

Gender in CGIAR research

Purpose

This document provides an update to the status of gender research in the new portfolio to support agenda item 9 on *Gender in CGIAR Research*.

Action Requested

The System Council is requested to take note of these materials as an input into deliberations on gender in the research and opportunities to consolidate the gender research to ensure CGIAR, as a collective, is able reach its impact targets.

<p>Document category: Working document of the System Council. There is no restriction on the circulation of this document.</p>

Prepared by: Nicoline de Haan, CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform

Content and update

The GENDER Impact Platform, in its role of convener of gender research in the CGIAR, will provide an update on the integration of gender within the new portfolio, both the process and the content. During the session, a few minutes will also be dedicated to giving some updates on the work of the GENDER Impact Platform and HER+.

Process of developing gender research in the new portfolio

In the new portfolio, gender research is present in three areas, in the centers, in the 8 Science Programs, the Scaling for Impact Program and in the Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator. This update will concentrate on the gender equality and inclusion Accelerator.

Having gender equality and inclusion as an Accelerator means that we can leverage the whole CGIAR to deliver on gender equality and social inclusion. It will allow us to use the gender and intersectionality lens across the programs to deliver for both the Science Programs and scaling efforts. It also will ensure that all programs will deliver to a common agenda, and move away from an ad hoc approach to gender, youth and social inclusion research. Gender intentional approaches and methodologies will be our approach and become part of the CGIAR structure.

The Accelerator is being developed by a writing team of 15 gender researchers across all the centers, including World Veg and ICRAF/CIFOR and the lead of HER+. The gender researchers were appointed by the center DGs. The writing team was asked to self-elect a convener and co-convener, which was done through a transparent process. For the accelerator, Nicoline de Haan (CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform) is the convener and Vivian Polar (CIP) is the co-convener. The group meets every Thursday afternoon and will have a write shop after science week.

Early in the process the writing team developed some overall parameters for the Accelerator. An important one is that all the gender assets (resources, people, networks) of the present portfolio will need to find a home within the new portfolio. The new portfolio will also need to integrate lessons identified in the gender evaluation done by the IEAS in 2023. The Accelerator would have three specific functions:

1. **Gender research** to lead the CGIAR - strategic and primary research that will inform future research and programs in the CGIAR on gender.
2. Leveraging all **Programs** to deliver on gender – this is where the Accelerator pushes the Programs to deliver on the Accelerator and we raise the ambition of all CGIAR Programs.
3. Collaborate amongst the 3 Accelerators.

To date the Accelerator has developed a 2 pager, which is included below. The next steps will be to develop the overall proposal for the accelerator to be delivered by Sept 12.

Content of the gender equality and inclusion accelerator

This is the latest draft of the accelerator and how it is set up, as taken from the CGIAR Portfolio. The last page includes a slide depicting a possible implementation, which was not included in the Portfolio but provides a possible operationalization of the Accelerator.

Gender and Social Inclusion Accelerator

Mega challenges and opportunities

By advancing gender equality and social inclusion, we unlock numerous opportunities to upend structural barriers and support women, youth, and other vulnerable groups such as Indigenous People in their roles as agents of global change in times of complex and intertwined poly-crises.

Anthropogenic megatrends, such as urbanization and digitization, represent both challenges and opportunities: they risk increasing food, nutrition, and economic insecurity while exacerbating inequalities, but also create opportunities for empowerment and equality in food, land, and water systems. The development and use of innovative methods, tools, and skills, including gender- and youth-responsive digital technologies, should be harnessed to help achieve gender and social inclusion (GESI) outcomes.

The Gender and Social Inclusion Accelerator will address structural and institutional drivers of disadvantages through research that empowers and transforms to ensure that diverse voices contribute to solutions and impacts that are more than the sum of their parts. It will support women, youth, and other groups to transform food, land, and water systems and accelerate resilience, food security, job creation, remunerative value chains, poverty reduction, environmental health, and prosperous livelihoods for all.

Contribution to CGIAR's impact

The GESI Accelerator will use **three main pathways** to strengthen CGIAR research on gender equality and social inclusion towards addressing the challenges of widespread, multidimensional gender and social inequalities in food, land, and water systems:

- Conduct foundational GESI research to **transform discriminatory social institutions and unequal power relations** across multiple levels for more equitable food, land, and water systems (i.e., ‘gender lab’)
- Integrate GESI research into CGIAR and Science Programs and the Scaling for Impact program to **develop, test, and deliver gender-responsive and socially inclusive technical and social solutions and innovations** to enhance resilience and efficiency of food, land, and water systems (i.e., ‘leveraging’)
- **Synthesize the evidence** generated by the Accelerators and the Science Programs and identify new GESI research themes and existing gaps for CGIAR to pursue (i.e., ‘taking stock’).

