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TH3.3: Beyond crops: Towards gender equality in forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, and livestock development

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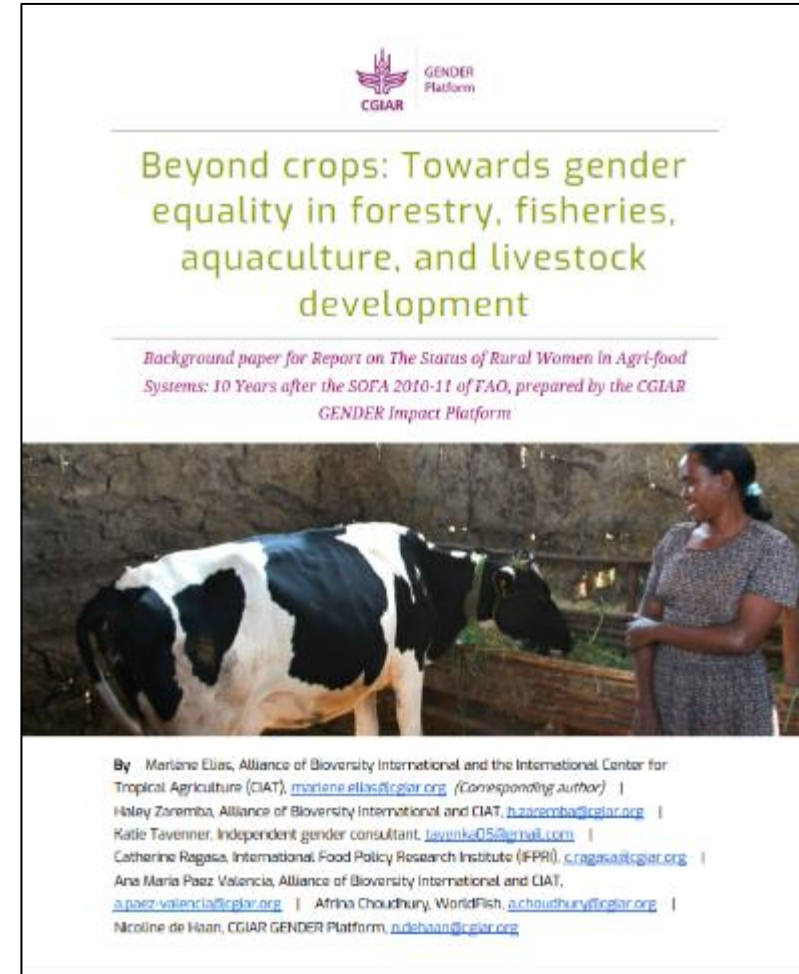
Gender Lead

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The Alliance of Biodiversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is part of CGIAR – a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

Scope of paper

- Gender-specific roles, access to, participation in and benefits from forestry, fisheries, aquaculture and livestock
- Status of gender gaps in these sectors
- What has proven effective to reduce these gaps



