



INITIATIVE ON

Asian Mega-Deltas

Towards equitable and inclusive climate adaptation policies and practices



30 November 2022

Science Connections for Better Governance and Sustainable Development
in the Mekong Delta

Nozomi Kawarazuka
International Potato Center, CGIAR
n.Kawarazuka@cigar.org

Photo: Ly Quoc Dang

The world without considering gender and social diversities

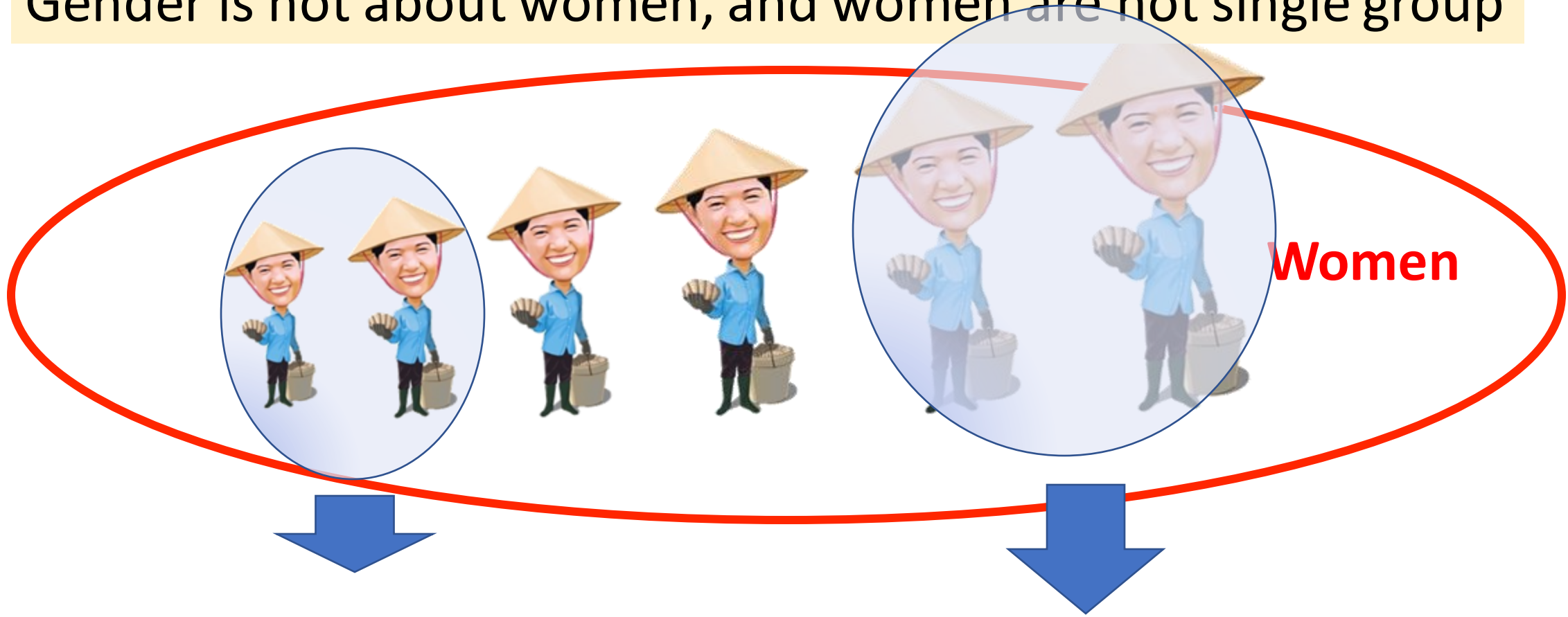


“farmers”

The world with a lens of gender and social diversities



Gender is not about women, and women are not single group



Some women have specific constraints based on their family issues and ethnicity

Advanced women farmers tend to benefit more from agricultural interventions

Agricultural technologies all over the world were originally developed by men and and designed for men.

The seat is too big and unsafe for women



Sacks are too heavy to carry for women



Spraying safety standards are designed based on men users.



Consequences

Women do manual work more than men

Women are paid lower

The impact of agricultural chemicals on women's health is unknown (not examined).

Women farmers' perspectives and needs are often forgotten
in the process of technology development and dissemination.

Why?

