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Engendering Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods in Africa

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Gendered perspectives

- Progressive recognition of the social dimension of climate change (human chapters in IPCC WGII)
- Increasing evidence of the way men and women, boys and girls, older people, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities are vulnerable to impacts of CC
- Mobilization of different capacities to build resilience

Gendered perspectives

- A greater awareness of the social equality dimension of CC
- Use of a social inclusion lens, whether it be gender, age or disability, in responses to CC
- Suitability of CSA interventions to the local context and the extent to which they address existing social dynamics and power relations

Gendered perspectives

- Gendered patterns of labour and responsibility produce differentiated vulnerabilities and distinct vulnerabilities
- A gendered perspective takes into consideration the social differences between men and women, by analysing and understanding their experiences as time and location specific

Gendered perspectives

- Gender categories gain meaning not just through opposition to each other (binary) but also with reference to other social markers (age, income and ethnicity)
- A gendered perspective highlights the extent to which gender dynamics and other social categories influence and determine climate change adaptation and mitigation responses

Gendered perspectives

- Adequate attention to gender issues must be embedded in a wider recognition of social differences and inequalities
- Gender as a social stratifier such as race, class, ethnicity, religion, place and age that in themselves all affect gender roles and meanings

Gendered perspectives

- A gendered-perspective is not just concerned with women as an oppressed homogenous group
- But gives equal consideration to differences between men and women in terms of their status, roles, problems and needs and according to their social, cultural or geographical contexts

Importance of gender in CSA

- Gender-based inequalities and social exclusion are key factors undermining people's and community's capacities to cope with and recover from the impacts of climate change
- In African agrarian communities access to land is often influenced by gender inequalities

Importance of gender in CSA

- These inequalities include disparities between men's and women's abilities to buy and hold land, and access to communally held or managed land
- Such inequalities have wide-reaching gendered impacts on agricultural activity which can be exacerbated by the impacts of climate variability and change.

Importance of gender in CSA

- Building and enhancing people's resilience thus requires an understanding of social norms, and other societal factors
- This is because these factors maintain gendered power inequalities in different contexts and curtail women and girls', as well as boys' and men's abilities to reduce their vulnerability to climate change induced shocks



Importance of gender in CSA

- By aggregating information on vulnerability in binary gender categories, we are likely to overlook the needs of significant portions of a community that we mean to target with CSA interventions
- Shifts in agricultural patterns may change gender-based division of labour resulting in different levels of exposure, opportunities and unequal workloads

Importance of gender in CSA

- The identification of gender roles does not often do justice to the actual complexity which characterizes the social and economic lives of the rural communities in Africa
- Turkana (Kenya) women-headed households more vulnerable than married women because they cannot own livestock if they do not have a son or cannot afford to employ a

Importance of gender in CSA

- Age can be a significant social modifier of gender that produces different challenges and opportunities
- Among the Dagomba women in Northern Ghana, their social status changes throughout the course of their lives, for instance marriage (junior wife) and childbearing (cooking wife)

Importance of gender in CSA

- Variable gender expectations associated with particular ethnicities produce different adaptive capacities in similar rural settings
- In Burkina Faso the Fulbe ethnic group have not adopted the same livelihood activities in response to CC as their Rimaibe counterparts

Importance of gender in CSA

- Gender often intersects with livelihood to produce variable vulnerabilities and adaptation decisions/outcomes
- Women engaged in different occupations - women fisher folk (post-harvest technology and seasonal forecasts) and women producing charcoal (seasonal forecasts and sedentary pasture technologies)

Gender mainstreaming – myth or reality?

- The integration of gender concerns within policies and projects to overcome issues of marginalisation, invisibility and under-representation
- Gender is often reluctantly acknowledged as important by practitioners and therefore not mainstreamed as a cross-cutting issue within other areas

Gender mainstreaming – myth or reality?

- Mainstreaming approaches tend to be seen as the responsibility of gender coordinators or gender focal points alone and often fail to link gender to other social relations
- Several interventions seeking to build resilience have been predominantly gender blind

Gender mainstreaming – myth or reality?

- Do not systematically separate needs and vulnerabilities of women and men
- Assume male-headed households
- Underestimate or overlook people's skills, knowledge and capacities
- Do not include beneficiaries' voices in the design of CSA projects

Gender mainstreaming – myth or reality?

- While gender mainstreaming has become a familiar exhortation, it is clear that it too often fails in practice
- A gender sensitive analysis must recognise and document the different roles, status and power between men and women and within gender groups themselves.
- It enables a better understanding of people's vulnerabilities and capacities in the CSA

Gender mainstreaming – myth or reality?

- Focusing on women in isolation ignores the relational nature of gendered power and the interdependency of women and men
- A gender focus on climate change must look at both the vulnerabilities of women and men and the ways in which their knowledge and situations make them resilient

Conclusion

- A gender sensitive M&E measures to what extent a project's outputs affect and benefit gender groups
- How do it address their respective needs vulnerabilities and capacities?
- How do it improve women's and men's wellbeing

Conclusion

- Adequate M&E helps in examining the impact of CSA interventions to:
 - enhance people's resilience
 - transform unjust power relations
 - how the two outcomes mutually reinforce each other