Gender – Inclusion – Systems

Systemic Gender Approach to Research

Gender & Youth Dryland Systems

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www.drylandsystems.cgiar.org
Typology of people in farming

Work in Progress

Is this possible? Is it useful?
For the better targeting of research and development interventions:

The objective for producing a typology lies in finding the variables which differentiate the access to resources of one type of women in farming from another type.

It is hypothesised that types of people depend on their position in the system and the social role determined by this position. A person’s position in the system and social role determines their options and trade-offs.
• As a **basis of systems modelling**

• Typology can help to put socio-cultural variables into systems modeling. The challenge to do that is to define the relationship between socio-cultural systems elements (with ecological and other socio-cultural, economic systems elements).
Aspects of the notion of types:

- Types are generally defined by some detectable features of the agents in the population.
- Many other dimensions of variety in the population might persist in the population without being recognized by the agents themselves.
- The features that distinguish types usually only provide an imperfect indicator of the actual differences (in action between the agents of a population).
- Types are often endogenous in complex systems – agents detect types and act conditionally (and even change type definitions, if the system is adaptive).
- Types can be exogenous as well – existing only in the minds of those analysing a system from the outside.

Robert Axelrod, Micahel D. Cohen: Harenessing Complexity, Organizational Implications of a Scientific Frontier; New York, 2000
• Farm types: Farm size, land use, family size, access to resources, labour use and time

• Typical options and behaviour (decision making) - deconstruct, make rule

• A grouping of people into types is possible by finding the elements and drivers of their position in the system and role differentiating them from ‘similar’ groups.
Methodologies could include

- Researching and using data from WEAI (5 empowerment domains relative to men), and expanding on them through in-depth qualitative research
- Using data from impact studies and expanding it through in-depth qualitative research
- Participatory qualitative systems research of systems elements and drivers determining women’s (in agriculture) endowment with and access to resources, and driving change regarding these (use codes)
- Qualitative systems research to identify trade-offs typical for a tentative typology (use codes e.g. Atlas.ti)
Methodologies could include

• Econometric analyses can identify connections between socio-cultural, economic and ecological variables. Connections between variables which qualitative research suggests and which are tested in econometric analyses.

• Utility functions boil down behavior into quantified variables.

• Using existing (survey, landscape) data in the CGIAR system and beyond

• Collecting data throughout the CGIAR system to fill gaps of calibration or validation (same context)

• Connect to Randomized control trial impact studies (esp. validation of data)

• Building simplified test models on the basis of hypotheses of connections between socio-cultural, economic, ecological elements
• Heterogeneity: finding the defining variables (options, behaviour)
• Evolution of farm typology difficult to capture
• Types interact – difficult to capture
• Models are limited to specific social systems, as hardly any variable connection is global
Dynamic types

Behaviour
Options

interacting

evolving
• Is typology of people in farming possible? Is it useful?
• How would you approach a typology of people in farming?
• Can WEAI index be used for typology of people in farming? How would you approach this?