

# Gender Action Plan 2017 for the Africa RISING West Africa and East/Southern Africa Projects

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The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program's monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. <http://africa-rising.net/>



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# Introduction

A gender action plan is an important mainstreaming instrument that reveals an organization's or project's commitment to gender inclusion and ensures that activities are implemented to address inequalities. An action plan contains outcomes and outputs as well as activities, responsibilities and means of verification through which progress can be tracked.

Within Africa RISING the above elements of action planning are established during annual review and planning meetings for each project region (West Africa, East and Southern Africa). Subsequently they are summarized in a joint gender action plan. At the end of each year an annual gender report outlines achievements and indicates how far objectives have been reached. Also, annual reports inform subsequent research planning. These Africa RISING mechanisms of gender planning and reporting are still young and need to be consolidated in the coming years.

# Transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2: Implications for gender action planning

In phase 1 (2012-2016) Africa RISING was guided by a program framework (<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/25079>) that detailed four general research outputs, namely situation analysis (RO1), integrated systems improvement (RO2), scaling and delivery of integrated innovation (RO3) and integrated monitoring and evaluation (RO4). The gender action plan 2015/2016 for West, Eastern and Southern Africa highlighted gender activities in these four output areas as well as in two additional areas, capacity development and communications (<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/72525>).

In phase 2 of Africa RISING (2016-2021) the above research outputs were replaced by program-wide research questions for all project regions (Ethiopia, West Africa, East and Southern Africa). These questions seek to address five aspects of interventions in the context of sustainable intensification: trade-offs and synergies, adaptation and adoptability, livelihoods, enabling conditions and equity (<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/77114>)

From the program-wide questions log frames were developed for each region with specific outcomes. For East and Southern Africa there are the following phase 2 target outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Productivity of crop-livestock systems in selected semi-arid and sub-humid agro-ecologies of East and Southern Africa enhanced
- Outcome 2: Community adoption of technologies that will lessen hunger and poverty under conditions of climate change
- Outcome 3: Options for equitable food and feed safety, nutritional quality and income security of target smallholder families improved
- Outcome 4: Functionality of markets, institutions, and partnerships associated with sustainable intensification technologies through providing mechanisms that improve household linkages to markets improved
- Outcome 5: Delivery and uptake of sustainable intensification innovations through building functional partnerships among research and development institutions enhanced

(<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/77113>)

For West Africa there are the following phase 2 target outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Increased productivity and resilience of smallholder crop-livestock systems in the Guinea and Sudan savanna zones of West Africa
- Outcome 2: Improved household nutrition, food and feed safety, and value addition
- Outcome 3: Policies and institutions enable informed decision-making and equitable access to production assets and input and output markets
- Outcome 4: Delivery and uptake of SI innovations through the building of functional partnerships among research and development institutions enhanced

(<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/77116>)

During regional review and planning meetings gender integration is achieved by attaching gender activities to outcomes and outputs.

## Summary of Key Results Areas

This section summarizes activities related to outcomes and outputs in each project region. It shows how efforts for gender inclusion are concentrated in certain areas and need to be broadened to increase gender-responsiveness. In addition, it provides information on general mainstreaming activities such as capacity development. At the next review and planning meetings it should be discussed if future action plans should establish quotas or targets for sufficient female participation in R4D activities in all outcome areas. For research involving human subjects sex-disaggregation and gender-responsive sampling should be considered a minimum standard as defined for the CGIAR.

<http://www.pim.cgiar.org/files/2012/05/Standards-for-Collecting-Sex-Disaggregated-Data-for-Gender-Analysis.pdf>)

### East and Southern Africa Project

The following table shows a commitment to gender analysis under outcome 5, output 1 and 3.

