

Final narrative report on the design of guidelines for Gender Analysis in Local Innovation Development (GALID)

(PO Number:325488)

1. Introduction

This report covers the main activities undertaken in developing guidelines for gender analysis in local innovation development. The work under this agreement took place between January to December 2017. The main scope of work was in relation to gender analysis of local innovation development (GALID) by field-based facilitators of agricultural research and development (ARD). The work was carried out by Mona Dhamankar and Chesha Wettasinha, advisors at KIT (Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam).

2. Documenting of two cases in Nepal and Ethiopia

The first activity was to assess how field-based ARD facilitators have been attempting to integrate gender into their work. Two countries in which Prolinnova (International network on promoting local innovation for ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management [www. Prolinnova.net](http://www.Prolinnova.net)) has been functional for several years and in which FAO has on-going programmes were selected for a quick study: Nepal in Asia and Ethiopia in Africa.

Short visits to the countries were prepared by contacting key Prolinnova contacts in these countries and setting up a schedule for interviews with several ARD facilitators as well as farmer innovators. In preparation for the visits, publications of the Prolinnova partners in Nepal and Ethiopia were studied to get acquainted with the main interventions related to promoting local innovation in these countries and to assess how gender issues had been considered this far.

The trip to Nepal took place in the period 26 March to 1 April 2017. Six ARD facilitators (4 men and 2 women) who had been involved in local innovation development were interviewed. The interviews were held in Kathmandu and Chitwan. In addition, visits were paid to two farmer innovators, one man and one woman, also in Chitwan.

The trip to Ethiopia took place from 10 to 22 April 2017. During this visit 4 male and 2 female ARD facilitators were interviewed in Addis Abeba, Mekelle and Axum. Visits were also made to the homes of two farmer innovators (1 man and 1 woman) in Axum and Mara.

Two case studies were written up based on the information generated through the interviews and analyses thereof. The key findings from these studies were as follows:

- The field facilitators interviewed were at different levels in terms of understanding and integrating gender into their work in local innovation development. This meant that there was no consistent way in which gender was being addressed within these interventions.
- Most of the field facilitators had received some form of gender training. However, they felt that such training had helped to become aware of gender concepts and theory but had not given them the confidence to apply what they had learnt in the field. There was an apparent divide between theory and practice.
- The majority of the innovations that had been recognised, documented and supported through farmer-led joint research thus far were of male innovators. However, there were several successful women innovators who had received recognition and support.
- The field facilitators focused exclusively on the innovator (whether man or woman) in the process of identification and documentation of local innovation. The contribution of the family (spouses, children and others) and issues such as gender roles and how these effect/impact the local innovation, access to and control of resources by the innovator and others in the family, implications of the local innovation on others in the household have been given little attention.
- In the process of supporting the improvement of local innovation through farmer-led joint research, the field facilitators focus their attention mainly in supporting a given innovator (man or woman). They seldom give attention to the contribution of others in the experimentation process and rarely analyse the gender impacts of the process.

These cases studies were submitted to Susan Kaaria in June 2017.

3. Desk review of other development interventions

Having got an indication of some of the key issues and setbacks of ARD field facilitators in integrating gender into local innovation development, similar work done by other development interventions was reviewed through a study of several documents:

- *Mainstreaming gender into agricultural innovation platforms, FARA, 2016*
<http://faraafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Mainstreaming-Gender-into-Agricultural-Innovation-Platforms.pdf>
This publication described what an innovation platform is and why it is important to mainstream gender into them. It also gave four key reasons as to why innovation platforms were not gender responsive (assumption that innovation platforms are gender neutral; more efforts and more resources needed for gender may take away from other activities; stereotypes associated with

women's involvement; lack of appropriate skills). The two main strategies to remedy the situation were in stakeholder analysis and gender analysis. Several recommendations were given per strategy but there was no clear explanation on how each recommendation could be carried out in practice. The publication offered tools borrowed from other sources that could be used for stakeholder analysis but they were not meant to be a hands-on guide to ARD facilitators.

