

A brief on the Workshop organized by the Systemwide PRGA entitled “Repositioning Gender Responsive Participatory Research (GRPR) in Times of Change” was held June 16-18, 2010 at the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia. Prepared by Mary Njenga; Email: m.njenga@cgiar.org

Mary Njenga is a Kenyan researcher in urban agriculture and environment and sat in CIP's Gender and Diversity Committee in 2004-2009. During the same period she led the development of CIP's gender guidelines that were approved by the board with minor revisions in March 2010. Mary has published widely on gender and urban agriculture and she is currently undertaking a PhD on environmental science at the University of Nairobi under the lead supervision of Prof. Nancy Karanja with affiliation to World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) under the supervision of Dr. Ramni Jamnadass. Mary is an African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) 2009 fellow, a fellowship coordinated by the Gender and Diversity (G&D) program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Dr. Yvonne Pinto, Director, Agricultural Learning and Impacts Network (ALINe) at the Institute for Development Studies, UK is Mary's mentor under the AWARD fellowship. Mary was one of the participants in the workshop.

The **Participatory Research and Gender Analysis (PRGA)** program was established in 1997, as a CGIAR Systemwide initiative to identify, adopt, adapt and develop suitable participatory and gender-analysis methodologies for agricultural research: build capacity in the use and understanding of these methodologies in the CG and its partners; develop appropriate research partnerships and networks; and promote the institutionalization of gender-sensitive participatory research approaches (within the CG and its partners). The PRGA system wide initiative is closed and it is now a program of CIAT. The “Repositioning” workshop is the last activity of the system wide initiative.

Objectives of the workshop and how they were met: (i) identify practical ways to revitalize gender-responsive participatory research (GRPR) that meets the needs of women and men smallholder farmers, (ii) explore the relevance of GRPR taking into account the results of the demand analysis conducted at the CGIAR system level and also including partner organizations, and (iii) design a strategy to support GRPA in the ‘new’ CGIAR, including the context of the Mega-Programs. A demand analysis was commissioned by PRGA program and implemented by CIAT Facilitating Impact Team (FIT) to all participants prior to the workshop. Dr. Ruben Echeverría, CIAT DG welcomed participants while Dr. John Dixon, chair of the PRGA Program Advisory Committee, gave a background of the program which was complemented by a video talk by Dr. Jacqueline Ashby, the founder of PRGA. Presentations were made on participatory research and gender in plant breeding, climate change, natural resource management, market chains and agriculture and nutrition. The mega-programs were explained. Participants shared their experiences through market place, open space and talks delivered via the internet. Group work with plenary reflections was carried out and Fish bowl and anidea tree on GRPR were other techniques used.



The workshop was organized and facilitated by Patricia, Claudia, Angela, Freddy, Simone, Sophie, Katherine and Guy. Over 40 scientists from the CGIAR, NGO's, NARS, and academia participated.

Highlight of the key outputs of the workshop

(i) Strategy for global gender responsive participatory research (GRPR)

The vision will include:

- Research, advocacy and development as part of whole for GRPR.
- GRPR inclusion in all stages of research cycle, institutionalization with a critical mass of scientists and leaders with gender sensitive practice and M&E.
- GRPR being driven by end users with benefits including empowerment of local communities with no harm to women and policy influencing with gender disaggregated data for poverty alleviation and food and nutrition security while responding to new challenges in plants, climate change, natural resource management, nutrition and market chains.

Pathways for success will include:

- Reflection on enabling organizational environment, support to champions, valuing of women champions, long term commitment, partnerships, capacity for GRPR, development of policy and budget for GRPR in all CG's and Mega Programs.

Implementation mechanism requires:

- Establishment of a network of researchers and champions drawn from all Mega-Programs, CG Centres, NARS, NGOs and other development partners working on GRPR.
- The former PRGA Program Advisory Committee (PAC) became an interim committee charged with guiding the Strategy and Work Plan towards its implementation.

(ii) Inputs to Mega Programs

Target outcomes for women and men:

- Increased and effective participation of women
- Gender disaggregated adoption of innovations
- Equitable access to technology

Approaches and methods that needs to be applied:

- GRPR used to identify priorities, develop technologies
- Capacity building for partners
- GRPR used in assessing impacts
- Financial investment for GRPR in all mega programs
- Research for advocacy

(iii) Strategy for PRGA program of CIAT (CIAT has incorporated the former PRGA into its research programs)

PRGA will put together evidence on success on gender responsive agricultural research for development.

- PRGA will continue to advise CIAT and other stakeholders through its existing networks and build new ones.
- PRGA will work with partners in the CGIAR such as G&D, IFPRI and others outside in a complimentary way for GRPR.
- Dr. John Dixon, will chair a technical advisory panel for the PRGA program of CIAT on its strategy and how it can contribute to the GRPR in the Mega-Programs.

Website: <http://www.prgaprogram.org/rptc/>