

'Innovations in Technology, Institutional and Extension Approaches towards Sustainable Agriculture and enhanced Food and Nutrition Security in Africa'



INNOVAFRICA

Food security through smallholder adaptability

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Gender Action Plan

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1 Introduction

InnovAfrica will align its Gender Action Plan with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations, Goal 5 (gender equality) (UN, 2015). Smallholder agriculture is an important source of livelihood for many women in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Women have been believed to make up 60-80 percent of the agricultural workforce in SSA (FAO, 2011). However, this number has been challenged by FAO and IFPRI in their work going beyond gender myths (Quisumbing et al., 2014). Anyhow, agriculture is an important source of employment for a high proportion of economic active African women. A number of studies analyzed gender inequalities in rural communities such as unequal decision making, unequal access to household assets, domestic violence and gaps in knowledge due to unequal access to general education and extension advice (Bezner Kerr, 2008; Quisumbing et al., 2014). Women perform many roles in agriculture. Women often play crucial roles in managing, selecting, and sharing seeds of crop varieties in SSA (Bezner Kerr, 2013). In addition, out migration from rural areas has increased in recent years due to increased climate vulnerability risks and lack of economic opportunities. It is often men that migrate to cities in search of alternative livelihoods, thereby, increasing the household burden on women. In this context, the existing gender gap in access to productive resources like land, credit, technology and information are further challenging women's role in farm management and increasing women's burden and workloads in ensuring household food security, enhancing production and income (Skinner, 2011; UNDP and ACCESS, 2014).

Despite the increasing role of women in agriculture, apparently, studies do not put much emphasis on gender analysis. In smallholder farms in the Sub-Saharan Africa, both men and women complement each other to ensure agriculture production and income. However, this may change over time impacting the production on smallholder farms. It is also important to recognize that many farm households are headed by women. Hence, there is a need for:

- i) More context specific research on differentiated roles and responsibilities of women and men;
- ii) Specific vulnerabilities and their capabilities for adaptation in the context of changing economic, climate and agrarian systems; and
- iii) The available new opportunities for women.

It is important to understand the socio-cultural contexts and identify the main drivers of gendered vulnerabilities to climate change impacts (Bacchi and Eveline, 2010). The Gender Action Plan (GAP) in **InnovAfrica** will provide guidance to the project team on gender analysis (Task 1.3) and further mainstreaming gender in the various project components of the project (Table 1).

InnovAfrica will as a point of departure take the Harvard Analytical/Gender Roles Framework (Overholt et al., 1984). This framework is based on the assumption that women were unable to fully benefit from the development process because policy and planning efforts did not recognize women's actual and potential contribution to development (Box 1). In addition, **InnovAfrica** will in certain cases build on the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) developed by IFPRI, to get a better understanding of women's voice in production decisions, ownership of assets, control and use of income e.g. in relation to the workload of women (Alkire et al., 2013).

Box 1: The Harvard Analytical/Gender Roles Framework

Gender equity in this context is defined in terms of individual access to and control over resources. Women's productive contributions, both actual and potential, provide the rationale for allocating resources to women and including them in the development process. Though this approach has certain limitations because it does not adequately analyze the social relations and gender impacts, care will be taken to address these constraints in the analysis by combining other approaches that will ensure the social relations perspective (Kabeer, 1994). **InnovAfrica** will address the social construction of gender roles with a focus on the relationships between men and women as regards roles, responsibilities, opportunities and needs.

Source: Overholt et al. (1984)

Table 1: Innovations in technologies, institutional, extension approaches that will be tested and/or upscaled in the case study countries.

<i>Innovations</i>		<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Kenya</i>	<i>Malawi</i>	<i>Rwanda</i>	<i>Tanzania</i>	<i>South-Africa</i>	<i>Scale</i>
<i>Technology</i>	<i>Maize-legume CS</i>	×		●			●	Field
	<i>Diversified millet-legume CS</i>			●		×		Field, Farm & Village
	<i>Brachiaria forage-livestock system</i>		×/●		×/●	×		Field
<i>Institutions</i>	<i>Integrated seed delivery system</i>	●		×/●		×/●		National
	<i>MAPs</i>	×	×	×	×	×	×	National
<i>Extension</i>	<i>Integrated farm plan</i>	×			×		×	Farm
	<i>Village knowledge centres</i>		×			×		Village
	<i>FPR teams + F2FE</i>			●				Farm, village

×: denote innovations to be tested in the selected AEZs and ●: denote upscaling the already tested and successful technologies, extension and/or institutional approaches.