The Accelerator will develop capacities (jointly with the Capacity Accelerator), share knowledge, and reinforce key alliances to support implementation and dissemination of the research and inform development of policies and institutional reforms. Outputs will be used by decision- and policy makers, researchers, funders, and implementing organizations to inform, guide, and accelerate their work, processes, and decisions to become more gender responsive, inclusive, and transformative.

The GESI Accelerator will ultimately contribute to outcomes – through partners and other food, land, and water system stakeholders – that build people’s capacities to respond and adapt to climate change, secure sustainable healthy diets, achieve food security, and adopt environmentally sustainable land, forest, and water management practices.

The Accelerator will also lead CGIAR in developing indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress on gender equality and social inclusion and assess the impacts of its research at multiple scales.

Scope of work

The GESI Accelerator builds on past and current research in CGIAR, the Gender Equality Initiative (HER+), and the GENDER Impact Area Platform. The Accelerator will contribute to co-designing primary research, tools, approaches, and indicators on gender equality, social inclusion, and women’s and youth’s empowerment, with partners and food, land, and water systems stakeholders; this will span three areas of work, across the three pathways:

- **Informal and formal social institutions:** Gender-transformative approaches to overcome discriminatory gender and social norms and formal institutions (e.g. policies and laws, rights, and regulations) that create disadvantages for and exclude women, youth, and other groups in food, land, and water systems. This area of work builds on research on norms ([GENNOVATE](#), the [Initiative on Gender Equality](#)), inclusive policies and governance ([WEAGov](#)), and securing women’s land and resource rights ([WLR](#)).
- **Empowerment:** Research on how unequal power relations impact women’s and young people’s abilities to make strategic and practical life choices and on solutions and measurements that can contribute to empowerment ([WEAI](#), [WEFI](#), [WELI](#)). This area of work builds on research on strengthening women’s individual and collective agency and voice across CGIAR.
- **Resources and technology:** Gender-responsive programs and novel strategies to increase access to and use of technologies as well as control over and management of resources for women, youth, and other groups that are dependent on food, land, and water systems. This research builds, for instance, on past achievements in developing socio-technical bundles across CGIAR and on testing social protection modalities for empowerment under the Gender Equality Initiative.

The Accelerator will use a whole-of-society approach and cutting-edge research methodologies that are gender-responsive and -transformative as well as intersectional. Emerging research areas include investigating the compounding effects of inequalities within the global poly-crises, ensuring digital and financial inclusion (jointly with the Digital Accelerator), using an intersectionality framework to enrich gender analyses, and expanding research on youth and marginalized groups (e.g. persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples).

Aligning with partners’ needs and demand

The Accelerator responds to national and global demands expressed through longstanding partnerships, policy documents, CGIAR Listening Sessions, and I such as the Commission on the Status of Women; all of these call for improving women’s productive capacity and control over resources, including incomes, and for strengthening their resilience to achieve

equitable outcomes. The Accelerator's focus on capacity strengthening draws on diverse stakeholders to apply and improve GESI knowledge and competences.

The Accelerator is committed to building and deepening equitable partnerships. It will continue to convene one of the world's largest networks of gender-in-agri-food-systems researchers and experts, from within and beyond CGIAR. Local partnerships with governments, NARES, NGOs, community associations, and private sector actors will drive implementation and sustainability. The Accelerator will build on existing relationships with regional and multilateral institutions to influence international policy, programming, and large-scale investments. These partnerships will strengthen CGIAR's work on assessing needs; fuel collaborations on design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and provide critical feedback on the gendered and intersectional impacts of the technologies and approaches developed by CGIAR and its partners.

Linkages with the wider CGIAR Portfolio

Indicative examples of areas of joint work with Science Programs include:

- Advancing inclusive and gender-transformative climate action with the Climate MP
- Understanding empowerment and gender equality in the face of compounded crises in fragile settings with the Frontiers MP
- Developing gender-intentional technology and institutional innovations in genetic innovation, agronomy, landscape, and aquatic foods and livestock systems with the corresponding Science Programs. The Accelerator will continue to work with each Center's gender teams and build on the CGIAR network of Gender Research Coordinator's work.

Based on the experience of the GENDER Impact Area Platform and its recent evaluation, the Accelerator may advise CGIAR management on portfolio strategy and management following the recent GENDER Impact Area Platform evaluation recommendation to "actively invite and involve GENDER in CGIAR's decision-making processes, to inform critical decision-making points".

Depending on its scope, possible operationalization of the gender equality and inclusion accelerator

To understand how the confluence of each of the global challenges results in a global poly-crisis that compounds disadvantages and inequality, and to address these by building GESI through approaches that empower and transform,

The accelerator engages in 3 research roles (red) and 3 catalyzing roles (blue)

