adapt a range of technologies or practices.
- Build on women and men's existing expertise whilst helping them to find ways to develop their understanding and their roles in relation to the particular technology or practice.
- As part of this, create space for discussion around the trade-offs between choices, and how trade-offs - for instance balancing use of residues between crop, livestock and household requirements, may affect women's and men's work and benefits.

Promote adaptive capacity

- Move beyond focusing on the technology or practice itself. Discuss its place in wider change processes affecting the community - climate change, urbanization, etc.
- What are the implications for the technology or practice you are introducing? How do the participants think they could adapt the technology or practice in the future?

The information contained herein is adapted from the GENNOVATE resource "Enhancing the gender-responsiveness of your project's technical farmer training events." The original author is Cathy Rozel Farnworth. This derivative and expanded information was developed by CIMMYT staff and partners for the public good. For more information, visit <http://maize.org/gender-strategy> or www.cimmyt.org/project-profile/gennovate.