Gender Research in MAIZE

Impact pathway

Integrating Gender in MAIZE

Enabling gender integration:
1. Gender Audit – situation analysis
2. Consolidation of m/w gender knowledge base and strategic gender research
3. Integration of gender in Research Management Framework, including gender screening and M&E
4. Tools, policies and capacity for gender integration

Integrating gender in projects:
- Breeding, Crop mgmt., Seed systems, Socio-economics
- Project formulation
- Impact assessment studies
- Adoption studies
- Special studies

Vision
To increase the quality, efficiency and impact of maize Research for Development (R4D) so that its outputs benefit as many men, women and youth as possible; and promote equality of opportunity and outcomes for female and male maize farmers and socially disadvantaged groups.

Measures of success
- Maize R4D contributes to improved gender equality in maize-based systems.
- MAIZE projects systematically assess and address gender and social differentiation, which is articulated in gender commitments and budgeting throughout the project cycle.
- Systems/procedures guiding appropriate gender integration in maize R4D are broadly implemented.
- Participatory research activities involve and collect feedback from female and male farmers of different ages/social groups as a standard procedure.
- Systematic sex-disaggregation is used in data collection and analysis.
- Strategic gender research and experiences from integrating gender in specific MAIZE projects combine to define priority-setting, targeting and maize R4D progress along the impact pathways.

Implementation
- Status of MAIZE Gender Strategy: Formally approved, implementation initiated in 2013.
- Specific examples of progress to date include:
  - Completion of Gender Audit.
  - Development of support tools for gender integration in process e.g. Protocol for gender disaggregated data collection and analysis; Guidelines for integration of gender considerations in participatory varietal selection (PVS); Gender in project proposal design.
  - Doubling of gender initiatives in maize projects.

Highlights
- Female farmers and marginalized groups have become the main actors for community-based seed production in Nepal (Hill Maize Research Project).
- Women’s role in smallholder agriculture and its relation to technology adoption in Mexico (Take it to the Farmer).
- Strengthening shared knowledge and decision-making for improved family nutrition (Nutritious Maize for Ethiopia).
- Gender explored as a customer attribute for market opportunities in maize seed sector development (Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa).
- Business models for women: Efforts to ensure inclusion of women farmers in the development of service provider enterprises related to equipment, inputs, etc. (Cereal Systems Intensification in South Asia).

Implementation challenges
1. Capacity in term of knowledge/data, methods, subject matter expertise, as well as general gender awareness.
2. Limited frameworks and procedures that support catalytic gender mainstreaming.

Partnerships and Capacities
- Inter CRP/CGIAR Centers => Strategic, methodological and research collaboration (CGIAR Gender and Agricultural network, IITA, CCAFS, IFPRI, WorldFish, ICRISAT, IRRI, CIFOR, CIP, etc.)
- Non-CG development and research partners; NARES, NGOs, Universities => research, implementation, strategic guidance (Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, ASARECA, Royal Tropical Institute, African Conservation Tillage Network)