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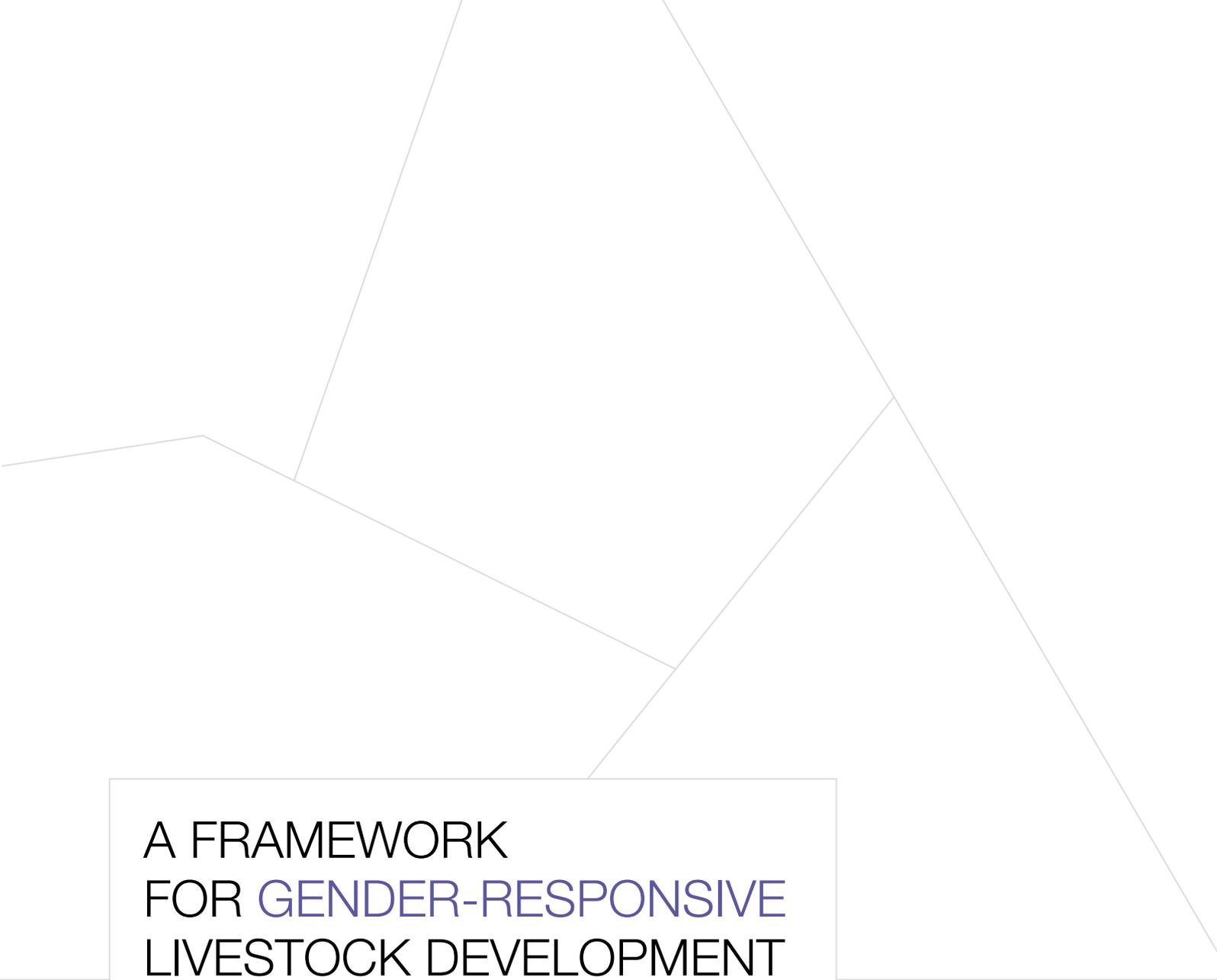


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A FRAMEWORK FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

CONTRIBUTING TO A WORLD FREE FROM HUNGER, MALNUTRITION, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY



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Ukraine - A rural woman feeding her chickens

Introduction

The Framework for Gender-Responsive Livestock Development was jointly developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank to support the planning and implementation of gender-responsive policies, projects and investments related to the development of the livestock sector.

It is not intended to replace the gender strategies of individual organizations, but rather to provide an overarching framework to support the formulation of action plans and guidance documents contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment through livestock development.

The document includes:

- a list of important terminology;
- a vision statement;
- a set of guiding principles;
- three technical sections covering gender responsiveness within three important aspects of livestock sector development – research, policy development and project delivery; and
- A section addressing the enabling environment needed to support gender-responsive livestock development.

Terminology

Gender equality (equality between women and men)

Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same, but that their specific rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage both men and women. Equality between women and men is seen as a human rights issue, as well as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centred development (UN Women, 2023).

Women's empowerment

Women's empowerment refers to the ability of women to make strategic life decisions and to take action through their economic advancement and enhanced power and agency. It has several dimensions, including economic, social, political and psychological empowerment.

Intersectionality

The term intersectionality refers to the ways different factors, such as gender, age, disability, ethnicity and tenure insecurity, among others, overlap to shape individual identities. Understanding intersectionality enhances awareness of people's needs, interests, capacities and experiences. This in turn helps in targeting policies and programmes. This approach is particularly beneficial because it considers complexity as it attempts to uncover dynamics, power relations, disparities and oppression that can affect the vulnerability and resilience of men and women.

When the terms "gender equality" and "women's empowerment" are used in the framework, they are intended to encompass these other factors. Sometimes a qualifying phrase such as "across social markers" is added for emphasis.

Gender-responsive approaches

This term, used throughout the document, encompasses a range of approaches that recognize and address the specific needs and priorities of women and men, based on the social construction of gender roles, taking into account other characteristics such as age, health status, education, ethnicity and religion.

One way of characterizing gender-responsive approaches is to distinguish between gender accommodative and gender transformative approaches.¹

Gender accommodative approaches (also known as gender intentional²) recognize gender constraints and seek to work around them to engage both women and men.

Gender transformative approaches address the root causes of discrimination and the structural barriers that create discrimination. These approaches are planned to examine, challenge and change the discriminatory legal frameworks, social norms, behaviours and attitudes that are at the root of persistent gender inequalities. In the long term, gender transformative approaches aim to foster more

¹ For a discussion on the practical use of these approaches see Galiè *et al.*, 2016.

² "Accommodative" is used by CGIAR and "intentional" is used by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

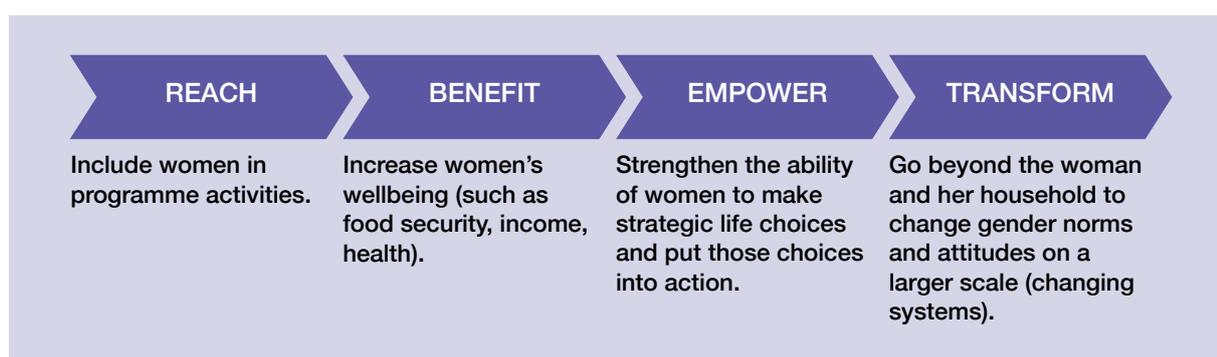
equitable gender relations within households, communities and organizations; and to improve the position of women in society, planning and decision-making. They aim to transform gender roles and power relations and to change social systems. Transformative approaches often need to work at many levels, including households, communities and policies.

