

Gender-responsive participatory research: ICRISAT experiences

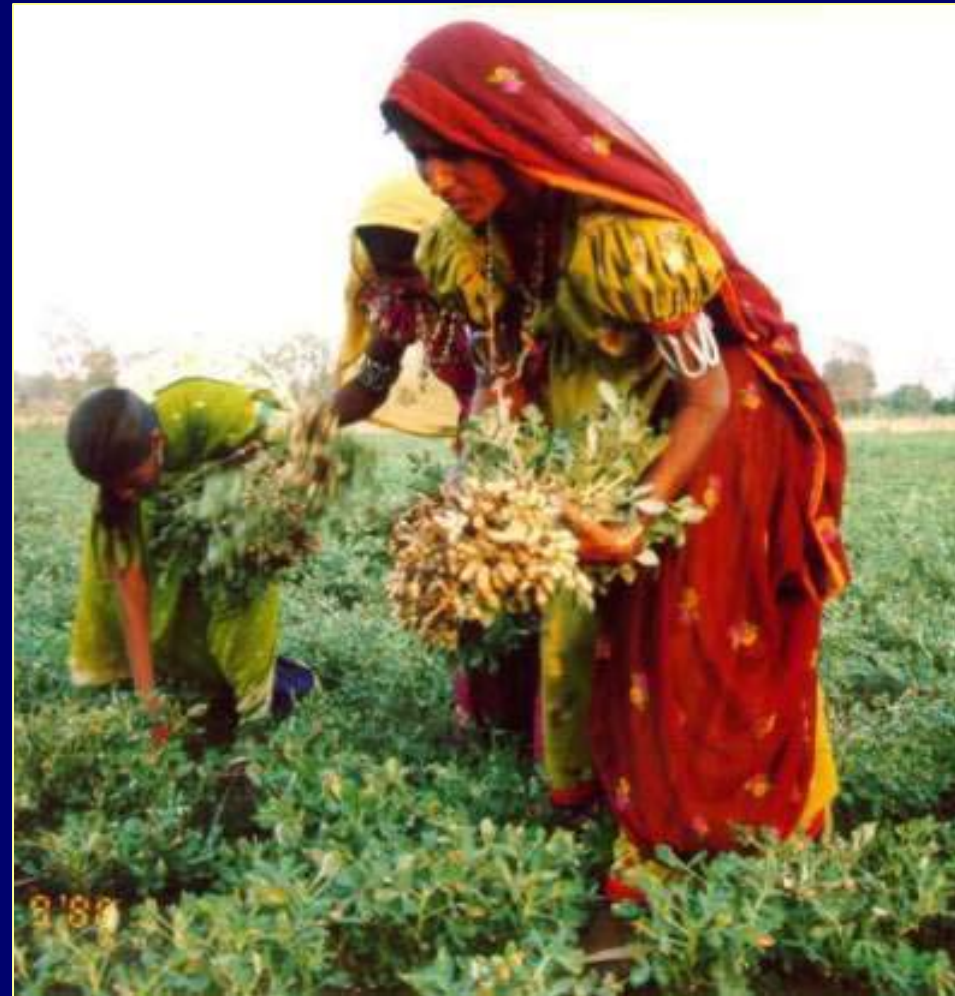
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Background

