



Gender

Synthesis

The GRiSP proposal in 2010 included a gender strategy as a work in progress that was regularly updated as the results of relevant GRiSP studies were reported. The strategy was revised in late 2012, presented and debated at a “Gender in Rice” workshop in the Philippines in mid-March 2013, and reviewed by outside experts. The resulting revised gender strategy was endorsed by the CGIAR gender network in October 2013 and became operational in 2014. The main objective of the GRiSP Gender Strategy was to reduce the gender gap in the rice sector. The strategy was based on a gender-specific impact pathway and theory of change on how the empowerment of women in the agricultural-research-for-development arena and in the rice value chain accelerates the delivery of GRiSP’s intermediate development outcomes. The term empowerment integrates the strengthened role of women in the design, execution, and evaluation of research for development, as well as improved access to resources (e.g., production inputs, knowledge, and pro-gender improved technologies) and control over outputs (harvested rice, processed rice, and derived income). Enhanced empowerment of women will take place only after substantial transformative changes have taken place in the mind-sets and behavior of all actors in the research-for-development arena and in the rice value chain, from grassroots to leadership, among both men and women. Hence, GRiSP’s gender strategy included important components of capacity building and training.

Since 2010, GRiSP made considerable effort to mainstream gender in research and development projects. In light of the minimum standard guidelines issued by

the CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network in 2014, a gender inclusive survey and sampling protocol was developed to collect gender-disaggregated data. GRiSP developed a comprehensive quantitative gender module to measure empowerment gaps in rice farming and to identify women’s constraints. A qualitative framework of gender empowerment was also developed and tested (Rutsaert et al 2015). Innovative data collection techniques were used to gather information about women’s role in rice farming and identify gender specific barriers and inequalities in South and Southeast Asian economies (GRiSP 2015).

Since 2010, many studies in South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America have added weight to the importance of women’s contributions to all parts of the rice value chain (e.g. Ojehomon 2014; Rutsaert et al 2015; Twyman et al 2015). In addition to these broad “baseline” gender studies, specific studies have investigated the constraints that women face in the rice sector in more detail (e.g. Akter et al 2015; Fisher et al 2015). The conclusion of such studies was that women make significant contributions to rice farming, processing, and marketing. Their roles are defined by farming practices and sociocultural norms across countries. In Asia and South America, women are primarily involved in crop establishment, harvesting, and post harvesting activities while men take the lead in land preparation, crop management, machine operation, and marketing. In Africa, women play a more prominent role in agriculture by performing most of the farm activities except for land preparation. Although women have different levels and capacity of involvement in rice farming and rice value chains in different countries and they face different (levels of) constraints, a general tendency exists

for women farmers to be overburdened by manual backbreaking work and they have less access to information and inputs (new technologies and finance) and to be less involved in decision making and control over income and assets than men. Studies outside GRiSP have shown that such gender inequalities reduce women-managed farm productivity by 20–30% compared to farms managed by men (FAO 2011). Gender inequality also hinders the progress of other development outcomes such as family planning; maternal, newborn and child health; nutrition; education; and food security (Gates 2014).

GRiSP studies showed that women are increasingly taking up lead role in rice farming due to increase in male outmigration to urban areas (Mohanty 2014). As male outmigration is likely to accelerate in the future as a result of climate change-induced stress and the increasing trend of nonfarm employment, the role of women in agriculture will continue to become prominent. Hence, empowering rural women and increasing their access to resources, inputs, information, and services are keys to achieve agricultural development.

Other studies, reported in Women in Motion and IRRI Gender Blogs, investigated the impacts of new rice technologies and of enabling actions targeted specifically at the empowerment of women farmers such as ensuring women's access to seeds and seed preservation training (Cueno 2014, Villanueva 2014). The conclusion of these studies was that positive contributions to the empowerment and equity of women can be made by (1) taking their specific needs and preferences into account when developing new rice technologies; (2) specifically targeting women in dissemination and capacity development on such new technologies (see, for example, Burundi women in rice farming, Women at the heart of technology delivery); and (3) developing their entrepreneurial skills as businesspersons and service providers (see, for example, "enhanced marketing skills",

"InfoLadies extension", "Women introduce mechanized farming in Bihar").

The GRiSP gender research took into account women's vulnerability to changes and shocks in their natural resource base, which are increasing and becoming exacerbated by climate change (Akongo 2014, Mehar 2014). Women who are most likely to be poor and marginalized cultivate low-lying farm land, which is prone to flooding or saline intrusion. Smallholder women farmers are thus disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate variability and other weather shocks, with very little means to cope or adapt. Women are also significantly more risk averse than men, a trait that may lead to aversion to new technologies (e.g., improved rice varieties and climate-smart technologies). This implies that gender difference in climate change vulnerability and heterogeneity in risk preference are important considerations for designing effective technology targeting strategies. GRiSP research results also noted the prevalence of gender stereotypes and social restrictions that often exclude women from rice research and extension programs (Rutsaert et al 2015). Consequently, women face constraints that limit their potential roles as leaders and as farmers in increasing rice productivity and in disseminating technologies through their social networks.

Based on the findings of the previous research in GRiSP, the following priorities have been identified for gender research in RICE:

1. increased opportunities for women's employment throughout the rice value chain
2. increased women's access to seed and extension services
3. improved productivity and reduced women's drudgery through mechanization
4. increased productivity, income, and nutritional status for women
5. increased women's adaptive capacity to climate change through stress-tolerant

varieties, climate-smart technologies, and diversification.