To illustrate the difference between accommodative and transformative approaches we use the example of providing vaccines to female livestock keepers in a cultural context where women do not usually leave their household. An accommodative approach would arrange for the vaccines to be delivered to women at their homes. A transformative approach would work with communities to ensure that women were able to leave their homes to buy the vaccine and participate in training and demonstration sessions.

There is a growing recognition that transformative approaches can deliver the greatest, most inclusive and sustainable benefits to households and communities. Transformative initiatives take time and work best when implemented gradually. They require care and sensitivity, engaging men and women together to examine how gender dynamics and relations influence opportunities and the wellbeing of individuals, households and communities.³

An alternative and complementary characterization of gender-responsive approaches is the **Reach/Benefit/Empower/Transform** continuum shown in Figure 1.⁴

Figure 1 The Reach/Benefit/Empower/Transform continuum



Reach is equivalent to gender accommodative, while **Transform** is equivalent to transformative.

Benefit and **Empower** might be accommodative or transformative, depending on the way an intervention is implemented. Using the previous example of making a vaccine available to women livestock keepers, women could benefit from the vaccine whether or not they were able to leave the house to buy it. They might also be empowered to use the vaccine on their own livestock. The system would only have transformed if women were able to leave their homes to buy vaccines when they needed them, because the social norms preventing them from doing so had changed.

³ See for example Adam *et al.*, 2021.

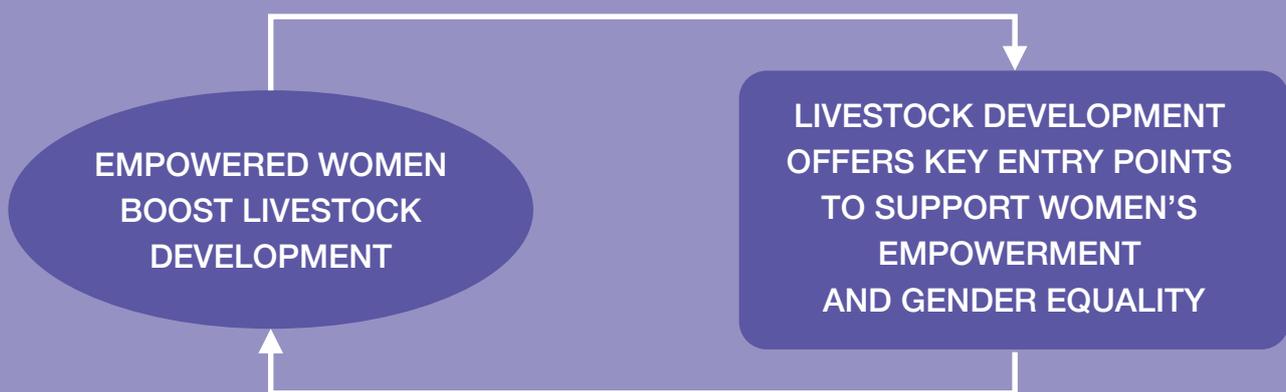
⁴ See Theis and Meinzen-Dick, 2016 for a description of the original Reach Benefit Empower framework. The diagram shown here is adapted from an explanation of the extended Reach Benefit Empower Transform framework provided by Meinzen-Dick and Bryan, 2022. An alternative formulation can be found in McDougall *et al.*, 2021.

Our vision

Achieving gender equality for and through livestock development to build a world free from hunger, malnutrition, poverty and inequality.

Empowering women and girls is essential to achieving gender equality and for the sustainable development of the livestock sector.

Women's empowerment and gender equality create inclusive, sustainable and resilient livelihoods for everyone.



Why livestock?

- *Livestock are more easily accessed and controlled by women than other assets*
- *Livestock can be used as mobile banks by women who lack other assets*
- *Livestock are easily transportable after domestic conflict and during crisis situations*
- *Livestock can be an important daily source of income and nutritious food*

Explaining the vision

A virtuous circle:

Empowered women boost livestock development and livestock development offers key entry points to support women's empowerment and gender equality

The link between gender equality, women's empowerment and the development goals of food and nutrition security and poverty reduction was highlighted by the World Bank, FAO and IFAD in 2009, and has been reinforced in later publications (see FAO, 2011a; FAO, forthcoming; World Bank, FAO & IFAD, 2009; World Bank, 2012). Most of the poor livestock keepers in poor and middle-income countries are women (LD4D, 2020); supporting their empowerment will be beneficial for sustainable livestock development. Women are less represented in scaled-up production enterprises and other livestock-related activities, such as service provision and marketing, but there is potential to expand their engagement.⁵ Traditionally, women are well represented in small-scale production but not in large-scale production. When production scales up, often as a result of donor interventions or government policies to develop value chains, women can be pushed out of production. They may not have as much of a voice and have less agency or less access to benefits from production.

To support women's empowerment and to achieve gender equality through livestock development, investment in the livestock sector must be designed explicitly to ensure women's equal participation and benefits. This is particularly important when investment supports the scaling up of livestock-related enterprises or the development of formal livestock value chains (Njuki, 2013).

Livestock are more easily accessed and controlled by women than other assets

In general, agricultural resources are less available to women and girls in poor and middle-income countries than they are to men (FAO, 2011a). Often, women find it easier to access and control livestock, especially small livestock, than other agricultural assets such as land and machinery (Kristjanson *et al.*, 2010; Galiè *et al.*, 2016; Galiè *et al.*, 2018). To ensure that women benefit equally from their livestock assets it is important that their role as livestock keepers is recognized by national and community institutions (Galiè *et al.*, 2022), as well as within the household.

Livestock can be used as mobile banks by women who lack other assets

Women have more limited access than men to land rights, particularly in poor and middle-income countries, and this limits their access to financial services due to their lack of collateral, which is required by most financial institutions. In these cases, women can use their livestock as collateral.

Livestock are easily transportable after a domestic conflict and during crises

Experience in areas with protracted crises has highlighted the importance of livestock for building resilience and providing a safety net for families facing lengthy food crises or the breakdown of their livelihoods and food systems (FAO, 2016b). In mixed crop–livestock systems and in pastoral systems, livestock are sold to pay hospital bills and to meet other urgent needs. Livestock resources are considered to be a store of wealth when banking systems collapse. They can be moved away from drought, flood and conflict situations

⁵ Examples include: female animal health workers trained in a number of African and Asian countries, the Lady Ranchers co-operative in Nigeria, entirely run by women <https://ladyrancherscoop.com/> and the iCOW initiative founded by a businesswoman in Kenya <https://icow.co.ke/>

when crops are left behind. The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards emphasize the relevance of understanding gender roles, rights and responsibilities in livestock production, and acknowledging that gender roles may change during an emergency (LEGS, 2014).

Where domestic conflict leads to divorce, a woman may lose access to land but maintain ownership of some livestock.

