

Understanding Household Relationships

- Households should not be treated as homogenous units.
- Men are often still in charge of families' income and how it should be used.
- Gendered roles, contributions and needs are shaped by unequal power relations, yet open to negotiation and contestation, especially when confronted with challenges to survival.
- Open dialogue between women and men should be encouraged to strengthen complementarity in order to attain stable and supportive household partnerships.
- To achieve gender equality, efforts should be made to strengthen cooperation between different members of the household. Boys and men to be engaged as much as girls and women.



Cultural Considerations

- Gender relations are socially constructed, hence any analysis needs to be located within an understanding of the wider context.
- A range of practical and ethical considerations:
 - Fix times and places that are convenient to the participants.
 - Need to build trust first, may require multiple visits.
 - Speak to men and women separately if needed, as responses could differ if together
 - Use observations for triangulation as actual behaviour may diverge from norms.
 - Understand the cultural and social meanings of roles, activities and benefits and under what circumstances can they be re-negotiated. Do not be judgemental, but understand emic meanings
- Some form of *process* monitoring needed: historical, longitudinal data, personal histories
- Focus on redistribution of power rather than resources, including relations across a range of institutions – marriage, market and the state.

Challenging assumptions about gender

- Resist the notion that farmers, producers and others are neutral entities, as such terms overlook the nuances brought on by gender, age, ethnicity, class or marital status.
- Typically women are seen to be victims with little power, but in many instances they are diversifying their livelihoods which can lead to increased agency and income. Question dominant narratives about gender relations and women's role in the economy.
- Gender relations are dynamic and context-specific, so clarify the context of the study.
- We rarely stop to consider the unintended consequences that our interventions may bring and the unforeseen negative impacts.
- Not always about women! Men can face prejudices, stereotyping and discrimination as well, with implications for women's wellbeing.

Gender is one of many factors

- Women and men are not homogenous categories, but differentiated by intersecting identities of age, education, ethnicity, class, location, marital status, sexuality...
- Gender and other socio-cultural factors influence how people are affected by and experience global challenges such as climate change of food insecurity, and how they respond.
- Many analyses, policies and plans stop at sex-disaggregated data or considerations. To address the underlying causes of women's vulnerability and promote more effective adaptation responses, we need to consider not just the interaction of many other interacting factors, but also the changes over time and space (through the life-course and across institutions).

