Livestock – water productivity from a gendered livelihood perspective

A definition of gender...

Gender...
...refers to the relation between men and women, both perceptual and material.
...is not determined biologically, as a result of sexual characteristics, but is constructed socially.
...is a central organizing principle of societies
...often governs the processes of production and reproduction, consumption and distribution.

(FAO, 1997)
Why gender...
...70% of the poor are women

How does ILRI define poverty...
...a pronounced deprivation in human well being

Encompassing...
→ material deprivation,
→ poor health, literacy and nutrition,
→ vulnerability to shocks and changes, and
→ having little or no control over key decisions.

Livestock – water productivity → poverty alleviation
The sustainable livelihood approach...
Livestock related livelihood assets...

‘Benefits’
- nutrition
- income from animal products
- collateral
- transport & traction
- animal dung
- marriage
- funerals
- religious days
- status

What are the gender roles...

‘Costs’
- labour, knowledge
- water & feed
- overgrazing
- shelter
- buy animals, feed, medicine
- sharing of oxen, donkeys
- milk association
- donation of animals

What are the gender roles...
An example of change...

... time allocation (looking after children, traditional tea, help in the fields, milk association, school)

... human health (quality of water)

... increased livestock production (frequency of drinking, volume of consumption, feed, energy)