Livestock can be an important daily source of income and nutritious food

Some livestock products, such as milk and eggs, can be a daily source of income, contributing to household cash flow. Milk, meat and eggs are important sources of energy, protein and micronutrients (FAO, 2009; FAO, 2011; FAO, 2013). Even quite small increases can be important in the diets of poor people, pregnant women and young children. Studies have shown that when women manage livestock and have access to livestock products and income from livestock, the nutrition of children and their whole households can improve (for an example see Bain *et al.*, 2013) because women are traditionally responsible for household food security and have the role of nutrition providers.



Ethiopia - A woman and her livestock in the Somali region, which is heavily affected by drought

Guiding principles

The framework for livestock and gender equality is based on the following set of guiding principles derived from wider frameworks and principles:

Inclusivity

Inclusivity means ensuring that all people – especially the most vulnerable, excluded and marginalized – can participate equally in and benefit from development processes, through enhanced opportunities, equal access to and control over productive and natural resources, services and local institutions, as well as empowerment, agency and respect for the rights of all men and women, boys and girls.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda emphasizes that inclusivity is not just an end in itself, but is critical for increasing development effectiveness and achieving sustainable impacts.

Inclusivity and gender equality are essential for building the sustainability of the livestock sector, and for creating equitable and resilient livelihoods, while boosting livestock development.

Gender equality

Sustainable Development Goal 5 – to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – is vital for inclusivity in the livestock sector. As well as women's economic and productive opportunities, the principles of gender equality and empowerment articulated in several voluntary guidelines include human rights and dignity, respect for culture, non-discrimination and social responsibility.

While this framework focuses on gender equality, we recognize that inequality is context-specific and is seldom the result of a single factor. The term intersectionality is often used to acknowledge the multiple and interconnected factors that discriminate against and exclude individuals. Gender inequality is often compounded by other factors, such as age, race, class, religion, migration status, poverty and health (see Hankivsky, 2014; Kaijser and Kronsell, 2014; Thompson-Hall, Carr and Pascual, 2016, Tavenner *et al.*, 2022; Malapit *et al.*, 2020).

The framework was created to encourage all development and humanitarian partners connected with the livestock sector to work together to achieve gender equality and to empower women and girls for and through livestock development.

Ensuring inclusivity and gender equality in and through investment in livestock

The framework will function most effectively if the organizations that adopt it can aim to do the following:

- weave gender equality principles into the fabric of the organization's livestock programme;
- encourage partners to adopt appropriate measures to eliminate any form of discrimination that prevents women and men from equally engaging in and benefiting from livestock development (adapted from FAO, 2020);
- use investments in the development of the livestock sector to progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment;
- implement policies and programmes at all levels that purposefully enhance the empowerment of women and girls as a route towards sustainable livestock development; and
- be inclusive in engaging with the local, national and international stakeholders who will make change happen in the livestock sector, to address discrimination and inequalities.



Türkiye - TeleFood beneficiary feeding a flock of turkeys received through a FAO project

Priorities for gender-responsive livestock research

Improve the quality and quantity of sex-disaggregated data and evidence related to gender-responsive livestock development

in international databases and platforms, national statistical systems and applied indicators

so that:

- the evidence base to guide gender-responsive planning and decision making is strengthened;
- investments can be better directed towards priority areas and target groups;
- efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls can be monitored and reported on; and
- the impact of gender-responsive investment in livestock is better understood.

Apply a gender lens across all livestock research

carried out or funded by international and national research systems

so that:

- the gender-related questions and impacts of all aspects of research involving livestock are reviewed and better understood;
- opportunities to advance gender equality and women's empowerment are not lost, and will increase the impact and sustainability of research;
- research is oriented towards technologies and practices that take into account the specific needs of both female and male farmers; and
- solutions are developed to address cultural and structural barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment in the livestock sector.

Expand the scope of knowledge products on gender and livestock

produced through international and national research systems

so that:

- a broad range of tools and resources is available to guide gender-responsive research;
- high-quality gender-based evidence is available to guide gender-responsive investments and policymaking;
- published information includes not only descriptions of the existing situation, but also tested and promising gender-responsive approaches, solutions and impact assessments; and
- publications routinely include analyses of gender norms, household and community power dynamics and discriminatory power relationships.

Enhance the capacity of all partners to carry out gender-responsive livestock research

through awareness raising, dialogue, development of expertise in gender-related data collection and analysis, and by establishing communities of practice

so that:

- gender-responsive livestock research is mainstreamed in the work of all research partners and is rooted in a strong understanding of local cultures and social norms;
- the pool of expertise in gender analysis and interpretation continues to grow; and
- national and international partners implement research using appropriate gender-responsive approaches.

Box 1. Towards improved data and evidence on gender and livestock

A 2020 review (Hobbs and Onyango, 2022)^a of 11 large livestock-related datasets developed and maintained by CGIAR, FAO and the World Bank revealed an encouraging trend towards more and higher quality data on gender and livestock, but it also showed that further work is still needed to improve the content and implementation of agricultural and household surveys to better address the gender and social dimensions.

It is challenging to analyse livestock and gender trends or make cross-country comparisons. One crucial requirement for analysing gender-related trends is the availability of sex-disaggregated data showing the number of women and men engaged in livestock production, owning livestock assets or accessing income from livestock. Older datasets generally include little sex-disaggregated livestock data, while more recent datasets have limited country coverage. For example, the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS), administered since the 1980s and covering 37 countries, has limited sex-disaggregated livestock data. The more recent Living Standards Measurement Survey Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA), (World Bank, 2023) includes extensive and useful data, but has only been implemented in nine African countries. Comparability across countries is also challenging as data available for different countries do not usually cover the same time period.

Where sex-disaggregated data are available, they can sometimes be hard to analyse because of missing answers to some gender-related questions. There is also the potential for bias if questions were not addressed separately to male and female respondents in each household, but only to the head of the household.

In addition to disaggregating data, it is important to gain a deeper understanding of changes in empowerment that have occurred over time, and the impacts of strategies and approaches designed to support women's empowerment. Various tools have been created to measure progress made towards women's empowerment. The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) (IFPRI, 2023a) and two of its variations, the a-WEAI and pro-WEAI, (IFPRI, 2023b), all measure aspects of empowerment related to livestock, as do the Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (WELI) (ILRI, 2023a) and the Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index (WELBI). However, they are time consuming to apply and have not yet been widely applied across countries or livestock production systems.

Analyses of sex-disaggregated data, and the empowerment indicators listed above, are mostly quantitative assessments. Past experience has shown that however carefully constructed, quantitative indicators do not tell the whole story. They need to be supplemented by qualitative descriptions explaining the *why* and *how* of observed phenomena that better capture the different opinions and perceptions of men and women, the gender dynamics (relationships and interactions between and among girls, boys, women and men) in families and communities, and the gender norms (social principles that govern the behaviour of women, men, girls and boys) that affect their ability to participate in or benefit from livestock development. An exploratory analysis of local gendered understandings of concepts such as "ownership", "decision-making" or "empowerment" provides a context to interpret numeric indices, as well as insights on the perceptions and priorities of men and women about a given problem.

Designers of future investments would benefit from evidence of the impacts generated by applying different kinds of gender-responsive approaches (such as accommodative/transformational and reach/benefit/empower/transform). This kind of evidence is currently scarce.^b

Future efforts could focus on:

- filling gaps in sex-disaggregated livestock data in national and global statistical databases (the LSMS-ISA, the Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey (RHoMIS) (ILRI, 2023b), the African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG) and the African Dairy Genetic Gains (ADGG) all include such data to varying degrees);
- ensuring that both women and men are included as survey respondents in every household (positive example is the FAO RIGA Pakistan dataset, which was derived from surveys with separate questionnaires for men and women);
- estimating indicators of empowerment more widely, and over a longer time period (positive examples are LSMS-ISA, RHoMIS, ACGG and ADGG, which are based on repeated panel surveys);
- building a stronger qualitative data and evidence base to support more nuanced analysis and understanding of gender statistics, complemented by an analysis of gender dynamics and norms; and
- building evidence on the gendered impact of livestock interventions that address gender inequality through various approaches, in order to highlight the most effective interventions and approaches.