ICRISAT recognizes

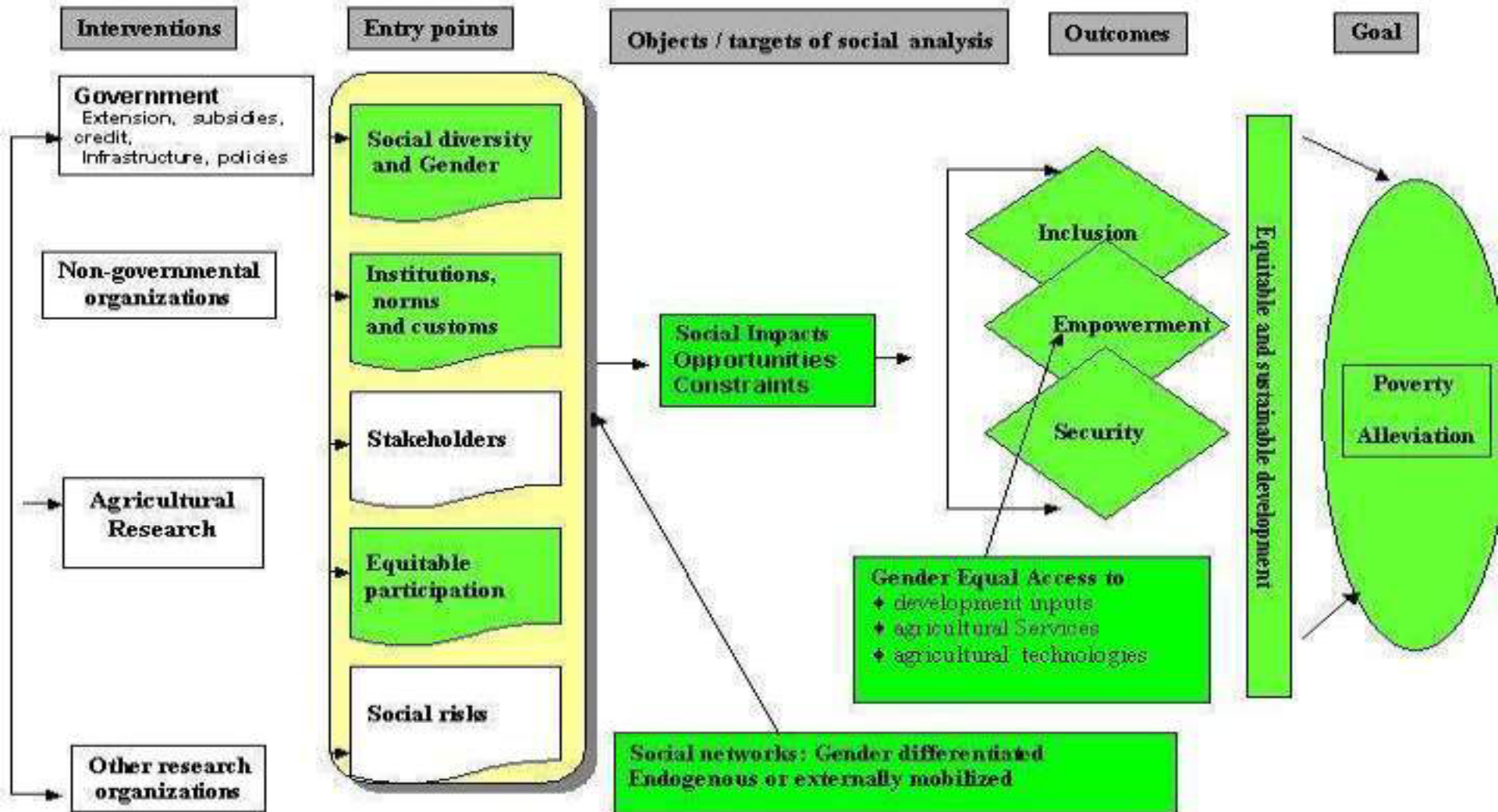
- the important role of women in agriculture
- needs as resource users and managers
- knowledge and support of these essential players key
 - ❑ ensuring that development is sustainable
 - ❑ that environment is safeguarded for future generations



Strategies to incorporate a gender perspective

- Female illiteracy to calculate the **equity index** - used to prioritize research themes
- **Multidisciplinary Gender Analysis Committee**
- **Women Farmers' Days** in Asia and Africa
- **Capacity building** of farm men and women as well as of research scholars
- **Mainstreaming** participatory research, gender and social analysis in the **crop improvement** and **NRM** projects

Conceptual framework for gender analysis



Gender mainstreaming

High quality
quantitative
and qualitative
gender
differentiated
data
at the micro-
and meso-level



Genetic enhancement (breeding) research

Gender differences are considered in

- varietal trait ranking and impact assessment
- participatory breeding and participatory crop management research activities.



Matrix ranking of groundnut varieties - women group

Criteria	SB 11	ICGS 21	ICGS 11	ICGS 76
Yield	+	3	5	4
Taste	5	0	5	4
Fodder	5	5	4	4
Seed size	2	4	3	4
Market price	2	3	4	5
Overall performance	0	3	4	2

Scale: 9-0 9- Best performance 0-Least performance

Best variety Men group - ICGS 76 (Yield and market price)
Women group - ICGS 11 (Yield and taste)

User-perspectives

Differential perceptions

- Workability
- Food security
- Taste
- Drudgery



- Financial viability
- Market prices
- Fodder

Role of women in sorghum production process

- Dual roles of women – different purposes
- women, more than men, are in need of early maturing sorghum varieties
- Women's different position in the sorghum seed supply system might create new avenues for uptake of improved varieties
- Opportunities for women to become engaged with and participate in commercial sorghum seed sector

NRM research

Engendering watershed development approach

- improving rural livelihoods and increased productivity
- targeting rural development with inclusive growth targeting livelihood opportunities for women

vermicomposting

biopesticide preparation

value addition

biofuel research



NRM research

Approach of watershed development

Focus on institutional building in watershed development

Empowering community level institutions - contribute significantly in adoption of technologies and also sustainable development.



