



## Does your proposal demonstrate appropriate attention to gender issues?

As a CIFOR researcher, you are now being asked to actively consider whether and how gender is relevant to your research. Gender integration in research is a fundamental part of doing good science, a means to help ensure that forestry research leads to socially equitable advances in human wellbeing and environmental conservation. Integrating gender will enable you to write more competitive proposals and foster more relevant and longer lasting research outcomes. This short guide will provide you with some key questions to help ensure your proposal to CIFOR demonstrates appropriate attention to gender issues.

**Gender-responsive research** investigates the different priorities and needs of men and women. It also analyses how gender relations influence men's and women's ability to manage and use forests and forests products, as well as how policies affect women and men differently. Research aims to identify the underlying causes of gender inequalities. This involves collecting sex-disaggregated data and analysing gender inequalities to examine how these inequalities affect different groups of people. Gender-focused research is more likely to be conducted collaboratively with communities and other stakeholders to shape its scope and activities. Recommendations from this research will identify

improvements for forest policies and practices that offer the best options for all parties and aim to address imbalances in assets or power.

### 1. Goals and Objectives

In designing your research, your goals and objectives should explicitly demonstrate a contribution towards greater equity and poverty reduction consistent with CIFOR's purpose and with CGIAR's System Level Outcomes.

At a minimum, goals, objectives and outcomes can refer specifically to men and women, instead of just saying 'farmers' or 'community members'. However, strive to frame the goals, objectives and research questions so they demonstrate gender as a key analytical and explanatory variable through which other social variables are examined. Not all projects can include a gender perspective. Nonetheless, it is important to demonstrate you have considered how your research can contribute to greater equity or apply gender analysis tools (Box 1).

- Have you demonstrated how your research will be **responsive to** or will **focus on** gender issues? This can be demonstrated by how you frame the goals, objectives or research questions in your proposal.





### Box 1. What if gender is not an important variable?

Any scientific research that involves or affects humans should consider the different realities for women and men. Sometimes, however, social variables, including gender, are not important. If this is the case for your research, you should still explain why gender is not important. You should also explain how your research contributes towards intermediate development outcomes and system-level outcomes to advance human welfare and environmental conservation.

Often, it is not possible to determine if gender is a significant variable to research before conducting analysis. Still, men and women are likely to experience a change as a result of your intervention. Thus, you should show how you will assess those changes and their potential impacts.

- Have you included **gender-specific research questions**? *Please consult CIFOR resources in Box 2 to understand how gender may be linked to your research or to identify appropriate gender-specific questions.*

## 2. Beneficiaries

If your research targets specific groups of beneficiaries, your proposal should demonstrate how it will integrate an analysis of gender and other socio-economic characteristics. You should also demonstrate an understanding of how these variables may impact the participation of beneficiaries in your research or how people might benefit from activities.

- Have you explained who the ultimate beneficiary/ies is/are? *In describing the beneficiaries of your research, be sure to highlight key characteristics about the population, including sex, wealth status, ethnicity, age or religion.*
- Have you identified both men and women as beneficiaries?
- Have you described how you will ensure that both men and women are among the beneficiaries? *You will need to consider how gender will affect men's and women's participation in research activities, as well as plan to ensure they can have the opportunity to benefit from activities.*
- Have you identified, as secondary beneficiaries, any women's groups or other organisations working in support of gender equality or women's rights?

## 3. Activities

### 3.1 Data Collection and Analysis

- Have you described how you will collect **sex-disaggregated data**? *Since a gender analysis is about the relationship between women and men, it relies on relevant and valid data on both women and men, not simply on women or men alone.*
- Have you considered what method(s) would best match the **scale** of your research? *If you are comparing across countries, surveys may be more suitable, while participatory methods may be more useful for examining changes in*



## Box 2. Looking for gender-related research questions?

Consult the following resources:

- CIFOR. 2013. Gender in the CGIAR Research Programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry: A Strategy for research and action. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia.
- Manfre, C. and Rubin, D. 2012. Integrating Gender into Forestry Research: A Guide for CIFOR Scientists and Programme Administrators. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia.
- CIFOR. 2011. CGIAR Research Programme 6: Forests, Trees and Agroforestry: Livelihoods, Landscapes and Governance. Proposal. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia.

