



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**STRENGTHENING GENDER-RESPONSIVE
CLIMATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS**

IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1** Design separate strategies to target different groups of female farmers and producers (considering in addition to gender also age, health, education, marital status, level of poverty, among others).
- 2** Consider the local sociocultural context of gender dynamics and intersectionality aspects to close the gender gap in decision-making, rights, access and control over resources and services, among others.
- 3** Increase the access to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices, technologies, extension services and climate information through existing women's and community groups to overcome gender inequalities and improve the adaptative capacity to climate change and build resilient livelihoods.
- 4** Provide tailor-made extension services through NGOs, local organizations and universities to increase women's adoption of effective CSA strategies.
- 5** Develop countries' gender-responsive policies that align with national provisions, state explicit funding commitments, and are evaluated frequently to assess suitability in responding to rapid and slow-onset events that impact CSA.

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INTRODUCTION

Women's contributions and engagement throughout **agrifood value chains** are frequently unrecognized, as they must adapt their productive activities around **domestic and care work**, resulting in a heavy work burden.



“Gender-responsive CSA refers to approaches that consider women’s and men’s specific priorities and their different access to resources, services, education and information to build climate resilience, through a focus on equality and agency. CSA is gender-responsive when it produces positive results for women’s participation in decision-making or leadership at the household, community, or community organization levels around use of income, household planning, household labour, or other activities, and provides equal opportunities” (Huyer and Chanana, 2021).

The empowerment of women farmers is recognized as fundamental to drive more effective efforts and achieve more sustainable outcomes for all, taking into account that the ability to engage in sustainable natural resource-based livelihoods is shaped by various intersecting social, cultural and economic factors.

Women’s work in agriculture, including crop, livestock and fisheries and aquaculture production, agroforestry, and natural resource management, are at risk through

rapid onset events, such as storms, heatwaves, and slow onset events including droughts, sea level rise, temperature increase, land degradation and deforestation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.

Championing women as critical agents of change within their communities and in policy and decision-making processes at national and international levels is a fundamental step towards ensuring gender equality and climate-related issues are adequately addressed in agricultural policies and dialogue and considered by international climate finance mechanisms, government ministries and research institutions.

This brief showcases promising research and innovation, particularly from countries engaged through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM) 149 project. Uganda, Senegal, Zambia and Malawi, , Samoa and Zambia are highlighted as examples to inform policymakers, guide gender-responsive investments, policies, and strategies in countries’ work in response to climate change.

2 LOCAL RESEARCH AND ACTIONS

● ● ● RESEARCH STUDY: SENEGAL

Women's empowerment and membership in community organizations increase access to climate information services

BACKGROUND

A 2019 study conducted by Diouf *et al.* explored women's and men's climate information needs and analyzed the main factors that influence gender-differentiated access to climate services in Senegal. Climate services can provide agricultural users – from farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk – with tailor-made information to identify hazards and make timely, risk-informed decisions. Increasing the capacity of users to interpret and use climate services is critical for mitigating the impacts of climate-related shocks and reducing vulnerability to hazards. They range from short-term advisories on, for example fertilizer application dates, to long-term climate projections that can inform on best practices to reduce drought impacts, or climate-proofing infrastructure.

However, climate services often do not reach farmers and other rural folk, particularly in remote areas and information is not sufficiently tailored to different users. While women take on equal or higher responsibilities in agriculture, they are consistently left out as they have less access to productive resources and financial capital.

FINDINGS

Using survey data from 1,170 farmers in 11 regions in Senegal, the study revealed that women and men had different needs for climate services, and specific preferences on the means to receive the information (such as mobile text messaging, radios, newspapers). For example, 46 percent of women preferred rural radios as a communication channel compared to men (39 percent). In addition to gender, other factors influencing access to climate services were ethnicity, area of residence, and farmers' perceptions of their utility.

To address these gaps, the study recommends using community organizations as platforms for climate information dissemination and training to support the uptake of information. The study suggests that women's membership in community organizations positively impacted their ability to access climate information, and that supporting such mobilization can empower them, and increase their adaptive capacity to climate change.