Engendering the watershed development program

Socioeconomics research

Farm-level surveys: gender-related dimensions in addition to the labor participation of women

- role of women in decision making in agricultural production, consumption, nutrition, education
- access to and control of resources
- social networks and build-up of social capital

Sampling stratification process

- suitable methods and instruments for collection of gender-disaggregated data
- producing analysis and documentation of impact of the project on women in terms of nutrition and food security, welfare and empowerment



Village Level-Studies

- Men and women
- Individual/household level
- Group/community level
- Social groups (caste) and class
- Theoretical and empirical
- Qualitative and quantitative
- Insights and testing hypotheses
- Institutions



understand the circumstances under which people in the rural economies live
devise strategies that will help reverse the trend of widespread poverty and food insecurity

Study on social networks

PhD research

How this thesis will contribute to the stock of knowledge

- Mapping the network architecture
- Role of social networks in influencing technology uptake
- Interdisciplinary research using quantitative as well as qualitative methods
- Sociological study

Gender is an integral component in both

Linking gender analysis with social network analysis

Distinct and specific roles, responsibilities and knowledge of women; perspectives

- Social networks in increasing women's access to resources and opportunities
- Men and women build and utilize networks differently – networks that facilitate and increase access to resources
- Explore how networks function as assets for men and women
- Interactions between men and women that are fostered, influenced, affected by networks of various kinds, at different point of time, for different purposes

When everything connects

Social networks, technology adoption and adaptive capacity in the semi-arid tropics

Tracking change in rural poverty



- To gain a greater understanding of the experiences of poverty – economic, psychological and sociological aspects
- To understand and describe social processes and social change
- To tap subtle issues - perceptions, attitudes, feelings and RELATIONSHIPS.

Social networks – element of social capital

- Not just about 'connectedness' - but the position of the individual in the network; the relationship between objects/nodes
- Study of how the social structure of relationships around a person, group, or organization affects beliefs, behaviors and outcomes
- An understanding of networks is essential to understand action in relation to its social context
- Essential for understanding social dynamics - "wiring" for socio-cultural processes.



Mapping network architecture

- Complete census of the village**
- List all individual members of the household – age, education, relationship to head, occupation.
- List all the immediate relatives of the family, where they live, distance, and the interactions with them.

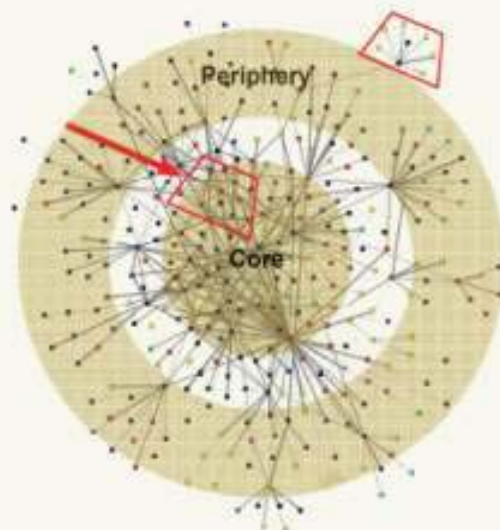


Transactions

- List the major transactions the household/members have with other people in the village – economic, socio-cultural, political – and information, especially about agricultural technology
- Identify the cause of the people with whom they have transactions, assign a unique id for each



Farmers' decision-making has multiple goals, as it includes social constraints in addition to economic objectives. Independence, quality of life, or social bonding are non-monetary goals that are valued in addition to monetary goals.



Structure of networks and the dynamics of local processes can have a dramatic impact on how locally interactive, context-dependent actions lead to outcomes at higher, more aggregated levels (eg, at the level of communities, or populations).