2 The Process

Under **InnovAfrica**, gender focus will be mainly at three levels: the planning level, the performing level and the overall project level.

2.1 At the planning level

a project Gender Action Plan will be developed and approved (WP7) by the project consortium in the first quarter of the project, to ensure that gender equality and mainstreaming is promoted and specific actions are taken to enhance women's participation in research, and that gender related issues in the Case Study countries are addressed. Ensuring proper implementation of GAP is the responsibility of WP7.

2.2 At the performing level

This will be followed by interdisciplinary review and mapping of innovative SAI, IIAs, and EASs (WP1) where the role of Gender will be analyzed using amongst others the Harvard

Analytical/Gender Roles Framework that will include ongoing analyses of women's access to assets (for e.g. land), and decision-making power, and how changes to household income affects intergenerational relations and gendered relations in rural households. All data collected for the project will include gender analysis that examines the barriers to gender equity in agriculture, food security and nutrition. Special care will also be taken while preparing the deliverables/outputs to target gender at different levels. Emphasis will be placed on involving women in WP2 (MAPs members), WP3 (SAI systems, IIAs and EASs), in WP4 (VC) and in WP5 (policy and institutions of relevance for women). All project reports and publications will include gender-based analysis of findings, and separate publications will highlight these findings.

2.3 At the overall project level

Gender issues will be monitored and attention is paid to these by: a) recruiting new project and research staff, b) integrating gender issues into training, and c) giving attention to gender inequalities at multiple levels. The proposal includes two female WP leaders, and several female members in MAPs, the Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) and the Scientific Expert Advisory Board (SEAB) and women scientists' participation in the various project activities. The consortium has several gender specialists with international experience. **InnovAfrica** will follow the principles of equal opportunities for gender in all its actions, and transformation of gender relations.

InnovAfrica will fully comply with country rules and respect local norms while collecting data in the field. Gender sensitive issues will be given priority and all researchers involved in the project and data enumerators from national partners, will be trained on ethical issues.

3 Integrating gender across Work Packages and the six country cases

In WP1, Gender Analysis will be conducted under the Task 1.3. The questionnaire data collected from Task 1.1 and information gathered from 12 focus group discussions / one in each study site will be used for analysing the role of gender beyond the household dynamics.

The below table outlines how gender analysis will be integrated in the different work packages and country cases. The formulation of questions and outputs lean on several sources such as Overholt et al. (1984), IFPRI's Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) (IFPRI, 2012), UN Guidance Note on Gender mainstreaming in development programming (UN-WOMEN, 2014 and Mulema, 2014).

The Harvard Analytical/Gender Roles Framework (Overholt et al., 1984) offers a checklist of questions that should be asked when aspiring to integrate gender in research. This check list was used as departing point for the questions here.

In 2014, UN Women published a guidance note *Gender Mainstreaming in development programming* as a response to the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 Beijing Platform of action (UN-WOMEN, 2014). The methodology followed here will be in accordance with the gender mainstreaming approach and guidelines of UN Women. This guidance note is however concerning gender in general, whereas **InnovAfrica** focuses on gender and agriculture. The WEAI is an index developed to directly measure women's empowerment and participating levels in agriculture (Alkire et al., 2013). It thus offers a great source of questions and indicators regarding measuring gender role in the specific context of Agriculture.

The WEAI attributes empowerment five domains: production, resources, income, leadership and time. Each domain represents different fields of possible discrimination respectively empowerment of women (or men) in agriculture (Alkire et al., 2013; IFPRI, 2012). By investigating how women and men relate to agricultural production in all those 5 domains, we will gain a clearer understanding of women's situation, discrimination respectively empowerment within the agricultural sector. The picture underneath visualizes the five domains of empowerment including related indicators.



Figure 1: The Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) – part of the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) developed by IFPRI in collaboration with USAID (IFPRI, 2012) Source: <http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Constructing-the-WEAI-presentation.pdf?cda6c1>

The five domains of empowerment are integrated in the research questions making up the gender action plan of **InnovAfrica** (Figure 1). The matrix underneath contains these research questions and allocates specific research questions, including methods and wanted output to the different project and case studies (Tables 2-5).

