

Forestry

The Forestry sector includes the broad range of activities pertaining to natural forest management and the rehabilitation of previously forested areas for production, protection, conservation, and resource creation.

Rationale for Integrating Gender into Forestry Operations

The relationship between local men and women and forests plays an important role in forestry development programs that aim to improve their livelihood. Men and women have different roles and needs in the use and management of forest resource. Given the importance of these activities for subsistence and income generation, forestry operations should take gender differences into account to improve the effectiveness of forestry projects.

Promoting Gender Equity in Joint Forest Management (JFM) in India

The JFM was initiated to involve village committees and NGOs in the regeneration, management and protection of degraded forests. In order to improve the gender balance in the JFMs, some states have reserved at least one third of the managing committee places for women. Changes in the policy framework have encouraged more women to participate in the JFM process. In Andhra Pradesh, the program ensures access to and control over resources and involve women in resource management in a major way. The VSSs, community organizations at the village levels, protect a demarcated area of forest land and in return enjoy usufruct rights. Each village household is represented by a man and a woman in the VSSs and no less than 30% of the VSS executive committee members are women.

Some NGOs and State Forest departments have started experimenting with various strategies to enhance women's participation in JFMs, such as:

- Holding separate meetings for women to better understand their needs and priorities
- Undertaking separate participatory appraisals with men and women and then facilitating joint negotiations to draw up village plans
- Promoting women's groups to improve self confidence and empowerment, and mobilize influence on governments; and
- Motivating local progressive leaders to advocate women's equal rights and participation through grassroots groups.

Sources: *Our Forests Our Future, Report of the World Conference on Forest and Sustainable Development.* Emil Salim and Aola Ullstein, Co-Chairman, Cambridge Univ., Cambridge, UK.

"Involvement of Women in Joint Forest Management in Andhra Pradesh State." *Grassroots Concerns.* D. Suryakumari, Energia News.

Application of Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) in Forestry Extension Planning: Kenya Intensified Forestry Extension Project

The project used a forestry extension system to implement a reforestation program and develop microenterprises. Emphasis was put on self-help groups and participatory processes, in which gender was given special importance as 40% of the smallholder farmers were women. Women's groups were identified as project beneficiaries for delivering project inputs as they are increasingly taking up men's tasks. Disaggregation of project components by sex was felt necessary to ensure that inputs reach both men and women. Identification of female headed households is critical in this exercise.

Rapid Gender Analysis was used to identify men's and women's roles in the project and assess if only men or only women should be involved. The socio-economic survey identified over 224 different end-use combinations used by men and women in the project area. A thorough study of local traditions, customary land rights, and farmers' knowledge also helped identify activities, and revealed the following gender differences:

- Men decide where trees should be planted on the farm, and carry out silvicultural practices where they reside. Women look after on-farm tree nurseries
- Trees often belong to men, women do not fell trees. Trees are rarely harvested
- Women weed trees as well as agricultural crops, and handle men's responsibilities when men are away in off-farm activities.

Emerging Gender Issues and Activities:

Issues	Incentives/Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women walk considerable distances for fuelwood; backload of 25-30 kgs lasts 3-4 days • Water scarcity is a problem – women often walk for an hour or more daily for fetching water • Neither men or women have experience managing small businesses and accessing credit • Women's farming responsibilities increase as most men go for off-farm activities; women also tend animals • Men make decisions about marketing of trees and tree products, and use of proceeds; Women market fruits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel efficient stoves • Water for project nurseries • Skills development for forestry micro-enterprises • Technical Assistance for both men and women • Women will prefer fruit tree plantations.

Source: *Looking at Gender and Forestry, Operational Issues for Project Planners, Implementors and Administrators*, FINNIDA, 1993.

Checklist of Gender-Related Issues and Activities during the Project Cycle

	Identification and Preparation	Design and Appraisal	Implementation and Supervision	Implementation Completion
Socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Socio-economic information on men and women in the area and on the project's impact on their livelihoods ✓ Different roles, responsibilities of men and women in forestry sector ✓ Uses of forest resources by men and women, and level of dependence on forests as source of income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participatory appraisal to identify gender-differentiated activities in relation to socio-cultural consideration ✓ Emphasis on men's and women's priorities in selection of species and activities, and local knowledge base ✓ Development of forestry based enterprises for landless women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Extension support to men's and women's activities in forestry sector ✓ Delivery of inputs and seedlings to meet men's and women's needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in income and overall well-being of men and women dependent on forestry and related activities
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Men's and women's differences in perception about forest resource conservation and sustainable use ✓ Indigenous men and women and their livelihoods ✓ Identify men's and women's agro-forestry activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Priorities for sustainable resource management to meet men's and women's needs ✓ Plan for providing rehabilitation and alternate livelihoods to men and women affected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Training of men and women in conservation practices ✓ NGO participation in conservation promotion and awareness raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improvement in knowledge and management of forest resources
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gender differences in access to forest resources, minor produce harvesting, fuel wood, and user rights to common land ✓ Gender differences in land demarcation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project initiatives to improve gender equality in use of forest resources and access to common lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Policy recommendation for, and enforcement of, equal rights for men and women to forestry resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improvement in income potential for women from forestry activities
Technology & Institutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assessment of training and technology needs of men and women in forestry ✓ Institutional efforts to involve men and women in forest management ✓ NGO activities to enhance women's skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Institutional capacity building to provide information and technical support to men's and women's activities ✓ Identification and strengthening of NGOs for providing training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Training of local men and women in forestry education, management and maintenance ✓ Improvement in gender balance among staff in forestry extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Capacity development in institutions for better management of forestry resources
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identification of all stakeholders and their roles ✓ Women's participation in forest management committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Involvement of all sections of society—more/less powerful, men and women—in planning forestry activities ✓ Participatory appraisals with men and women (both separately and together) to prepare village plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Men's and women's effective participation in forest management ✓ Periodic Participatory Rural Appraisals to emphasize gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Development of strong village communities of men and women for forest management and maintenance
Notes to Task Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have as a primary objective to include local men and women ✓ Study land tenure issues in relation to local men and women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Address gender discrimination, if any, in allocation and rights to resources ✓ Raise awareness among foresters about local cultural and economic realities, and gender issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure that gender is integrated in the overall context and not only in a few specific areas. ✓ Assess the effect of project incentives on men's and women's lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Give priority to changes in men's and women's understanding of and participation in resource conservation.

Suggested Gender-Related Indicators for Forestry Projects

Sub-Sector Indicators	Input Indicators	Output Indicators	Impact Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ % of men and women dependent on forests ◆ Distribution of forest land and user rights by sex ◆ Proportion of income from forest products for men and women ◆ Proportion of household food supply from forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Participatory appraisal of men's and women's needs conducted ◆ Supply of seedlings and inputs by sex ◆ Training in forest management for local men and women conducted ◆ Training in nursery raising for women conducted ◆ Gender training to forestry extension staff conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Level of participation improved among men and women ◆ Increase in number of men and women trained in forestry ◆ Improvement in survival rate of seedlings ◆ Gender needs considered in forestry planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Better knowledge, management and sustainable use of forest resources ◆ Improvement in men's and women's income from forest resources.