



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Dryland Systems

**February 2016**

# Approaching our synthesis report on gender & youth research in Dryland Systems

Food security and better livelihoods  
for rural dryland communities

### Goal:

The **goal of this synthesis project** is to promote better -targeted and more effective interventions in drylands agricultural development to ensure gender-relations in different agricultural livelihood systems, which are conducive to empowerment, equity, and inclusion of women and youth in agriculture for securing these livelihoods better.

### Justification:

Fair inclusion of women and youth is one of the key pillars for making agriculture work for the poor drylands communities in developing countries. In removing cultural barriers embodied in norms and other institutions such as extension services or land tenure rules, women, youth and men are not only enabled to see opportunities in agriculture, but also to seize them. This is securing agricultural livelihoods resulting in improved nutrition and income, and ultimately, other areas such as access to health and education are advanced. Our gender research also looks into ecologically sustainable agriculture, adaptation to climate change and natural resource management, thus ensuring that agriculture and agriculture related activities are carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner.

This synthesis project directly aims at making research applicable for governments and development partners, working on the improvement of livelihoods of the rural poor, as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups such as women and youth, and thus contribute to the well-being of humankind.

Inclusive economies and more broadly shared prosperity, takes centre stage in the research on norms and aspirations, which prevent the rural poor, women and youth from being included in decision-making, control over and access to resources such as land, knowledge, and technology. Agricultural and related value chains inclusive of women and youth, and gender-responsive extension services are vehicles for the economic inclusion of women and youth. This inclusion is the basis for the target groups being able to see and seize opportunities. Thus, our research and the widely disseminated synthesis of it will address the needs of and expands the opportunities of the world's poor and vulnerable communities.

More income, better nutrition and viable natural resource management are the focus of our research. The aim is to strengthen the target groups' resilience against shocks to the ecosystem such as climate change, land degradation, or biodiversity loss, and its resilience against external economic shocks such as commodity price increase, market failure and financial crisis.

Our synthesis will contribute to achieving these objectives by adding to options for action by different stakeholders, especially also by employing our systemic view on the key change points.

### Deliverables:

- One resource book and one policy brief for policy makers, biophysical researchers in agriculture and development partners
- Blogs, stories, possibly videos for main findings and lessons learnt (partly in local languages), social media campaign, press release and event planned to disseminate outputs widely.
- A web conference within the CGIAR network, including all CGIAR centres and programmes and their national partners.
- If possible financially: One special issue in an open-access journal<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> We are thinking about journals such as International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food, Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development, and wH2O : The Journal of Gender and Water

### Evidence found for what?

We worked on the themes mentioned above in yellow. **Taking into account the above mentioned 'big gender and youth themes', for which of these themes in yellow above and subjects below did you find evidence?** Please, describe what your evidence shows and proves.

- gender norms and innovations in agriculture and natural resources management,
- women and youth empowerment impact assessment;
- learning about agricultural livelihood options and trade-offs of youth, and the systemic barriers and drivers, they face;
- women, work and wage equity in agricultural sectors;
- the participation of women and youth in decision making, especially regarding the adoption of agricultural innovation;
- gender differences with respect to management of and benefits from biodiversity and natural resources;
- female and male smallholders' access to extension services and veterinary services, and gender-responsive extension options;
- capacity building tools on gender such as gender guidelines for biophysical scientists, gender diagnosis tool for research organisations, and training on gender-responsive systems analysis.

### What are the lessons learnt?

**What are your suggestions how specific needs and capabilities of women and men and of female and male youth can be taken into account by practitioners (extension service workers) and policy makers?**