Because agricultural officers are mostly men



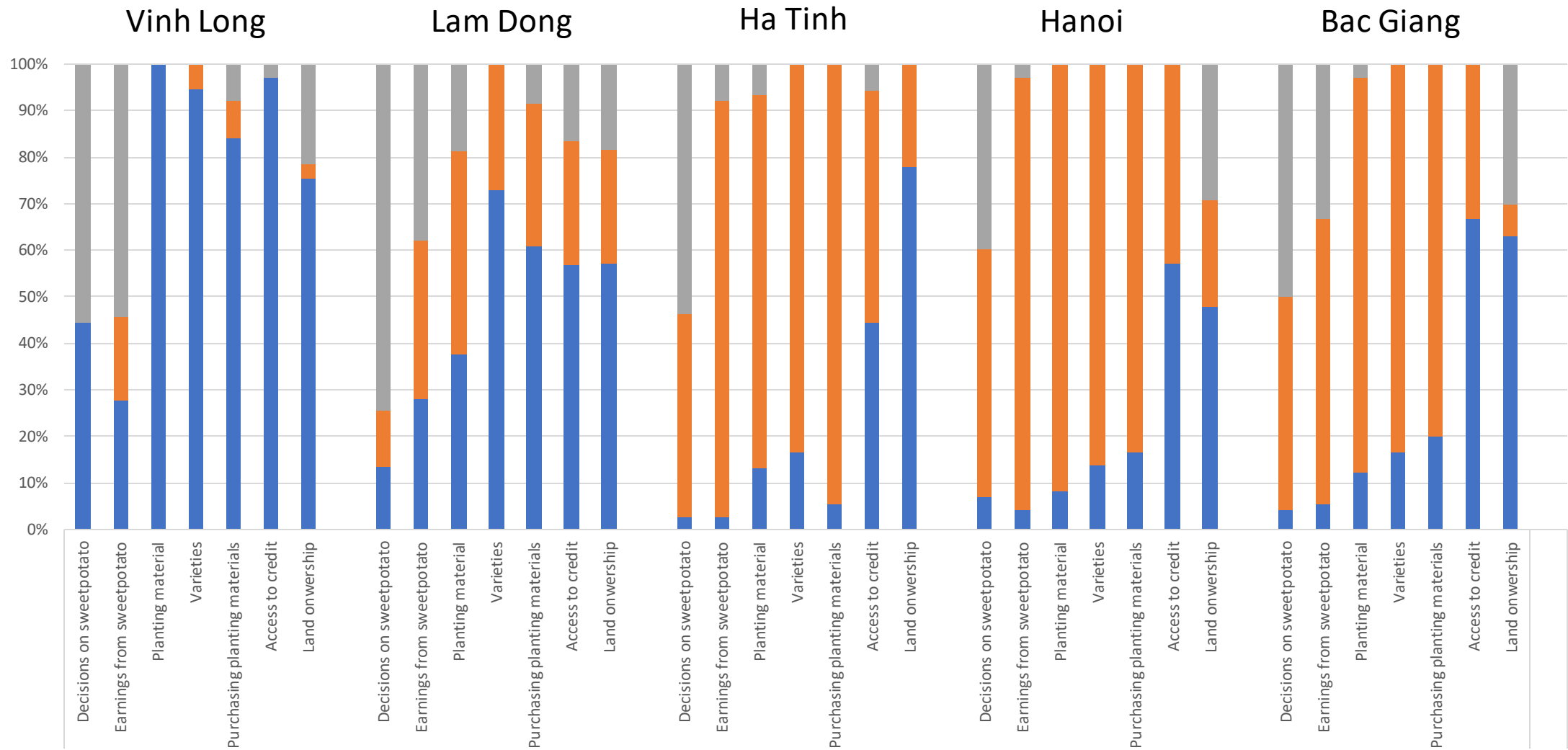
Because we invite the head of household as representatives



...but in the field, women are the majority in some activities



...and women are often household decision makers!

