



CHECKLIST

Gender-inclusive actionable agro-advisories

This **checklist** aims to assist producers and translators in developing agro-advisories (forecast and forecast-based advice) that are gender-inclusive and useful for both men and women farmers. It presents five indicators to determine the actionability of such agro-advisories: (1) What information is available? (2) If it is available, is it accessible? (3) If available and accessible, is it on time? (4) If available, accessible, and on time, can end-users understand it? (5) If available, accessible, timely, and understandable, is it useful?

Here, we have highlighted key items for each component of actionability based on our experiences in Southeast Asia. The extra empty line is provided to remind ourselves that no place is the same, that the list therefore is inconclusive, and that it is necessary to modify with our own contextualized details. For any of the questions for women and men, you can add any other relevant group that will enhance inclusiveness. Such groups can be categorized based on age and ethnic, social, or socioeconomic status.



The terms *climate service*, *forecast* and *agro-advisory* are here used in a broad sense, to include a wider audience and range of products.

AVAILABILITY -- What kind of information is available for men and women?

- YES Is the weather or seasonal forecast that is disseminated to both men and women relevant for their needs? - *if not, is there a strategy for how to make it relevant?*
- YES Is the forecast-based advisory that is disseminated to both men and women based on their needs?
- YES Does the agro-advisory provide instructions in case of natural disasters or emergency?
- ...

ACCESSIBILITY -- If information is available, is it accessible to men and women?

- YES Are the forecasts and agro-advisories disseminated at places (real and virtual) that both men and women visit regularly?
- YES Can men and women access and (preferably) take in the information at the same time?
- YES Can men and women both access the information during extreme weather events?
- ...

TIMELINESS -- If available and accessible, is it on time for men and women to take action?

- YES Are women's and men's tasks included in the agro-advisory?
- YES Do women and men get the agro-advisory in time to take action?
- YES Is the agro-advisory updated based on men's and women's needs?
- ...

UNDERSTANDABILITY -- If available, accessible, and on time, can women and men easily understand it?

- YES Were the designs and illustrations of the agro-advisory tested with user groups of men and women?
- YES Was the content, language, and terminology in the agro-advisory tested with user groups of men and women?
- YES Is there a feedback mechanism to communicate with developers of agro-advisories?
- ...

USEFULNESS -- The agro-advisory has proven benefits for women and men

- YES Are the forecast indicators based on female and male users' needs?
- YES Do women and men use the agro-advisory to support their decisions?
- YES Are the feedbacks of men and women heard and included in the agro-advisories?
- ...



- Forecasts may come from multiple sources or in different frequencies than the agro-advisory.
- By “relevant,” we also refer to the “accuracy” of information.
- Determining the needs of men and women typically involves facilitated group discussions.
- What-if scenarios can visualize the actions that need to be taken when sudden extreme events puts the advisory out of use



- Make the agro-advisory visible in the places most frequently visited by women and men separately and together.
- If there is a difference, it is often women who are less literate than men. Women often have less time to read.
- Knowing what to prioritize during emergency situations can help reduce losses and damages.



- Certain tasks (before, during, or after the season) may need different time to be accomplished.



- Not everyone interprets graphs and icons in the same way.
- Let end-users (both men and women) use their words in preparing the agro-advisory. Ask them to retell the agro-advisory and learn how the content is interpreted and understood. In this way, we can constantly learn more.
- Feedback mechanisms can involve fast reporting of new pests and diseases.



- Women and men may use forecasts for purposes other than agriculture. They need different forecast indicators or advice to plan activities such as going to market, accomplishing domestic chores, and doing other errands.
- Farmers (both women and men) can update their farming calendars and change their practices or management styles given the various constraints and issues that they face, especially in terms of labor and resource allocation. In this way, the agro-advisory is constantly adapting and being improved.



Many farm and non-farm tasks are gendered. If a homogeneous group involving only men, experts, or a certain age or status is involved in developing climate service products, some important details may be forgotten or overlooked. This may affect the tasks of those who were not represented, typically women, ethnic people, and other marginalized groups.

For example, weather forecasts may be available for average temperature rather than maximum temperature and for monthly total rainfall rather than the number of dry or rainy days.

Due to their domestic chores, women normally work more hours than men on a daily basis. Now, let's imagine during a hot spell, when temperatures reach above 35°C and there is no rainfall: how will you prioritize your tasks when it is only possible to work in the fields between 4-10 am and a few hours before sunset? Please consider that you also need to mind the children, cook (maybe over hot open fires) meals for your family, water plants in the garden, ensure that animals get water and are not over-heated, wash the dishes, clean the house, and even shop for your leisure time.

With this example, we want to highlight that forecasts can be as important for agriculture planning as for other tasks. The type of indicators, however, may be different.

Why do we need a gender checklist for agro-advisories?



Literature

Duong MT, Smith A, Le TT, Simelton E, Coulier M. 2017. Gender-differences in Agro-Climate Information Services (Findings from ACIS baseline survey in Ha Tinh and Dien Bien provinces, Vietnam). CCAFS Info Note. Wageningen, The Netherlands: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/87972>

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