Notes:

^a This reference is the primary source for this box.

^b There is one recent systematic review. A project currently testing accommodative and transformational approaches in a livestock vaccine delivery initiative is described in Galiè and Omondi. 2021. *Transforming the vaccine delivery system for chickens and goats in Ghana: What approaches and what benefits for women?* Presented at the Cultivating Equality Conference, 14 October 2021. <https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/bitstream/handle/10625/61129/IDL-61129.pdf>

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Cambodia - A young girl feeding the pigs that her family is raising

Box 2. Towards a broader scope in gender-responsive livestock research

Gender considerations have only recently been widely included as part of livestock research. As a result, publications often focus on diagnosing the situation at the start of an intervention, describing, for example, the different roles and responsibilities that men and women have in managing various livestock species; or the differences in the access men and women have to the productive resources and services needed to raise livestock; or the specific opportunities and constraints faced by men and women to participating in livestock value chains. Fewer publications describe the gendered impacts of research, or point to research for development solutions that have achieved both gender equality and higher livestock productivity.

Gaps also exist in some areas of livestock research. In both animal health and animal genetics, there has been little attention paid to gender issues in the choice and early design of technologies, although research on the delivery and uptake of technologies has increasingly taken into account the specific concerns of men and women. Examples of this can be seen in dairy genetics research, which has led to the introduction of cross-bred animals that are too large for women to handle comfortably; while research on vaccines historically focused on cattle diseases, with less attention paid to vaccines for smaller livestock that may be an important source of income for women and children.

One Health – a relatively new area of livestock research that analyses the interactions among animal, human and environmental health – has also paid limited attention to gender issues, although available analyses indicate that gender dynamics and norms contribute to risks and are important in designing solutions. Women and men may be exposed in different ways to food safety or zoonotic disease risks within the household or within livestock value chains. For example, men tend to be exposed through their work in slaughterhouses or in hunting, while women face more risks during food preparation or while milking infected livestock or handling their aborted fetuses. Women and men also have different opportunities to reduce their own risk, or to introduce risk-reduction measures within households.

Animal welfare research could also benefit from adding a gender dimension; this may be of particular interest to the private sector. A study carried out in 22 countries found that in general women were more concerned about animal welfare than men, and the difference was more pronounced in countries with lower gender inequality (Randler *et al.*, 2021).

Concerning the type of gender analysis carried out, publications that include quantitative sex-disaggregated data are becoming more common, but far fewer publications provide nuanced analyses of gender norms, household and community dynamics and power relations.

Future efforts could focus on:

- continuing to conduct gender-related diagnostic and exploratory work in areas where there are research gaps, such as the emerging area of One Health (interactions between human, animal and environmental health). Positive examples include the 2021 One Health Conference in Kenya with strong gender content (Amuguni, 2021; Colverson, 2021) and an ongoing initiative in ILRI to develop a gender framework for One Health research;
- shifting the focus towards testing solutions and assessing the impacts of gender-responsive work, in more established areas of research where diagnostic and exploratory work has already been published; and
- placing a greater emphasis on publications that describe changes in gender norms and community dynamics and their effects within the livestock sector. A positive example is a 2020 paper (Mulema *et al.*, 2020) describing the way “community conversations” could change gender roles in decision-making related to zoonotic disease risks.

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Box 3. Towards enhanced capacity for gender-responsive research

Gender-responsive research is only possible when there is adequate technical capacity to carry it out (for example, McLeod, Galiè and Baltenweck, 2021), which means:

- involving experienced gender scientists in designing and implementing the research;
- ensuring that non-gender scientists have sufficient understanding of gender concepts to collaborate with gender specialists;
- conducting research in the field, together with development partners who are trained in gender-responsive research; and
- making senior researchers responsible for a gender-responsive research agenda that goes beyond “talking to women” or targeting only women, and instead explores approaches that will benefit both women and men and transform gender dynamics.

International organizations are making progress in hiring gender champions and experts at managerial levels and in sufficient numbers. However, more needs to be done, particularly in research field offices, where it is common that gender expertise rests with one relatively junior staff member. In national agricultural research systems the situation varies greatly by country, but many countries have neither a critical mass of gender expertise nor champions who are sufficiently senior to support a strong gender research programme.

A growing number of capacity development activities have been organized and tools were developed to support gender-responsive livestock research. Yet, available published materials must be expanded beyond basic survey guidelines to include more detailed guidance for conducting qualitative research, and once quality-checked, be translated into more languages. In applied research, there must be a change from a focus on “women need training” to identifying and addressing systemic gender-related constraints and finding ways to involve both men and women in seeking gender-responsive solutions and strengthening their technical capacities.

Future efforts could focus on:

- continuing to expand gender expertise within National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS). Positive examples include the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) (AWARD, 2023) programme, which has run for many years in Africa, and the capacity-development workshop organized at the start of ILRI’s SAFEPOK project in Viet Nam (ILRI, 2019);
- placing stronger emphasis on mentoring gender researchers to support their advancement to managerial positions where they can act as gender champions (a positive example from CGIAR is the CGIAR Gender Researchers’ Leadership and Mentoring Program);^a
- increasing the range of practical examples of gender-responsive livestock research to be included in capacity development curricula tailored for international and national researchers; and
- expanding expertise in qualitative research techniques with a gender lens, including surveys and analysis, within international and national research systems, to complement the findings of quantitative analysis and better capture the views of men and women.

Notes:

^a See <https://gender.cgiar.org/news/cgiar-leadership-and-mentoring-program-strengthen-capacity-gender-researchers-commences>

Sources:

McLeod, A., Galiè, A. and Baltenweck, I. 2021. *Gender responsive animal health research: A framework and checklists for ILRI researchers*. ILRI Manual 48. Nairobi, ILRI;

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Kenya - A woman gives water to her livestock at a water point

Priorities for integrating gender equality in livestock policymaking

Ensure that international commitments to gender equality are honoured

through the work of international and national commissions, networks and fora involved in livestock development and gender equality

so that:

- international commitments and voluntary guidelines on gender equality and the empowerment of women translate into international and national action, policies and strategies.

Support the design, implementation and evaluation of gender-responsive national livestock policies and strategies that honour gender commitments

through international contributions to national livestock sector policymaking and planning and by engaging national stakeholders at all levels

so that:

- livestock-related policies and strategies are gender-responsive; and
- gender-responsive policies and strategies related to livestock development are systematically included at all levels, from national social policies to livestock master plans, through local strategies and action plans.

Ensure that all livestock-related policy advice is supported by gender analysis and assessment of gender impacts, and can be implemented within regulatory frameworks

by ensuring the systematic inclusion of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, across social markers such as age, ethnicity and disability into the economic and livestock sector models used for developing livestock strategies and emergency plans

so that:

- all livestock policies, guidelines, strategies and action plans recommended to governments are gender-responsive;
- *ex ante* analyses of the impact of proposed strategies take into account the potential of unintended consequences by gender and across social markers;
- increasing emphasis is placed on adopting gender transformative (rather than accommodative) approaches in formulating strategy and policy;
- attention is paid to removing gender bias from emergency response strategies and development investments; and
- the risk of conflicts related to climate change and depletion of natural resources and biodiversity is reduced by supporting inclusive and gender-responsive governance of natural resources.

