



**KIT** Royal  
Tropical  
Institute

## **Gender Responsive Farmer-led Innovation Development**



*Woman farmer innovator in Makueni county explaining how she developed a fruit fly trapper to protect her mango crop to the Governor of the sub-county who joined the field visit (Photo: Chesha Wettasinha)*

### **Follow up monitoring visits to trainees of GALID workshop**

**Kisumu and Makueni counties, Kenya**

**16 - 20 September 2019**

*Chesha Wettasinha and Mona Dhamankar*

## **1 Background to the follow up visits**

In November 2018, KIT conducted a four-day orientation workshop on gender responsive farmer-led innovation development. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with World Neighbors (WN), Kenya. Fourteen participants from a range of agricultural research and development (ARD) organisations attended the workshop which was held in Nairobi.

The four-day workshop was designed to create awareness, build skills and receive feedback on using a gender lens in local innovation and farmer-led joint research. At the end of the workshop, the participants reflected on what they had learned and came up with post-training action plans to put their newly gained knowledge and skills into practice. Each participant made an action plan based on their day-to-day work within their own organisations. These plans were also meant for monitoring of individual progress and addressing of any challenges faced during implementation of plans. Over the next 6-7 months each participant was supported virtually by the KIT trainers – Chesha Wettasinha and Mona Dhamankar - and in the field by Vincent Mariadho of WN in implementing their individual actions plans.

From 15 to 20 September, 2019, the KIT trainers together with Vincent Mariadho of WN, paid follow up visits to the participants in Kisumu and Makueni counties for reflection and feedback. This report summarises observations made during these field visits and the findings thereof for further revision of the guidelines developed in 2017. The list of participants involved in the field visits is found in Annex 1.

## **2 Reflection sessions and field visits**

The field visits started in Kisumu county and continued in Makueni county. The itinerary of the visits is found in Annex 2. The list of farmer innovators met during the trip is found in Annex 3.

The visits to both counties were structured as follows:

- A group reflection session with the workshop participants from the given county facilitated by the trainers. Each participant gave a briefing on how she/he implemented the individual post-training assignment in integrating a gender lens into their work. They described the progress made and some of the challenges encountered. Each briefing was followed by a short question-answer time to get more clarity and to get feedback from others. After the short presentations of each participant, the trainers facilitated an open discussion on gender-related aspects picked out from the presentations which helped the participants to get deeper into some of the issues.
- The trainers and participants together visited a selection of the farmer innovators with whom the workshop participants had interacted with during their post-training assignment. The trainers and the participants had open discussions with the farmer innovator(s) concerned, learned about their innovations and probed deeper into the gender aspects of the farmer-led innovation development process. These visits also helped triangulate the information gathered through the reflection sessions.
- The travel time between locations was used to further discuss issues that came up during the farm visit.

### 3 Observations

The reflection sessions and discussions during the field visits enabled the trainers to observe the following:

- **All the workshop participants had attempted to use the gender lens tool to elicit gender aspects of local innovation.** Each participant explained how they had implemented their own post-training assignment. In every presentation, they referred to how they had used the gender lens which they had practiced during the GALID training workshop in November 2018. Although the participants were at different levels in their understanding and application of gender analysis in relation to farmer-led innovation, it was commendable that they had all practiced what they had learnt.
- **The participants had internalized use of the gender lens and were more confident in using it their work.** The gender lens considering the four perspectives: gender division of labour, access to and control over resources, intra-household decision making and values and assumptions, was clear to them. Each of them had used all four perspectives in analyzing innovations in a gender responsive manner.
- **The participants had discovered and were discovering more women innovators and supporting them.** It was very clear that the workshop participants had paid greater attention to seeking out women innovators. Eighteen of the 27 innovators visited during the field visits were women. Moreover, they were seeking out women innovators in the less visible areas of activity as was the example of a woman butcher who was the first in the entire area to move into a male-dominated occupation and challenge existing norms. It is noteworthy that this woman innovator was discovered by an officer of the Makueni county veterinary department who had been exposed to local innovation and its gender implications for the first time through the workshop in November. He was very appreciative of the workshop that stimulated his curiosity to venture into areas that he had hitherto not explored in terms of his service provision.
- **The participants were better able to ask “gender focused” questions and generate relevant data.** During the field visit we saw a marked increase in the gender-focused questions that were being posed by the workshop participants to farmer innovators. These included questions related to gender aspects of labour sharing, sharing of income generated through the innovations, making of choices related to the innovation etc.
- **The farmer innovators expressed satisfaction about the support they received from the workshop participants.** The farmer innovators were very happy about the support they were receiving from the workshop participants. We observed how respectfully and cordially the workshop participants dealt with the farmer innovators and members of their families, making sure both men and women were included in the discussions. They were also continuously thinking aloud with the farmers about the next steps in the innovation process, what support was required, what linkages were needed etc. keeping gender aspects in mind.
- **There were visible changes related to transformed gender roles and relations in the innovators families and communities.** The way the women innovators presented themselves, how they articulated themselves, the support that they were receiving from their husbands and families, the increase in women who were daring to innovate and get into areas in which they had not been active before were all examples that gender transformation was taking place through the interactions of the workshop participants.