We get information on

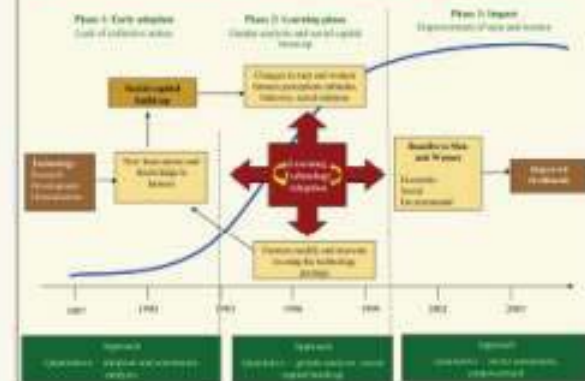
- Who is connected to whom?
- What is the social and geographical range of people's connections?
- How do people use their connections?
- The focal/nodal points



Technology adoption

- What are the social networks that support the development and sharing of agricultural knowledge and innovation?
- Which informal networks of cooperation and sharing (of labor, implements and information) are important in current agricultural practices?
- What are the networks of information to which migrants have access in urban and rural areas and how does this influence their (family's) involvement in agriculture back home?

Stages of adoption pathway leading to empowerment



Adaptive capacity

- Shaped through the dynamics of social relationships
- Situated in the wider, scaled processes of social life and in a context of multiple risks.
- Multi-layered and many faceted social ties of everyday social interaction - community's best resource
- Focus on formal organizational capacity as well as informal social networks.

Gender related dimensions for targeted legume technologies

Labor and time allocation:

- Women are engaged in almost all activities with respect to crop production including seed sowing, weeding, harvesting, cleaning, seed selection and storage and household activities
- More than 40% of time on farm activities by women
- Marketing activities are mostly carried out by men

Decision making

- Women play a dominant role in decision making with respect to education of children, household nutrition, marriage and health of family members
- Men take decisions on economic matters
- Joint decisions on migration, and crop production
- Where men migrate to urban areas for livelihood, women are responsible for household and crop production and involved in all decisions

Access to resources and control over resources by women

- Poor access and ownership to resources
- Limited access to utilization of resources
- Livestock and small implements owned mostly by women
- Control over income is by men

Gender related dimensions for targeted legume technologies

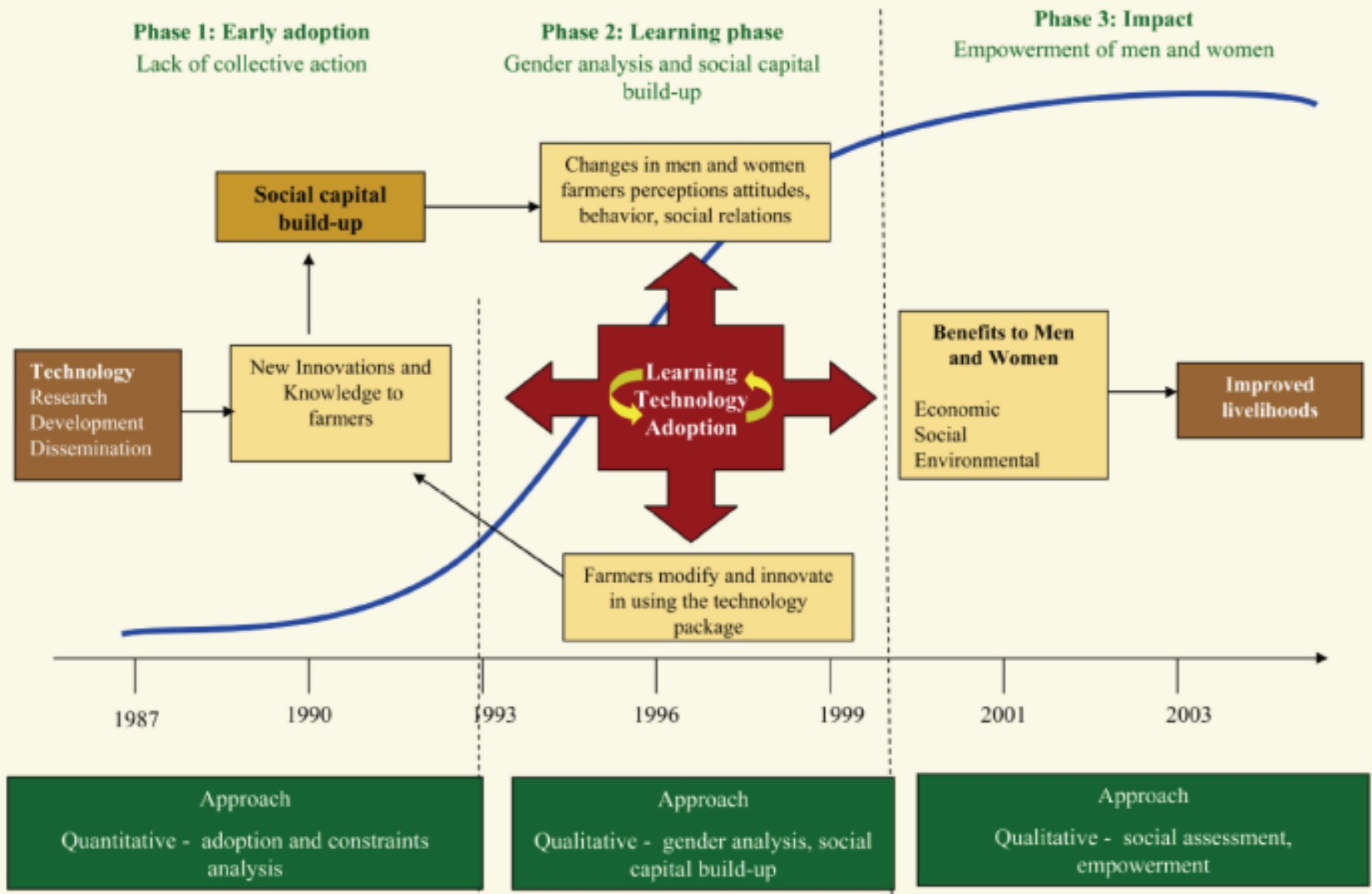
Capacity building and participation in project activities