Box 4. Towards international organizations honouring gender equality commitments in livestock policies and programmes

The main international commitments related to gender equality include the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Explicit gender equality-related commitments are made in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, and the Corporate Framework to support sustainable peace in the context of Agenda 2030.

All the signatories to the Framework for Gender-responsive Livestock Development (namely FAO, IFAD, ILRI and the World Bank) have made commitments towards gender equality in the high-level policies and strategies that define their work programmes (FAO, 2021; World Bank Group, 2015; World Bank, 2021; ILRI, 2012; IFAD, 2010).^a

There have also been attempts to link high-level commitments to organizational livestock strategies and field programmes. Examples of the commitments and initiatives undertaken by FAO, ILRI, the World Bank and IFAD at the time of preparing the framework, are listed below:

FAO:

- subscribes to CEDAW^b – Article 14 and Recommendation 34 on the rights of rural women that provide recommendations for practical policy and programmatic measures to enhance women’s rights in the field of food and agriculture, including livestock;
- has published guidance documents and tools to support the integration of gender equality into livestock work, most recently in 2013 (FAO, 2005; FAO, 2013);
- addresses gender and livestock as part of the Country Gender Assessments of the agricultural and rural sectors routinely conducted by FAO Country Offices. Over 80 Country Gender Assessments have addressed gender and livestock development issues;
- routinely supports countries to undertake agricultural censuses and surveys that address gender and livestock development issues, resulting in increased availability of sex-disaggregated data;
- carries out capacity development activities on gender equality, based on the outcomes of the Gender Stocktaking Exercise conducted by the Animal Production and Health Division; and
- has carried out country-level gender-responsive livestock analyses and interventions, including an assessment of dairy value chains in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon and Rwanda (FAO, 2015; FAO, 2016; FAO, 2017a, b, c, d and e).

ILRI:

- highlights gender in its organizational strategy;
- is developing a specific gender framework/approach for each area of livestock research (e.g. animal genetics and health, food safety and One Health);
- includes gender analyses in an increasing number of applied research activities;
- has included a work package on gender and youth equality in one of its main research initiatives;
- supports the establishment of a large gender research team;
- hosts the CGIAR GENDER Impact platform; and
- integrates gender considerations in recent Livestock Master Plans developed in collaboration with various governments worldwide.

World Bank:

- integrates work related to gender and livestock is guided by the gender equality and poverty reduction strategy of the World Bank Group; and

- places increased emphasis on integrating gender into Development Policy Operations (DPOs), non-earmarked loans, credits or grants to support national economic and sectoral policies and institutions.

IFAD:

- has published guidelines on including gender in livestock projects in 2010 (IFAD, 2010);
- includes a section on livestock in its high-level gender policy document;
- has developed a guidance document addressing gender issues in pastoralist societies (IFAD, 2020); and
- supports the adoption of small livestock for the combined benefits of sustainability and gender-responsiveness (IFAD, 2021).

Future efforts could focus on:

- ensuring that livestock and gender strategies are consistent with higher-level gender policies and international commitments and strategies;
- expanding and updating the library of guidance documents and resources for supporting the design and implementation of gender-responsive livestock projects;
- including a gender analysis and some gender-responsive activities in every country livestock strategy/programme;
- identifying and disseminating examples and good practices of gender-responsive livestock projects;
- leveraging investment in policymaking to support the design and implementation of gender-responsive strategies and policies in areas that affect the institutional environment for livestock, and monitoring the gender impacts of any intervention; and
- including gender equality and pathways to progress towards it, as one of the goals of planning tools for national livestock policymaking (such as the Livestock Master Plans).

Notes:

- ^a For example, see FAO. 2020. *FAO policy on gender equality 2020–2030*. Rome. www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB1583EN/ where gender equality is a stand-alone priority programme area and a cross-cutting theme for all other priority programme areas. Also, see IFAD. 2023. *Framework for Implementing Transformational Approaches to Mainstreaming Themes: Environment and Climate, Gender, Nutrition and Youth*. In: *IFAD*. Rome. Cited May 2023. www.ifad.org/en/-/framework-for-implementing-transformational-approaches-to-mainstreaming-themes-environment-and-climate-gender-nutrition-and-youth
- ^b For example, see <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf> Also see IFAD. 2023. *Adaptation Framework Tool*. In: *IFAD*. Rome. Cited May 2023. www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/publication/adaptation-framework-tool?p__back_url=%2Fen%2Fweb%2Fknowledge%2Fpublications%3Fmode%3Dsearch%26catTopics%3D39130766

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Box 5. Towards greater coherence of national gender-responsive policies and livestock strategies

A growing number of countries have developed national policies for economic and social development that explicitly address inclusivity and gender equality. Yet, the translation of national support for gender equality into agricultural and livestock strategies has been slow and highly variable. Some national livestock strategies are still gender blind, while others are broadly supportive of gender equality but provide no guidance on how to implement it and monitor the gender impacts. Only a few have carefully considered gender-responsive approaches.^a

One of the main challenges in developing gender-responsive strategies relates to the limited ability of mathematical models of livestock systems to use sex-disaggregated data and estimate gender impacts. The composition of expert and stakeholder groups consulted during the design of policies and strategies also influences their content. Even when gender equality is fully integrated into national livestock strategies, broader legal issues such as land ownership and access to finance may hamper the progress made by women in livestock-related businesses and value chains.

Livestock-related emergencies, including animal health emergencies and humanitarian crises involving livestock keepers, present particular challenges when it comes to ensuring inclusivity and gender-responsiveness. Response strategies developed rapidly and under pressure may emphasize technical and logistical solutions with limited time for consultation with affected and vulnerable men and women or consideration of social and inclusivity concerns. For example:

- Strategies and implementation plans for animal health emergencies include technical measures to contain and control the rapid spread of disease, such as culling (killing) livestock in areas with high disease incidence, halting the sale and movement of animals, and changing the physical infrastructure of livestock markets. These measures are not always designed in a gender-responsive way,^b and this can lead to inequitable results. For example, farmer losses from culling can be mitigated by government compensation payments, but unless the compensation strategy is designed to be gender-responsive, money is often given to male heads of household even if the culled animals are owned and managed by women. This results in gender-inequitable outcomes and may also reduce the overall impact of the strategy: if women are not compensated for the animals they lose, they may avoid culling them.
- Humanitarian crises involving livestock keepers include drought, rapid onset natural disasters and conflict situations. Under these circumstances, the preservation of a family's livestock may be critical for re-establishing its livelihood when the crisis has passed. The LEGS (LEGS, 2014) guidelines, providing guidance on how to support livestock keepers involved in humanitarian crises, are a positive example of emergency advice with a strong focus on gender and social equity.

Future efforts could focus on:

- giving higher priority to gender equality in the technical advice and capacity development activities and involving both technical and gender (female and male) experts in advising on the formulation of national livestock strategies and investments;
- paying greater attention to gender disaggregation in economic models used for livestock planning and forecasting;
- ensuring that consultation, planning and decision-making related to livestock-related emergencies involve people who can articulate concerns related to gender inequalities and intersecting forms of discrimination;
- increasing the gender content of animal health prevention and control strategies and operational plans, including gender-responsive compensation strategies for livestock diseases; and
- planning ahead to ensure that evidence is available on gender issues and can be used during the design of strategies for dealing with livestock-related emergencies and development interventions.

