

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification Annual Gender Integration Highlights

Gender Integration Highlights FY18:

During the FY 2018 reporting period, SIIIL requested the Consortia and subwardees to provide additional information on how their projects were integrating gender into their research. All of them are actively integrated gender into their programs. Below are some selected highlights in some projects:

The SIIIL hosted Fulbright Senior Scholar, Dr. Patrick Kilby, during January – May 2018. Dr. Kilby's degree is from Australian National University focused on Women's Empowerment. During his fellowship, he looked at the historical antecedents of the Green Revolution in the US, Europe, and Australia, and argued why including farmers, especially women, play a critical role in research. He also developed a Gender Analysis Framework for the Feed the Future Innovation Labs consideration.

The Geospatial and Farming System Research Consortium submitted a paper for publication on the Female Empowerment Index (FEMI) that tracks multiple domains of women's empowerment and can be used to assess both national and sub-national variation. The index was developed using data for Nigeria (very data rich) and are now applying it for all of sub-Saharan Africa.

The ASMC has partnered with the Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project to host a webinar series. The three-part series was designed to give practitioners' practical tips to make extension and outreach trainings more gender-sensitive. The participatory webinars also solicited the experiences of the participants. Topics included 'Basics of Effective Training', 'How to Train the Right People' and 'Great Facilitation'. In total, the three webinars were attended by 79 participants from across the globe.

Additionally, in Burkina Faso, ASMC revamped their gender approach through a capacity-building, one day gender training for faculty, staff, and students at Nazi Boni University. The training used the 'Introductory Gender and Nutrition Training' approach pioneered by the INGENAES project, and engaged participants in participatory workshops using adult learning principles such as role playing, discussions, and drawings to better understand topics such as gender myths, and power dynamics within households and its implications on their work as technology developers.

Also in Burkina Faso, the Crop and Livestock Production Systems project has been working to collect data on gender roles in the intensification of mixed crop and livestock systems in two project sites, Yatenga and Seno, with 25 households representing both traditional farming and pastoralist communities. They are currently working on a manuscript to explain their findings.

The Women in Agriculture Network (WAgN) project developed and implemented a gender-focused research strategy which includes the research project by Cambodian graduate student Sovannary Huot and U.S. graduate student Sarah Eissler. The goal is to study two SI-oriented farmer cooperatives to gain

an understanding of women's representation in leadership positions, the extent and nature of their decision-making, and any barriers to acquiring leadership roles.

Additionally, WAgN conducted a 'GenderAttentive Research Methods' 2-day training with the Masters of Sustainable Agriculture students at the University of Battambang. This training focused on the use of qualitative and quantitative methods in sustainable agriculture research, understanding on how to integrate gender sensitivity across both of these methods of data collection.

In Ethiopia, a study conducted by the Sustainably Intensified Production Systems Impact on Nutrition (SIPSIN) regarding the use of irrigation pumps in farming found that they translate to a reduction of 56% work days for men and a 37% for women. It also showed that when pumps are used in farming, men are more likely to provide the labor, with people reporting that using pumps was labor intensive (e.g. due to carrying the generator and hoses to the field) as the reason why.

Gender Integration Highlights FY19:

During the FY 2019 reporting period, SILL requested the Consortia and subwardees to provide additional information on how their projects were integrating gender into their research. All of them are actively integrated gender into their programs. Below are some selected highlights in some projects:

The gender equity and women empowerment analysis is based on IFPRI surveys and preliminary results suggest that women in Ethiopia did better in terms of their input in decisions about irrigated cash crop farming after interventions than before the intervention. Also in this study, a comparison of the number of hours allocated by women to different agricultural activities before and after the introduction of small scale irrigation technologies shows an increase in number of hours worked after the interventions.

The WAgN project saw one student defend her M.S. thesis this fall at Penn State University, and will enter Penn State's Ph.D. program spring semester 2020. Three other female graduate students have either completed their degrees or are nearing completion. Additionally, the SI assessment framework has been used to analyze gender aspects of the projects Wild Gardens research.

The ASMC presented at the ECHO Annual Conference in Fort Myers Florida November 13, 2019. Two hour Conference workshop on 'Assessing Technologies for Gender Sensitivity' attended by 22 participants. Additionally, the workshop acted as a springboard to test a revised framework for the training module. They also presented at the Gender in Innovation Lab Meeting, June 6, 2019, Washington D.C. on 'Gender Transformative Approaches: Lessons from ASMC'.

The ASMC-Ethiopia team conducted Gender Technology Assessment of Maji pump in Alefa and Dangista kebeles. Women farmer network formed by ASMC-Cambodia team to address the needs specific to female farmers.

Forty one women participated in ASMC-Bangladesh field days in Wazirpur, Barishal, and Dumuria, and Khulna. Women participated in field days and training in the seedling raising process and the women engaged in tray/mat preparation and intercultural operations like irrigation and pest management. A gender training session took place in 2018 and the project stakeholders were trained for technology assessment. Dr. Salimata SONDE/POUSGA was selected as the responsible for this process on ripping-planting-weeding system.

