

Gender in restoration, on-farm crop management and agroecology

Natural and agricultural landscapes both shape and are shaped by social, economic, and cultural practices.

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The actions of women and men influence biophysical changes in landscapes, which in turn prompt changes in their practices to adapt to the new environment. Gender roles and relations influence how women and men access, use, and control natural and cultivated resources. For example, women, young people, migrants, and other groups often face legal and cultural barriers to land rights and land and tree ownership, which limit their ability and interest to plant or manage trees over which they may not have decision-making authority or long-term access. As a result, women and men often experience environmental changes differently. In agricultural settings, where sustainable intensification, agroecological, restoration, or other practices are being adopted, the differential impacts of resource management on women and men, for example, in terms of workload and time, need to be understood and addressed so that the gender gap is not widened. Movements such as agroecology present an opportunity

to reveal how human dimensions and power dynamics are interwoven and to manage accordingly for a socially just and ecologically sustainable agroecological transition.

Our research looks at:

- Gender-equitable restoration policy and practice.
- Gender-transformative approaches and women's resource and land rights.
- Gender in banana-based management systems, from pest and disease management to the changing roles of women and men in production amid male outmigration.
- Gender in agrifood systems in Latin America, with a focus on rice, dairy, and cashew market systems.
- Gender-transformative low-emissions agricultural systems, sustainable intensification systems, and agroecology.

Focus on

Changing gender roles and norms in the banana cropping system in East and Central Africa

In the East and Central Africa region, including Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), crops are often managed according to gender, based on the function or intended use of the crop. Women produce the food crops consumed by the household, selling any surplus in village markets, while cash crops, such as coffee and banana, are harvested and sold by men in the town markets. The East African highlands banana, which dominates the East African banana growing region, can stand on the field for up to 60 years. Therefore, planting bananas is often perceived as laying a claim on land, and customary laws pass land from father to son. Women cannot grow the banana, a perennial crop, on a parcel that they will not inherit afterward, which limits the possibility of women investing in bananas as a livelihood. However, research in Burundi is challenging this narrative by exploring the roles and responsibilities of women in the banana cropping systems when their husbands are away, particularly in the context of male outmigration. The new trends show that women are increasingly playing a key role in land and banana acquisition using remittances. They are experiencing power and freedom to decide over banana-related activities and finances while their husbands are away.



This series of nine briefs summarizes research approaches and highlights on gender, youth, and social inclusion at the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT. Each brief is accompanied by a curated list of selected publications: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/149309>

Visit this link to explore more about our approach to gender research: allbiociat.org/gender

Focus on

Securing women's resource rights through gender-transformative approaches

Understanding and addressing the institutional barriers women face across different scales is essential both to achieve gender equality and to secure rights and access to land. The Global Initiative for Gender Transformative Approaches promotes and strengthens women's land rights through the integration of gender transformative approaches in rural development interventions by sharing learning to improve policies, tools, and practices. This project, a partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ICRAF-CIFOR, the International Food Policy Research Institute, and the International Land Coalition, explores what has worked well for transforming gender norms in the context of women's land and resource rights in IFAD projects. The initiative is developing gender-transformative approaches and methods that can support the achievement of women's land and resource rights in six countries (Gambia, Ethiopia, Colombia, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, and Uganda).

<https://bit.ly/3xK2ahc>

Focus on

Gender and Agroecology

In the first year of implementation of the CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology, the establishment of Agroecological Living Landscapes (ALL) in seven countries has resulted in the active engagement of more than 1,300 food system actors. These actors, representing various and diverse men and women stakeholders along the food value chain, collaborate to assess and demonstrate the most effective agroecological innovations, their suitability and impacts across different contexts. They identify business opportunities and financial mechanisms for implementing gender-responsive and more equitably accessible agroecological innovations. Moreover, they develop context-specific strategies and action plans to promote sustainable behavior change and determine appropriate policies and mechanisms for policy integration. This co-innovation process facilitates the development of effective and sustainable agroecological transitions, fostering inclusive and transformative changes in the food systems of the participating countries.

www.cgiar.org/initiative/agroecology/