● ● ● LOCAL ACTIONS: UGANDA

Uganda: Strengthening the capacity of women pig farmers and artificial insemination technicians to enhance the uptake of climate-smart pig production

BACKGROUND

The project “Integrating assisted reproductive technologies and elite pig genetics to transform the pig value chain in Uganda” launched in 2019 aims to boost farmers’ access to and ownership of improved pig breeds, using affordable and easily accessible artificial insemination technologies (Donald, 2022). In the Ugandan context, pigs are considered both a gender-responsive livestock species and climate smart: they are gender-responsive because women do not face the same cultural or religious constraints to pig ownership that they do with larger livestock species. Women are generally the primary owners and caretakers of pigs, and they are comparatively climate-smart given that successful pig production does not require a large herd size. Their feeds do not cause climate deterioration, and their emissions levels are negligible compared to dairy cattle or other large ruminants.

FINDINGS

Since its launching in 2019, the project has reached over 1,800 women pig farmers in Wakiso, Luweero, and Mpigi districts.

The project has successfully reinforced the capacity among women pig farmers, via free or subsidized access to artificial insemination, exchange visits to successful women-led pig farms, and trainings to increase understanding of artificial insemination technology.

Furthermore, by working closely with district veterinary staff and supporting women artificial insemination technicians, the project has enhanced women farmer’s access to extension services and facilitated tailor-made service delivery that addresses the specific needs of female and male farmers, thereby increasing gains from extension services received by pig farmers.



● ● ● POLICY CASE STUDY: BELIZE

The role of good forest governance within natural protected areas in Belize: how an agroforestry concession system promotes climate-smart livelihoods among indigenous women farmers.

BACKGROUND

Belize is a country in Central America and the Caribbean characterized by its forests and biodiversity. Fifty-six percent of its land is forested (FAO, European Union and Cirad, 2022), with approximately 100 registered protected areas (Requena *et al.*, 2020). The economy is based primarily on export-oriented crops such as sugarcane, banana, and citrus products.

Avoiding encroachment on the remaining natural forests is a priority to mitigate the impacts of climate change in a country prone to natural disasters such as hurricanes, storms and associated flooding.

A community agroforestry concession system in the Maya Mountain North Forest Reserve (MMNFR) was developed between the forest department, a local non-governmental organization (Ya'axché Conservation Trust), and the organized community group of the Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Association. A conservation agreement was established granting farmers of the association rights to access the MMNFR for cacao-based agroforestry, beekeeping, and cultivation of annual crops (Requena *et al.*, 2020).

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FINDINGS

The pilot initiative showed that more attention can be given to the communities who have granted access to natural resources in the conserved area. Access to the reserve by women farmers of the Trio community gave way to a new source of livelihood – honey production, an alternative nontimber forest product. This socioeconomic activity increased the women’s roles as leaders and decision-makers within the traditional Maya community, by providing a complementary income to the one generated from the sale of cacao beans and other crops.

The women farmers participated in capacity-building workshops, receiving technical assistance and material support from Ya’axché to further develop their beekeeping activities. The women can explore a variety of bee by-products, such as pollen, wax, and royal jelly, among others.

Ya’axché provides training sessions on decision-making, conflict management, and strategic planning, to support the forest community group in becoming autonomous. The pilot agroforestry concession is easy to replicate in other forest reserves locally, regionally, and/or nationally.

● ● ● ABOUT THE FMM149 PROGRAMME

The objective of the FMM 149 programme, also known as the **Scaling up implementation of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (Enhanced GAP) in Agriculture and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, is to promote more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, while contributing to poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) of the Lima work programme recognizes the need for women to be represented in all aspects of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process. Countries under this sub-programme develop gender-responsive climate policies and actions in agriculture and support gender balance and women's leadership at national, regional, and global levels, specifically in the UNFCCC. Support will be given to countries to meet their gender targets established in the UNFCCC Lima work programme.

Cover photo: ©FAO

● ● ● REFERENCES

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