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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research

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Innovation Lab for Legume Systems Research

MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS PROJECT

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Objectives

- To harmonise the understanding of basic concepts and knowledge necessary for effective gender mainstreaming in the MSP Project.

- To sensitise and build knowledge on gender amongst stakeholders in the MSP Project

- Guide stakeholders on developing indicators, monitoring their work and reporting on gender outcomes

Introduction

- The Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) is one of the technical departments in the Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi and conducts research on beans, other crops and livestock
- Gender equity in agriculture is one of their objectives
- Mainstreaming gender in research and development would ensure increased productivity and entrepreneurship ensuring food and income security at household, community and national levels.

What do we do?

Production hubs

Distribution hubs

Consumption hubs
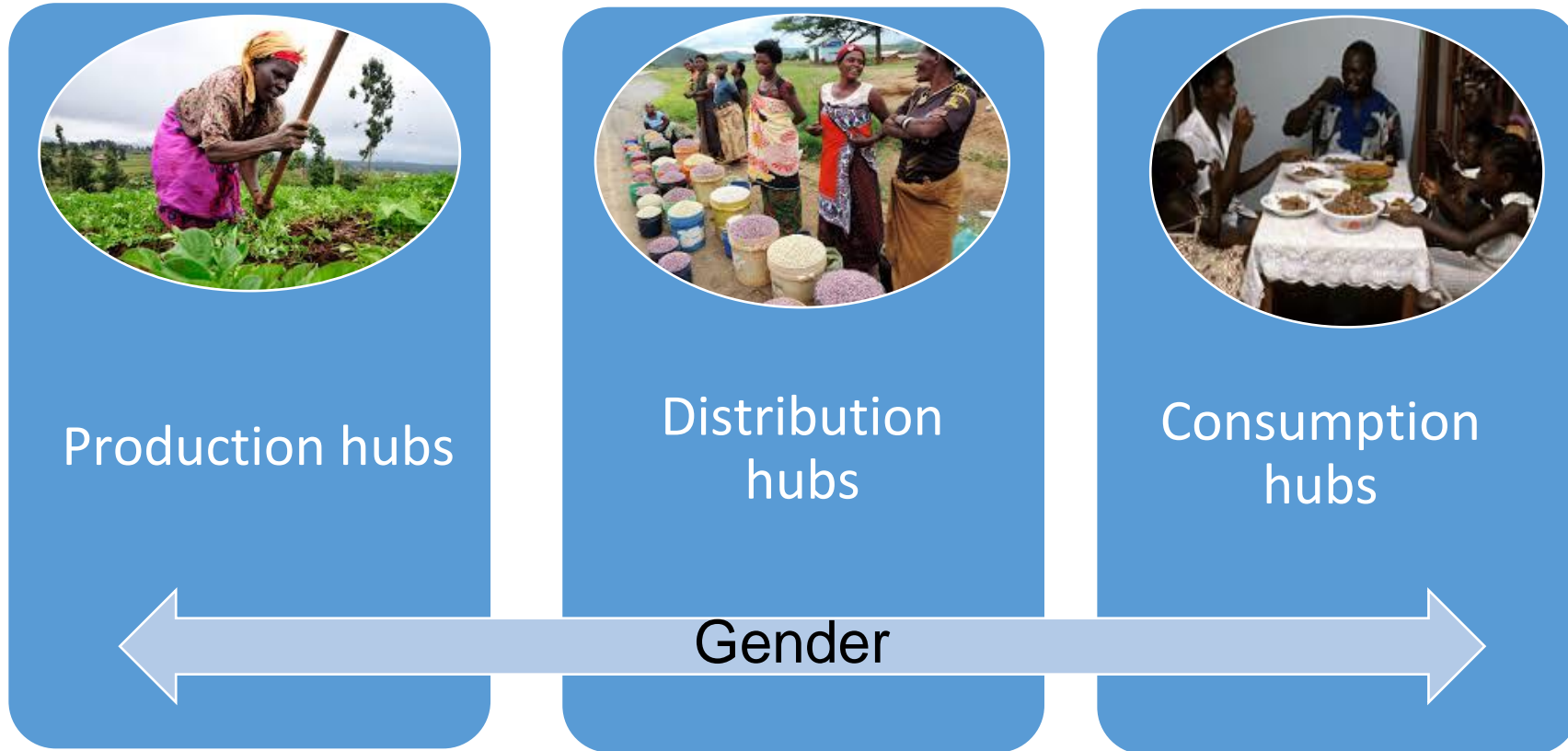
Gender

- Identify gender gaps in the production, distribution and consumption hub and work in partnership with different actors (Researchers in the NARS, the private sector, NGOs and any other stakeholders) to create the desired change

Gender framework approaches

1 REACH

REACH WOMEN, MEN AND YOUTH AS PARTICIPANTS.

Trainings, fields days/demonstrations, market activation, product testingstakeholder meetings

2 BENEFIT

ACCESS TO RESOURCES BY MEN WOMEN AND YOUTH.

Consider gender specific needs and preferences in technologies, information and resources provided

3 EMPOWER

STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF WOMEN AND MEN TO MAKE STRATEGIC LIFECHOICES

Enhance their decision making in households and community while addressing Key areas in disempowerment. Using the technology or information received.

4 TRANSFORM

CHANGE GENDER NORMS

Create an enabling environment to address gender norms. Interact with power holders in the community to critically examine gender norms, inequalities and influence change.

Nchanji, E. (2021) Gender frameworks. [Infographic on how to practically integrate gender in your research using the Reach, Benefit, Empower and Transform Framework.] 1 p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/113188

