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Gender Strategy for IFMC Next Phase

Background

Equal rights for women and men are recognized in the Constitution of Bangladesh, international commitments of the Government of Bangladesh (for example to CEDAW and the SDGs) and the policies governing Danish development cooperation. The 7th 5 year plan of GoB lists empowerment of women and reducing gender inequality as one of the drivers for development. The 2016 gender strategy for the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sets the goal to “achieve equality between women and men at all levels and in all aspects of agriculture sector.” The Strategic Framework for Gender Equality, Rights and Diversity in Danish Development Cooperation commits to support equal access for women to “land, water and ecosystems as well as to resources and jobs, including finance, training and equal opportunities in the labour market.” This legal and policy framework clearly establishes that, at minimum, development projects such as IFMC must provide equal opportunities and benefit to women and men.

The emphasis on equal benefits for women and men recognizes that equal opportunity is not enough to ensure gender equality. The human rights commitments referenced above confirm women’s rights to equal outcomes. These standards recognize that outcomes are affected by indirect as well as direct discrimination and that as a result ‘different treatment’ (rather than same treatment) may be required to achieve equality in practice. *The Progress of the World’s Women 2015-16* concluded that achieving equality of results for women requires ‘action on three interrelated fronts: redressing socio-economic disadvantage; addressing stereotyping, stigma and violence; and strengthening agency’ and voice as well as participation¹.

Building on this, implementing the commitment of DAE and the Embassy of Denmark to equal benefit of development for women and men requires **recognizing and addressing the pervasive inequalities** that currently shape the lives of female and male farmers in Bangladesh. Key facts of gender inequality in agriculture in Bangladesh include:

- While 70% of economically active Bangladeshi women work in agriculture and recent labour force surveys found that women were 46% of skilled agricultural, fisheries and forestry occupations², many of those women work as unpaid family workers. Women also carry the large majority of unpaid care and household work resulting in low income and significant time poverty.
- There are significant gender gaps in access to and control over resources. Improving women’s access to resources can enable livelihoods and support women to fulfil their

¹ UN Women (2015). *The Progress of the World’s Women 2015-16. Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights.* Available at <http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/>

² Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2015-2016, Report Published in 2017, by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, page 123 bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/.../QLFS_2015.pdf

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household responsibilities, but ownership or decision-making control of assets is held by men and women’s bargaining power in the household and support their empowerment. There are also inequalities in the benefits earned from producing work: women farmers receive lower prices for their labour or produce and have much poorer access to markets.

- Surveys and research in Bangladesh regularly document that household decision-making is dominated by men. Women are generally also marginalized in decision-making in community organizations (including farmer groups), local government and in management of development projects.
- Social norms and values about what men and women should do, how, and with what resources have implications for women’s mobility, public participation and how their labour is recognized and valued. The lower value generally given to women is a real cause of violence against women and other forms of discrimination that constrain women’s participation in, and benefit from, livelihood activities. Gender norms operate in organizations as well as communities.

Purpose and approach

The gender strategy takes a long-term approach³ which corresponds to the objectives for gender mainstreaming in IFMC:

1. Women farmers and herds/ herds equally with men farmers have participation in IFMC activities because differences in the needs, opportunities and constraints of women considered to men will be taken into account in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the project.
2. In order to achieve the project goal of empowering women farmers, as well as men, the project will reduce inequalities between women and men in IFMC communities in three specific areas: (i) decision-making; (ii) control over resources and benefits; and (iii) recognition as farmer/herd/ herds leader. IFMC will aim to address these inequalities within participating households, in participating communities and within IFMC and partner organizations.

There are six strategic elements that are essential to mainstreaming gender equality in IFMC:

1. **Political will and accountability.** Managers and leaders within the programme must make their commitment to gender equality visible and follow up on the implementation of the gender equality strategy.
2. **Resolving gender inequality within the organization.** This includes (i) ensuring balanced representation of women and men at all levels of the implementing organizations; (ii) ensuring that women and men within the project (staff/ herds/ staff).

³ This is consistent with the strategy framework for Gender Equality, Rights and Diversity in Danish Development Cooperation which states that the implementation of gender mainstreaming is a long-term process that requires specific measures to be taken over a long period of time.

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IFMC II Gender Strategy gender IFMC-II proposed Gender Strategy Final.pdf

IFMC II Gender Strategy

Integrated Farm Management Component (DANIDA-funded program)

File history

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current 19:31, 16 December 2020		1,240 × 1,754, 7 pages (982 KB)	Saad.chowdhury (talk contribs)	

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Blue Gold Program Wiki

The wiki version of the Lessons Learnt Report of the Blue Gold program, documents the experiences of a technical assistance (TA) team working in a development project implemented by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) over an eight+ year period from March 2013 to December 2021. The wiki lessons learnt report (LLR) is intended to complement the BWDB and DAE project completion reports (PCRs), with the aim of recording lessons learnt for use in the design and implementation of future interventions in the coastal zone.

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