Notes:

- ^a See for example FAO. 2017b. *Gender assessment of dairy value chains: evidence from Kenya*. Rome, FAO. www.fao.org/3/a-i6786e.pdf;
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- ^b See for example Velasco, E., Dieleman, E., Supakankunti, S. and Tran, T.M.P. 2008. *Study on the Gender Aspects of the Avian Influenza Crisis in Southeast Asia. Final Report – June 2008*. Report to the European Commission Directorate General External Relations, Avian Influenza External Response Coordination. https://ec.europa.eu/world/avian_influenza/docs/gender_study_0608_en.pdf reporting on gender aspects of the Avian Influenza Crisis in Southeast Asia.

Sources:

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Ecuador - A female farmer milking her cow



Ghana - A woman in business selling her eggs

Priorities for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through livestock-related development projects

Reduce barriers to gender equality in access to and use of resources, services and rural institutions and organizations

through partnerships between international agencies, national delivery agencies and local partners that support equitable access to livestock feed, health services, financial services and advisory services

so that:

- the productivity of women's livestock is not limited by poor access to feed, health services or information;
- female and male livestock keepers can participate equally and benefit from rural institutions and organizations; and
- both women and men can participate in and benefit from livestock business.

Overcome gender-related barriers to accessing the benefits generated from livestock initiatives

by supporting community dialogue and adopting inclusive approaches that do not focus on "fixing women", but rather acknowledge and address the systemic gender-based barriers they face

so that:

- control over livestock assets can be a viable starting point towards women's social and economic empowerment;
- families and communities gain greater nutritional and economic benefits from livestock; and
- women and men can equally share in the economic benefits of livestock interventions.

Enhance food safety for women and men at home and within informal markets

through the use of gender-responsive approaches to risk analysis, gender awareness raising, capacity development, and analysis of gender dynamics and masculinity in food provision and safety

so that:

- women's and men's knowledge of food safety improves;
- the daily food safety practices of men and women are aligned and equally improved;
- women have greater agency over decisions around food safety; and
- men play a greater part in food preparation and food safety.

Ensure that One Health investments are gender-responsive

by including gender-responsive approaches in the plans and field activities of One Health projects

so that:

- women and men can be engaged equally in the early detection, prevention and control of zoonotic and emerging diseases;

- women and men can benefit equally from available services, training and information related to One Health issues, and can both participate in decision making and planning;
- women's and men's knowledge and perspectives are considered in the design of mitigation measures against negative environmental impacts; and
- the positive effects of adopting a comprehensive One Health framework are not marred by gender-based discrimination.

Reduce gender-related barriers to participation of women in value-adding livestock initiatives

by increasing women's involvement in planning and implementing interventions in livestock value chains and lucrative niche markets for livestock products, and addressing gender norms and dynamics affecting the ability of women to effectively participate in livestock businesses

so that:

- formal markets for livestock products are organized to allow equitable access for women and men and to provide the same benefits for both; and
- women entrepreneurs have equal opportunities to benefit from income-earning opportunities in livestock value chains that go beyond the farm gate (see Galiè *et al.*, 2022 and ILRI, 2023).

Pay attention to labour demands on women and men when introducing new technologies and management systems within livestock value chains

using participatory and inclusive methods to understand the workloads of women and men who manage livestock, provide inputs and services or work in processing and marketing, and to engage them in the design and testing

so that:

- new technologies are equally accessible and designed to be labour-saving for both women and men; and
- improvements in the livestock productivity, and the value and food safety of livestock products, do not result in an added work burden for women.



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India - A girl sells milk at a rest stop during the Gujjar's semi-annual trek



© FAO/Michael Teweltbe

Afghanistan - A female livestock owner receiving assistance with sheep grazing in her backyard

Box 6. Towards reduced gender gaps in livestock producer access to resources, services and local institutions

Livestock development can be an entry point for supporting women's empowerment and gender equality. Livestock projects designed with women's needs in mind, or taking advantage of situations where women are the dominant livestock keepers, can result in financially successful livestock microbusinesses run by women and can improve family nutrition.^a If women are to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by livestock, they need equitable access to other resources, inputs and services.

Land is a critical resource for livestock keepers, and one that women are less likely than men to own or control. Landless people can raise livestock, with poultry and zero grazed dairy cattle often cited as being beneficial to women because they need very little land for their housing. Yet, women's lack of land reduces their ability to claim control over livestock or to access financial services. Lack of control of land used for forage production has been associated with lower livestock keeper incomes (Galiè *et al.*, 2019).

Lack of land also affects access to financial services such as credit, savings and insurance, needed by livestock keepers to provide resources for new animals, housing and feed. Rural women often face more challenges than men in accessing financial services, because of legal restrictions, social norms and customs and lack of collateral, linked to the fact that they do not own land (FAO, 2013).

Access to water is also critical for livestock keepers. Water collection can play an important part in social interactions and community-related activities; conversely, time taken to provide water to livestock often conflicts with women's other household and farm tasks (Ransom *et al.*, 2017). In dry areas there can be conflict around access to water resources. When water is rationed, less influential members of the community, including women, are likely to have lower access to it (Aredo *et al.*, 2005). Water scarcity is associated with increased time spent and risks of violence to women and girls collecting water, as well as the sale of household livestock (Parker *et al.*, 2016).

Gendered access to livestock inputs, such as animal health inputs, new forage varieties and feed, new breeds and advice on breeding practices, is affected by social norms such as the ability of different family members to leave the home, their access to transport, the extent to which they can make time within their daily tasks, and perceptions about "men's" and "women's" livestock.

Access to labour can be crucial in decisions to expand livestock production or increase efficiency. Gender roles in the care of animals affect the daily workloads of women, men, girls and boys, and their perceptions about changes to livestock management practices. For example, in communities where women are responsible for milking, feeding and providing water for dairy cattle, men may be enthusiastic about expanding a dairy herd to increase family income, while women will only support the idea if hired labour is available to take over some of their increased workload.^b

Access to advisory services provides livestock keepers with knowledge of new practices and technologies. Typically, rural men are more likely to have access to formal advisory mechanisms and training courses, while women may be hampered by timing, distance or inability to travel outside the home, and may rely more on informal mechanisms. Also, when only men attend training, gender dynamics within the household influence the extent to which learning is shared.

Future efforts could focus on:

- Adopting gender accommodative approaches that work within existing norms where these are likely to be effective, particularly in the early stages of an intervention. These might include: designing inputs according to whether women or men will use them; providing inputs in the locations where women can access them; strengthening gender awareness and capacity of rural advisory services to respond to the specific needs of female livestock owners and managers within their existing social and cultural situation; and designing credit systems suitable for women with no collateral assets.

- Supporting the adoption of gender-transformative approaches to overcome the underlying causes of gender inequalities and the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that women face. This could include, for example: interventions that enhance the capacity of women's organizations; improving the gender balance in the management of producers' organizations and cooperatives; and challenging inequitable social institutions and gender-blind or discriminatory legislative and policy frameworks.

Notes:

- ^a For example, the Goat Agribusiness project of KwaZulu Natal www.gapkzn.co.za/ and the IFAD-funded pro-Camelidos project www.ifad.org/nl/web/latest/-/the-woman-who-walks-with-llamas?p_l_back_url=%2Fnl%2Fweb%2Flatest%2Fstories%3Fmode%3Dsearch%26catTopics%3D39130755 and the CASP project www.ifad.org/nl/web/latest/-/tajikistan-poultry?p_l_back_url=%2Fnl%2Fweb%2Flatest%2Fstories%3Fmode%3Dsearch%26catTopics%3D39130766;
- ^b See, for example, FAO. 2017. *Gender assessment of dairy value chains: evidence from Rwanda*. Rome. www.fao.org/3/a-i6845e.pdf regarding gender issues in Rwandan dairy production.