What is sex and gender?

- **Biologically defined vs socially constructed**
- **Independent vs interconnected with socio-cultural variables**
- **Universal vs changes from one place to another**

Some common gender concepts

- Gender blind
- Gender neutral
- Gender sensitive
- Gender mainstreaming
- Sex disaggregation
- Gender disaggregation
- Empowerment
- Intersectionality
- Gender Responsive
- Gender equality
- Gender equity
- Gender Liberation/transformation

Nchanji (2021). Understanding basic gender concepts.
https://alliancebioversityciat.org/stories/understanding-basic-gender-concepts
https://youtu.be/yJ51tcNxV_o
UN WOMEN; UNICEF; UNESCO; EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY 8

Gender Concepts

Gender blind: Ignoring/failing to address the gender dimension in any given project or research(as opposed to gender-sensitive or gender neutral). Ignores gender biases that exist in society (ILO, 2007). It usually uses gender-blind terms which may result in girls/women or boys/men becoming invisible in development activities

Gender neutral: It is when gender is not considered relevant to development outcomes. Gender norms, roles and relations are not affected (worsened or improved) by technology or change.

Gender sensitive: The ability to acknowledge gender differences and to develop strategies to address 'gender norms, roles and access to resources in so far as it is needed to reach project goals'.

Gender mainstreaming: It is a strategy for making women's, as well as men's, concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

Gender Concepts Cont'd

Sex disaggregated data: Any data that is cross-classified by sex; that is presented separately for women and men, girls and boys. That takes into account women's and men's roles, realities, conditions and situations

Gender disaggregated-data: Data collected to reflect gender issues and takes into consideration stereotypes, bias, intersectionality – age, ethnicity, marital and wealth status

Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences which marginalise them – gender, sex, class, geographical area, ethnicity, wealth class

Empowerment refers to people - both women and men - taking control over their lives: setting their own agendas, gaining skills (or having their own skills and knowledge recognized), increasing self-confidence, solving problems, and developing self-reliance. Requires an expansion in their ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this was previously denied to them (Kabeer, 2001).