Limited or non-participation of women in mother baby trials

Sources of information

- Non-formal sources (relatives, friends and neighbors) constitute the single most important source of information to the farm women on government programmes and development activities
- Direct contact with public extension, mass media and social network constitute the important information systems available for farmers. The study found social networks and mass media to be important information systems used by farmers in Eastern Kenya

Stages of adoption pathway leading to empowerment



Impacts on women

Direct and indirect gender related impacts:

- Increased social benefits/empowerment
- Greater control of the decision making process
- Increased economic benefits
- Employment opportunities
- Build up of farmer capacity to identify problems and do research for their own benefit
- Acceptance of technical improvements



VASAT Innovative knowledge sharing processes

- Emphasis on building leadership among women members of partner organizations
- Innovative methods of knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening using non-formal education techniques
- Recognized - national honors bestowed by the President of India, and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)



Innovative knowledge sharing processes

- Examples - Adarsha Mahila Samaikhya, India; Community radio station, Kahe, Niger, Africa



- Broad recognition that in the SAT region, women are major stakeholders in production: farming and livestock management. This has led to focus on women-led CBO's and groups as partners in innovative knowledge sharing processes

***What has evolved
over the years***



Implementation

- Data disaggregated by gender
- Participation of men and women in the consultation process
- Formal and informal groups and organizations – men and women
- Socio, cultural, religious and other constraints faced by women
- Going beyond labor-time allocation and decision making; including other priorities like nutrition, diversifying livelihoods, knowledge, etc
- Going beyond quantity of production as its only objective, to include taste, food quality, nutrition, processing, resilience, and other characteristics that are particularly important to women
- Initiated a focus on **Assets** of both men and women

Overarching issues

- The practical implications of the different roles and status of women and men – culture and context specific
- Strategic potential of the intervention for enhancing the status of women and promoting greater opportunities for them
- Gender in the innovation process
- Contribution- long-term, to the significant involvement of women and their empowerment as leaders

Current initiatives

- Participatory varietal selection through field days involving women in Kenya
- Pigeonpea management and seed production training for women in Eastern Kenya
- Enhancing grain legumes' productivity, and production and the incomes of poor farmers in drought-prone areas of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia
 - Focus on targeting and seed delivery efforts



Current /pipeline initiatives

- Improving livelihoods of pearl millet and sorghum farmers in WCA by enhancing their capacity to adapt new varieties and crop-protection innovations to their specific needs
- Improving the ability of Sahelian women self-help organizations to cope with environmental and socio-economic risks in agriculture by cultivating degraded lands

Broader level impacts of integrating gender in research

There is a need to:

- Further strengthen skills and capacities for gender responsive and participatory technology development
- Establish best practice for gender-disaggregated data collection, analysis and reporting
 - identification of needs, priorities, and impacts of agricultural R&D
- Documentation, synthesis and sharing of successes and failures in gender-responsive agricultural R&D
 - Learning and innovation process

Thank You !