<b>Outcome 5: Delivery and uptake of SI innovations through building functional partnerships among research and development institutions enhanced</b>			
<b>Output 1:</b> Understanding of the social, economic, and institutional constraints to and opportunities for technology adoption from different farm typologies improved			
<b>Activity 1:</b> Conduct cost-benefit and gender analysis coupled with other socio-economic analyses to identify and quantify adoption constraints and opportunities for different farmer contexts			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Activities</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)</b>
Malawi	Conduct gender analysis of Africa RISING technologies	IITA	Consultancy report on qualitative data with gender perspective
Kongwa/Kiteto, Tanzania	Conduct gender analysis of selected ISFM & crop systems	ARI Hombolo, CIMMYT, ICRAF, ICRISAT	Research report
Kongwa/Kiteto, Tanzania	Conduct gender analysis of poultry enterprises in Kongwa and Kiteto	ARI Hombolo, ICRAF, ICRISAT	Research report
Babati, Tanzania	Determine role of gender in vegetable production/trade	WorldVeg, IITA	Research report
Babati, Tanzania	Evaluate maize-fertilizer intervention (WTP)	IITA	Report on qualitative results with gender perspective

<b>Output 3:</b> Gender-sensitive decision support tools for farmers to assess technology-associated risk and opportunity developed tested and launched			
<b>Activity 1:</b> Identify and communicate gender-sensitive decision support technologies in the context of different farm typologies			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Activities</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)</b>
Kongwa/Kiteto, Tanzania	Promote gender-sensitive decision support tools for R & D for scientists	ARI Hombolo, CIMMYT, ICRAF, ICRISAT	Progress report
Kongwa/Kiteto, Tanzania	Promote gender-sensitive decision support tools for farmers to guide adoption	ARI Hombolo, CIMMYT, ICRAF, ICRISAT	Progress report (with indication of farmers trained by sex)
Babati, Tanzania	Identify constraints, opportunities for women integrating improved forages into their cropping mix, livestock diets, and income generation	ILRI, IITA	Research report
Babati, Tanzania	Workshop to integrate findings of gender in feed processing study	ILRI, IITA	Workshop report
Babati, Tanzania	Assess role of gender and business thinking in the context of soil and water conservation within farming systems for intensification	CIAT_NRM	Research report
Babati, Tanzania	Survey on profitability and gender dynamics around forages and SWC while linking surveys with ICT to reach numbers	CIAT_NRM	Research report

## West Africa Project

The following table shows a commitment to gender analysis in 14 sub-activities under outcome 1, output 1; outcome 2, output 1 and 2; and outcome 3, output 1 and 2.

<b>Outcome 1: Farmers and farming communities in the project area are practicing more productive, resilient, and profitable and sustainably intensified crop-livestock systems linked to markets</b>			
<b>Output 1:</b> Research products for more productive, intensive, diverse, profitable and resilient crop (cereals, legumes, and vegetables); livestock (sheep, goats, cattle, poultry and pigs) and integrated crop-livestock farming systems are identified and disseminated to farmers through development partners in the intervention communities			
<b>Activity 1:</b> Test a combination of climate-smart crop varieties and agronomic practices to increase and sustain food and feed production			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Activities</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)</b>
Bougouni and Koutiala, Mali	Sheep fattening to reduce poverty and food insecurity for women farmers	IER, ICRISAT, ILRI	Field visit, reports
Bougouni and Koutiala, Mali	Profitability and gender analysis of vegetable monocropping and intercropping	ICRISAT, IITA, WorldVeg	Journal article
Ghana	Variety and planting density effects on grain and fodder yield and quality of groundnut	IITA	Field visit, reports
Ghana	Leaf stripping to maximize food and feed yields from maize-based cropping systems	IITA	Field visit, reports
Ghana	Cowpea living mulch effect on weed control, soil properties and maize yield	IITA	Field visit, reports