Gender-responsive: Outcomes can be achieved by ensuring that both women and men are included equitably in the activities of the research program.
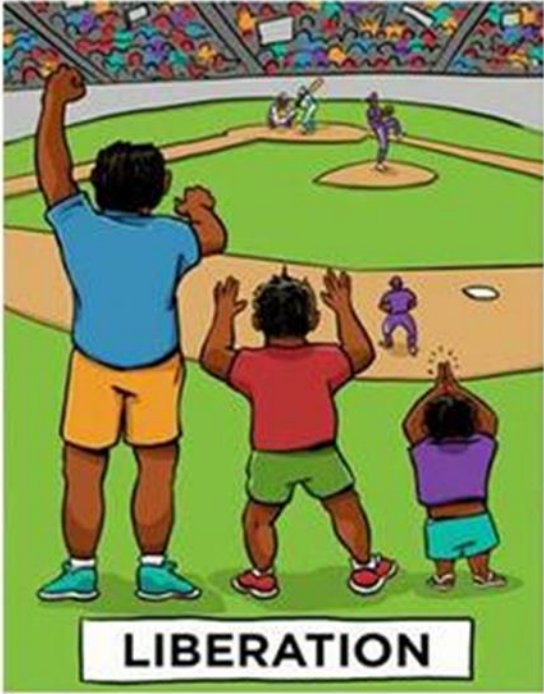
Gender Concepts Cont'd

EQUALITY
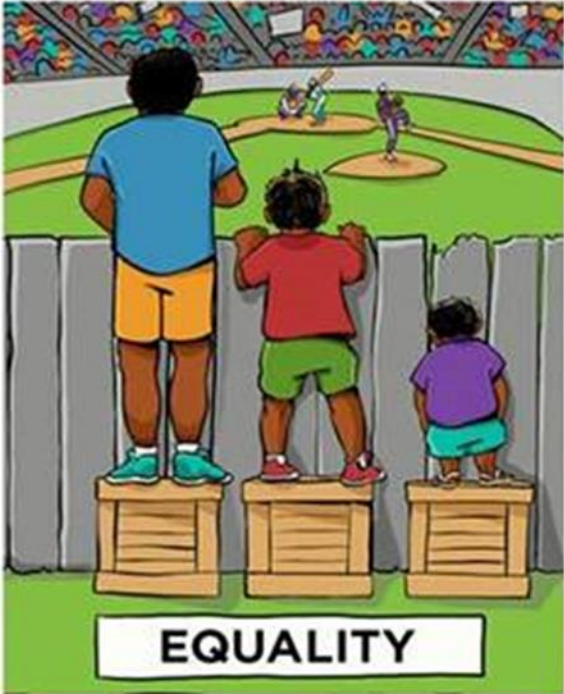
In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.

EQUITY

In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.

LIBERATION

In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

Gender gaps in the Common beans value chain

- 60% of women are involved in bean production

- They provide 30 to 60 % of agricultural labour

- They face discrimination in accessing land, information, training, technology financial services, social capital etc

- Women's control over assets above and how to benefit from it

- Increased drudgery for women than men

- Decision-making and leadership positions

- Women's invisibility in the value chain

Gender gaps/challenges in the MSP project – brainstorming session

- ➢ Was a gender analysis done? – Is there a Gender Strategy?

- ➢ Is there a gender framework being used?

- ➢ Where gender performance indicators identified? Are they being monitored?

- ➢ Is reporting so far gender sensitive?

Gender analysis….

➢ Identifying gender gaps/gender disparities

➢ Analyse gender constraints and opportunities

➢ Understanding how gender influences a project

➢ Assessing the potential positive and negative impact of project interventions on women and men – "how to do no harm"

➢ Assessing the capacity of institutions to address gender issues

➢ Developing a gender strategy or action plan and how this ties in with the TOC of the project