A joint gender issue report was produced from the collaboration of Senegal and Burkina Faso teams for the ASMC-Burkina Faso project.

Gender Integration Highlights FY20:

During the FY 2020 reporting period, SILL requested the Consortia and subwardees to provide additional information on how their projects were integrating gender into their research. All of them are actively integrated gender into their programs. While many projects reported implementation issues due to COVID-19, below are the highlights from few selected projects:

The ASMC team at MSU, including Tillers International, traveled to Burkina Faso and held a group meeting with farmers to assess their impressions of the project and to also assess gender issues. Farmers were highly receptive to adoption of new technologies that would reduce labor especially among women and make them productive. The ASMC planter was well received.

The Polder project in Bangladesh provided training to 91 women farmers and women leaders in the southwest region on fertilizer and pest management in HYV rice, rabi crops cultivation on moist soil and management practices for higher yield and income, and importance of zinc-enriched rice, maize, mungbean and sunflower on household nutrition, especially on children and lactating women.

The ASMC presented at the ECHO Annual Conference in Fort Myers Florida November 13, 2019. Twohour Conference workshop on 'Assessing Technologies for Gender Sensitivity' attended by 22 participants. Additionally, the workshop acted as a springboard to test a revised framework for the training module.

A document was written to be made into a short 15-minute video for television, which will be used to show ASMC's work in Burkina Faso and the main outcomes where gender is the main focus.

Gender Integration Highlights FY21:

During the FY 2021 reporting period, SILL requested the Consortia and subawards provide additional information on how their projects were integrating gender into their research. All of them are actively integrated gender into their programs. While many projects reported implementation issues due to COVID-19, below are the highlights from few selected projects:

Trainings conducted by the S3-Cambodia project during this period reached a total of 345 participants, including 102 female participants (30%). This fell short of the annual target of 35% female participation, but they hope to increase women's participation as schools re-open and they are able to engage more students in training activities.

The Senegal/Niger project engaged 15 more women's organizations on making and commercializing dual-purpose millet flour and trained 23 female farmers on dual-purpose quality seed cropping.

The ASMC Hub in Burkina Faso are working to develop training materials for women on conservation agriculture, mechanization, and appropriate use of the ASMC planter. Trainings will be conducted prior to planting seasons (November 2021-May 2022), with the goal of reaching 500-1000 farming households.

Gender Integration Highlights FY22:

During the FY 2022 reporting period, the SILL requested the consortia and subawards to provide additional information on how their projects were integrating gender into their research. All of them are actively integrated gender into their programs. Below are the highlights from few selected projects:

Maria Jones, with the Appropriate Scale Mechanization Consortium (ASMC), reported that with the Bangladesh Hub she conducted a two-part capacity building training on “Conducting Gender Sensitive Mechanization Training” and “Conducting Gender Sensitive Mechanization Research” for 48 participants for faculty and students at Bangladesh Agricultural University. The three-hour training included gender frameworks and participatory online activities.

The Bangladesh Polder project had a total of 1,329 (36%) female individuals that participated in capacity building on different aspects of agricultural development in the polder zone. Among the participants, 106 women directly engaged in the demonstration of improved cropping practices in different learning hubs of the polder zone. Three women service providers were directly engaged in harvesting paddy by reapers and earned a total of \$1,728 USD during the reporting period, which they spent on the most productive and income-generating purposes.

The Bangladesh Polder project was also able to mobilize additional funds for its gender component. The CGIAR Gender Platform through its Evidence module invested \$190,516 USD to generate evidence on the gender dynamics and women’s empowerment in the water governance of the polders. In partnership with Shushilan, a study called GENERATE is being implemented in the eight polders of the south-west and south-central coastal zones of Bangladesh.

Gender Integration Highlights FY23:

During the FY 2023 reporting period, the SILL requested the consortia and subawards to provide additional information on how their projects were integrating gender into their research. All of them had actively integrated gender into their programs. Below are the highlights from the projects:

The ASMIH – Cambodia project completed a field survey to understand the role of women farmers and service providers in a household’s decision to continue to implement Conservation Agriculture, along with CASI machinery use, and to find out whether there is any difference between men and women attending the training programs. From the research findings, a training was provided to women farmers in Battambang province by Gender Specialist, Maria Jones, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the local gender and youth coordinator. The technical report is available upon request.

The Bangladesh Polder project had a total of 2,177 (39% of the total) female individuals that participated in capacity building on different aspects of agricultural development, nutrition, and mechanization in the polder zone. Among the participants, 207 women directly engaged in the demonstration of improved cropping practices and agri-mechanization services in different learning hubs of the polder zone. Three women service providers were directly engaged in harvesting paddy by reapers and earned a total of \$169 to \$882 USD during the reporting period, which they spent on the most productive and income-generating purposes.