

## IFAD submission to UNFCCC Lima Work Programme on Gender and Workshop during the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2015)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is pleased to take this opportunity to engage in the development of the two year work programme on gender [i], including, submitting our suggestions for the matters to be addressed at an in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy related to mitigation action and technology development and transfer.

### Part 1: Contributions to workshop

**Priority areas for discussion:** Gender in relation to energy-use and access, agriculture

**Focus:**

- Showcasing best practices/ case studies on gender-responsive climate mitigation action, including mitigation co-benefits of ‘climate smart agriculture’
- How to build gender capacities of ministries working on NAMAs and mitigation capacities of ministries responsible for gender.
- Providing a Forum for Parties to share experiences in implementation/ engage with each other
- Update on gender-related activities/ plans of the Secretariat so far. The outcomes should inform the Technical Expert Meetings – gender, agriculture, and climate change mitigation are not separate issues.
- Providing a Forum for Parties to express priorities to gender-related activities of the Secretariat
  - e.g. in building national capacities at all levels, including a focus on the sub-national level, including building awareness of gender/ mitigation connections and gender/ climate responsive budgeting of those in charge of sub-national development plans and budgets
  - e.g. in providing examples of gender-responsive mitigation/ technology action or policy in different context that can be adapted by IFAD and national partners
  - Sharing approaches of different organizations .

### Part 2. IFAD’s approach to gender and climate change mitigation.

IFAD does not have a climate change mitigation and technology development policy as such. In terms of climate change our work is framed by IFAD’s Climate Change Strategy (2010) - we seek to maximize mitigation co-benefits whilst helping smallholders adapt to climate change. IFAD’s Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy (2012) also provides our gender-related framework, with a focus on equal economic empowerment, equal voice in decision-making at all levels and equitable workloads/ benefit-sharing.

IFAD’s work has is often more focused at the sub-national rather than national policy level in terms of mitigation. However, we believe that our practical experiences, as well as those of other actors, are important evidence for gender-responsive policy, and we also contribute to country-level policy-

making<sup>1</sup>.

In operational terms, IFAD has institutionalized a checklist to ensure that projects' contributions to IFAD's gender policy is clear from the start. In terms of project design and implementation, IFAD has a track record of consulting with and targeting women, civil society and organizations that represent their interests in investments that also have mitigation benefits. We also work through partnerships with research organizations (e.g. CCAFS, ICRAF and CARE) to embed a gender-sensitive approach in our climate-related investments.

Challenges in the realization of gender-responsive approach in formulating mitigation action and technology development and transfer climate policy include limited understanding of the gender/ climate change mitigation nexus at the national level. This needs to be supported at the national and even sub-national level as gender roles and climate change issues are highly context-specific.

Underlying formal and informal structural barriers (i.e. unpaid work, lack of rights, lack of access, education resources, finance resources, mobility, etc.) play a role in exacerbating the lack of gender-responsive mitigation action and technology development and transfer. The lack of access of smallholder women and men to technologies for moving to climate-smart agriculture is often linked to their inability to pay for up-front investments. This is where equal access to climate finance is key. IFAD sees its climate change adaptation portfolio, for example through projects supported by ASAP, as an important entry point for generating mitigation co-benefits and empowering women as well as men.

Additional support could be provided to help ensure the sustainability of IFAD efforts to mainstream gender-sensitive approaches into national climate action. For example, the capacities of ministries and agencies responsible for mitigation need to be urgently strengthened in gender equality, and similarly the capacities of ministries responsible for gender need to be strengthened in climate change mitigation. Sub-national and traditional governance structures need support in building capacities in both of these areas. Synergies with adaptation efforts offer key entry points. In addition, national 'baselines' would be useful. They could set out relevant initiatives, policies, and institutions.

In assessing gender impacts of national climate policies, measures and programs with regards to mitigation action and technology development and transfer, IFAD has found a combination of tools to be important. In its climate-related investments, for example, IFAD has partnered with CCAFS to better understand the mitigation benefits of ASAP investments using a tool developed by the FAO – to be released later this year. This information can be read alongside M&E information coming out of supervision and support missions, participatory M&E and social learning approaches that we employ, project evaluations etc., which take into account gender impacts. Qualitative and quantitative information is important, as is listening to our partners.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://ifad.org/operations/policy/index.htm>

## Part 3. IFAD's experience of biogas for gender-responsive climate change mitigation

### Why biogas?

Biogas is a renewable energy source that converts otherwise waste from humans, agriculture and animal farming that, if not appropriately managed, is harmful to humans and the environment. IFAD recognizes the potential of biogas technologies to contribute to mitigation as well as reduce drudgery and improve health and socio-economic benefits for the rural poor, especially women and girls<sup>2</sup>. It has therefore been assessing, promoting and scaling up biogas-based approaches, and especially flexible biogas systems to renewable energy in its climate change adaptation investments for rural smallholders through its core funds and innovative climate financing<sup>3</sup> in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Rwanda, Viet Nam.

