

Gender in Agriculture



Checklist for Integrating Gender-Related Issues into Agriculture Water Management

Agricultural Water Management (AWM) includes irrigation and drainage, water management in rain-fed agriculture, recycled water reuse, water and land conservation, and watershed management. AWM is essential to food security, but it also plays a fundamental role in building human capital in rural areas. The overwhelming emphasis on technical and engineering matters characteristic of AWM in recent decades has now expanded outward to encompass social and environmental concerns.

RATIONALE FOR INTEGRATING GENDER INTO AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT

Men and women often have different roles and needs in the use and management of water resources. In addition, access to, rights to and control over water (and land) also tends to be different for women and men worldwide and in part, reflects existing social relations in power. Policy and decision-making regarding land and water management have traditionally been the domain of men. As a result policies and programs do not always consider women's unique knowledge, needs or unequal ownership and benefit rights.

Particularly successful Agricultural Water Management (AWM) projects:

- Prevent elites from capturing project benefits and extends these benefits to a much larger population base to include large and small scale women farmers, landless women, female land owners and wage laborers as well as other categories of women farmers;
- Address both women and men's domestic and productive water needs. To date, many single-sector projects are implemented for either irrigation or domestic water supply, rather than both, which overlooks the multiple-use needs of rural communities;
- Explicitly seek to increase women's capacity to participate in domestic water and irrigation projects and plan for ways to increase women's access to other productive resources;
- Encompass an approach that takes into account the social, economic and institutional realities of the project area and allocates resources to studies which consider these issues in the planning stage.

AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT: Checklist of Gender-related Issues and Activities during the Project Cycle

	Identification and preparation	Design and appraisal	Implementation and supervision	Implementation completion
Socioeconomic issues	Identify livelihood systems and water demand, by gender and socio-economic class (e.g., land owners, tenants, migrants)	Plan for equitable membership and leadership structure of water user organizations (WUOs) (e.g., male, female, mixed groups)	Monitor percentage of women as WUO members and leaders	Increases in women's and men's access to and control over agricultural water of sufficient quantity and quality (including for multiple purposes)
	Include focus on customary tenure arrangements and homestead production (incl. livestock, horticulture, and small industry) to determine range of water users and uses	Design for multi-sectoral linkages (e.g., water services, plus agricultural extension, market development, credit services) targeted to men and women	Specify participation of men and women in design, construction, and maintenance of water infrastructure	Changes in frequency and severity of local-level water disputes
	Identify prevailing water rights among all user groups	Participation by men and women throughout the project cycle	Monitor men's and women's satisfaction with their ability to participate and benefit throughout the project	Changes in land tenure and use patterns, by gender
	Assess gender distribution of heads of households	Design affirmative action for women with earmarked resources as required		Satisfaction among beneficiaries with respect to project participation
				Health, production, and income gains for women and men due to improved water security



AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT: Checklist of Gender-related Issues and Activities during the Project Cycle

(continued)

	Identification and preparation	Design and appraisal	Implementation and supervision	Implementation completion
Legal and policy	Assess policy framework, mandate and institutional structure for mainstreaming multi-purpose water services planning across water agencies	Ensure that national water policy, as well as WUO by-laws, do not require land ownership as prerequisite to WUO membership	Increased emphasis on individual and joint titling by men and women Gender-sensitive reforms in water policy, including focus on multiple use	Gender-sensitive legal and/or policy reforms as a result of project initiatives
	Joint land titling for women and men in land reclamation projects			
Institutional issues	Capacity of water and agriculture ministries and departments in dealing with gender issues	Gender-sensitive training for administrators and project staff Ensure project/ extension workers include women as staff, and that female farmers are targeted in delivery of agricultural and water services	Monitor financial hardship, if any, among users, by age and gender, of any changes in water fees resulting from project Monitor women's and men's levels of satisfaction with agricultural water management and multi-purpose water services Ensure that women and men can participate effectively in local water management and project governance Men and women have parity in training and other opportunities provided by project	Increased numbers of female technical staff in water agencies Men's and women's assessment of quality of service and responsiveness from water agency representatives Extent of use of WUO platform for conflict resolution among water users and uses Increased number and type of linkages by WUO to external organizations and government services, serving men and women Changes in reported levels of empowerment by women and men participating in project, including participation in formal governance structures
	Identify existing levels of cost recovery in irrigation management, and who pays			
	Women's and men's levels of satisfaction with water services			
Note for task teams	Be sure to assess whether local agriculture is primarily male, female or dual-farming system (incl. impact of male out-migration) as this affects project design and delivery	In land reclamation, ensure joint titling of new plots allocated; consider removing labor contribution criteria to improve access by vulnerable groups	Use participatory monitoring as part of overall M&E, and allow for mid-term course correction Monitor changes compared to gender-sensitive baseline data	Assess approach of the AWM project in a larger context of multiple-use water management (i.e., domestic, agricultural, small industry, and environmental uses)
	Establish gender-sensitive baseline data	Finalize gender-sensitive baseline data		Evaluate changes to gender-sensitive baseline data
	Use gender expertise at all stages	Use participatory methods to facilitate identification of gender-responsive actions		