Table 2: Situation analysis by country team (responsible country manager): Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South-Africa, Tanzania

Questions	Methods						Outputs
	SS	QS	FGI	KII	IV	SJI	
What factors hinder or enhance sustainable intensification among men and women farmers?	X			X			Gendered and sex disaggregated data collected
How can factors that hinder sustainable intensification among men and women farmers be addressed?			X	X			Gender-related constraints, opportunities generated and validated with MAP
How are EAS working towards men and women farmers?		X		X		X	Strategies to increase women participation in different innovations
How is access to and control of resources organized at household level?		X				X	Priorities and targets for interventions identified or modified using gender-related constraint and opportunities

Note: Task 1.3 Conduct gender analysis using the Harvard Analytical/Gender Roles Framework in all 6 case countries (M06-12) (Lead partner: **NMBU**, **KENAFF**, **SFHC**, **IAKIB**, **SUA**, **ARC**).

Legend for the type of methods:

SS: Secondary sources
QS: Questionnaire survey
FGI: Focus group interview (with men and women farmers)
KII: Key informants interview (of men and women are suggested)
IV: Interview (of men and women are suggested)
SJI: Separate and joint interview (of men and women are suggested)

Table 3: Technological innovation

Questions	Methods						Outputs
	SS	QS	FGI	KII	IV	SJI	
<i>Production:</i> Women's input in productive decisions and autonomy in production	X	X	X		X		Establish change in gender roles, relations and factors such as women's decision-making in production, access to and control over resources, access to and control over income, reasonable workload, participation in institutions and organizations and access to information
<i>Resources:</i> Men and women ownership of assets, access to land, access to seed, access to markets and -decision on credit		X	X			X	Distribution patterns of assets and accessibility to resources
<i>Income:</i> Intra-household control over and use of income		X				X	Abilities to make decisions within the household
<i>Leaderships:</i> Group member, speaking in public			X			X	Leadership role in the society
<i>Time:</i> Men and women workload		X	X				Gender division of labour

Table 4: Institutional innovations and Extension & advisory services

Questions	Methods						Outputs
	SS	QS	FGI	KII	IV	SJI	
<i>Institutional:</i> Men and women group membership, Village knowledge centers, PIP, integrated seed systems	X	X	X	X			Local community interest in participatory institutional innovations
<i>Information:</i> Men and women access to different sources of information including extension and mobile phones, farmer-to-farmer-extension		X	X		X		Increased knowledge and access to up-to-date information

Table 5: Impact

Questions	Methods						Outputs
	SS	QS	FGI	KII	IV	SJI	
Impact on men and women farmers with regard to the identified technologies, institutional and extension innovations:					X		Generate evidence of gendered impact on the innovations
• Use of technology				X	X		Increased adoption to technology
• Change in practice				X	X		Enhanced resource use efficiency
• Yields/productivity				X		X	Increased yields/productivity
• Income/employment						X	Increased income/job creation
• Workload						X	Gender division of labour
• Empowerment				X		X	Decision making
• Food and nutrition security				X		X	Enhanced food and nutrition security

The tables presented above does not only outline the overall gender analysis of the project, but can directly be used by different task leaders as manual on how to integrate gender analysis in their data collection. Column 1 provides the concrete questions to be integrated in the data collection design and process, and column 2 suggests appropriate methods for the data collection. Column 3 defines the expected outputs from the data collection. In order to allow comparative analysis at the end, it is crucial that all data collected is operationalized in the same way. Column 1 connects the questions to the responsible task or/and team leader.

4 Conclusions

The **InnovAfrica** gender action plan follow a mixed methods approach. Qualitative data is important in order to understand the complexities and context specific and the quantitative data is necessary to explore if there is a certain trend or pattern that can be observed and spread of this pattern (Behrman et al., 2014).

Gender action plan, the results from gender analysis (Task 1.3) will guide other WPs, especially WP5 and WP6, and organizing dissemination activities targeting women in the various project areas. From the analysis, the project will be able to provide guidelines and recommendations for improving gender mainstreaming in policies and adaptation plans in the case study countries.

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