### Mitigation benefits

There are different biogas models that can be used in different contexts, with different mitigation potential. In India, for example, we estimate that a single biogas plant used for cooking can save 8.081 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) a year, with yet further benefits in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions if chemical fertilizers are replaced by bioslurry, a byproduct of biogas digesters<sup>4</sup>.

### Less drudgery, more health and education

A study in IFAD-supported investments in India shows that in terms of workload, biogas digesters can typically save smallholders (usually women and girls) more than 5 hours otherwise spent in gathering firewood. Health benefits include putting an end to spinal problems caused by women and girls having to carry loads of around 10 kilogrammes of wood every day on their heads, as well as to respiratory illnesses and eye infections caused by woodsmoke in the home. Time savings can translate to schooling for girls and boys, as well as income generating activities for women.



Woman in Orissa (India) cooking with biogas stove; using slurry than chemical fertilizers as manure.

<sup>2</sup> IFAD has a Climate Change Strategy and a Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, which frame our work in these areas.

<sup>3</sup> As well as core funding, IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate finance to smallholder farmers so they can access information tools and technologies to help build their resilience to climate change. Since its 2012 launch, ASAP has become the largest global financing source dedicated to supporting the adaptation of poor smallholder farmers to climate change.

<sup>4</sup> Technical and field performance evaluation of flexi biogas plants. Project Completion Report (July, 2013- March, 2014). Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.



### Mitigation technologies that transform gender roles

In Kenya, the adoption of flexi-biogas digesters has even had unexpected positive impacts on gender roles, transforming them within the household. Specifically, the attitudes of men towards cooking have begun to shift. One woman reports “whenever I’m not at home or come late my husband or my son normally cooks because they find it easy, fast and convenient cooking with biogas as compared to firewood.”<sup>5</sup> A recent study also highlights four ways in which flexi-biogas digesters that use free and available cow dung and biodegradable resources reduce carbon emissions: (1) capturing methane that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere (2) reducing the need for burning fossil-fuels (3) reducing deforestation related to firewood collection, and (4) eliminating the use of fossil-fuel-intensive fertilizers. The study interview respondents estimate that one flexi-biogas system can replace up to 4.5 tonnes of wood-based fuel per year, which is equivalent to approximately 6.75 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. If we also consider that trees are not being felled, this brings the total carbon dioxide reduction per single biogas unit to more than 13.5 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per year.<sup>6</sup>

### IFAD rewards gender wins of mitigation technologies

The following IFAD-supported projects show how biogas technologies can be combined with gender-responsive household and community approaches to achieve gains in both gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as in mitigation. Both of these projects won an IFAD Gender Award in 2014, an institutional mechanism to reward and promote gender-responsive investments<sup>7</sup>.

#### **Kirehe Community-based Watershed Management Project, Rwanda**

The gender strategy for the project involves women making up more than 40 per cent of participants in all its activities, as well as project activities to ease women’s domestic workloads. Community innovation centres are therefore helping women access information, knowledge and technologies, including biogas systems. These provide poor households with energy for cooking and lighting, thus reducing women’s drudgery. Furthermore, the project has adopted a household-focussed methodology<sup>8</sup> that enables male and female household members to negotiate their needs and interests, and find innovative and gender-equitable solutions in livelihood planning and value chain development. The project has also strengthened women’s land rights through the joint titling of land between married couples and also boosted women’s representation on watershed management decision-making bodies.

#### **Al-Dhala Community Resources Management Project, Yemen**

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<sup>5</sup> Scaling and commercializing mobile biogas systems in Kenya: A qualitative pilot study. B.K.Sovacool et al. Science Direct. Renewable Energy 76 (2015) 115e125.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.ifad.org/gender/regional/award/2014.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Gender Action Learning System (GALS).

“At the beginning of the project, the targeted rural communities – men and women – were suspicious about the terminology ‘gender’. But later they appreciated it – when they saw that ‘gender’ means involving women in project activities ... and taking care to reduce the hard and time-consuming work of women.” Sameera Al-Barek, Community-based Development Association.

The drudgery of women’s work in a vulnerable governorate of Yemen has been reduced through the introduction of biogas units as well as rainwater harvesting reservoirs and milling machines. Women benefitted from time savings and were trained in various professions and income-generating activities. For example, the project sponsored nine first-ever female veterinarians to graduate from Sana’a University.

Women account for 69 per cent of the members of self-financed and self-operated community savings and credit funds supported by the project. They have also taken on leadership positions in community-based development associations and have been given the autonomy to formulate their own participatory action plans. They have also benefited from training in literacy, health and nutrition. The project included a special component aimed at strengthening women’s development capacities, featuring women mobilization teams, gender balance in project staffing, a gender specialist and gender training. An important impact is that the project has enabled women to achieve greater recognition at home and in their community.

#### More biogas mitigation benefits in Mali

Click on the link below to see a video produced by our implementing partner, Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières for the biogas component of an ASAP-supported project in Mali. The video focuses on their current work that is being scaled up through the project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1K6tcKQePw#>