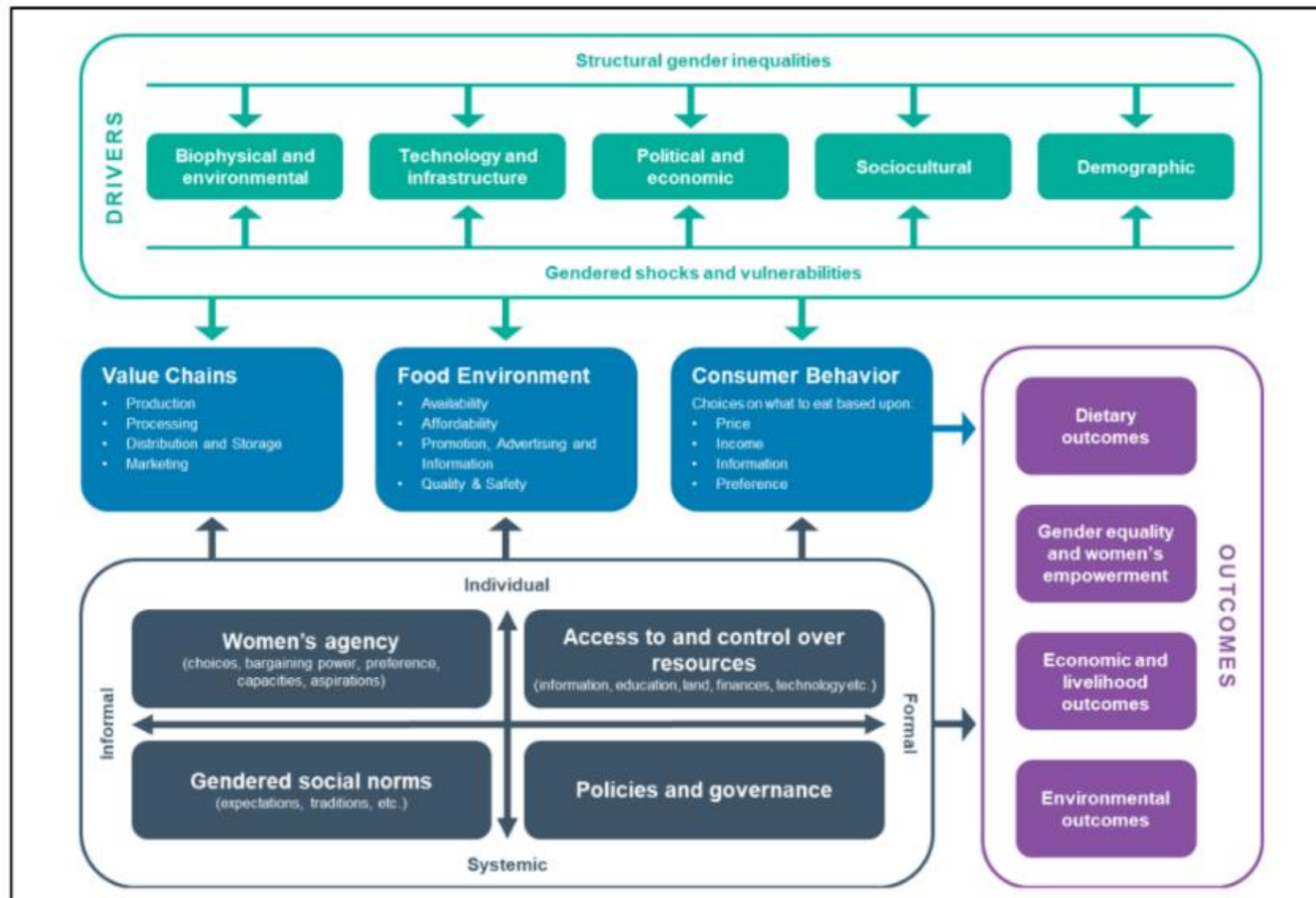
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Significance of the sectors for livelihoods

- 1/3 of global population, and over 90 percent of people living in extreme poverty—including Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities, landless farmers, and others in vulnerable situations—have a close dependence on forests for food, fodder, shelter, energy, medicine, income, and more (FAO and UNEP 2020)
 - In 2017, fish represented almost 20 percent of the average animal protein intake and essential micronutrients for 3.3 billion people; and 800 million people, many of them among the poorest and most marginalized, relied on income from aquatic food value chains (FAO 2020a)
 - The livestock sector plays an essential role in maintaining livelihoods and reducing poverty for 1.7 billion people globally, providing income to 60 percent of rural households, and contributing up to half of agricultural GDP (World Bank 2021)
- *Each of these sectors is highly gendered in terms of division of labor, rights to access and control resources and assets, decision-making and benefits.*

Pathways towards empowerment and gender equality



Source: Gendered Food Systems framework. Source: Njuki et al. (2021, 2)

