

## Introduction

The analysis and incorporation of gender issues is rarely included in extension work. Yet, women are the primary agricultural labor force throughout the world and perform agricultural tasks with fewer resources, less access to technology and the added responsibility of child and family oversight. The vast majority of extension agents are male, and are not trained in how to work with women farmers. Few recognize the contributions that women make to agriculture, nor are they aware of how best to serve this population's needs. As extension remains a significant resource of information for limited resource farmers, (the majority of whom are women), the inclusion of methodologies and approaches that address gender is critical for extension's success.

## Use of Training Materials

These materials are designed to provide:

- A brief overview of the importance of gender issues in agriculture
- Extension's shortcomings in addressing gender issues
- The need for gender analysis in extension programs
- Tools and techniques that can be used to collect gender disaggregated data
- Participatory communication strategies that address gender issues in extension programs
- Examples of using a gendered approach in agriculture value chains

The materials are intended for use by extension agents or others who wish to increase the awareness of gender issues related to agricultural production systems. There are multiple parts to this module that are intended to be used together within a workshop setting.

The *Facilitator's Guide* is the overall summary of steps and processes to be followed by workshop facilitators during all or part of the sessions used. The *Participant's Guide* is for use by participants during the workshop and accompanies the CD to be provided at the end of the workshop. The *Appendices* contain case study and gender tool examples for use during specific workshop sessions. There are also pre and post evaluations that can be administered before and after the workshop to track participant learning outcomes.

It is my hope that these materials are not only useful content to practitioners, but provide a participatory atmosphere to engage in the discussion of a critically important topic for agricultural development.

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