Gender and International Climate Policy: Gender Equality at COP21

CGIAR

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

CCAFS

Sophia Huyer, Gender and Social Inclusion Research Leader

Led by CIAT
International Center for Tropical Agriculture
Since 1967 / Science to cultivate change

Strategic partner
futureearth

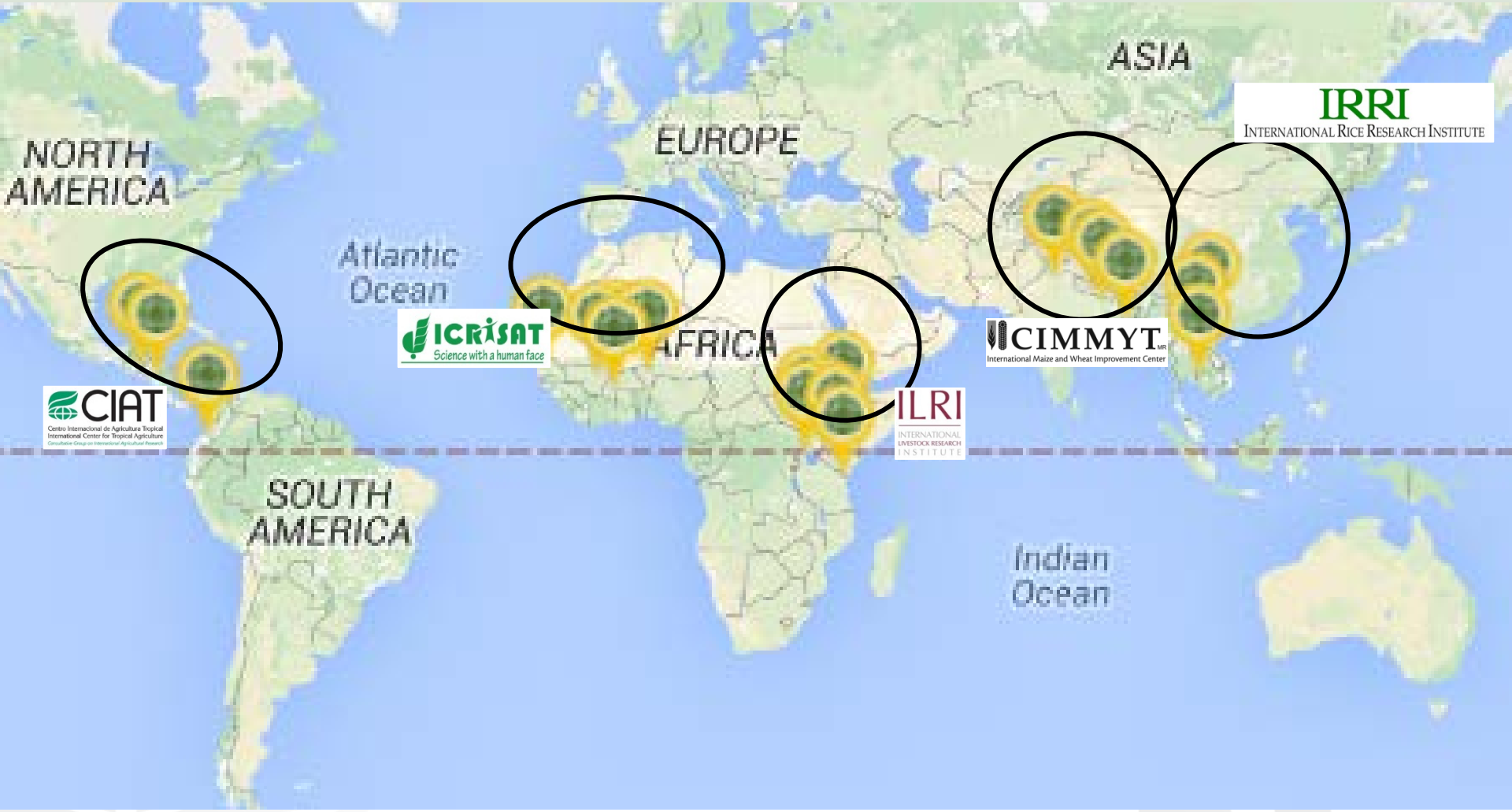
wisat
women in global science & technology

Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Program - CCAFS

- CCAFS brings together the some of the world's best researchers in agricultural, climate, environmental and social sciences to address the interactions, synergies and trade-offs in climate change and agriculture
- A strategic collaboration between CGIAR and Future Earth.
- It is led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and is a collaboration among all 15 CGIAR research centers.
- It integrates climate change research across the CGIAR research system

Co-organised by:

CCAFS – Where we work



The gender gap in climate change

- Women are less able to adapt to climate change
- 79% of women in developing countries report agriculture as their primary economic activity
- Yet they have **lower access to resources, land and inputs**
- lower levels of access to information services than men
- **Productivity gap**: smaller and less profitable farms, in less profitable sectors

The gender gap in climate change

J.L.Urrea, CCAFS

- Women play a central role in agriculture, environmental and natural resource management
- Local and indigenous knowledge
  - Ecosystem
  - Medicinal plants
- Innovation of new processes and products
- Engaging women in technology design and management decisions improves community outcomes

Obinju Women's Group, Kenya

Rice farming in Vietnam

Eco-stove development in Honduras

L. Sebastian, CCAFS

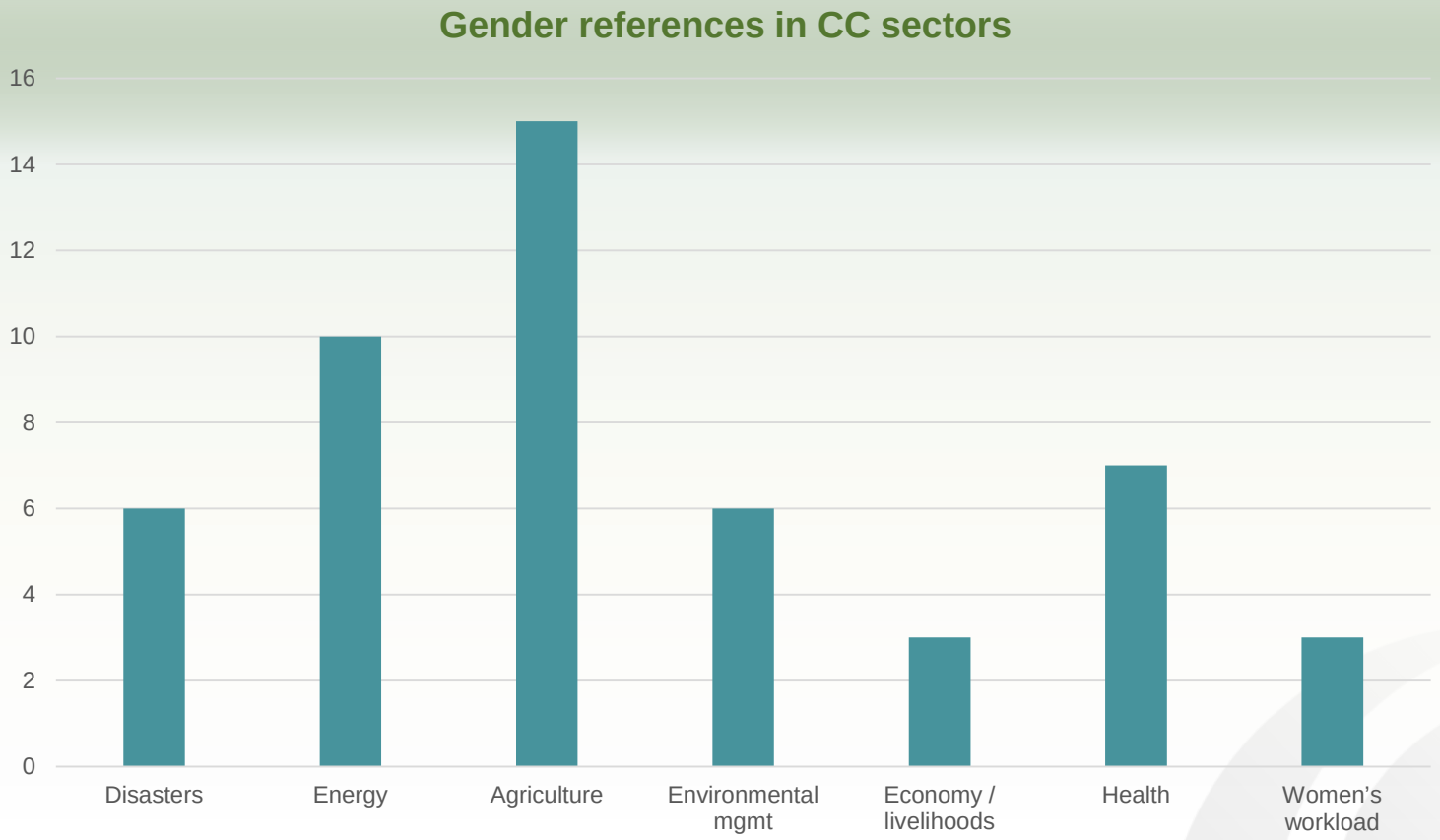
The gender challenge in global climate policy