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Box 7. Towards gender equality in livestock value chains

Investment in increased livestock productivity is often associated with a shift from informal to formal markets, when higher levels of output exceed what families can consume or sell locally. Gendered differences can be seen throughout many livestock value chains.

Women are most visible as livestock producers; and men as providers of inputs and services, workers in slaughterhouses, managers of processing enterprises and owners of retail enterprises. There are exceptions, like the pork food shops in Viet Nam that are predominantly managed by women, but in general women are more likely to be farm-based, and where they work off farm they are less likely than men to be in management positions. Employed women are likely to receive lower wages and have higher job insecurity than men. Within wholesale and large retail, women are likely to be less represented than men in ownership and management of enterprises. Intersectionality also plays a part here, as poverty and lack of education reduce the economic opportunities for both men and women.

The differences in women's and men's roles in livestock value chains are underpinned by gender norms that restrict women's opportunities for off-farm employment, and prevent them from managing livestock-related businesses. Restricted mobility, household responsibilities that limit time away from home, inability to interact with unrelated men, lack of access to business training, perceptions that women are not businesspeople, limited access to capital and land can all play parts (Galiè *et al.*, 2022) in reducing economic opportunities for women. Gender-responsive development programmes supporting the training of women in off-farm parts of the value chain have met with some success. For example, the training of female animal health providers has increased their numbers, and revealed that they were welcomed by female livestock owners.^a

When small scale livestock producers in low- and middle-income countries are linked to formal value chains instead of relying on informal markets, family income could increase, but at the same time gender

dynamics may limit women's access to and use of income. Men may be more directly involved in sales, and the income may be diverted from daily household expenses into other uses, often under the control of men. The gender differences in access to capital, technologies and information discussed in Box 5 may result in different opportunities for male and female livestock producers to benefit from the development of value chains. Women may also find their workload increases if livestock production is scaled up or subjected to the food safety and quality demands of formal markets.

Value adding is likely to be higher for processed products, but the formalization of markets moves processing off the farm and away from the control of women. Governance of formal value chains may rest with processing hubs, cooperatives, wholesalers or large retail organizations, where women tend to be poorly represented; this has often been the case in dairy value chains served by smallholder producers (FAO, 2015; FAO, 2017a, b, c; Liverpool-Tasie *et al.*, 2020). Where special efforts are made to develop inclusive processing, such as women's dairies, it is important to plan the growth of the value chain beyond the processor to ensure sustained demand for processed products.

Future efforts could focus on:

- increasing the availability of evidence on gender roles and opportunities within livestock value chains;
- raising gender awareness when designing and implementing projects that formalize livestock market systems (such as replacing farm-gate milk sales with sales to a processor), to ensure that investments do not increase gender inequalities, but rather provide equal opportunities for women;
- providing sustainable support to the gender-responsive development of livestock value chains; investing in training, expertise, marketing, links to markets and providing equal opportunities for women and men in supply of inputs and animal health services;
- investing in women's leadership and negotiation skills to increase their engagement in decision-making and planning. Ensuring that investments in institutional strengthening (such as establishing cooperatives or milk collecting centres) include women in management and government roles; and
- changing the gender norms that limit the opportunities for women, men, boys and girls to benefit equally from livestock-related businesses. This may include initiatives to reduce the risk of gender-based violence when women start earning incomes from businesses, or gain increased access to resources and services.

Notes:

^a For example, the Sustainable Business through Training for Veterinary Paraprofessionals project managed by FAO at <https://www.fao.org/home/en/>

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Viet Nam - A woman sells meat in a market close to Hanoi

Priorities for creating an enabling environment to support gender-responsive livestock development

This section highlights the institutional support needed to address the gender priorities previously identified.

Build a strong coalition on livestock and gender equality

by encouraging a broad range of international organizations, regional economic communities, national institutions, donors and investors to commit to adopting this framework, advocate for a gender-inclusive livestock sector, and engage fully with existing women's organizations and networks

so that:

- the achievement of gender-responsive livestock development is a truly global effort, working across regions, countries and at community level, supported by strong commitment and adequate technical and financial resources.

Ensure that gender-responsive livestock strategies are current, relevant and implemented

by establishing strong links between gender equality policies and livestock strategies of international, regional and national institutions and the donor community

so that:

- organizational strategies endorse a gender-responsive approach to livestock research and development; and
- gender responsive interventions and support can complement and add value to each other.

Apply a gender lens throughout the lifetime of each livestock-related project

by including a gender strategy and gender-responsive activities in the project plan, and putting mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate the gender-related impacts of livestock interventions

so that:

- plans to make projects gender-responsive are followed through during implementation; and
- lessons on the most effective gender-responsive approaches can be used to plan new investments.

Ensure that international, regional and national livestock systems have the resources and capacity to support gender equality and women's empowerment

with livestock programmes and policies underpinned by adequate budgets and gender expertise at high levels and in field offices

so that:

- gender-responsive livestock strategies can be effectively implemented by staff working at all levels and in all locations, with the support of their managers.

Make high quality tools and guidelines on livestock and gender equality easily accessible to planners and decision-makers

using common facilities and links to facilitate access to and use of guidance and knowledge products and peer-review processes to ensure their quality

so that:

- all those who wish to implement gender-responsive livestock initiatives have the tools and the capacity to do so.

Box 8. Towards a stronger international coalition on gender-responsive livestock development

International networks and fora dealing with wide-ranging livestock issues have the potential to provide effective platforms for advancing gender-responsive livestock development among their diverse membership. To achieve this, they will need strong, joined-up and consistent gender content. The following is a non-exhaustive list of illustrative examples:

The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

FAO houses and acts as the secretariat for the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), which includes among its members a growing number of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector bodies and national ministries.

GASL has made commitments to consider social impacts and equality, and its 2019–2021 action plan (GASL, 2019) includes gender explicitly as a cross-cutting issue in GASL activities.

Until now, GASL has not had a gender action network, and the web page for the Livestock for Social Development action network does not highlight gender (GASL, 2023). This suggests an opportunity for GASL to embed gender within sustainable livestock development, by including more explicit gender content in policy and strategy documents, expanding the gender remit of the Livestock for Social Development action network, or initiating a gender working group.

The Sustainable Livestock Transformation Initiative

The Sustainable Livestock Transformation Initiative (SLTI) aims to build a more sustainable, efficient, inclusive and resilient transformation of the livestock sector – from a social, economic and environmental perspective – for ensuring better production, better nutrition, better life and better environment, leaving no one behind, through FAO's Priority Programme Areas. It works by strengthening sustainability frameworks for livestock subsectors and by building bridges between Livestock Master Plans and investment plans for the livestock sector. Special attention is given in the policy advice and technical assistance to raise the voice of smallholder farmers, addressing gender equality issues.

The Sub-Committee on Livestock of the FAO Committee on Agriculture

The Sub-Committee on Livestock of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG-SCL), established in 2021, is a governing body forum for consultation and discussion on all matters related to livestock that advises FAO's Committee on Agriculture on technical and policy issues related to livestock and on the work to be performed by FAO in the field of livestock. Its aim is to optimize the contribution of livestock to poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, and the realization of Agenda 2030.

While COAG-SCL's multi-year programme of work (FAO, 2022a) does not explicitly mention inclusivity or gender, some of the discussion documents from its first meeting refer to gender or women (FAO, 2022b; FAO, 2022c), offering opportunities for the programme to become gender-responsive.

The FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Animal Genetic Resources component of this Commission began work in 2007, when a Global Plan of Action was published (FAO, 2007). It has since produced two reports of the State of the World's Animal Genetics Resources. Related to the work of the Commission, FAO also maintains the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) and hosts the Domestic Animal Diversity Network (DAD-Net).

During the life of the Commission on Genetic Resources, the work has become more gender-responsive. While the Global Plan and the first report of the State of the World's Animal Genetics Resources made no mention of gender issues, the latest report, produced in 2016, included a number of gender-related examples.

One Health High-Level Expert Panel

Led by FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAHA, the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) (WHO, 2023) contributes to enhancing strategic orientations and coordination, and to providing high political visibility on the subject of One Health. It draws on the analysis of scientific evidence on the links existing between human, animal and ecosystem health, and contributes to give greater visibility to emerging threats to health.

Until now, gender has been virtually invisible on OHHLEP's website, other than a suggestion that gender should be included in the discussions of one thematic group. An initiative such as this, whose partners all have their own policies on gender equality, presents a good opportunity to integrate gender considerations into high-level planning.

Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases and the Animal Health Forum

The Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a coordination mechanism between FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE) to achieve the prevention, detection and control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), with the expected participation of WHO in matters involving zoonoses. FAO, WOAH and WHO have considerable influence on international agreements, disease control strategies and policy recommendations.



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Azerbaijan - A woman feeding her livestock

Neither the initial published objectives of GF-TADS (FAO and WOA, 2004) nor the GF-TADS Strategy for 2021–2025 (FAO, 2021a) mentions gender. However there has been willingness to include a gender-responsive approach within recent international animal health initiatives, such as those to eradicate Peste des Petits Ruminants, prevent and control African Swine Fever and Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and develop a progressive management pathway on biosecurity.

Partnership between the United States Agency for International Development and FAO in animal health

The FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) is a joint platform between the Animal Health Service and the Office of Emergencies and Resilience for establishing networks and strengthening the animal health systems of FAO member countries. For 16 years it has been well-funded by the Government of the United States of America, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to support prevention, detection and response to animal and public health emergencies. Through this partnership, FAO has been able to manage and coordinate the largest animal health capacity development programme in the world. The partnership has been renewed for a further five years to 2027 to fund a Global Health Security Programme.

ECTAD's earliest publications on emergency response tended to ignore gender, but some of its more recent work on biosecurity (FAO, 2008) and in the Asia-Pacific region (FAO, 2017; FAO, 2022) has considered gender issues. The 2021 Evaluation (FAO, 2021b) of FAO/USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats Programme – Phase II (EPT2), implemented by ECTAD, recommended that future work should include a robust gender strategy and a clearly articulated approach to engaging with minority groups. This is being considered under the new Global Health Security Programme and all other programmes implemented by ECTAD.

Websites that bring together gender equality and livestock development

The CGIAR gender platform^a has a growing body of source material on gender and agriculture and includes materials on gender and livestock, although it does not yet have a research area dedicated to livestock. The Livestock Data for Development network^b funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation^c recently initiated a gender and livestock data community of practice cohosted by ILRI, including members from FAO and many other organizations. Its website includes some gender-related content but there is potential for expansion.

Future efforts could focus on:

- developing stronger gender content in the work programmes, and in planning major events and publishing material on international livestock fora;
- making livestock more visible in online gender portals, and gender equality concerns more visible and more easily searchable in livestock portals; and
- developing online rosters through which international fora can provide access to validated gender experts with livestock expertise and livestock experts with strong gender expertise.

Notes:

^a See CGIAR. 2023. In: *CGIAR*. Nairobi. Cited May 2023. <https://gender.cgiar.org>

^b See LD4D (Livestock Data for Decisions). 2023. In: *LD4D*. Cited May 2023. <https://www.livestockdata.org>

^c The Foundation increasingly requires its livestock projects to be gender responsive, as part of an organization-wide gender equality strategy, see www.gatesfoundation.org/our-work/programs/gender-equality/gender-equality

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Box 9. Towards enhanced resources for gender-responsive livestock research and development

Past experience has shown that attempts to be gender-responsive are most successful when they are underpinned by an enabling environment that provides the necessary management support, monitoring systems, human capacity and financial resources.

Management support

The starting point for gender-responsiveness is management support for transdisciplinary discussions when programmes are first developed and funding proposals are written. Including gender considerations from the start makes it more likely that adequate expertise and budgets will be provided to support gender analysis and gender-responsive implementation.

Monitoring systems that require gender-sensitive targets and indicators

Gender-responsive projects need specific gender-sensitive targets to be set and monitored. These may require sex-disaggregated data to be collected and analysed as part of routine monitoring exercises, or they may need intrahousehold surveys, with male and female respondents, combining qualitative and quantitative data, to assess changes in women's empowerment, using tools such as the WEAI (IFPRI, 2023), pro WEAI, WELI (ILRI, 2023) and WELBI.

Capacity development and specialist advice in gender analysis

Guidelines and tools produced by FAO, IFAD, CARE International, IFPRI, ILRI and others^a provide guidance in designing gender-responsive livestock projects and carrying out assessments of the perspectives and needs of men and women across social markers. To be effectively applied, these tools require training and experience in social science research techniques, in adopting participatory and inclusive approaches and in analysing qualitative data, as well as specialist expertise in understanding gender norms and barriers, and identifying ways to overcome structural barriers and gender inequalities. Even organizations that provide strong support for proposal writing typically do not have sufficient in-house expertise to support gender-responsive implementation.

Financial resources for implementing gender-responsive projects

Gender-responsive projects require gender-related activities to be included throughout the budget cycle. There must be financial resources to include gender expertise in project planning, financial resources for trained staff and gender-related field work, and budgets for monitoring and evaluating gender-related impacts. Financing models to ensure adequate financial resources to implement the gender content of

proposals include allocation of a fixed percentage to cover gender work, or separately costed budget lines for gender-related activities at each stage of implementation.

Future efforts could focus on:

- developing frameworks and guidelines for gender-responsive livestock development that explicitly describe the necessary managerial, staff and financial resources;^b
- ensuring that a social scientist with gender expertise is included at all stages of programmes, from design to implementation and evaluation;
- including gender-sensitive targets and indicators in the monitoring, learning and evaluation systems of livestock programmes; and
- ensuring that gender-related activities are included throughout the budget cycle.

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Livestock support the livelihoods of 1.3 billion people worldwide and provide nutritious diets essential in low- and middle-income countries. Gender dynamics affect the ways in which the livestock sector contributes to sustaining livelihoods. Women comprise most poor livestock keepers in low- and middle-income countries, and are less represented in scaled-up production enterprises and other income-producing livestock-related activities. They also have limited access to livestock information, input and output services, as compared to their male counterparts. When production scales up, often as a result of investments or government policies to develop value chains, women can bear the brunt of the increased workload and be excluded from the accrued benefits. Such gender-based disadvantages are not only hindering the development of the livestock sector, but are also widening the gender gap. In this context, empowering women and girls is essential for both the sustainable development of the livestock sector, and for achieving gender equality. These in turn are key for building a world free from hunger, malnutrition and poverty, with resilient livelihoods for everyone.

The Framework for Gender-Responsive Livestock Development was jointly developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank, with the aim of supporting the planning and implementation of gender-responsive policies, projects and investments related to the development of the livestock sector. It provides an overarching framework to support the formulation of action plans and guidance documents contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment through livestock development.