Gender-Transformative Dialogues for Women's Leadership in Cassava Groups

Transforming gender norms to advance women's leadership



The approach combines an eight-session participatory dialogue process within agricultural groups with community dialogues involving traditional, religious, youth and other local leaders. The two-level structure supports identification of gender norms affecting women's leadership and coordinated practical actions within groups and their surrounding communities.

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
Dr Steve Cole

This technology is **not yet validated**.

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

Inclusion assessment 13 12 16

Climate impact 2

Problem

- **Persistent gender norms:** Social norms continue to discourage women's leadership.
- **Leadership gaps:** Women remain underrepresented in agricultural group leadership.
- **Unequal voice:** Limited representation reduces women's influence in collective decisions.

Solution

- **Transform gender norms:** Use participatory dialogue to challenge attitudes that discourage women's leadership.
- **Expand representation and voice:** Create more equitable opportunities for women to lead and influence decisions.
- **Act across levels:** Engage groups and community leaders in addressing reinforcing social norms.

Key points to design your project

Integrates into gender-responsive agriculture, rural development, women's empowerment and agricultural extension programmes seeking to strengthen women's participation and representation in leadership.

- **Target:** Prioritize agricultural groups and communities where women participate but remain underrepresented in leadership.
- **Implement:** Combine group and community dialogues through existing programmes and local partners; contact IITA for adaptation beyond cassava.
- **Sustain:** Track changes in women's leadership and gender norms while building local capacity for continued implementation.

IP

Open source / open access

Commodities

Cassava

Sustainable Development Goals

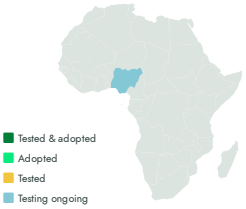
4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

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, Cooperatives and Agribusinesses