

Gender equality and social inclusion



An estimated 1.6 billion people worldwide depend in various ways and to different degrees on forests, trees and agroforestry for their livelihoods. Forests, trees and agroforestry have the potential to address many sustainable development challenges. Achieving this potential, providing appropriate solutions and leveraging opportunities requires understanding the complex roles of gender and other factors of social differentiation, such as age, in shaping livelihood and resource management decisions, governance, and the distribution of benefits from tree-based systems. This is why gender and social analyses are embedded into each domain of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA).



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry



△ A Cameroonian woman prepares to make *okok*: a dish prepared from *eru* (*Gnetum africanum*) leaves. Photo by O. Girard/CIFOR

Why do gender equality and social inclusion matter in FTA research?

Gender equality is a human right and a fundamental condition for reaching sustainable development. However, significant inequalities exist in men and women's roles, rights and responsibilities, in how they respond to changes in forest and tree-based landscapes.

Gender roles, relations and norms, as fundamental organizing structures across cultures and societies, shape opportunities and constraints in forest, tree and agroforestry systems. They condition the ability of women and men to contribute to and benefit from positive development and environmental change. For FTA, a program with a key focus on policies, institutions and governance,

gender inequalities present structural barriers to the change that is needed to support sustainable and equitable development solutions in tree-based landscapes.

FTA works in dynamic contexts, where not only forest landscapes, but also the ambitions, interests and livelihood opportunities of younger generations are rapidly changing. FTA conducts research with younger generations, and on young people's actual and desired engagement in forest and tree-based landscapes to address the structural challenges and enhance opportunities for young women and men in tree-based landscapes.

Gender analyses for equitable solutions

FTA prioritizes a transformative approach to gender equality by focusing on structural barriers and drivers of change in tree-based and forested landscapes, and how these affect men and women's capabilities to control assets and resources, value and distribute unremunerated labor, and meaningfully participate in decision making at the household and community levels. The aim is to better understand the complexity of these barriers and develop options to dismantle them.

FTA gender research focuses on how a wide range of changes in forest and tree-based landscapes – such as the development of markets, climate change, migration, expansion of agriculture, and interventions in the name of conservation and development – affect and are influenced by women and men. FTA considers how gender

intersects with other factors of social differentiation, such as age, socioeconomic status or ethnicity, to shape these processes.

FTA generates evidence and proposes options to address the structural and institutional factors that constrain young men and women's participation in forest management, tree and forest product value chains and non-farm entrepreneurial activities. It also focuses on the aspirations, interests, skills and knowledge of young men and women, and their relation to tree-based livelihood activities. The research contributes to the development of tools, approaches, and measures that can support young men and women's capacities, interests, and opportunities in natural resource management.

Key questions

FTA's gender research addresses questions about the norms, institutions and power relations that represent structural barriers to gender equality in landscapes, and ways to redress these.

- What are the effects of different sector policies in creating constraining or enabling environments for women's access to and control over forests, trees and other productive resources?
- What types of institutional arrangements promote meaningful participation of men and women from different generational groups in decisions related to forest restoration and management?
- What are the structural causes of age- and gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, and what factors strengthen the voice, influence and entitlements of

marginalized groups in adaptation and mitigation policies and interventions?

- What types of strategies, institutional arrangements, interventions and safeguards should be used to improve the gender responsiveness of FTA value chains and business models?
- Which types of policies, institutional arrangements and interventions foster enabling environments for women and men from different generational groups to benefit from migration and multilocal livelihoods in forested landscapes?
- What type of extension arrangements improve the uptake and the gender responsiveness of forestry and agroforestry technologies and planting materials, and create opportunities for women's empowerment and social inclusion?

FTA research priorities on gender and inclusion

Access to and control over resources

FTA analyzes the effects of different sectoral policies in creating constraining or enabling environments for women's access to and control over forests, trees and other productive resources. This area of study focuses on the synergies – or lack thereof – among sectoral policies in target countries in terms of gender, and recommends ways of harmonizing those policies.

