

The gender landscape in rural Ethiopia

- Inherent individual, community and institutional level social norms and practices hamper rural women's empowerment in Ethiopia.
- Rural women's participation in decision-making and control over benefits, resources, assets and services are limited, affecting food and nutritional security.
- Addressing restrictive norms requires changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices among community groups and stakeholders.

Innovative ways of working

- Engage communities in dialogues on gender norms, behavior and practices.
- Creating safe space for radical and incremental change
- Capitalize on local resources to develop context specific knowledge products.

Men and women members of a community in Menz, Ethiopia, gather for a community conversation.



EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Promoting equality of opportunity

Transforming gender relations in rural Ethiopia through community conversations

- Women and men changed attitudes and perceptions associated with masculinity and femininity
- Shifts in unequal gender division of labor
- Inclusion of women in local institutions improved innovation and productivity
- Local leaders institutionalized the approach



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock

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Husband and wife sharing chores at home.

Why community conversations?

- Through open and frank conversations, community members questioned their gender-biased views, attitudes and practices, encouraging many to adopt changes.
- The conversations facilitated discovery-based and experiential learning through reflection.

Future steps

- Developing tailor-made materials for government extension workers
- Technical backstopping support to scaling partners
- Use approach to address animal welfare and Antimicrobial Resistance

Partners in Ethiopia

Regional Agricultural Research Centers, Woreda offices of agriculture; Livestock agency, women's affairs, Woreda communication offices



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