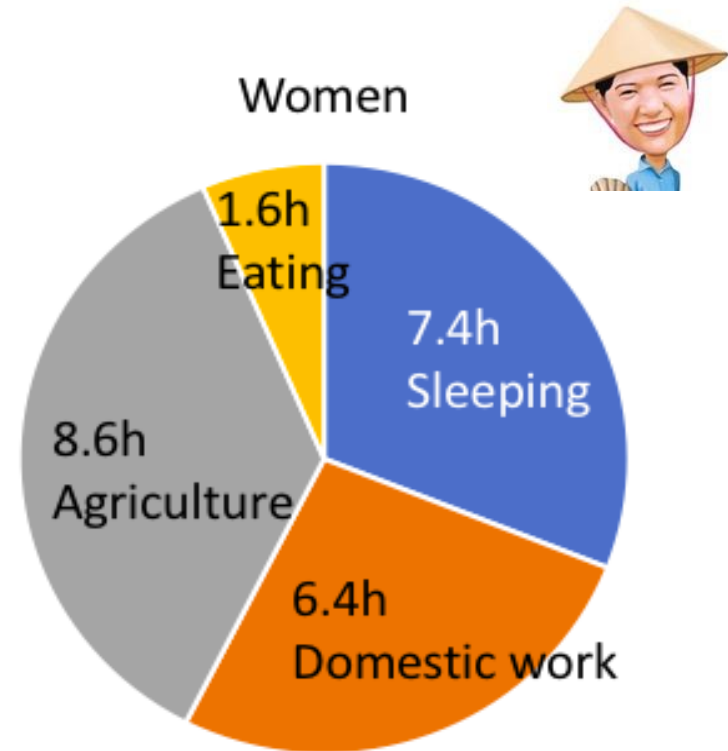
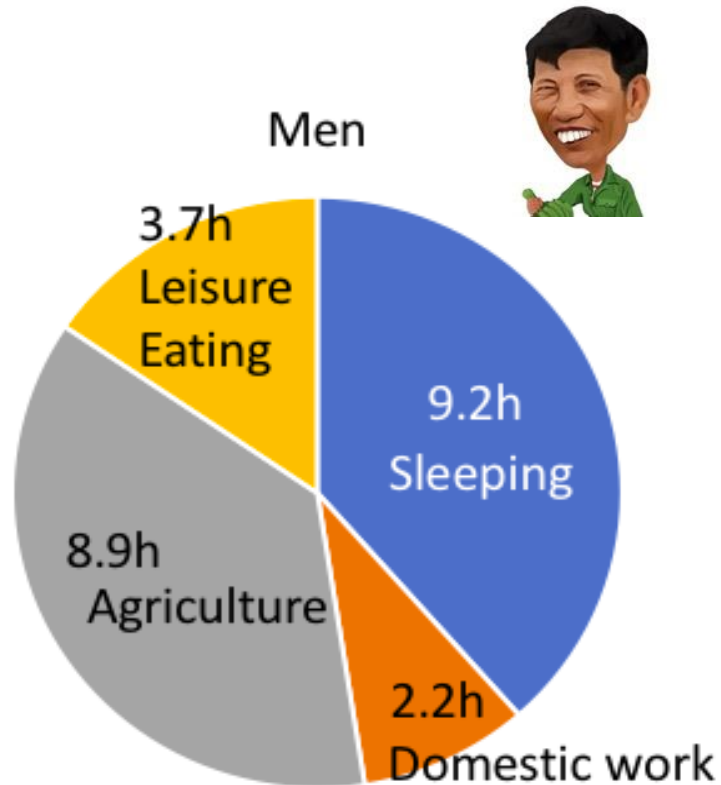


Source: Household decision-making patterns on sweetpotato production in five provinces in Vietnam.

A household survey (n=372) conducted in 2020 (V. Slavchevska et al.)

husband
 wife
 Joint

...and women often spend as much time as men do on the farms
Women also play key roles in household water and food security.



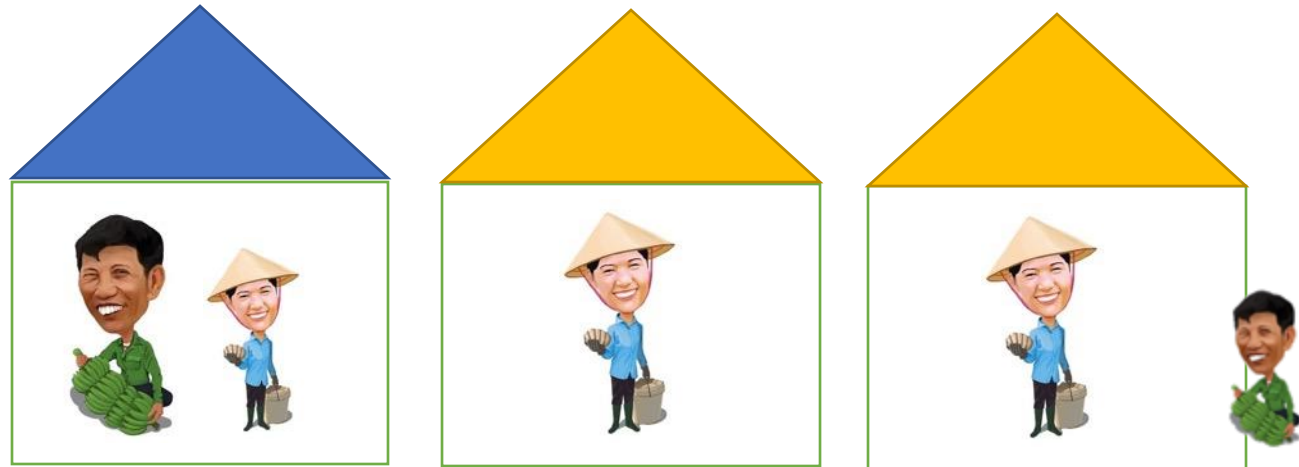
This study was conducted in 2017 in Northern Vietnam. Reference: ICRAF-the Gender SRA, 2018. Understanding opportunities and challenges in agricultural development through the gender lens: A case study in a H'mong community in Dien Bien. A report submitted to ACIAR. Online available from: <https://genderinagr.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/a-joint-report-gender-final.pdf>

Do policies and strategies in Mekong River Delta
specifically mention about gender and social diversities
and their differentiated needs?

