

GENDER-RESPONSIVE SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Key messages

Women in developing regions affected by desertification, land degradation and drought produce 60–80 per cent of the food grown. Their role in sustainable land management is thus crucial.

Gender is important in SLM adoption and upscaling. Men and women differ in their adoption preferences and patterns.

Increasing awareness is required about women's roles both in food production and land management.

Technologies are not gender-neutral: there is gender-response to policies, institutions and customs.

Gender-blind technology design and dissemination reduces the potential impact for adoption – and may even reinforce existing prejudices and inequalities.

Gender-related issues in SLM should always be assessed in context-specific, as well as general ways, and acted upon accordingly.

Women's visibility needs to be raised and their voices heard more loudly to strengthen their access to productive resources, information and training.

Women's capacity to exercise their legal rights to land and resources on equal terms with men is influenced by customary, religious or traditional laws and practices.

Legal awareness and access to land, its resources, and security of tenure for women are key to gender-equal upscaling of SLM practices.

Equal access to productive and financial resources must be addressed to increase women's decision-making capacity, and consequently their uptake of SLM.

Access to information and extension services must be tailored to gender- and context-specific needs (e.g. literacy level, workload, timing of activities).

Technology Group Profiles



Soil and Vegetation – Nurturing the soil: keeping it fertile and maintaining green cover on the surface

«Discussing gender-related issues raised awareness on its importance in land management as well as household income generation and farming practices»

land user from Svaymeanchey Satrej Samaki Agricultural Cooperative, Cambodia



Agroforestry and Homegardens – Mixed production systems in the farm and at home: looking after land and families

«Women and men debated on how to guarantee equal opportunities in decision making, participation, and equal and fair distribution of benefits»

land user from Pambadeniya Women Group, Sri Lanka



Water and Irrigation – Making optimal use of water: protecting and harnessing water resources

«Empower women in decision-making and participation in all steps of the rice production»

land user from Sayeng village, Lao PDR



Feed and Fodder for Livestock – Improving animal nutrition: managing rangeland, pastures and crop-livestock systems

«Improved access to time, finance, knowledge and skills can promote the Technology for both men and women»

land user from Nyamiyaga Zero grazing farmers group, Uganda



Natural and Semi-Natural Forests – Trees: providing hotspots of biodiversity and carbon capture for people and nature

«It is relevant to everyone, women and men, to know and understand their tenure rights in order to improve gender equality and sustainable land management»

land user from Los Chochos, Colombia