- Climate change policy and negotiations have become more gender-inclusive over the years, but there is still a way to go:
- Climate change policies are not substantially taking into account gender differences, roles and capacities, particularly in relation to climate change sectors such as energy, transportation, agriculture, and management.
- Women's participation in climate change related decision-making processes at national and global levels is low

Gender in the UNFCCC

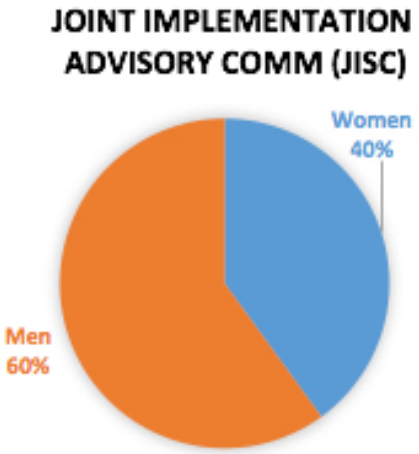
- 50 decisions of the UNFCCC support the recognition and integration of gender considerations
- Promotion of women's participation in decision-making in the Convention (2001)
- Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) (2009)
- Lima work program on gender (2014)
- Paris Agreement (2015): actions should take into account gender equality and women's empowerment
  - Also calls for gender-responsive actions in capacity building

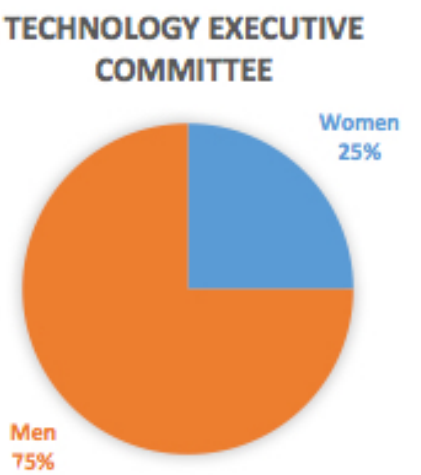
The gender gap in the INDCs

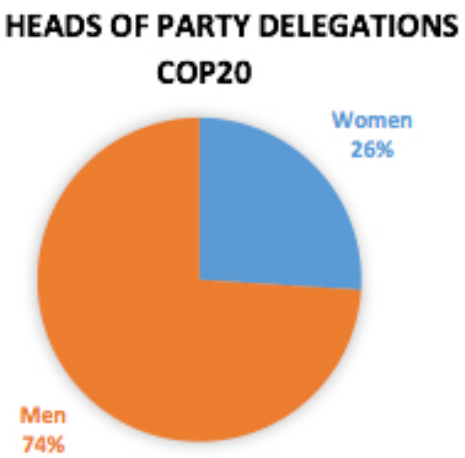


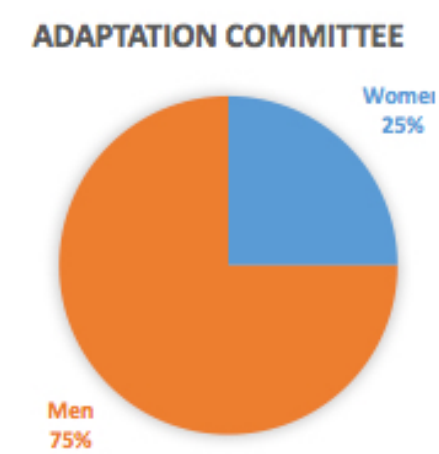
Source: WISAT and UNDP, April 2016 update

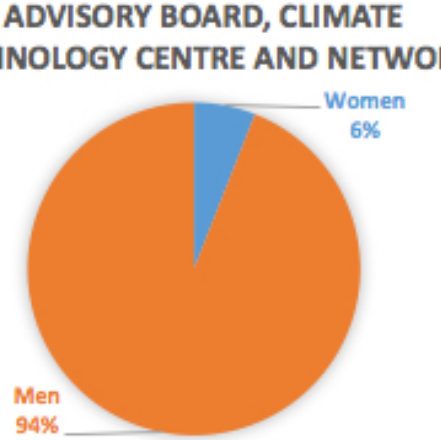
The gender challenge for global climate policy