<b>Outcome 2: More farmers and farm families in the intervention communities are adopting technologies and practices to improve nutrition, food and feed safety, post-harvest handling and value addition</b>			
<b>Output 1:</b> Improved technologies, practices and habits to increase production and consumption of diverse and more nutritious food by farm families, especially by women and children are developed. <b>Activity 1:</b> Develop a nutrition strategy to harmonize the nutrition activities with the national nutrition approaches and link them to the crop and livestock activities			
Region	Sub-Activities	Responsibility	Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)
Ghana	Evaluation of nutrition-sensitive-agriculture options in West Africa	ILRI, UDS, WorldVeg, ARI, MOFA, GHS	Report
Mali	Evaluation of nutrition-sensitive-agriculture options in Mali	ILRI, WorldVeg, IER, AMEDD	Report
<b>Output 2:</b> Post-harvest technologies and practices to provide options for the food, and feed sectors are tested and disseminated to farmers, through researchers, extension staff, and development partners <b>Activity 1:</b> Introduce, evaluate, adapt and disseminate existing postharvest technologies and practices			
Region	Sub-Activities	Responsibility	Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)
Ghana	Exploring farmers willingness to pay for small-scale maize shelling machines	IITA	Report
<b>Outcome 3: Farmers and other value chain actors have greater and equitable access to production assets and markets (input and output) through enabling institutions and policies</b>			
<b>Output 1:</b> Enabling policies and institutional arrangements to increase participation of farm families, especially women and youth in the output and input markets and decision-making are advocated for implementation by national governments, policy makers and development partners. <b>Activity 1:</b> Review existing policies and institutional arrangements affecting equitable access to production assets and markets			
Region	Sub-Activities	Responsibility	Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)
Ghana	Enhancing farmers access to credit and markets	IITA, FOSTERING	Report
Mali	Literature review of existing policies and institutional arrangements affecting access to production assets and markets	IER, ICRISAT	Journal article

<b>Activity 2:</b> Assess the level of inclusiveness of women and the youth along crop and livestock value chains			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Activities</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)</b>
Ghana	Explore value chain options engaged in by men, women and the youth	IITA	Report
<b>Output 2:</b> Options to increase access to production assets and increase participation in decision-making by women, youth and other vulnerable groups			
<b>Activity 1:</b> Identify constraints to, and opportunities for improving access to the output and input markets by women and youth in the target area			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Activities</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)</b>
Koutiala, Mali	Assess value chain constraints and opportunities for male, female and young farmers in the Koutiala area	WUR	Proposal, report
Bougouni and Koutiala, Mali	Identify constraints and opportunities for improving access to markets for women and youth	IER, ICRISAT	Report
<b>Activity 3:</b> Identify constraints to and opportunities for increasing women and youth access to production assets/decision making in the target area			
<b>Region</b>	<b>Sub-Activities</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Means of Verification (with sex-disaggregated data)</b>
Ghana	Analyze intra-household differences and decision-making to better understand adoption	WUR, IITA	Journal article

# Capacity development

Africa RISING's gender experts continuously encourage and support economists and bio-physicists to include gender perspectives in their research. This support ranges from rendering tools more gender-sensitive, discussing sampling issues, drawing attention to gender aspects in specific areas to joint field visits and investigation.

In phase 2 Africa RISING aims at increasing its commitment to analyzing gender relations in its target communities and households and to more closely investigating how gender dynamics interact with its agricultural technologies. This objective can best be achieved if Africa RISING's partners have adequate levels of gender capacity. In order to establish a baseline, a broad gender capacity assessment was conducted at the end of phase 1. It revealed the need for training especially in gender analysis and gender-transformative approaches (<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/72524>).

Since mid-2016 a gender training manual is being developed with the following objectives:

- To provide Africa RISING with a gender training concept that resonates with its farming systems and action research approach and puts a focus on gender analysis and gender transformation.
- To compile a gender training manual that is informed by the concept above and has been piloted in Africa RISING's specific contexts in Mali, Ghana, Tanzania and Malawi.

The final product will be of use for Africa RISING's research teams in their cooperation with gender experts. The manual will not only support upcoming gender group trainings but also encourage independent self-paced learning processes among scientists. The outcomes will contribute to a more systematic gender capacity development approach and the inclusion of gender perspectives into the activities at the project level. Due to open access, the manual will be available even for other projects committed to a farming systems and action learning approach. The manual will be piloted and completed in 2017.

## Links for Further Reading

1. Gender Action Plan 2015/2016 - <http://hdl.handle.net/10568/72525>
2. Gender Annual Report 2016 - <http://hdl.handle.net/10568/79911>
3. Africa RISING Program Framework (2012-2016) - <http://hdl.handle.net/10568/25079>
4. Africa RISING Program Proposal for a Second Phase (2016-2021) - <http://hdl.handle.net/10568/77114>
5. Africa RISING West Africa Regional Project: Proposal for a Second Phase, 2016-2021 - <http://hdl.handle.net/10568/77116>
6. Africa RISING East and Southern Africa Regional Project: Proposal for a Second Phase, 2016-2021 - <http://hdl.handle.net/10568/77113>