Gender and social aspects in Vietnam Mekong River Delta Development Policies

	The name of policies and strategies	Gender	Ethnic minorities/ Poor Households
1	Master plan of the Mekong Delta region for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision towards 2050		✓
2	Action plan for the implementation of the master program on sustainable and climate resilient agricultural development of the Mekong Delta towards 2030, with a vision towards 2045		✓
3	Mekong River Delta Reform Action Framework		
4	Tasks and solutions to accelerate the development of key economic regions		✓
5	Operational regulations of the Mekong Delta Regional Coordination Council for the 2020-2025 period		
6	Master Program on Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agricultural Development of the Mekong River Delta towards 2030, with a vision towards 2045		✓
7	Accelerating the implementation of Resolution 120/NQ-CP		✓
8	Action Plan for the implementation of Decision 417/QD-TTg		
9	Master Action Program for the implementation of Resolution No.120/NQ-CP		✓
10	Climate resilient and sustainable development of the Mekong River Delta		✓
11	Law on Planning	✓	✓
12	Regulations for piloting regional linkages in socio-economic development for the Mekong Delta region for the 2016-2020 period		✓

Climate adaptation strategies for minority social groups



The male-headed households

Female-headed or male-absent households

Women-headed and male-absent households are less likely to adopt climate adaptation technologies (Ylipa et al., 2019).

Example: Khmer women in Soc Trang



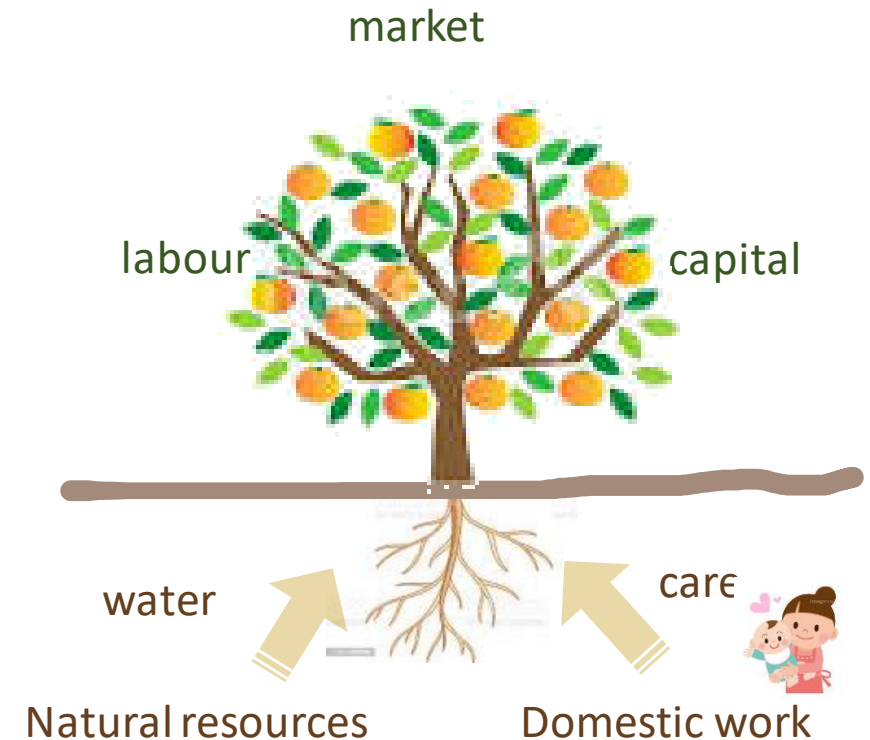
Environmental change (loss of biodiversity) directly affects Khmer women's livelihoods, household food security and labour migration strategies.

“Climate change is a crisis: Women are more affected by crises than men”.

Is this a case in Asia where the household is a collective unit?
Why and how?

All over the world, women's labour and natural resources are undervalued in the same mechanism

- Current food productivity is sustained by exploitation of natural resources and (women's unpaid) labor
- A shift of the value from food quantity to quality is needed



Key messages

- Women-oriented technologies and adaptation strategies can help strengthen resilience to climate change at the community level.
- Diverse options are required in climate adaptation strategies for the minority social groups (who directly depend on natural resources and have limited land/assets).
- The root causes of global problems of gender inequality and climate change are the same. We can address both by changing the (food) systems.