Gender-Transformative Dialogues for Women's Decision-Making on Productive Assets

Women Decide. Women Choose. Women Control Productive Assets!



International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
Steve Cole

The Gender-Transformative Dialogue Sessions provide a structured approach for addressing gender inequalities that affect women's economic participation. Participants examine gender roles, household responsibilities, workload, and control over productive assets. Facilitated discussions, practical exercises, case studies, and positive role models help participants reflect on restrictive attitudes and identify practical changes. The approach also engages men as allies and supports participants in developing action plans for more equal household decision-making.

This technology is **not yet validated**.

6·4 Scaling readiness: idea maturity 6/9; level of use4/9

Inclusion assessment 9 9 9

Climate impact 2

Problem

- Unequal resource control: Gender norms give men greater control over productive resources.
- Unequal participation: Restrictive norms limit women's participation in the cassava agrifood system.
- Limited decision-making: Women's voices are not always valued in key decisions.
- Persistent gender norms: Social expectations reinforce unequal roles and opportunities.

Solution

- Greater gender equality: Sessions challenge restrictive gender norms.
- More equitable participation: Women and men participate more fairly in the agrifood system.
- Shared decision-making: Households and groups promote balanced decisions.
- Positive gender relations: Men become allies in promoting women's autonomy.

Key points to design your project

The Gender-Transformative Dialogue Sessions strengthen women's economic autonomy and promote more equal decision-making about productive assets in the cassava agrifood system. To integrate them into a project:

- Integrate into existing activities: Work through organized cassava-based groups.
- Train facilitators: Conduct ToT to prepare facilitators to lead the sessions effectively.
- Use participatory approaches: Combine discussions, exercises, case studies, and reflection.
- Focus on productive-asset decisions: Examine who controls assets and how gender norms affect women's decisions.
- Engage men and role models: Use positive masculinity, male allies, and success stories to support women's autonomy.
- Turn discussion into action: Develop practical household commitments for more equal decision-making.
- Build local partnerships: Work with local actors and organized groups in the cassava value chain.

IP

Open source / open access

Commodities

Cassava

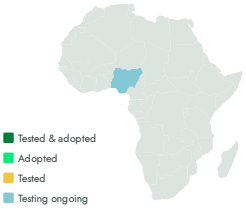
Sustainable Development Goals

1 NO POVERTY · 5 GENDER EQUALITY · 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Categories

Gender-transformative potential, Practices, Gender-transformative potential

Tested/adopted in



Where it can be used

This technology can be used in the colored agro-ecological zones.



Target groups

Development institutions, Farmers, Advisory and Extension Services, Cooperatives and Agribusinesses, Processors