EVIDENCE PATHWAYS TO GENDER EQUALITY AND FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

July 2021
TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE AND EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

- **Vital role of women** – inequalities persist
- **Discriminatory social norms**
- Shift from ‘addressing the symptoms’ to **tackling root causes**
- **Transformative change**
Engaging women and men together as ‘agents of change’

Source: CGIAR https://www.cgiar.org/innovations/gender-transformative-approaches/
1 RAISE THE VISION FROM ‘INDIVIDUAL INCLUSION’ TO ‘CHANGING STRUCTURES’

- From empowering individual women to confronting wider systemic barriers
- More attention:
  - social norms
  - gender-based violence
  - household decision-making/access to land
  - laws, policies & capacities
USE THEORIES OF CHANGE TO CONNECT PROGRAMMATIC ACTION WITH INSTITUTIONAL INTENT

- **Disjunct** – Gender Policy/programme action

- **Recommend:**
  - Clear **conceptual vision** - ‘what does gender mean’?
  - Theories of change
3 UNDERSTAND LOCAL GENDER NEEDS AND TARGET TO CONTEXT

- ‘Women’ ≠ homogenous group
- Recommend:
  - more granular analysis
  - targeting strategies for context
MOVE FROM ‘EQUAL PARTICIPATION’ TO ENGAGED DECISION-MAKING

- ‘Including women’ ≠ changing gender relations

- Recommend:
  - Opportunities to participate in decision-making
  - Engage women in project management structures
Gender stereotypes persist

Recommend:
- CHECK & AVOID
- Women’s strengths, capacities & resilience

Challenge stereotypes and assume women as actors.
FOCUS ON SOCIAL RELATIONS TO AVOID BACKLASH

- ‘Targeting women’ solely:
  - Missed opportunities
  - Backlash

- Recommend:
  - Social relations lens
  - Space for dialogue - gender norms
BUILD CAPACITIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Potential – transformatively-geared capacity strengthening
- Demand outstrips supply

Recommend:
- Multi-level approaches
- Normative frameworks
MATCH TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION WITH TRANSFORMATIVE MEASUREMENT

- Corporate *measurement systems* limited

- Recommend:
  - **Measurement:**
    - Flexible & creative
    - Diverse methods
  - **Tools:**
    - Complexity
    - Behaviour & institutional change
CREATE ALLIANCES FOR CHANGE

- Untapped potential

Recommend:
- Multi-agency synergies + combination of practices = Transformative effects
Download the report:

https://bit.ly/3753H0d

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