



A Strategy for Gender-Responsive Participatory Research in International Agricultural Research

Cali, June 22, 2010—The Workshop on Repositioning Gender-Responsive Participatory Research in Times of Change (CIAT headquarters, Cali, Colombia, June 16–18, 2010) brought together about 40 experts involved in gender and participatory research. They came from the CGIAR, national agricultural research systems (NARS), NGOs, academia, regional organizations and the UN—a broad range of stakeholders from around the world.

The participants reviewed a demand analysis, discussed the state-of-the-art and role of gender-responsive participatory research (GRPR) in agriculture, and constructed the elements for a strategy and action plan for the use of GRPR in international agricultural research for the coming years.

A number of workshop outputs will be circulated over the coming months (July–August):

- A Global Strategy for GRPR
- An Action Plan for implementing the Strategy
- A Plan of Essential Elements of GRPR in the CGIAR Mega-Programs
- A Strategy and Action Plan for the CIAT PRGA Program
- A Workshop Report (focusing on the process, insights and outcomes of the workshop)
- Publication of the overview papers specifically commissioned for the workshop
- An updated and enriched version of the Demand Analysis Report
- The Workshop Proceedings (plus various other relevant documents).

The Vision is to see GRPR institutionalized in an inclusive multi-stakeholder international agricultural research system (CGIAR, NARS, NGOs and academia) and included in all stages of the research cycle to increase the efficiency and efficacy of poverty alleviation through improved food security and nutrition.

For this to happen, advocacy needs to be included with research and development to create a coherent whole—as advocacy is not generally considered a major focus of the CG System, there is a major complementary role here for other stakeholders such as NGOs. A multiplicity of stakeholders is also needed to ensure critical mass. In practice, GRPR is driven by end-users, and empowers them to address their own needs. GRPR is responsive to changing conditions, whether in the social, bio-physical, economic or any other sphere. For GRPR to succeed, scientists and managers need to consider gender in their research practices and evaluation—in many cases they will make changes as great as those they expect from farmers.

GRPR needs to be institutionalized urgently in the face of rapid climate change and food crises, and there is currently a ‘window of opportunity’ afforded by a favorable policy environment, and the plethora of information and technology.

Various *Pathways for Success* were identified at the workshop covering such areas as: funding; policies; conditions; culture; partnerships and linkages; awareness-raising and capacity-building; methods; accountability; and evaluation. Details will be elaborated in the forthcoming Strategy and Action Plan.

With the CGIAR decision to discontinue its Systemwide Programs, the PRGA Program has now transitioned into the PRGA Program in CIAT.

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