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<p><b>Please, fill in your main points</b></p>	<p>Removing cultural barriers: <b>extension services, land tenure rules</b> e.g. <i>study in Malawi on irrigation, extension services and women losing out;</i></p>	<p>See <b>opportunities</b> in agriculture and related value chains, and <b>seize</b> them e.g. <i>seeds value chain – impact study;</i></p>	<p>norms and aspirations regarding <b>decision-making</b> e.g. <i>the participation of women and youth in decision making, especially regarding the adoption of agricultural innovations; studies in West Africa on decision making and extension services (information is the remedy!);</i></p>	<p>norms and aspirations regarding <b>control</b> over and <b>access to resources</b> e.g. <i>women, work and wage equity in agricultural sectors;</i></p>	<p><b>value chains</b> as vehicles for the economic inclusion of women and youth e.g. <i>goats value chain; potato value chain;</i></p>	<p>strengthen the target groups' <b>resilience</b> against shocks to the <b>ecosystem</b> such as climate change, land degradation, or <b>biodiversity</b> loss; e.g. <i>gender differences with respect to management of and benefits from biodiversity and natural resources;</i></p> <p>strengthen <b>resilience</b> against external <b>economic shocks</b> such as commodity price increase, market failure and financial crisis; ???</p>	<p>ecologically sustainable agriculture, adaptation to climate change and <b>natural resource management</b> e.g. <i>the cactus in Egypt and ...?</i></p>	<p>agricultural livelihood <b>options and trade-offs of youth</b>, and the systemic barriers and drivers e.g. <i>Morocco youth research (YPARD)</i></p>
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<p><b>Synthesis questions</b></p>	<p>How can cultural and other systemic barriers be removed for women to access <b>extension services</b> and <b>land tenure</b> equally and, for youth, adequately?</p>	<p>How can <b>women and youth see opportunities</b> in agriculture and related value chains, and <b>seize</b> them?</p>	<p>What are the systemic motors and drivers, which change norms and aspirations regarding <b>decision-making and control</b> over and <b>access to resources</b>?</p>	<p>Can the promotion of the participation in <b>value chains</b> function as vehicles for the economic inclusion of women and youth?</p>	<p>What are the key systemic elements (and institutions), which strengthen the target groups' <b>resilience</b> against shocks to the <b>ecosystem</b> such as climate change, land degradation, or <b>biodiversity</b> loss; and which strengthen <b>resilience</b> against external <b>economic shocks</b> such as commodity price increase, market failure and financial crisis? women report reduction in labour burden;</p>	<p>What are the gender and youth aspects to ecologically sustainable agriculture, adaptation to climate change and <b>natural resource management</b>?</p>	<p>How do female and male youth perceive their agricultural livelihood <b>options and trade-offs</b>, and the systemic barriers and drivers?</p>	
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<p><b>Indicators</b></p>	<p>1) Women receive equal amount of information on agriculture-related technologies, innovations and markets as men of their social group; 2) Access increased to market opportunities, knowledge and productive assets for women and youth;</p>	<p>(2a, 2b) Impact of empowerment interventions on gender-equitable and youth inclusive control of productive assets and resources known and interventions better targeted; 2) Access increased to market opportunities, knowledge and productive assets for women and youth;</p>	<p>(3a, 3b) Women perceive control of and decision-making on productive assets and resources in their households as gender-equitable; Women perceive a greater involvement in decision making at household and community level;</p>	<p>1) Women receive equal amount of information on agriculture-related technologies, innovations and markets as men of their social group;</p>	<p>2a, 2b) Impact of empowerment interventions on gender-equitable and youth inclusive control of productive assets and resources known and interventions better targeted; 2) Access increased to market opportunities, knowledge and productive assets for women and youth; Inclusion of women and youth in value chains achieved; 3) More youth engage professionally in agriculture and agricultural value chains (less youth migrate out for employment);</p>	<p>2a, 2b) Impact of empowerment interventions on gender-equitable and youth inclusive control of productive assets and resources known and interventions better targeted; (4) Wage &amp; Working Conditions of female agricultural labourers improved; 3) More youth engage professionally in agriculture and agricultural value chains (less youth migrate out for employment);</p>		<p>(4) Wage &amp; Working Conditions of female agricultural labourers improved; 3) More youth engage professionally in agriculture and agricultural value chains (less youth migrate out for employment);</p>
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<p><b>Evidence</b> found for what?</p>								
<p>What are the <b>lessons</b> learnt?</p>								
<p>What are your suggestions <b>how</b> specific needs and capabilities of women and men and of female and male youth can be taken into account by <b>practitioners</b> (extension service workers) and <b>policy</b> <b>makers</b>?</p>								

### Gender studies on L & DC crops

We observed that the socio-economic role of women and men in agricultural livelihood systems is influenced by cultural values and social power attributed to the roles. It is these, which determine the role of women and men in producing specific crops, making some of the crops 'women' crops in specific cultural contexts.

Gender research in recent years has been concerned with specific crops, when it came to mapping value chains and women's beneficial involvement in it (e.g. groundnuts, barley), when adaptation to climate change of wheat and barley cropping systems through crops managed by women was studied, or agrobiodiversity for increased agricultural sustainability and female and male smallholder wellbeing has been researched.

#### *Published*

Orr, A., Tsusaka, T. and Homann Kee-Tui, S. (2014), Gender Tools for Value Chain Analysis: Examples from Groundnuts in Eastern Province, Zambia, ICRISAT Socioeconomics Discussion Paper Series #21.

Dina Najjar ICARDA/CRP Dryland Systems (2015), 8 Women's contributions to climate change adaptation in Egypt's Mubarak Resettlement Scheme through cactus cultivation and adjusted irrigation, in 'A Political Ecology of Women, Water and Global Environmental Change'.

#### *In progress*

Mauricio R. Bellon, Raymond Vodouhe, Prem Mathur, Fred Atieno, Sognigbe N'Danikou, Shankar Dandin, Assessing patterns of use of agricultural biodiversity by rural households in the drylands of Mali, Ghana, Malawi and India: Preliminary findings of the Agricultural Biodiversity Assessment in the Dryland Systems CRP, Bioversity International



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The CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems aims to improve the lives of 1.6 billion people and mitigate land and resource degradation in 3 billion hectares covering the world's dry areas.

Dryland Systems engages in integrated agricultural systems research to address key socioeconomic and biophysical constraints that affect food security, equitable and sustainable land and natural resource management, and the livelihoods of poor and marginalized dryland communities. The program unifies eight CGIAR Centers and uses unique partnership platforms to bind together scientific research results with the skills and capacities of national agricultural research systems (NARS), advanced research institutes (ARIs), non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector, and other actors to test and develop practical innovative solutions for rural dryland communities.

The program is led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), a member of the CGIAR Consortium. CGIAR is a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future.

For more information, please visit

[drylandsystems.cgiar.org](http://drylandsystems.cgiar.org)

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