Overview of how gender will be operationalized

Gender mainstreaming will be addressed by integrating gender equality issues into design, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of RICE and its FPs. Transformative processes will be fostered to ensure that RICE researchers actively take into account the gender-specific barriers and needs of actors in rice value chains, and become cognizant of gender-differentiated impacts of the adoption of new technologies. For each FP, specific entry points identified during GRiSP will be taken further to enhance gender equity and promote women's empowerment (see section 1.0.4 of the RICE proposal). Special attention has been given to gender during the process of indicator development to facilitate adequate targeting, monitoring, and reporting. All RICE sub-IDO, IDO and SLO indicators and target populations (where relevant and feasible) will be disaggregated by gender and expressed as male and female individuals rather than as households.

Research priority, FPs 1 and 2. The analysis of gender gaps and the cross-cutting and synthesizing gender-specific research will be carried out in FP1. Research under FP1 will focus on (1) understanding specific gender roles in rice farming and rice value chains, (2) identification of gender-specific constraints and needs for technology, (3) development of opportunities to overcome barriers and innovation of pro-gender technologies, and (4) targeting. Special attention will be given to strengthening women's entrepreneurial skills in rice farming, processing, and marketing. FPs 1 and 2 will also identify gender- and age-differentiated impacts of rice-related technologies and the changing role of women in rice farming. Women farmers will be targeted as beneficiaries of new

rice varieties, and women farmers and entrepreneurs will be trained on seed multiplication, distribution, and marketing. FPs 1 and 2 will involve the development of multistakeholder platforms that involve women's groups and women-oriented NGOs, and through capacity development of women. Special attention will be given in FP2 to the development and dissemination of postharvest technologies that specifically increase women's productivity and reduce their drudgery such as improved harvesters, threshers, mills, and dryers.

Household surveys, farm level analysis, key informant interviews and focus-group discussions will be the main research methodologies. Where available, open-access secondary data collected by government and international agencies will be used for preliminary socioeconomic assessment. Socioeconomic data will be combined with spatial data (e.g., GIS and remote sensing) to develop gender-inclusive targeting strategies. A stocktaking exercise to be undertaken in 2016 will synthesize the results from the large-scale baseline surveys conducted in 2013–2015. The findings of the survey will reveal new knowledge gaps, guide a next update of the gender strategy, and set new priorities and pathways for research. Transformative changes will be facilitated through the development and dissemination of policy briefs, awareness raising, advocacy events, inclusion of gender aspects in planning workshops, training of own staff and NARES partners on gender and diversity, and working with NARES partners in developing-country/site-specific gender action plans.

Research priority, FPs 3–5. FP3 will develop and deliver a wide range of technologies and farming options to close yield gaps, reduce production risk by helping women farmers adapt to climate change and other abiotic shocks, and increase women's income generation opportunities and nutritional security. It will introduce and evaluate new short-duration varieties (developed in FP 5) that

allow the introduction of other crops such as vegetables into the farming system. It will also foster farm diversification to increase nutritional diversity and quality, e.g., through introducing fish and livestock—husbandry activities typically undertaken by women. Special attention will be given to the development and dissemination of production technologies that specifically increase women's productivity and reduce their drudgery such as mechanized crop establishment. In collaboration with FP1, negative unintended consequences of FP2 products will be identified and mitigating actions will be developed. For example, the introduction of mechanized transplanting alleviates women from backbreaking labor, but may also deprive them of income. Hence, together with FP1, collaboration will be established with women's groups and NGOs to assist those women in moving to more remunerative employment (or other use of their time). One example is the training of women as service providers of mechanized transplanting services.

In FPs 4 and 5, the genetic basis for rice plant traits preferred by women farmers and consumers such as cooking time and specific taste characteristics will be discovered. Also, nutritious and healthy rice varieties will be developed. In FP5, special attention will be given to the development of new rice varieties that take women farmers' and consumers' preferences into account. Participatory varietal selection, taste panels, and household surveys will all involve 30–50% women. The development of varieties with improved productivity in unfavorable environments, either as a result of better stress tolerance or higher water-use and nutrient-use efficiency will benefit particularly women farmers as they are more likely to be resource constrained and occupy

farm land in unfavorable areas where male outmigration rate is high.

These new varieties will be disseminated in FP1 through a women-centric technology delivery approach. At least 30% of the target seed recipients will be women. In collaboration with FP1, sustained access by women and marginal farmers to seeds will be ensured by fostering the development of a seed system. FP1 will develop and test business models that will enable some women to become seed entrepreneurs. The impact of these new varieties on farmers' income, women's empowerment, and nutritional security will be assessed by FP1. Adoption studies will identify the adoption rates and diffusion paths under different dissemination models in different environments.

Monitoring and tracking

FP1 will be responsible for monitoring and tracking the progress of the gender-specific outcomes through its gender-responsive monitoring, learning, and evaluation (MLE) system (Annex 6). The MLE system will involve periodic and systematic collection and analysis of R&D, extension, and dissemination data. All these data (where relevant) will be disaggregated by gender. In addition to monitoring and tracking gender-specific outcomes, the MLE data will allow monitoring of adoption rates, evaluation of seed diffusion pathways, and identification of gender-specific constraints for accessing improved varieties. FP1 will be responsible for providing feedback to scientists on improvements in technology development and targeting and to generate knowledge for out-scaling RICE products and services.