- **The participants need more support and mentoring in probing and documenting skills, especially in relation to gender aspects.** Although many of the participants had improved their gender analysis skills, they would need more support to develop these further. For some of the participants, this workshop was the first gender-related workshop they had participated in. Others had been exposed to several gender workshops in the course of their work, but mentioned that this was the first “hands-on” practical training that was tailored to their needs. With the initial skills in place, the participants could learn how to probe deeper in relation to gender implications of local innovation development and then provide support based on the new information that comes out of such deeper analysis.
- **The value chain stages for gender analysis had been used minimally by the workshop participants.** Considering that ARD practitioners look for women and men farmers involved in some form of innovation and then support them to improve it through a process of joint research led by the innovator, the value chain stage did not have a great deal of consequence for them. Moreover, not all ARD stakeholders work directly in the agronomic space where crop production, processing and marketing are in order. Other ARD stakeholders focus on social aspects related to smallscale farming and don’t deal directly with value chain stages.

#### 4 Lessons drawn for revision of GALID guidelines

The reflections and discussions with the workshop participants during the plenary sessions and field visits provided feedback for revising the draft GALID guidelines developed in 2017. Key amongst these were:

- Gender lens** – use of the gender lens as introduced through the workshop has been a practical tool for ARD practitioners working with local innovators to make their work more gender-responsive. This tool will be made more explicit by including examples of questions that could be asked under the four perspectives: gender division of labour, access to and control over resources, intra-household decision making and values and assumption. This will also help users of the guidelines to improve their probing skills in relation to gender aspects.
- Value chain stages** - this was not considered an useful addition to gender analysis of farmer-led innovation. Hence we will not include this as a tool in the revised guidelines.
- Real-life examples** – the training workshop and the post training assignments provided real-life examples of how gender could be integrated into the process of farmer-led innovation development. We will incorporate these examples into the guidelines.
- Short and simple text** – it was clear that ARD practitioners who spend a lot of their time in the field need learning materials that are short, simple and visually attractive. We will have to find a way of making the guidelines simpler, shorter and more accessible with illustrations and diagrams. In fact, we could think of separating the guidelines into separate modules which could be stand-alone, “pull-out” handouts. Although we have no budget within this contract for hiring a designer, we could think of this aspect prior to publishing these guidelines and making them available to a broader public.
- Use of social media** – Every workshop participant had a smart phone which they used regularly. As such, we may need to find a way of developing a tool that could be used via their smart phone. This will not be possible under this contract but is surely something to think of as a next step.

## 5 Conclusions and next steps

This project that included a training workshop to introduce the guidelines in November 2018 and a reflection and follow up visit in September 2019 to ascertain the level and progress of application could be deemed very successful. Considering that the success rate of adult training workshops is generally around 60% in terms of post-training application of newly acquired skills and knowledge, application of the new skills by all the participants is quite exceptional. This could be attributed to several reasons as expressed by the participants themselves: use of the gender lens as a simple and practical tool; practical training based on practitioner reality; inclusion of field visit into the training workshop; use of real-life examples in the training; mentoring provided during post-training implementation; opportunities to meet, work together and share experiences with other participants through the on-going Promoting Local Innovation in Food and Nutrition Security Project.

We will use the feedback from participants and our own observations to revise the guidelines. A draft of the revised version will be made available to FAO for comment by the end of October 2019. Finally, it is good to mention that this is just the first step in a journey that needs to be continued if the workshop participants are to become fully-fledged practitioners of gender responsive farmer-led innovation development. This means that they would need further training and mentoring to reach their full potential and to be able to train others in the future. At least one participant has the potential to become a trainer in gender responsive farmer led innovation development with some additional support while the others have the potential to become competent practitioners of the approach.

## Annex 1 List of participants of the reflection sessions and field visits

No.	Name	Institutional affiliation
1.	Vincent Mariadho (M)	Coordinator, ProInnova Kenya (hosted by World Neighbors, Kenya)
2.	Martha Opondo (F)	Researcher, Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), Kisumu
3.	Peter Atito (M)	Fisheries Officer, County Department of Fisheries, Kisumu
4.	Simon Obuolo (M)	Agricultural Officer, County Department of Agriculture, Kisumu
5.	Andrew Muendo (M)	Program Coordinator, Inades Formation Kenya, Machakos
6.	Fred Wabweyo (M)	Coordinator, Community Rehabilitation Environmental Protection Program, Kisumu
7.	Juliet Musau (F)	County Sub Ward Administrator, Makueni
8.	Magdaline Ndungwa (F)	County Ward Administrator, Makueni
9.	August Ngonzi (F)	Sub-County Administrator, Kilome
10.	Dominck Onyango (M)	Agronomist, Rural Development Initiative, Kisumu
11.	Jane Jagero (F)	Farmer innovator, Farmer Innovators Association of Kenya
12.	Abraham Nyaga (M)	Veterinary Officer, Makueni County
13.	Anthony Kimeu (M)	Extension Officer, Department of Sand Conservation and Water Resource Users Association, Makueni Count.
14.	Joseph Museveni (M)	Makueni County Water Resource Users Association
15.	Joe Ouko (M)	Farmer innovator, Farmer Innovators Association of Kenya
16.	Daniel Muia (M)	County Development Committee, Makueni
17.	Domnic Munyau (M)	Youth Representative-Kasikeu, Makueni County
18.	Barack Were (M)	Rural Development Initiative, Kisumu County
19.	Jack Onege (M)	Local Steering Committee (Chairman), Kisumu County