- *Understanding and integrating gender issues into livestock projects and programmes – a checklist for practitioners, FAO, 2013*
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3216e.pdf>
This was a resource primarily for those involved in livestock projects. The description of the key challenges women face in the livestock sector are described succinctly and could be useful for any ARD facilitator. The checklist comprised of sets of questions for integrating gender at the level of livestock projects – in appraisal, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The publication would be an excellent tool for people in charge of projects who could use it to guide the work of field practitioners. The compact format and the focus on a specific topic were strengths in this case.
- *Practical tips for gender-responsive data collection, Bioversity, 2013*
https://www.bioversityinternational.org/uploads/tx_news/Practical_tips_for_gender_responsive_data_collection_1658_02.pdf
Specifically relating to data collection, this document was very accessible and clear. The main points were clear; the descriptions were short; the language was simple enough. This was a resource that would certainly be used by development practitioners, especially busy people who are not interested in reading extensive documents. The main point derived from this resource was the need for clarity, brevity and readability.
- *Gender and inclusion toolbox: participatory research in climate change and agriculture, CCAFS/CARE/World Agroforestry Centre, 2014*
http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CCAFS_CARE-Gender_Toolbox.pdf
This extensive document would be best suited to gender trainers/experts within climate change projects. However it was reviewed as it focused on participatory research that includes local innovation development. The basic concepts on gender and participation are well structured and can be useful to many field facilitators, even those who are not directly engaged in climate-change related interventions. However, the content of the publication is geared mainly to researchers and not to ARD facilitators in general.
- *Nutrition and gender sensitive mapping tool, SNV and KIT*
<http://www.ngsatoolkit.org/home>
This is a e-based toolkit that was developed by KIT and SNV as a means of adding a strong focus on gender into agriculture, nutrition, and water and sanitation interventions. Although it has an interesting interactive format, this was beyond the scope of what could be achieved under this agreement. However, the key questions was an element could be incorporated into the guidelines.
- *Integrating gender into extension services, Katherine Colverson, University of Florida (for MEAS), 2012*
<http://www.meas-extension.org/meas-offers/training/integrating-gender-into-extension-services>

This is an extensive training manual available for download in modules. The manual would be suitable for gender experts/trainers who would adapt the content to meet the needs of extensionists to be trained. However, it was not considered a resource that would be directly useful to field facilitators as a practical guide on how to integrate gender into their daily work.

4. Developing guidelines for gender analysis in local innovation development

Speaking to ARD facilitators during the field visits and examining the documented experiences of Prolinnova, several shortcomings in terms of integrating gender into local innovation development were identified:

- So far, most of the innovations that have been identified and documented are those by men; relatively few women's innovations have been recognised/ considered;
- Only a few innovations, particularly in domains where women are more involved (e.g. small-scale livestock keeping, processing and marketing crop and animal products) have been identified and documented;
- Not many women's innovations have been selected for farmer-led joint research;
- The contributions of women in farmer households and community, including to men's innovation, are rarely taken into consideration; moreover, there have been no studies on the effects of either men's or women's innovation on both men and women as persons;
- There has been little analysis of how the process of farmer-led joint research and its outcomes impacts on the situation and roles of local women and men, young and old;
- Factors that inhibit women's participation in processes of local innovation and farmer-led joint research have been inadequately examined and addressed (e.g. lack of access to land and other resources, domestic commitments, low contribution to decision-making in the community).

Dealing with these shortcomings meant that ARD facilitators needed to contextualise gender into the process of local innovation development. But it was also clear that ARD facilitators needed guidance in a simple and practical manner which was relevant to their day-to-day work. The main activities involved in a process of local innovation development are in identifying, documenting and sharing local innovation of smallscale farmers, and accompanying them in a process of joint-research based on selected innovations. Thus the ARD facilitators would need guidance on how to be gender responsive in each activity of this process.

It was decided to develop simple guidelines that would enable ARD facilitators to reflect on key gender issues in the main activities that they undertake in the local innovation development process, namely: a) identifying women's innovation; b) analysing, documenting and sharing women's innovation; and c) engaging women in farmer-led research.

For each of these activities, main points that need attention were developed:

- a) Identifying women's innovations/innovators
 - Seek information from community workers who work closely with women, especially women-headed households
 - Look for women who are doing things differently to their mothers and grandmothers
 - Look for women who appear to be active in more male-dominated aspects of agriculture or in related structures

- Engage with women in spaces where they congregate, share, socialise and work together and use women's organisations as entry points
 - Look for less obvious aspects of farming when visiting a household/community
 - Pay more attention to so-called women's activities
- b) Analysing, documenting and sharing women's innovation
- Describe the separate inputs/contributions of men and women in any given local innovation
 - Find out how the local innovation affects men and women, positively or negatively
 - Document the stories of women innovators
 - Involve women innovators in documenting their own stories
 - Select and support women innovators to share their experiences in relevant events and through various channels
- c) Engaging women in farmer-led research
- Give priority to women's innovations and their areas of interest for further research
 - Use criteria suggested by women for screening innovations for farmer-led joint research
 - Find research partners who are interested in topics of interest to women
 - Engage both women and men in the design and process of the experiment
 - Address the specific challenges to women's involvement in experimentation
 - Use criteria of men and women in evaluating the joint experiment and its benefits
 - Create spaces where women who experiment can share their experiences

Thereafter, a narrative for each point was developed together with a set of guiding questions that would help a facilitator to be more attentive to gender issues.

Finally, short examples to illustrate some of the key points were compiled and included in the guide. A draft of the guidelines was peer reviewed by two Prolinnova network members who have expertise in gender: Brigid Letty from the Institute of Natural Resources in Prolinnova South Africa and Ann Waters-Bayer from the Prolinnova International Support Team based in Germany.

The document "Bringing women innovators to the fore – guidelines for gender responsive farmer-led innovation and research" was submitted to Susan Kaaria on 1st December 2017 and was followed up with a skype presentation on 12th December 2017. Susan's feedback was incorporated into the final version of the document submitted on 20th December 2017.