



Independent
Science for
Development
Council

SCIENCE FORUM 2023

Hosted by



Factors influencing gender and youth integration in agricultural research and innovation in Africa

- Mastewal Yami (Ph.D.)
- Independent Consultant (Social inclusion and agriculture)

Introduction

- Increased demand for food, infrastructure, employment and entrepreneurship: Youth population (75%).
- COVID-19 threatened the livelihoods of women and youth.



Context

- Projects targeted at improving food and nutrition security.
- Good quality seeds, disease-resistant varieties, and farm management approaches.
- Low uptake of the innovations and technologies due to **poor gender and youth integration.**



Increased interest in gender and youth integration



- National and international agricultural research institutions.
 - Developing strategies for gender and youth integration,
 - Raising awareness: biophysical researchers.
- Gender-transformative approaches
 - Constraints that create and reinforce the inequality.
 - Discriminatory social institutions.



Objective and Methods



- Examine factors influencing gender and youth integration in R &I systems
- Gender lens on project documents, reports, publications [FNSSA project database \(wur.nl\)](#)
- Projects including CASSAWAGMARKETS, InnovaAfrica, Improved Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato value chains
- Key informant interviews; Stakeholder workshops

Food and Nutrition Security, and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)



- A coordination support action: European and African institutions
- Sustainable Partnership Platform for research and innovation
- Increased synergies and coherence between actors, research and innovation projects
- Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern Western (2018-2022)

Types of Organizations

- University
- Private company
- Research institution
- Government agency
- Farmer
- Government agency
- Expert network
- Non-governmental organization
- Others

**Gender blind:
Ignores**



**Gender aware: Adopts
approach**



**Exploitative:
Takes advantage**



**Accommodating:
Works around existing
gender differences**

**Transformative:
Addresses underlying
causes of inequalities**



Analytical framework: Gender Integration Continuum

Continuum of gender and youth integration



- Gender and youth integration in R & I with different emphasis.
- Imbalance in gender vis-à-vis youth integration
- Projects activities have NO gender blind and exploitative activities.
- Gender aware Projects limited to gender and youth integration in baseline surveys.

...Continued



- Most of the gender and youth integration activities referred to **accommodative** levels.
- Positive progress in gender integration in R & I in the projects.
- Some activities have led to achieving **transformative levels.**



Gender and youth integration

Integration activities	Extent of use
Sex disaggregated data and gender analysis	****
Clear inclusion criteria	***
Gender action plan	**
Analysis of gender roles	***
Thematic areas on gender and youth	**
Work package on gender	**
Using input of men and women	**
Intersectional lens to cover heterogeneity	*
Improve access to resources	*
Building on social networks	**

Enabling factors



- Gender and youth analysis from the onset to project evaluation +
- Integrated approaches +
- Tailored to the interests and capabilities of women and youth +
- Partnerships with multidisciplinary teams +



Constraining factors



- Inadequate gender and youth expertise and competence within projects —
- Limited access of women and youth to R & I —
- Limited accessibility and affordability of R & I products, services —
- Limited consideration for youth's preference in R & I —
- Lack of relevant frameworks for youth integration in R & I —

Conclusions and suggestions



- Efforts were made in integrating gender and youth in R & I.
 - Strategies for communication, capacity development, learning
- Imbalance was observed in gender integration vis-à-vis youth integration.
 - Strategies for youth engagement in R & I
 - Youth-specific projects for employment and entrepreneurship in R & I.



...Continued



- Women and youth's limited access to leadership roles in R & I.
 - Frameworks for youth integration in R & I.
- The trend of considering youth issues the same way as gender issues may discourage proper targeting in R & I.
 - Call for separating gender and youth.



Acknowledgements



- LEAP4FNSSA team
- IITA
- Participants of the key informant interviews, stakeholder workshops
- Sources of images used: Flickr



Thank you!