## Annex 2: Itinerary of the reflection sessions and field visits 16 to 20 September 2019

No	Date	Day	Activity
1.	14/09/2019	Saturday	Arrival of Chesha in Nairobi
2.	15/09/2019	Sunday	Arrival of Mona in Nairobi
3.	15/09/2019	Sunday	Chesha and Mona fly to Kisumu
4.	16/09/2019	Monday	<b>Morning:</b> Plenary reflection session with workshop participants and several other ARD colleagues for recap, feedback and experience sharing.
			<b>Afternoon-Evening:</b> Individual visits to selected trainees and farmer innovators they have been interacting with.
5.	17/09/2019	Tuesday	Individual visits to selected trainees and farmer innovators they are interacting with.
6.	18/09/2019	Wednesday	Individual visits to selected trainees and farmer innovators they are interacting with in Nyakach (Kolweny-Kusa village)
7.	18/09/2019	Wednesday	Chesha, Mona and Vincent fly to Nairobi
8.	19/09/2019	Thursday	<b>Morning:</b> Travel to Makueni and plenary reflection session with workshop participants and section of LSC members for a recap, feedback and experience sharing
			<b>Afternoon-Evening:</b> Individual visits to selected trainees and farmer innovators they are interacting with.
9.	20/09/2019	Friday	Individual visits to selected trainees and farmer innovators they are interacting with.
			Chesha, Mona and Vincent travel back to Nairobi
10.	21/09/2019	Saturday	Debriefing at World Neighbors Mona flies out to Amsterdam
11.	23/09/2019	Monday	Chesha flies out to Amsterdam

### Annex 3: List of farmer innovators visited during field visits 16 to 20 September 2019

No.	Innovator's name	Gender	Innovation	Site
1.	Eunice Odoyo	F	Energy saving stove (Jiko)	Kisumu
2.	Caroline Okello	F	Local poultry medicine 'Ajujo manyasi'	Kisumu
3.	Jack Onege	M	Hanging garden to grow vegetables (as his land is too stony)	Kisumu
4.	Joseph Oloo	M	Local chicken brooder (to prevent chick mortality)	Kisumu
5.	Eunice Ayieko	F	Two in one energy saving stove (Jiko)	Kisumu
6.	Steve Owako	M	Compact fish smoker	Kisumu
7.	Rebecca Dero	F	Sack garden irrigation kit	Kisumu
8.	Charles Ang'ienda	M	Improved cassava production	Kisumu
9.	Charles Ng'ong'a	M	Chapalass fishing net (for fishing by one person)	Kisumu
10.	Joe Ouko	M	Locally Formulated Dairy Goat meal (LOFODA) – nutritious goat meal formulated with locally-available plant material (trees, shrubs and plants) that are drought-tolerant that increases milk production and keeps goats healthy	Kisumu
11.	Jane Jagero	F	Extracting starch/glucose from cassava.	Kisumu
			Use of fresh pawpaw as a salad (new recipe)	
12.	Monica Auma	F	New recipes from pumpkin: pumpkin cake, pumpkin smoothie with goat milk (hot and cold)	Kisumu
13.	Nereah Odhiambo	F	New ways of processing vegetables into nutritious drinks: locally formulated fresh juice from kales and beetroots	Kisumu
14.	Cyprian Nyatiti	M	Value added Hay	Kisumu
15.	Hellen Ouko	F	Fresh meat preservation (Aliya)	Kisumu
			Extracting oil from groundnuts	
16.	Faith Rosemary	F	Pumpkin yoghurt	Kisumu
17.	Elizabeth Liech	F	Local seed preservation technique	Kisumu
18.	Syprina Odongo	F	Ugali of honour cooked with ghee that can keep without refrigeration and is highly nutritious	Kisumu
19.	John Musumbi	M	Organic tobacco pesticide	Makueni
			Termite control using onion infusion	
20.	Benigna Mumbua	F	Organic fruit fly trap	Makueni
21.	Joel Tete	M	Relay hatching/live incubation	Makueni
22.	Naomy Mutuku	F	Organic termite control	Makueni
			Deflowering control for mango	
23.	Loise Muumbua	F	Poultry medicine using croton seeds and aloe vera	Makueni
24.	Damaris Munyao	F	Locally made hot pot	Makueni

25.	Isack Nganda	F	Cross-breeding of eggplant to get better varieties (taste, size of fruit, pesticide resistance etc.)	Makueni
26.	Susan Joseph	F	Butchery operation (first woman in area to start and run a successful butchery)	Makueni
27.	Domitila Kinyili	F	Organic ant killer	Makueni