



Gender

USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for the Reduction of Post-Harvest Loss

May 12, 2016

Kansas State University

Dr. Cheryl O'Brien

San Diego State University



USAID Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy (March 2012)

- **Gender integration** involves identifying, and then addressing, **gender inequalities** during strategy and project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Since the **roles and power relations between men & women** affect how an activity is implemented, it is essential that project managers address these issues on an ongoing basis.

FTF: Investing in Women and Agriculture

- Women make up **43%** of the agricultural labor force in developing countries
- Women farmers are less productive than men due to **less access to land, water, seeds, training, and credit**
- If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase farm yields by **20-30%**
- This increase in agricultural **output could reduce the number of hungry** people in the world by up to **150 million people**

FTF: The Path to Transformational Change

Gender equality and women's empowerment are critical to achieving sustainable development, so FTF monitoring & evaluation systems **track how programs have impacted women, men, & the dynamics between them.**

This effort will employ three approaches:

1. **Disaggregation** of data by sex;
2. Impact evaluations that **examine** critical questions related to **gender equality, gender integration, and women's empowerment**;
3. The development and utilization of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (**WEAI**).

Measuring the Gender Impact of FTF

Engendered Performance Monitoring

Through gender disaggregated data, track the impacts of investments on women & men and measure the progress of women's achievements as compared to men's.

For household (HH) level indicators, data should be disaggregated by “**gendered household types**” – that is:

- 1) HH with male and female adults,
- 2) HH with male adult, no female adult, and
- 3) HH with female adult, no male adult.

[And collect data on HHs with and without **children** to help with farm labor – **disaggregated** by sex and age.]

Measuring the Gender Impact of FTF

Gender-Focused Impact Evaluation

1. Have interventions increased women's participation in **paid employment** and increased their **incomes**; reduced gender gaps in terms of **production inputs**; and/or improved the empowerment of women? Which interventions have generated the greatest impacts?
2. Have capacity-building and increased leadership/management opportunities for women **led to increased participation of women in leadership roles** in the community?
3. Have FTF programs that emphasize gender equality and the empowerment of women led to **reduced poverty and hunger**?

Measuring the Gender Impact of FTF

4. Have interventions advancing commercialization:
 - changed access to, ownership of, or control over **land**?
 - affected access to paid employment or types of **employment**?
 - led to increases or decreases in **unpaid work**?
5. How have interventions changed **decision-making** by women & men on agricultural production, nutrition, & use of income?
6. Have interventions changed **risk-reduction strategies** pursued by men and women to cope with shocks (health-related, agro-climatic, economic, socio-political)?

Measuring the Gender Impact of FTF

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) is a tool for tracking rural women's empowerment relative to men. Measure women's roles and engagement in these 5 areas:

1. Decision-making power & autonomy over ag. production;
2. Access to & decision-making power over productive resources (e.g. land, livestock, equipment, consumer durables, credit);
3. Sole or joint control over use of income and expenditures;
4. Community leadership roles: Membership in economic or social groups & being comfortable speaking in public.
5. Time use. (workload; leisure)

Limitations of the WEAI

- WEAI results may not be representative of the empowerment of all adult women in a country, because respondents in the WEAI survey are primary decision makers & **may be more empowered than other women** in their HHs.
- Women who are not involved in agricultural decisions may **appear disempowered** even if they are engaged in decision making on nonagricultural activities.
- **Women in HHs that do not have a male decision maker** are likely to be identified as empowered because of the WEAI's focus on decision making questions.
- **Other domains of empowerment not captured** in the WEAI, which focuses solely on agriculture, may be more relevant to specific desired outcomes, **such as nutritional status**.

Our Project

- From the technical narrative:
- **Gender**—Our gender strategy uses two approaches:
- First, we will build the Alliance Team’s capacity to address the gender dimension of agricultural research and extension through initial **gender sensitization** as well as through specific training in **gender analysis tools and methods**.
- Second, we will **integrate gender and participatory approaches into all stages of the project cycle**, i.e., planning, assessment, pilot testing /technology evaluation, scaling up as well as in project monitoring & evaluation and impact assessment activities.

Our Project (cont.)

- From our April 2016 report:
- **Gender** – Men & women participate differently in post-harvest activities at the different locations.
- All four core countries have a **local gender specialist** who assesses and documents relative roles by gender in the villages where new technologies are to be piloted.
- Dr. Cheryl O'Brien monitors & assists in-country gender specialists and provides input to PIs and the lab director. **Send gender updates to O'Brien.**

Bangladesh

- Shahana Begum conducted a **gender equality assessment in 8 villages during year 2.**
- Findings of the report were disseminated and implications discussed with farmers and NGOs through **workshop/training sessions**-Mymensingh (Nov. 2015) & Manirampur (Jan. 2016)-to **sensitize the participants** to women's unrecognized roles in agriculture and problems women encounter during post-harvest activities.

Ethiopia

- **WEAI framework** was used to assess gender equality issues within the cultural context of **post-harvest activities**.
- Men had higher empowerment and adequacy status than women. Avg empowerment scores for men > 90% & women ranged from 72-77%.
- Main contributors to the differences in scores are leadership, lack of autonomy in decision making, time allocation/heavy workloads, and access to & control of resources.

Ghana

- Dr. Irene Egyir was hired as a gender consultant. **Quarterly interactions** with PIs/Co-PIs and farmer groups have begun, as has a **review of methodology & training curricula** to ensure gender sensitivity.
- In-country **gender sensitization training** for the Ghana co-Pis (April 2016).
- Students at KNUST included **> 50% female** farmers and traders in their insect and moisture monitoring research.

Guatemala

- **Workshops organized** by Ada Rocina Chavarria (gender consultant) were conducted in Chiantla and Todos los Santos **to assess items in the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).**

Future Directions

- Years 1 & 2 **gender reports should: assist** the development of post-harvest loss mitigation technologies; **guide teams** as we move toward the ‘in-field’ phase and more widespread adoption efforts; **provide important insights** into local, cultural gender norms and divisions of labor that extend beyond the management of post-harvest problems.

Future Directions

- **Collect data** on gender inequalities in our sites as well as the gender impacts of the interventions.
- **Integrate** gender and participatory approaches into all stages of the project cycle.
- Local gender consultants – **qualitative research** on how gender impacts post-harvest losses and nutrition; **incorporate WEAI**-informed questions as well as tailor questions for the local level
- **Co-author – publish** country and cross-national findings / experiences. **Include** Cheryl O’Brien on gender updates and gender-relevant manuscripts.