Gender in national climate policy

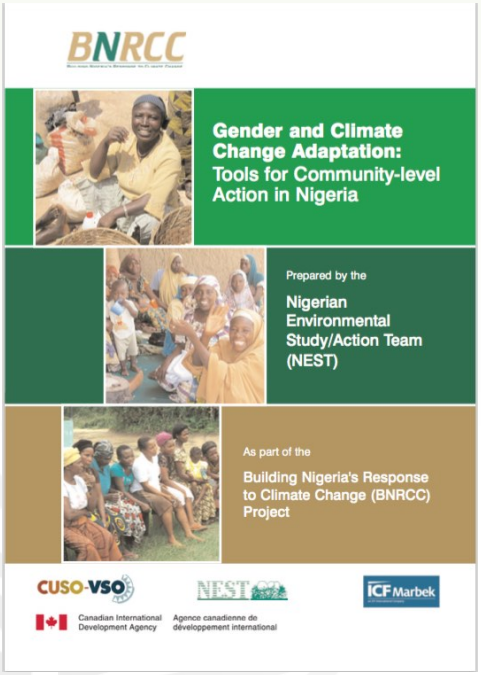
- Many INDCs identify gender as a cross-cutting policy priority or commit to mainstreaming gender into all climate change actions, strategies and policies
- Only 20 Parties make references to the integration of gender into national climate change policy and strategy.
- Three countries make reference to Gender and Climate Change Action Plans: Jordan, Liberia, and Peru.

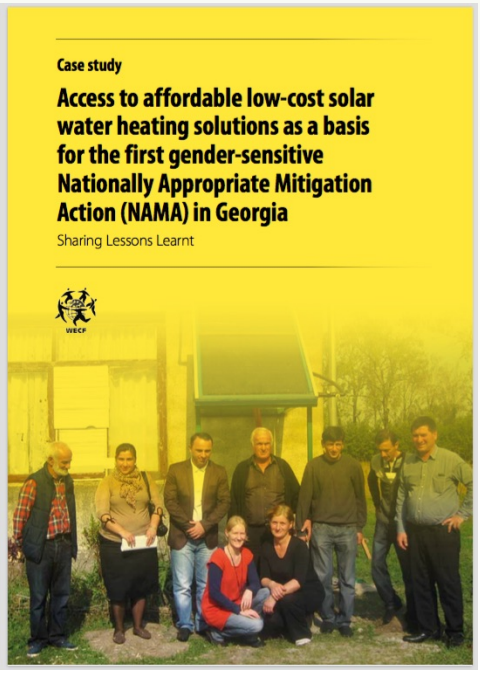
Moving forward: the global policy context

- Integrate gender equality, human rights, and recognition of women's active role
- Link to relevant global policies such as
  - Rio+20
  - Beijing Platform for Action
  - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
  - CSW55 on "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology"

Global and national climate mechanisms

- Global Climate Fund, GEF, Clean Development Mechanism
- NEPAD Development Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (NEPAD-CAADP)
- Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs), REDD+,
- Gender and CC Action Plans/Strategies





Thank you

CGIAR RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security CCAFS

Info Note

Gender and international climate policy

An analysis of progress in gender equality at COP21

Sophia Huyer

FEBRUARY 2016

Key messages

- Gender is not well integrated into climate change policy in relation to agriculture.
- Policy makers need to take into account the differential vulnerabilities of men and women farmers to climate change.
- In spite of their vulnerabilities to climate change, rural women can be important agents of change and innovators. This potential can be best tapped into by co-designing climate smart technologies and practices with women.
- Gender receives attention in about 40% of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted ahead of COP21, none from Annex 1 countries.
- Gender references are confined mostly to impacts of climate change on women and women as "vulnerable populations", with less emphasis on supporting women to actively address and participate in adaptation and mitigation actions.
- The use of the term "gender-responsive" in the Paris Agreement is a big step forward, however the Agreement fails to move beyond the attitude of women as victims of climate change in need of capacity building.
- Stronger steps need to be taken for real gender equality in climate policies, including better monitoring and evaluation of the progress.

Closing the gender gap in climate change

While women play an important role in agriculture, environmental and natural resource management, they have greater financial or resource constraints, and lower levels of access to information and extension services than men (Tall et al. 2014). Because of these gender inequalities, women appear to be less able to adapt to climate change (Huyer et al. 2015). Rural women's workload, e.g. biomass and water collection, is affected by natural disasters and the changing climate with consequences on family nutrition, childcare and education. Cultural norms related to gender roles may limit the ability of women to respond to or make quick decisions in the face of climate events. For example, in some households where men are working off-farm in cities, women may lack the power to make timely farming decisions or to convince their husbands to agree to new practices (Asfaw et al. 2015; Goering 2015).

Without recognition of the role women play in mitigating emissions, the 1.5 C degree global target will be that much more elusive. Failure to support women to adapt to climate change impacts or to cope with the effects of disasters may contribute to an increase in global gender inequalities (Dankelman 2010), including the global gender gap in agriculture.

Figure 1: Accessing climate information services in India. When when women have access to information on adaptation and mitigation practices, they are just as likely as men to adopt them. P. Vishwanathan, CCAFS

Led by CIAT International Center for Tropical Agriculture Since 1967 / Science to cultivate change

Strategic partner futureearth

wisat women in global science & technology

CGIAR RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security CCAFS