Increase women participation and access to technologies and information
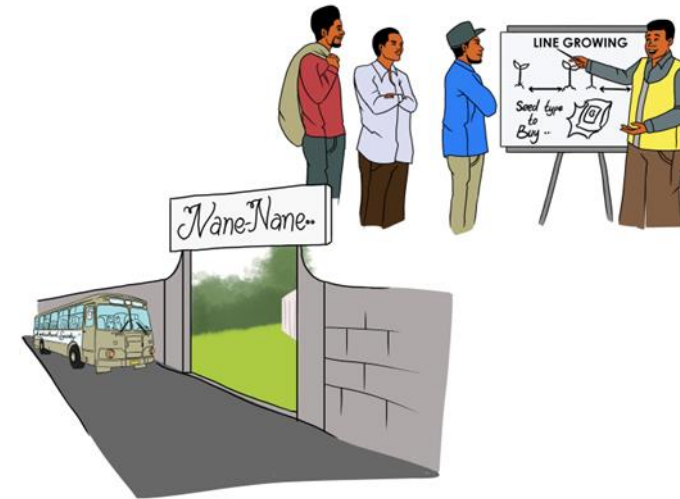
- Expose women to high-yielding, drought, fast cooking nutrient-rich varieties and make sure they are involved at the design stage

- Increase women's participation in training and knowledge dissemination workshops
- Capacity building of women and youths as TOT

Increase women's voice – leadership and governance positions in MSP
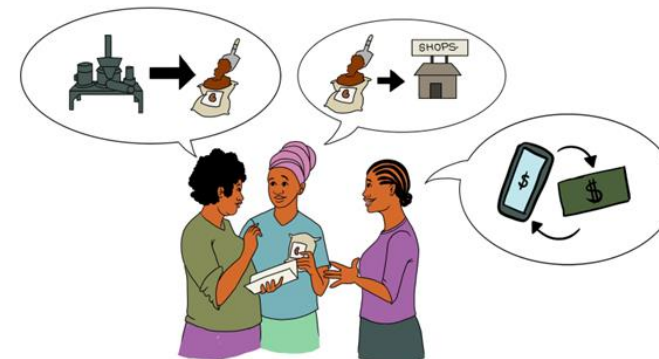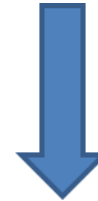
- Build capacity as leaders where their voices and aspirations are heard and met

- Network with partners providing advisory support

- Links to markets

- Links to financial institutions, insurance etc

From product concept to gender-responsive breeding product profiles

- These differential trait preferences follow gender division of labour, market access, and varies by age, ethnicity and education (Christinck et al. 2017).

- Information from men and women farmers, consumers traders and processors are shaping common beans breeding and seed release

- Capacity building of breeders - gender responsive PVS and G+ customer and product profile tools
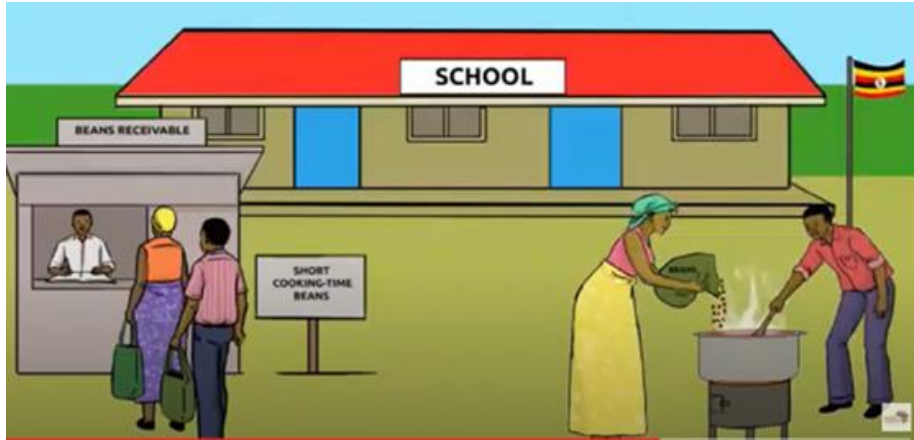
GAPS
- **Market study**
- **Gender analysis**

G + customer and product profile tool

Market segmentation (G + Customer and Product Profile Tools) for Gender Responsive Bean Breeding in Zimbabwe: Piloting Report. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/119340

Changing gendered traits and varietal preferences with a focus on traders, processors and customers: lessons from Uganda

