Gender and Agricultural Innovation Platforms (AIPs)

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Overview

1. Understand the Concept of Gender --- Sex and Gender Definition

2. Gender Based Constraints and Implications for Gender Concept

3. Why Gender Matters in AIPs

4. AIS Analytical Framework

5. Gender and the AIPs Framework

6. Capacities to Promote Gender Equity

7. Conclusion
SEX AND GENDER DEFINITION

a) Do you think there is a difference between SEX and GENDER?

b) Can anyone define what is SEX and GENDER?
What is Sex?

- Sex is the biological difference between men and women.
- Sex differences are concerned with men and women’s bodies, e.g. reproductive organs.
- Sex differences are the same throughout the human race.
What is Gender?

A social concept that describes culturally ascribed roles and status of women and men, girls and boys.
What is Gender?

It is a set of culturally specific characteristics defining the social behavior of women and men, and the relationship between them.

Gender roles, status and relations vary according to place (countries, regions, and villages), groups (class, ethnic, religious, and caste), generations and stages of the lifecycle of individuals.
Gender Based Constraints

- Gender-based constraints are limitations or restrictions that are based on some aspect of a gender role or responsibility.

- For example, the production of a group of farmers, both men and women, may be limited by their small size plots and they are all cash poor. This is a general constraint.

- Women in this area, however, face greater difficulties in obtaining additional land because they do not inherit family land equally to their brothers and as women they are legally restricted from signing for a loan. These are gender-based constraints because they are linked to laws or practices that are different for men and women.

(Source: Rubin, Manfre, and Nichols Barrett 2009)
Why Gender Matters in AIPs

There are gender gaps in access to information and to adoption of improved seed varieties and other farm inputs.

There are gender gaps in participation along entire crop(s) value chain.
Closing gender gaps is imperative for economic efficiency & other development outcomes, and for social justice.

Diversity, inclusion, and participatory approaches are critical in building the quality of social capital needed for resilient and sustainable innovation systems.
AIS Analytical Framework

- AIS is an analytical framework, which is suitable for analyzing innovation through a gender lens because of its emphasis on institutions and actors that create “gendered” patterns of interaction.

- The AIS framework takes into account the many actors along the value chain, as well as diverse organizational forms that can facilitate education, research, and extension systems as well as practices, attitudes, and policies that frame agricultural production and trade (World Bank, FAO, and IFAD 2009, 258)
## Gender and the AIPs Framework

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<th>Themes</th>
<th>Participatory Methods</th>
<th>AIPs</th>
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<td>Markets</td>
<td>Low market integration</td>
<td>High market integration</td>
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<td>Gender Inclusion</td>
<td>Improved inclusion</td>
<td>Full engagement of actors</td>
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<td>Research Agenda</td>
<td>Becoming more gender-sensitive because of greater participation of farmers</td>
<td>Becoming more gender-sensitive because of greater engagement of farmers but must have explicit gender dimension</td>
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<td>Gender Focus</td>
<td>Focus is on gender difference in access to technology and services and on participation and representation in the process. <strong>Women are seen as active participants in the process</strong></td>
<td>Focus is on gender difference in leadership and capacity to influence policy-making process; social dimension and market linkages are made stronger but must ensure gender inclusion. <strong>Women are seen as critical actors</strong></td>
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<td>Institutionalizing Gender</td>
<td>Personnel policies and gender balance in relevant institutions are improved; building capacity for women scientists and farmers’ organizations is the focus</td>
<td>Institutional development is created to support interaction and to ensure full engagement in policy-making processes but must have explicit gender dimension</td>
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Capacities to Promote Gender Equality

**Old gender approach at various isolated levels**
Women empowerment, gender analysis, technology design, skills and extension services, largely informed by participatory approaches.

**New gender empowerment at systems level**
Partnerships (engendered rural-based intermediary groups, etc.), roles, patterns of interaction (e.g. rural-based organisations, networks, etc), institutions (practices, norms), policies (research, development and extension), skills (gained through learning informed by both tacit and codified knowledge).

Kingiri (2013)
Conclusion

- Both men and women manage sectors of complex smallholder production systems, so we should not take due diligence to make sure that they both get equal share of benefits of their labor.

- A patriarchal society tend to favor men’s authority and ownership of assets in a household and thus not taking into account women as both key actors and stakeholders.

- The AIS approach can reach its stated potential to benefit small-scale women and men farmers if it develops mechanisms to foster their organization into groups based on common interests and resources.
Thank you!