Participation in decision making

FTA identifies and analyzes institutional arrangements that promote the meaningful participation of men and women from different generational groups in decision making related to forest restoration and management. It examines the conditions under which such participation translates into more equitable sharing of benefits and sustainable resource management. This research explores gendered aspirations in community-based forest management and restoration, identifying key gender-based constraints to the active participation of women and marginalized groups in forest management, codeveloping mechanisms for lifting these constraints, and promoting equality through more inclusive forest governance institutions.

Access to delivery systems

FTA identifies innovative gender-responsive arrangements in delivery systems – in relation to genetic resource management, domestication of tree species and germplasm selection – that improve uptake of forestry and agroforestry technologies and planting material, and create opportunities to foster women's empowerment. FTA analyzes and evaluates innovative approaches to extension and delivery to determine their impacts on women's empowerment and unpack the underlying mechanisms that enable more equal gender relations.

Barriers, opportunities and impacts of value chains

The program identifies structural barriers to the equitable participation and enjoyment of benefits from timber and non-timber product value chains, such as fruits or nuts, and strategies to overcome these barriers. This generates empirical evidence on women's and men's roles and responsibilities in value chains where sex-disaggregated data on participation and benefit distribution is scarce (e.g. timber, charcoal value chains). It identifies and analyzes barriers to equitable participation, advancement and benefit sharing.

Tenure and local governance

The program analyzes how gender shapes the devolution of forest rights and responsibilities from states to indigenous and forest-dependent communities, as community-based governance becomes increasingly prevalent. It looks at how this impacts forest management outcomes, the condition of forests and the livelihoods of local women and men and marginalized communities. FTA embeds a gender perspective into its larger body of research on forest tenure by documenting the range of rights that women and men access under private and communal tenure systems, identifying actions for securing women's rights, implementing those actions and monitoring their outcomes.

Migration and multilocal livelihoods

The program identifies and analyzes the types of policies, institutional arrangements and interventions that foster enabling environments for women and men from different generational groups to benefit from migration and multilocal livelihoods in forested landscapes. FTA uses an overarching conceptual and methodological framework in a cross-country comparative study to assess the availability and reliability of preexisting data on forests and migration from a gender perspective, and collect additional quantitative and qualitative data on the nexus between forests and migration.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

FTA identifies and analyzes the structural causes of gender-differentiated impacts of climate change. It considers how climate change impacts, as well as strategies and interventions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, constitute challenges or opportunities to reduce gender gaps in accessing productive resources, redistributing labor burdens and leveling decision-making power. The research incorporates a focus on social differentiation and on the intersecting effects of factors, such as ethnicity, age and socioeconomic status. Knowledge is generated through long-term engagement with local communities in zones targeted for their high vulnerability to climate change, and is disseminated through key partnerships with state and civil society actors.

Contributing to gender equality

FTA's gender research contributes to achieving greater gender equality and social inclusion through an integrated approach that combines two main impact pathways.

Informing policy making to address institutional barriers to women's control over and access to forest, tree and agroforestry resources and their benefits:

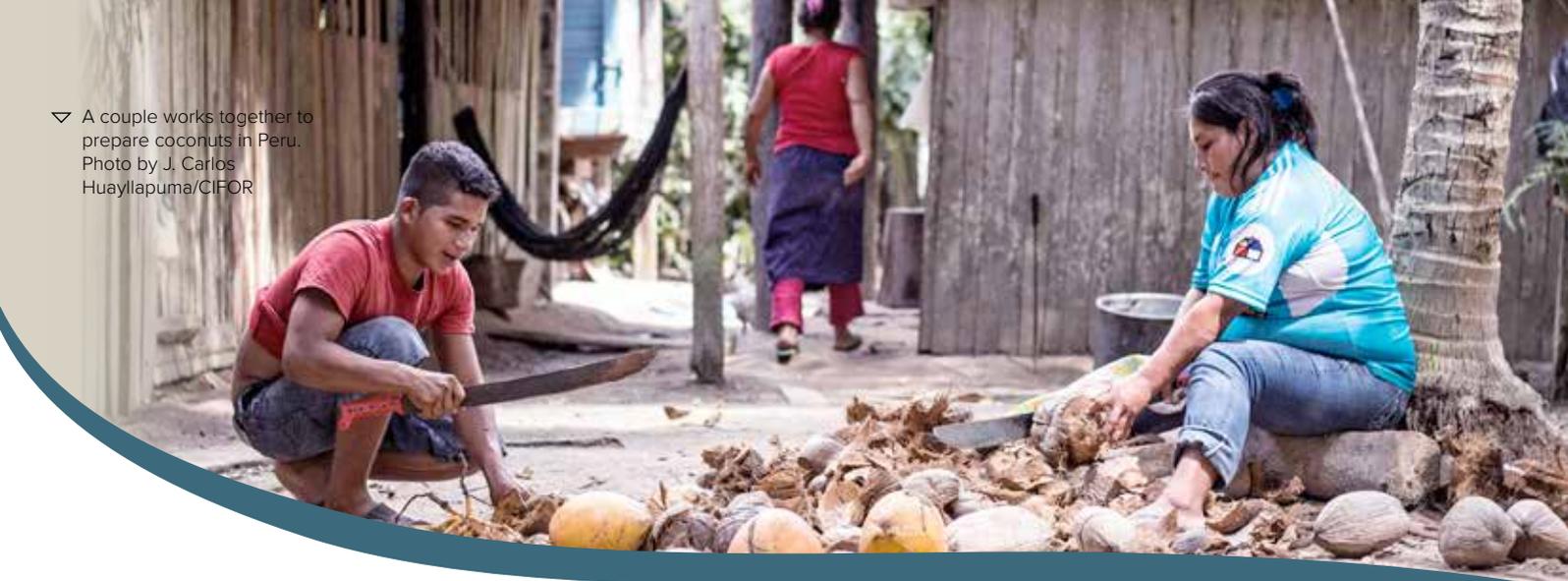
In collaboration with a wide network of boundary partners, including NGOs, women's organizations, UN agencies and government agencies, FTA is developing knowledge hubs around gender, forestry and natural resource management, as well as

holding stakeholder workshops to identify entry points to influence policies and institutions, and promote direct uptake of research findings.

Enhancing women's participation in decision making on the management of forests and agroforestry landscapes:

Through action research with local women and men using innovative methodologies, FTA is improving gender equality and social inclusion by strengthening women's awareness, capacities, as well as their wider participation in decision making and control over resources at household and community levels.

▽ A couple works together to prepare coconuts in Peru.
Photo by J. Carlos Huayllapuma/CIFOR



Who does FTA work with?

In its gender research and practice, FTA works with different types of research and boundary partners, from local to global scales, including governmental and nongovernmental agencies in the forestry sector, as well as national gender institutions, UN agencies, international NGOs, national organizations, gender/feminist academics, community organizations and local communities.

FTA research is responsive to partners' requests for empirical data to inform gender inclusive policy and to shape global and national priorities. Through national and global partners, FTA also influences global policy forums and processes. Academic partnerships enable FTA to incorporate the latest cutting-edge feminist and gender theories into its research. FTA strives for the coproduction of knowledge with national researchers, students, young professionals and communities, and supports their capacity to address gender issues in their work.

FTA's partners include:

- Centre for Advanced Research and Development (CARD) India
- Center for International Climate and Environmental Research at Oslo (CICERO)

- Foundation for Nicaraguan Agriculture
- Indonesia's Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Ministry
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
- Livestock and Forest Technology Development (Fundación para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario y Forestal de Nicaragua FUNICA)
- Oxfam Novib
- Regional Government of Ucayali and Cuzco (Peru)
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- UK Department for International Development (DfID)
- UN Women
- Université de Ouagadougou
- World Vision Kenya and Ethiopia

Cover: A woman harvests quills of cinnamon from tree bark in Jambi, Indonesia, where community-based forest management has improved the wellbeing of local people. Photo by T. Saputro/CIFOR

The CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) is the world's largest research for development program to enhance the role of forests, trees and agroforestry in sustainable development and food security and to address climate change. CIFOR leads FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, ICRAF, INBAR and TBI.

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