School demand for short cooking time bean varieties vs fees is influencing trait preferences of men and women farmers
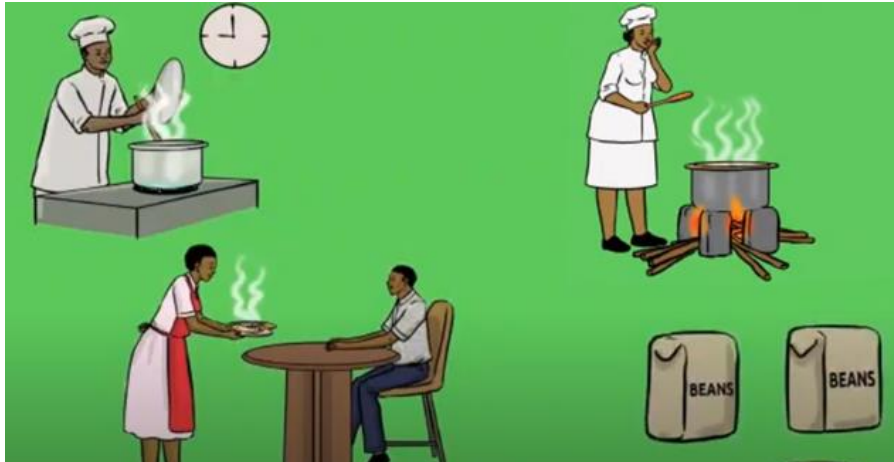
The high cost of fuel in households and consumer preferences has thrown more light on traits such as short cooking time, stick stew, palatability, affordability, wholeness, shelf life, maintaining colour and texture have come to light.

How to get seeds in the hands of the last mile farmers – inclusive seed system

- Link farmer seed cooperatives with seed companies and agricultural organizations (multiplication & dissemination)

- Scale out seed delivery mechanisms by working with farmer groups, individuals, churches, NGOs
    + Small packs
    + Seed revolving fund

- Addressing issues on accessibility, availability, affordability – new innovations

- Increase gender equality - training seed companies/ Incentive packs

Youth employment/empowerment through seed production and sale in the community in Tanzania

Seed revolving fund in Women groups in Kenya

Lessons on Inclusive seed delivery system across the corridor

Increasing access to improved seeds through school gardens, prisons and orphanages as entry points for the communities in Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Burundi, Kenya, Ghana

Bean processors in Burundi now contract bean farmers (60% women) to grow improved bean varieties with seeds from ISABU (National Agricultural institute in Burundi
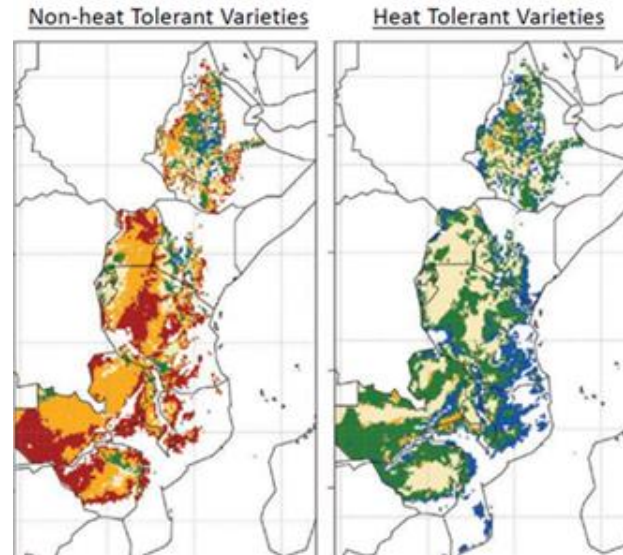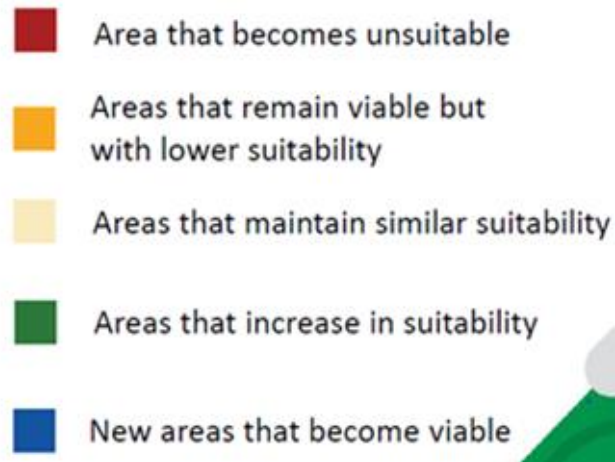Can this be scaled out in other countries? Like Malawi
What is needed to get processors to this level?