## Box 3. Pay attention to the gender composition of your team.

Advancing opportunities for women in science and research is an important goal for CIFOR and the CGIAR. Many donors, like the EU, are also increasingly paying attention not only to how gender is incorporated into the research content, but also how well institutions are supporting equal opportunities in their own policies and practices. Including women on your research team will not ensure the content of your research or its outcomes are more gender sensitive. However, promoting equal opportunities for men and women to participate in research is one step towards establishing a work culture that allows both men and women to thrive.

*access to rights to forests in a specific region. Participatory and collaborative approaches are generally better suited for working closely with, or empowering, local communities.*

- Have you considered what method(s) is most appropriate for the **audience** your research is targeting?
- Have you considered the need for men and women enumerators or interviewers? *Depending on the cultural context for the research, men should interview men and/or women should interview women.*
- Have you considered whether you need to plan for mixed- and/or single-sex interviews, focus group discussions or other participatory activities?

### 3.2 Partnerships and Alliances

- Have you included women's groups or other organisations working in support of gender equality or women's rights among your **research partners**? *Partnerships and alliances can be forged with groups such as regional or national gender committees, ministries of*

*gender or women's affairs, or women's organisations and business associations.*

- Have you considered partnering with women's groups or other organisations working in support of gender equality or women's rights for **advocacy and outreach**?

### 3.3 Knowledge sharing for policy and practice

- Have you made it clear how you will **document** gender-disaggregated statistics, tables, figures, descriptions and analysis?
- Have you considered a specific deliverable, publication or event to showcase gender-related findings?
- Have you included a plan for **circulating** findings to beneficiaries, including women? *When you report to communities, ensure that women can understand and access the findings.*
- Have you considered how to share your knowledge with women's groups, committees or other groups that support gender equality or women's rights?



#### 4. Capacity building

- Have you considered the need for training to ensure research team members have a common understanding of gender?
- Have you considered the need to train enumerators in gender analysis?
- Have you considered the need for a workshop on tools or methods for gender analysis?
- Have you identified gender experts or organisations that can support your team throughout the research process?

#### 5. Adaptive Learning

- Have you ensured that your people-level indicators are disaggregated by sex? *This means more than disaggregated data at the household level. Your research should disaggregate by sex any indicator that tracks the number or percentages of people.*
- Have you included sex-disaggregated indicators at the outcome level to measure changes in knowledge, capacity or behaviours of target populations?
- Have you considered indicators to measure key gender-related impacts noted in the CGIAR Research Programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry? These include:
  - Progress towards achieving gender equality in decision making and control over forest, trees and agroforestry resources and in increasing incomes and benefits for women through relevant value chain results;
  - More women newly empowered to plant and manage forest, tree and agroforestry resources in programme countries;
  - Less gender inequality in incomes from forest, trees and agroforestry goods and services;

- Better health conditions or less incidence of common illness from nutritional deficiency among women and their families;
- More women in elected/appointed leaders to forest management committees;
- More control (i.e., stronger rights) by women over forest, tree and agroforestry resources at household and community levels.
- Have you included measurements to assess the effectiveness of the gender integration process? *CIFOR is interested not only in capturing gender-differentiated outputs and outcomes, but also in discovering how well gender is being integrated into the research process. You might consider including some indicators to measure progress towards improved capacity such as the number of trainings or improved knowledge of gender issues.*

#### 6. Budget

In developing your budget, be specific about financial resources needed for gender-related activities. The more specific in identifying activities and outputs, the better you can outline the financial resources required to support them.

- Have you set aside an appropriate level of funds to carry out your gender-related activities – from data collection to knowledge sharing and dissemination? *Your budget may need to include costs associated with conducting intra-household surveys, separate focus groups for men and women or hiring a gender expert for your team.*
- Have you included any costs for capacity building?
- You may need to budget for gender training to build capacity among your research team, enumerators and partners.
- Have you budgeted appropriately to monitor and evaluate the impacts of your research on both women and men beneficiaries?

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