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Gender Gaps in Forestry

- Lack of women's rights within community rights to forests
- Limited access to assets hinder women's ability to access the forest to collect NTFPs
- Normative constraints to women's participation in forest governance at multiple levels – formal education and less income inequality related to improved participation
- Disparities in participation and decision-making in formal forest user groups and programs (e.g., REDD+)
- Lack of access to capital, cultural norms and taboos, restricted mobility and time deficits => women in less remunerative forest enterprises and nodes of VCs



Gender Gaps in Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Lack of sex-disaggregated data; and of statistics on small-scale fisheries, inland fisheries and postharvest activities, where women tend to be concentrated
- Fishing and fish farming dominated by men - normative; but women 47% of small-scale fishers (less visible)
- When all stages of the value chain considered, women half of global primary and secondary aquaculture- and fisheries-sector workers – but occupational segregation
- Lack of access to boats and fishing equipment, fish ponds, cold-storage tech (leads to post-harvest loss), transport, information, credit
- In small-scale (fish farmer groups) and industrial fisheries – women less influential in decision-making
- Concentration of women in lower value value chains and segments – differences based on wealth groups



Gender Gaps in Livestock



- Women two-thirds of poor livestock keepers; most of the day-to-day farm animal management, processing, marketing, sale of animals and products (FAO, 2012).
 - Caring for livestock often considered an extension of women's care work.
 - Gender roles, responsibilities, and constraints in livestock value chains vary based on the type of livestock species/product and production system (e.g., pastoral, smallholder or commercial)
 - Normatively, men associated with more valuable breeds.
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- Gender gaps in land ownership and access to: pastures, fodder and forages, water, credit, technology, information, veterinary services and products (vaccines).
 - Uneven decision-making and control over livestock and products – related to sales vs consumption, breeds, economic value of product, etc.

Across sectors...

- Data gaps
 - Lack of historical sex-disaggregated data.
 - Lack of data on informal activities, where women are concentrated.
 - Lack of comparative data.
- Gender-blind sectoral policies.
- Context-specific and dynamic patterns:
 - Strong gender specialization in roles, mediated by intersectional identities.
 - Unequal access to & control over assets and complementary services (credit, extension, etc.).
 - Gender inequalities in decision-making, governance (user groups, management, boards).
 - Occupational segregation along value chains; invisibility and undervaluation of women's contributions.
 - High poverty among small-scale forest-/fisheries/livestock-dependent people, but lower benefits to women than men—variations by sp./product and level of commercial orientation.
 - New market opportunities for women tempered by gender constraints (in complementary services and assets) and risks.

Strategies across four change pathways

Few impact studies but...

Agency

- Collective action, networks, federations, SHGs
- Quotas, critical mass of women in governance
- Women's knowledge and capacities, leadership



Photo: Gates Archives

Access to and control over resources

- Land*, trees and their products, fish, livestock and pastures
- Complementary resources (transport, technologies, credit, information) and services (extension, training)
- Group-based approaches



Strategies across four change pathways (cont'd)

Social norms

- Related to 'reproductive' and 'productive' activities
- Gender transformative approaches (household, community), behavior-change communications

Policies

- Gap in literature about effective policies
- Gender integration in sectoral and related policies
- Increasing voice of women from civil society in policymaking



Implications for policy and practice

Multipronged strategies:

- Strengthening the **agency** of women and marginalized groups by supporting capacities, collective action and advocacy
- Equitably improving **access to and control over resources and assets**
- Promoting **normative shifts** to lift barriers to women's participation, voice and influence; access to and control over resources; and benefits across sectors
- Creating, funding and implementing coherent gender-responsive and gender-transformative **policies**, regulations and institutions
- Improving **data systems** to recognize and account for the contributions of women and socio-economically/politically marginalized groups across sectors (improved concepts and methodologies, account for formal and informal, gendered costs and benefits, longitudinal)



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Thanks!

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