Climate affects everybody but not equally: Women as change agents, not just beneficiaries

East & Southern Africa

- ■ (red) Area that becomes unsuitable
- ■ (orange) Areas that remain viable but with lower suitability
- ■ (cream) Areas that maintain similar suitability
- ■ (green) Areas that increase in suitability
- ■ (blue) New areas that become viable

Non-heat Tolerant Varieties   Heat Tolerant Varieties

- Eighty percent of people displaced by climate change are women
- Women, migrants and other vulnerable groups face discrimination in accessing land, financial services, social capital and technology to reduce weather-related losses or adaptation technologies.

- Inclusive capacity building trainings and workshops on different aspects of crop management to men and women farmers and schools

- Equitable access to information on existing technologies, agronomic advisory services, climate finance and policy

Emerging technologies – are they women/gender friendly?

Mobile bean thresher creates employment for youths, reducing drudgery for women farmers

Planting in lines is labour and cost-effective and also an employment opportunity for youths and women who can provide planting services

Reduces post-harvest losses amidst the current climate change, working with women farmers and processors

Market linkages – collective agency/individual agency: Lessons learnt and way forward

How do I get to the market?

AND THEY WONDER WHY WE DON'T PAY THE SAME PRICE AS IN TOWN

MAIZE TRADING LTD

VILLAGE

Business platforms

Collective marketing to offtakers and aggregators

- Increased income
- Reinvestment on farm
- More control over income by women
- Better decision-making on house and farm
- Women leadership - empowerment
- Increased productivity

Challenge in integrating gender in M&E

➢ Gender is often not fully integrated into project design (There is no or little consideration for gender objectives and indicators)

➢ Gender relations are difficult to measure

➢ Missing gender baseline data due to the limited capacity of staff or no consideration for it when generating the project baseline data

Gender-sensitive targets and indicators

➢ An indicator is a pointer. It can be a measurement, a number, a fact, an opinion, or a perception that points at a specific condition or situation, and measures changes in that condition or situation over time.

➢ Gender indicator points out gender-related changes in society over time.

➢ Need for qualitative and quantitative indicators - quantitative indicators can be defined as measures of quantity and qualitative indicators can be defined as people's judgments and perceptions about a subject.

Gender-sensitive targets and indicators Cont'd

➢ All indicators should be sex-disaggregated, and easy to use and understand.
➢ The number chosen should be small. A rule of thumb is that up to six
➢ Objectives must be as clearly set as possible, and indicators must be closely related to objectives.
➢ Base-line studies should be conducted, using data disaggregated by sex, socioeconomic and ethnic grouping, and age, against which progress and results can be measured.
➢ The most important indicators for project evaluation are outcome indicators.
➢ The time frame within which objectives are to be met and indicators to be used should be set out as clearly as possible.

Different ways to monitor gender in a project: Identify the key domains of change you want to measure

➤ Women's participation, women's position in leadership positions, women's voice in spaces where they have leadership positions, decision-making patterns in the household and on the farm

➤ Moving beyond the men and women binary to look at other intersectional elements like ethnicity, wealth or changes amongst the men or women as they are not homogenous

Captures the change when it occurs through participatory monitoring, meeting with relevant leaders of farmer's groups to discuss data on change collected and success stories

Reflections on reporting stories
- What should be in the success story?
- Pictures?
- How should the story be structured?
- How should the change be reported?
- Role of the project to bring about that change?

Acknowledgement: