

Making Climate Action in Agriculture More Gender-Responsive and Socially Inclusive at County Level

Key Messages

- Take into account the different roles and abilities of women, men, youth, elderly, differently abled and marginalized people during design, budgeting, and implementation phases of climate smart agriculture (CSA) initiatives: CSA projects and programme objectives should provide benefits to everyone, including those in disadvantaged groups
- Develop specific Gender Action Plans within CSA projects and programmes with clearly defined objectives, budgets, beneficiaries, indicators and outcomes that safeguard the interests of gender and social inclusion
- Recruit women, youth and differently abled people for technical and leadership roles in CSA projects and programmes
- Develop gender-responsive and socially inclusive CSA communication and advisory information
- In the long-term, aim to build individual and institutional capabilities on national and local levels to enhance access to existing funds for women and marginalized groups in CSA activities

1. Introduction

Climate change remains a threat to agriculture, food security and nutrition. The climate-smart agriculture (CSA) approach jointly addresses the challenges of climate change and food security. Effective CSA requires interventions that are appropriate to the local circumstances. To establish the locally appropriate interventions, an understanding of the needs, challenges and priorities of the local stakeholders is crucial (Vermeulen, 2015a). Specifically, gender relations, power dynamics and local norms across social lines may result in men and women having different perspectives, skills, and knowledge, as well as varying opportunities and constraints that may enable or hinder their adoption of CSA. Importantly, participatory approaches to CSA are needed, which actively engage stakeholders at community and household levels. CSA initiatives are likely to benefit from the perspectives of different stakeholders in the community, so that resilience is built from local knowledge and strengths inherent in the community and the ensuing benefits are distributed equitably. Regarding households, we must acknowledge that they are comprised of diverse populations shaped by their relations and roles hence these should be used to inform CSA efforts (Jost et al., 2015). A gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach to CSA will ultimately contribute to the reduction of gender inequalities and ensure equal benefit sharing from CSA interventions and practices, thus achieving more sustainable and equitable results.

In Kenya, like many other countries, women, youth and other vulnerable groups - people with disability, marginalized and the elderly (WYVG) - continue to experience inequitable access to livelihoods and productive resources, information, decision-making processes, and benefit sharing (World Bank Group, FAO & IFAD, 2015). It is therefore important to design CSA initiatives in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive manner that captures the different levels of knowledge, needs, challenges and perspectives of different social groups from a value addition approach to pre-empt interference with firmly entrenched socio-cultural aspects. Identifying and addressing these inequities is necessary to ensure that CSA approaches contribute to climate-resilient production for households and communities. Research shows that decision-making and policy processes in agriculture often fail to include all voices, especially of women and youth. Continued failure to consider gender and social inequities in the implementation of CSA interventions will lead to loss of opportunities for improvement of livelihoods and may also increase already existing inequities. CSA-related policies therefore need to be inclusive to ensure that specific needs and realities of different social groups are addressed.

A gender and inclusivity analysis involves a systematic method to examine differential situations for WYVG and acknowledge diversity during planning and implementation. It also allows county officers to have a holistic understanding of a community to ensure that the interest of all its stakeholders and population are addressed and considered. Notably, a gender and inclusivity analysis begins with the collection and analysis of gender disaggregated data by using quantitative and qualitative methods. The analysis will yield data that is an important component to generating gender and socially inclusion outcomes (e.g. are there implications of a CSA intervention on the time and labour for WYVG?).

2. National and County Policies Supporting Gender and Inclusivity in Climate Smart Agriculture

There are several policies and strategies that support gender mainstreaming into the agriculture sector, including CSA. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) mandates that all state organs must work towards reducing gender inequality and eliminating social exclusion in all programmes and projects. Kenya's Vision 2030 aims to “*build a just and cohesive society, enjoying equitable social development in a clean and secure environment*” through increasing the participation of women and men. The Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS, 2019-2029) is addressing the ‘*unique challenges and opportunities for women and youth in the sector by incorporating tailored opportunities for these groups as an integral part of delivering the ASTGS*’. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives (MoALFC) has a gender policy (2013) that calls for “*gender equality in Kenya's agricultural sector for enhanced and equitable productivity, food security, growth and national development*”. The Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019) promotes the creation of sustainable, decent jobs and income-generating opportunities for all youth, while the Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy (2017-2021) targets people aged 35 years and below (equal to 35.4% of the population) with new opportunities in agriculture and its value chains. The Climate Change Act (2016), National Climate Change Strategy Response (NCCSR), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Climate Change Action Plans (2018-2022), the Agriculture Policy (2019), Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy (KCSAS) and the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Implementation Framework (KCSAIF) all require that mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion be part and parcel of all climate actions in the agriculture sector. In particular, the KCSAS and the KCSAIF focus on **conducting gender gap analyses in four aspects: access, participation, control, and benefit of climate-resilient development**, between men and women and special needs groups such as People Living with Disability (PLWD). At the County level, some of the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) provide broad recognition and commitment to women's economic empowerment and enterprise development whereas others have prioritized economic empowerment of WYVG as one of their development pillars.

3. How to Incorporate a Gender-Responsive and Socially Inclusive Lens into CSA Initiatives at the county Level

WYVG face inequitable access to CSA resources and information, decision-making processes, and benefit sharing. Achieving gender equality and social inclusion in CSA initiatives is already mandated in the various policy and legislations frameworks and the national and County governments are committed to “*eliminating inequalities and exclusion by advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different groups with characteristics such as age, disability and marginalization*”. An equality-oriented and inclusive approach to CSA services and programmes focuses on the different needs of women, men, youth, and communities. Therefore, implementation of gender-responsive and socially inclusive CSA projects or programmes will promote the empowerment of WYVG to enhance positive outcomes for all.

Incorporation of gender and inclusivity lenses into CSA initiatives should be used throughout a project or programme's lifecycle as required by the National Policy on Gender and Development (2019) and other legislation. CSA initiative designs should therefore include the following elements:

- Gender-responsive and inclusive objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities and indicators
- Gender oriented capacity building or improvement components targeting both sexes

- Gender and inclusive institutional structures set up under projects/programmes
- Involvement of WYVG as beneficiaries during consultations and analysis
- Monitoring and evaluation should include gender and inclusivity expertise in the team
- Inclusion of an evaluation scope, criteria, questions and gender-responsive and inclusive methodology, tools and data analysis, including sex-disaggregated data
- Reporting should include a gender-responsive and social inclusion analysis

3.1 Planning Phase of Projects and Programmes

Addressing inequalities and social exclusion is a key element in CSA. Empowering WYVG and engaging them in a process whereby all work together as equally recognised decision-makers and change agents – from the household to the national level – is a crucial pathway toward achieving equality. Unless specific efforts are made in the analysis and planning process to understand specific demographic, wealth, religious and ethnic groups whose voice is otherwise likely to be omitted, important knowledge and contributions to potential adaptation solutions in agriculture will be left out. See Figure 1 for an overview of different levels of CSA interventions and the design, planning and implementation of CSA phases.

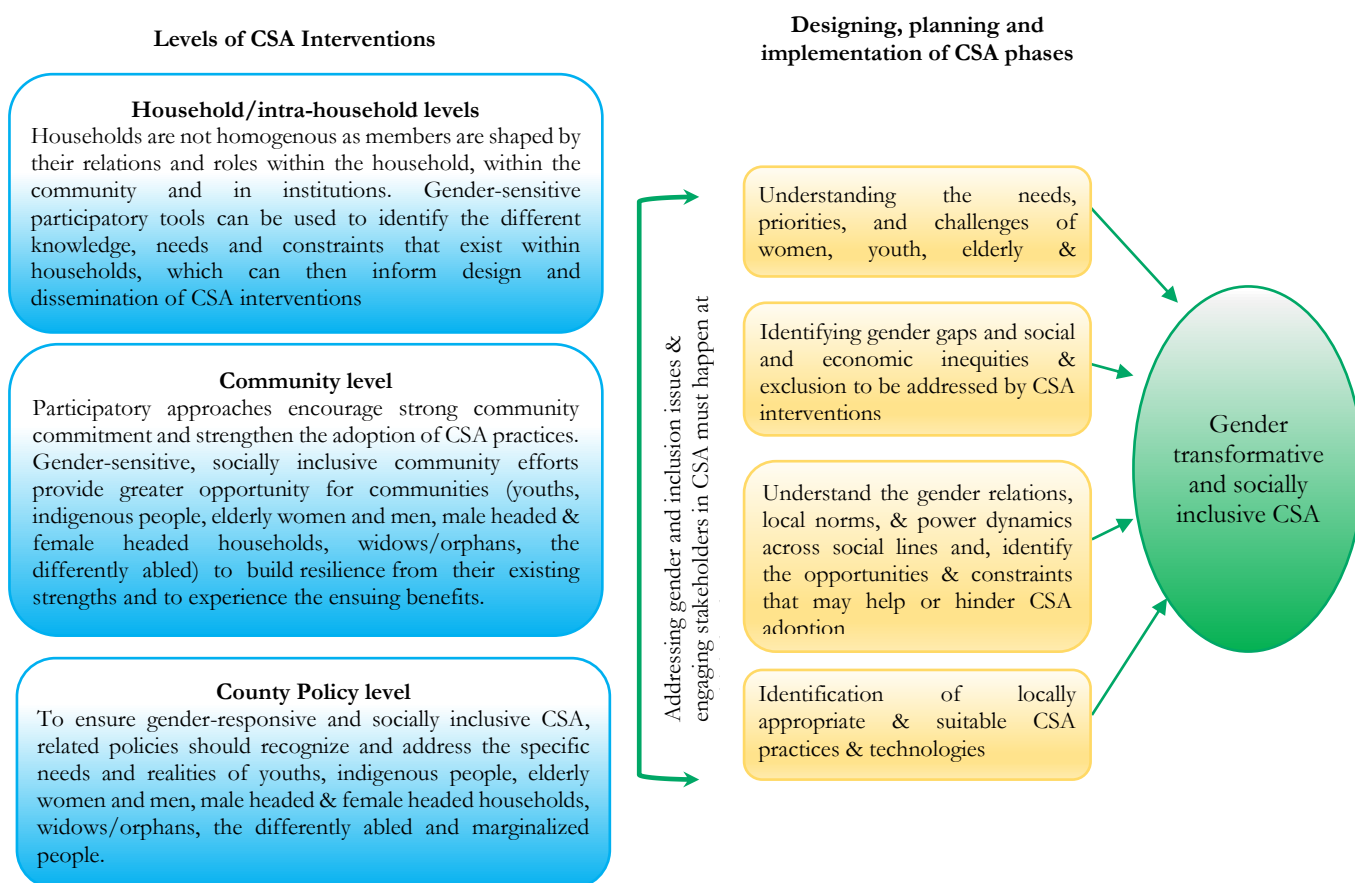


Figure 1: Pathways for integrating gender into CSA at different levels

Some of the questions that county officers should consider during the planning of CSA projects and programmes at household, community and county level include:

- Labour distribution or “task-target” analysis: Who does what? How? Where? When? Why?
- Access to resources including land, credit, inputs: Who uses what? How? Where? When? Why?
- Decision-making, control and power: Who controls what? How? Where? When? Why?
- Knowledge and information access and use: Who knows what? How? Where? When? Why?
- Benefit-sharing analysis: Who benefits from CSA initiatives? How? Where? When? Why?
- Participation analysis: Who is included in CSA initiatives (actions/policy)? How? Where? When? Why?
- Role models/change agents/opinion leaders analysis: Who within the community has power to influence change? How? Why?

Answers to the questions above are sometimes available from secondary data (literature reviews) or could require collecting primary data. It is very important to avoid making assumptions about answers to these questions but rather get responses to them inductively.

3.2 Guidance for the Implementation of Gender-Responsive and Socially Inclusive Climate Action

Once the above questions have been answered, integrate the responses into planning and implementation processes. Therefore, county public officers are encouraged to:

- a. Undertake a gender and inclusivity analysis (that captures sex- and gender-disaggregated data) at the outset of any CSA project or programme to establish baseline data on WYVG’s needs, opportunities, participation and challenges that might influence the outcome of the CSA intervention.
- b. Collect sex- and gender-disaggregated data (going beyond attendance and participation) to help create the evidence base needed to plan and budget for gender-responsive and socially inclusive CSA projects or programmes
- c. Develop capacity building and improvement strategies for both sexes for effective interventions
- d. Allocate adequate financial and human resources into analysis during planning to help identify and understand the anticipated impact of CSA project or programme on different people.
- e. Identify women, differently abled, youth and the elderly within the community who can influence and are change agents in ensuring that the voices of all are heard.
- f. Establish a culture of gender and inclusivity analysis and reporting with every CSA project or programme
- g. Integrate the gender and inclusivity indicators into the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as an integral part of the data collection and analysis process.
- h. Develop a CSA gender action plan that will guide the implementation of the CSA project or programmes.

After conducting a gender and inclusivity analysis, the CSA project or programme needs to demonstrate the value proposition to WYVG, specifically how these climate actions will reduce or bridge existing inequalities and social exclusion. The CSA project or programme needs to describe its inclusivity objectives/initiatives as well as its goal - on the designed implementation matrix.

3.2.1 Demonstration of how the Project is Benefiting WYVG

There are several ways to demonstrate that the project is benefiting WYVG. This includes, but is not limited to, the following; describing:

- how WYVG people will be included in the planning of the CSA project, including in decision-making processes; and/or
- how WYVG will be consulted during the development of the CSA project; and/or
- what processes are in place to actively encourage WYVG participation in the implementation of the CSA project; and/or

- the kinds of strategies that will help the CSA programme or project to ensure that activities benefit women and men equitably or will address institutionalized inequities and/or,
- how the CSA programme project will ensure that women and men have equitable access to and control over information, agricultural inputs and resources (training, outreach, products), and services?
- how the results of the CSA programme or project will be disseminated and communicated to WYVG; and/or
- how the CSA project will collect and use gender-disaggregated data to analyse the impact of the project on WYVG

The CSA project or programme also needs to demonstrate how the objectives will provide benefits to everyone (the principle of “no one left behind”). For example, how does the project aim to implement or facilitate or contribute to gender equality outlined in the Constitution of Kenya and other legislations and in what ways will the project benefit or impact men and WYVG?

Ways in which the CSA to demonstrate that the objectives will benefit everyone include, but are not limited to, the following:

- specifically setting out how the objectives of the project or programme will encourage the participation of WYVG and men in CSA activities (e.g., project will provide gender-responsive training WYVG in agro-processing, thereby empowering them to add value to their produce, or the project will streamline business regulation processes, thereby encouraging WYVG-operated small and medium enterprises to move into the formal sector).
- describing how the objectives of the project or programme will contribute an understanding of gender equality considerations (e.g., training schedule and location will be conducive to WYVG or gender and inclusivity indicators are utilized for monitoring the impact of the project or programme).

3.2 Budgeting Phase of Projects and Programmes

A gender and inclusivity lens is also required during budgeting for CSA initiatives. Gender-responsive and socially inclusive budgeting processes seek to allocate adequate funds to activities that target WYVG. The processes also involve a gender budget analysis to identify the different impact of expenditure on and the potential need for re-allocation of expenditure to ensure fair and equitable distribution of benefits to all. If a gender-responsive and socially inclusive planning is done properly, budgeting will be an easier step since financial resources will be allocated to each activity and target each group.

A budgetary process is gender-responsive and socially inclusive when it ensures that:

- sufficient funds are allocated to achieve the expected results that support gender equality and inclusion
- public budget hearings are done in a way that WYVG have an opportunity to voice their contributions to the CSA initiatives budget allocations
- additional financial resources are allocated for a gender and inclusivity expert and training for staff

Furthermore, the CSA project or programme funds should reflect the level of commitment to gender equality and social inclusion goals and objectives. For example, Marsabit County established an enterprise fund for youth and women.

4. Recommendations for Action

- **Define gender and inclusivity goals and objectives** in CSA initiatives with all project or programme stakeholders, including farmers
- Integrate gender and inclusivity metrics into CSA project and programme monitoring and evaluations plans.
- Develop a **strong financing architecture** that provides high quality, predictable and accessible financing to WYVG.
- **Recruit WYVG** for technical and leadership roles in CSA projects and programmes.

- **Design capacity enhancement** strategies at national and local levels for both institutions and individuals for enhanced interventions and engagement
- Make WYVG feel comfortable by **building safe spaces and accommodating gender-specific needs**.
- Establish a **gender action plan** that can be used to craft evidence-based solutions to address problems identified in the gender analysis; solicit and integrate solutions provided by project participants, particularly marginalized groups of women, and collaboratively integrate these solutions into the existing work plan. The results of this plan should be specific, implementable interventions that fit within the budget, scope, and timeline of the project or programme.

Additional Resources

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