CTCN-WGC Workshop - Resource Guide

Climate technologies and up-scaling gender-just climate solutions: learning and best practice sharing

awareness-raising, knowledge sharing and promotion of gender-sensitive approaches to technology transfer and development
15 November, 2017
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn

I. Context of the workshop

This gender-just climate technologies best practice sharing workshop was organized by WECF (member of the WGC) and the CTCN, during COP23 in Bonn. Participants were representatives from the Women and Gender Constituency, from 7 winning organizations of the "Gender Just Climate Solutions Award" and several climate technology and gender experts invited by WECF and the CTCN. The objective was to share the lessons learned and best practice from different climate initiatives around the world that integrate a gender responsive, or even gender transformative approach. The Women and Gender Constituency and the Climate Technologies Center and Network share the conviction that gender responsive climate solutions ensure more effective and socially just climate policies. Therefore gender responsive approaches must be promoted and financially supported in the frame of Paris Agreement Rulebook /Implementation.

The objective of the workshop was also to compile the lessons learned and best practice experiences out of the field into a resource guide that could be shared widely. We are thus very proud to present now this resource guide.

It entails the presentation and experience sharing of 10 gender responsive climate initiatives, looking at particular challenges and lessons learned from different geographical, ecological and social contexts. Three of these projects serve as case studies to enable deeper analysis and proposals for further development and up-scaling.

List of presented award winning initiatives:

"Sustainable use of natural resources and climate resilience" - Gender CC, South Africa, by Bertha Chiroro.
"Training young women on solar PV for DC refrigeration" - Island Eco, Marshall Islands, by Riyad Mucadam
"GENDDER – women's ancestral knowledge & mangroves", Enda Graaf Sahel, Senegal, by Fatou Ndoye
"Women promoting solar cookers to protect the Argan forest", FMVIRSA, Morocco, by Jamila Idbourrous
" Empowering women for community based water management", YEU, Indonesia, by Anastasia Maylinda
" Seeds of Hope, women as seed conservation experts" Navdanya-SOL, India, by Neha Raj Singh
"Gender Assessment of Non-Timber Forest Production", GDA, Laos, By Elizabeth Thipphawong

3 additional case studies:
" Blockchain App for microhybrid solar grids in Akka, Lebanon", KAPRAY, Lebanon, by Ryme Assaad
"Gender-sensitive sustainable energy cooperatives in Georgia", WECF, Georgia, by Katharina Habersbrunner
"Women waste pickers as skilled workers in Solid Waste Management", Hasiru Dala, India, by Usha Nair

II. Main challenges encountered

Challenges encountered by local organizations focusing on gender-responsive solutions to climate change can be classified in 4 categories: financial, technical, social or organizational /governance.

II.a. Financial challenges, business model issues

Most of the projects experience challenges in finding sustainable funding or sustainable business models to ensure that the implemented solutions can be maintained or replicated over time. Short term, or project conditional funding cannot be bridged by the beneficiaries, due to their very low revenues. Communities cannot afford the necessary equipment for replication (YEU, Gender CC), or replace worn out technologies; trained beneficiaries lack financial support for the creation of a micro-enterprise (FMVIRSA, Enda); means are lacking to increase awareness raising/ capacities among a wider group of beneficiaries (GDA). For the same reasons it is sometimes difficult to involve the private sector in rural/ poor areas.
=> Identifying or creating business models, financial mechanisms that generate confidence and allow for sustainability in the communities is of prior importance.
Business models and creating access to market, distribution channels will also enable the scaling-up of the project (Navdanya, SOL).

II.b. Technical challenges

Technologies must be adapted to the specific needs of target beneficiaries**,** who must have their part in the decision making process about implemented technologies. It is also crucial that locally available technologies are prioritized, so they are easily accessible and adapted to specific climate conditions. When technical investments are restricted by financial means or political constraints, it endangers the project's success (GenderCC, YEU). Specific training for the target population is also a key factor, so the beneficiaries can master the new technical solutions and their maintenance, or monitor project results on the long run (f.ex: monitor water quality, energy availability etc…YEU, Eco-Island, FMVIRSA). This is especially true for gender-responsive projects: women have less access to technical trainings and it is often a challenge to get social acceptance for gender-equal or women targeted technical trainings.

II.c. Social or cultural/societal challenges

Gender-responsive climate solutions necessarily tackle gender roles and social rules within a community or a territory. Gender barriers have to be overcome and this can be a big challenge as it requires to change cultural habits or even legal frameworks (ie. Inheritance rights in Morocco) and it involves power re-distribution.
In certain regions women do not participate in community farmer meetings due to patriarcal norms (Laos, India, Indonesia). Another example: involving women in decision-making processes from which they have been previously excluded (Enda Graaf, Gender CC) will require negotiations and time. It can also be a challenge to provide specific trainings or financial tools for women, to which they had no access (Eco-Island, WECF).
Ensuring access to new jobs for women in male dominated sectors (for example: solar energy sector - KAPRAY and WECF; electrical installations - Eco-Island; small business creation - HasiruDala).
In most projects, implementing a truly gender transformative approach has required more time and energy, also more creativity than originally estimated. In that case, looking for funds that specifically target gender responsive programmes can help overcome these challenges.

II.d. Organizational, governance challenges:

For some organizations, it has been a challenge to adopt a truly participatory approach, either due to gender barriers that prevent women from actively participating in public meetings, or due to the political context that sometimes restricts the organization of community meetings or projects. It is also a challenge for local NGO's to find enough staff with experience or specialized skills/knowledge on a specific field (RE, agroecology, water management etc…) or even with good management skills. Capacity building for local teams can be organized

with the support of national or international networks and institutions. Creating new governance and/or entrepreneurship structures, like cooperatives, with democratic rules and decision-making processes, to develop local skills and generate local activities can help alleviate organizational challenges.

III. Key Success factors and lessons learned

Key success factors and lessons can be classified in 4 categories:
- Participatory approach and tools,
- Gender analyses/tools and women's empowerment
- Replicable methodologies and governance structures
- Technical assistance
- Financing structures and mechanisms

III.a. Participatory approach and tools

Adopting a truly participatory approach with dedicated tools has proven a key success factor in most of the presented projects. The participatory approach enable a stronger appropriation by the beneficiaries, thus ensuring sustainability of the project, and also allows for the use of local, ancestral knowledge that adds effectiveness and value to undertaken actions or sometimes broadens the scope of the action. The participatory approach also favours a more gender-responsive action.

Examples:

Enda Graaf Sahel, Saloum Delta, Senegal

The project was started with the organization of a **Participatory dialogue, which** was a huge success. Using dedicated tools (like a diagnostic with formalized questionnaires) this dialogue allowed to identify and highlight the important contribution of women to the local economy. It also helped identify *specific ancestral knowledge owned by women,* that were essential to re-habilitate fragile environments. This knowledge was *shared with other villages* and used within the project to conduct rehabilitation of the mangrove. Participative approach finally enabled women from the communities to collaborate with universities, state institutions on a rehabilitation programme, and local radio stations and local churches to raise awareness and gain visibility.

Navdanya, India

They organized participatory conversations in the villages to discuss the issue of seeds conservation and biodiversity protection. Women were at the centre of these conversations, because they are responsible for food provision and processing in the communities. Thus they became seed conservation experts

GDA- Laos

They took on a decentralised approach, to engage with communities and let them take ownership of ideas. They developed tools based on the needs of the communities. GDA has a long history of working with Lao women's unions who operate at national, regional, district and local levels, and know the communities. This has enabled the successful participatory approach. All GDA staff are Lao women representing 4 different ethnic groups and speaking 4 different dialects.

III.b. Gender analyses and women's empowerment

Using gender analyses and promoting women's empowerment has proven a success factor for all aspects of the projects. Women are keen to be trained and adopt new techniques if they can foresee a value for improving their livelihood and the well-being of the community. They become major drivers of change and multipliers within the territoryy, or even on a broader scale, thus highly contributing in the local climate action or on regional or national climate policies.

Examples

GenderCC, South Africa

They ensured that women would be trained and able to install and maintain climate smart technologies, like biogas digesters, water conservation systems, and sustainable farming methods. Several exercises and tools were needed to convince men to allow for women to gain such skills. Women became leaders and active members of their communities. Most of them have then become very successful entrepreneurs and are now transferring their knowledge to other people. Furthermore, they are advocating at national level for the government to support climate resilient policies, invest in renewable energy and climate-friendly technologies. The government of South Africa is beginning to include gender in their policies.

Enda Graaf Sahel, Saloum Delta, Senegal

They conducted a research on **masculinity**, asking the population how masculinity was reflected in the time of ancestors and how it is today with young people. The research was conducted with local activists, who came up with the initiative. This research triggered discussions on gender roles in the communities, and highlighted the heavy burden of unpaid domestic tasks carried out by women.

Eco-Island, **Marshall Islands**

The NGO chose to build on the specific skills of women (able to focus on meticulous tasks, fine motoric), to apply these skills to new domains (solar PV, electric appliances). They also built on the young women's motivation to learn and acquire news skills for a professional activity.

GDA, Laos

Conducted a complete gender assessment in different ethnic communities, evaluating women's workloads and specific knowledge linked to the management of non timber forest products and biodiversity conservation, as well as their role in providing food for the community. The gender assessment helped identify opportunities for formal governance structures based on women's formal knowledge in the region.

Yakkum Emergency Unit, Indonesia

Facilitated five women's groups to enable them to actively contribute to the water management in their communities, responding to the needs for drinkable water and also the challenges of planting crops in hilly areas. Tapped into women's traditional knowledge of water management through a participatory assessment to identify the problems, which proved to be: distribution of water, quality of water and water management. Then they conducted trainings for women to gain confidence when speaking in public and increase their leadership.

UCFA, **Agadir, South Morocco**

Women's cooperatives aim to create opportunities for women to climb the socio-economic ladder in poor rural areas, where traditionally men have earn an income from products transformed by women (argan oil). The cooperatives provide an independent income for women as they control the entire value chain, from the collection and transformation of the nut up to the sale of the high value finished cosmetic or food product. In this way women have a recognized place in the economy, and can then participate on other decisions like argan forest protection, or the introduction of climate friendly (solar) technologies.

III.c. Replicable structures and tools

Creating replicable structures and replicable tools or methodologies is one of the major success factors for all projects, according to the experiences that were shared during the workshop. Replicable governance structures (i.e. women's groups or associations, or cooperatives) allow for a rapid extension of the project to other villages and territories. Replicable methodologies and tools allow for a rapid appropriation by the beneficiaries and therefore for the successful up-scaling and sustainability of the action.

Examples:

KAPRAY project, by Kapstone and Sunray, Lebanon (Ryme Assaad)
Kapstone and Sunray are Lebanese energy companies which invest their profit into social entrepreneurship. KAPRAY is a solar/hybrid micro-grid solution created to solve the crisis of constant power cuts in some municipalities of Lebanon (escalated due to the large intake of Syrian refugees). The micro-grid model is supported by a blockchain application, which allow users to communicate via an app. By decentralising the electricity grid KAPPRAY creates resilience if the main grid goes down, which reduces costs in the long term. In order to overcome some of the encountered challenges, like the lack of government support and the difficulties in accessing large financing amounts for needed investments, KAPPRAY has developed an alternative financing model (lease to own basis with flexible monthly payment schedule) supported by guarantees from local municipalities. Kapstone and Sunray are women-led companies in a male dominated sector.

NAMA in Georgia, WECF (Katharina Habersbrunner)
NAMA stands for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action and refers to national actions that focus on reducing emissions in developing countries, prepared under the umbrella of a governmental initiative. WECF has worked with the Georgian government to prepare a NAMA aiming at tackling deforestation and energy poverty in rural areas of the country. The replicable structures and tools used for this NAMA are:

- energy cooperatives created to produce solar systems and energy efficient stoves locally
- a financing mechanism developed with local banks to allow for local investments and access to financing for poor and women-led households
- replicable training modules on gender roles, women's leadership, and to develop women's skills in sales and technology

Eco-Island, **Marshall Islands**
Have been in contact with members of the Barefoot College (https://www.barefootcollege.org/) and would like to create something similar in the pacific for the development of renewable energy.

Enda Graaf Sahel, Senegal
The women fisher implement shellfish reseeding in the Saloum river delta; they created a replicable system to monitor the shellfish biological rhythm and ensure resting periods via restricted areas. The project also uses standardized training modules on gender inequalities and women's leadership. Finally the women promote the use of efficient stoves to dry or cook the sea products. This cuts down energy use by 75%.

Navdanya/SOL, India
Developed the concept of "soksha": drying vegetables and fruits during summer (with solar dryers), so they can be conserved until winter. The partners also want to develop a network of women as trained energy ambassadors to visit a certain number of households and inform/train them on sustainable energy and energy efficiency solutions. They are looking at creating networks of community supported agriculture, similar to the Teikei in Japan, or AMAP in France

GDA, Laos
Implemented a Train of Trainer concept with specifically adapted training tools (fitted to the needs of the target women and based on the outcomes of the gender assessment)

Yakkum Emergency Unit, Indonesia
Developed an emergency preparedness program targeted at women for areas prone to landslides. The beneficiary women also decided to implement aquaponic farming, building small ponds in the villages, as well

as small size vegetable farming for the households. These technical tools can be easily replicated and provide food security with a wider nutritional scope.

UCFA, **Agadir, South Morocco / WECF**, **NAMA Georgia**
The argan oil cooperatives in Morocco and the energy cooperatives developed by WECF in Georgia are fully replicable structures with democratic decision making processes (1 member=1vote) and established principles (gender equality, solidarity, sustainability). This model enables the up-scaling of locally produced solutions and revenue generating activities at a regional or national level.

Hasiru Dala, India , presented by Usha Nair, AIWC

Hasiru Dala works on the inclusion of waste pickers as skilled workers in solid waste management. It is a charitable trust. There are 25 000 waste pickers in Bangalore, 49% of which are women. Hasiru Dala successfully lobbied government to issue identity cards and working permits to waste pickers, which has offered them many benefits: social security, access to banking, formal recognition and sense of pride and identity.

Examples of replicable tools used by Hasiru Dala:

- **2 bins 1 bag** concept for proper segregation of waste. Concept was tested in 1000 households and was so successful that the high court of the state took requested city administration to follow that model.
- **Dry waste collection**: dry waste is collected essentially by women who do segregation, after having received a training. Some waste is sent to recycling agencies or recycling centres run by families.
- **Trainings in composting**, **trainings in mushroom farming:** provides nutrition supplement for the families. This is not for a commercial purpose, but for the benefit of the family only.
- **Social inclusion:** Social welfare benefits, scholarships for children, opening bank accounts for waste pickers, get the in finance inclusion programs, health insurance thanks to ID card etc.

Success story:

- Huge success in terms of advocacy for the organization
- Model of waste management has been legally incorporated
- Access to social welfare benefits and education for waste pickers
- Skill training for member of families
- Cleaner city with solid waste management system

IV. Main recommendations (incl. 3 case studies)

IV. a. Using the technical assistance provided by CTCN and PFAN

Karina Larsen, CTCN:

Technology in climate can relate to many different practises used, from traditional knowledge to high-tech technologies. Various technology and climate change processes that are useful to know about are:

- Technology Needs Assessments (TNA)
- National Adaptation Plans
- Nationally Determined Contributions (agreed under the Paris Agreement in 2015): the countries commitments to mitigate and adapt to climate change. There are the documents governments are using to guide what they are doing.

It is important to know about these climate processes because they guide government priorities. Project holders should think about how the work they are doing falls under these plans and commitments (look at ndcpartnership.org/initiatives-navigator and search by country. This is something CTCN can help identify by going through the projects and supporting the project holder in taking a demand to its national authorities, and to other private donors.
Local project holders can also obtain technical and capacity building support from members of the Women and Gender Constituency, or other constituencies.

How does the CTCN provide its support? We are part of the Technology Mechanism under UNFCCC created in 2014. We offer technical assistance support, free of charge (up to 250 000 USD), capacity building and networking. Any type of organisation can ask for assistance (NGO, research institutions, private sector, national governments etc.) We provide support on a broad range of sectors such as transport systems, waste, energy, agriculture etc. The process of applying with a project is simple: download a four-page application from a website and send it to your national NDE. Once we receive the request we develop a plan and select a team to help the project holder. Join the network and you can also be contracted to implement projects.

Furthermore we can help actors to write proposals, or connect to PFAN (building capacity to seek private funding).

Sabera Khan, PFAN

About PFAN: PFAN is a network of independent consultants (coaches), investors, and other interested stakeholders. PFAN has raised 1.2 billion USD for 87 projects so far. The PFAN project portfolio consists of mitigation and adaptation projects, whereby the focus is heavier on mitigation as funds come from the private finance sector, which has greater demands on return on investment. Private finance, due to its multiplier effect, can make a huge difference in meeting the countries goals. There is not enough public finance to cover all the needs at the global level. Access to finance is the largest challenge to large-scale deployment of clean energy.

PFAN services: It is important to understand the psychology of money and investors. You need to know how to structure finances, who to target, and how to access the finance. PFAN brings in international coaches to match projects with financing actors. This service is free for all: NGO's, private sector etc. There is a competitive selection process, based on the strength of the business model. PFAN looks at projects that have strong business cases and bankability but have not yet been financed. For example, sometimes your project is viable and investors are ready but an in-depth feasibility study is needed which you cannot afford to pay. PFAN can provide support here! This is so called tipping-point funding.

Gender mainstreaming in PFAN: For the first time, PFAN is coming in at COP23 with a gender mainstreaming perspective and supporting women entrepreneurs. Previous experience in Asia has shown that women entrepreneurs have felt very comfortable with women coaches, because it helps break barriers. PFAN gender mainstreaming is happening on three levels:

- In the PFAN pipeline (as projects mature and PFAN provides coaching service, project leaders can meet face to face with investors and then a gender mainstreaming can be done during this phase)
- Through the PFAN network (expertise bearers can enter the network as partner)
- PFAN calls for proposals for gender projects: for example the ECOWAS project together with CTCN and ECREEE. There is officially no project size definition, but PFAN projects usually have an entrance ticket size of 5-15 million. The private sector favours larger projects, as they offer more possibilities for return on investment. PFAN must make climate action meaningful for private sector and investors.

Common mistakes: not asking for the needed financing amount, because you are worried of not receiving any support if you ask for a too high amount. The problem is that you then encounter difficulties in accessing the needed co-funding, which endangers the feasibility of the entire project. Do risk to ask for what you need!!

IV. b. Understanding climate financing structures and mechanisms

Liane Schalatek, Heinrich Boll Foundation North America*,* overview of climate finance landscape and why climate finance needs gender justice to succeed

General overview of global climate finance flows (see PPT-presentation in annex)

- Private finance
- Multilateral (such as World Bank, ADB, UN agencies etc). GCF, Clean Technology Fund etc.
- Bilateral (largely as part of ODA)
- Within context of UNFCCC
- Domestic allocations, etc.

Difficult to get full picture of climate finance flows: The "onion" of climate finance is an image that shows where we have insight into the finance flows in categories listed above (see PPT). Most transparency is available in multilateral public finance (UNFCCC funds e.g.), but this is a small sub-segment of all money flowing around. It is difficult to estimate the flows of private climate finance. Domestic flows are not transparent, nor recorded, so there is no comprehensive understanding of what size of funding is available.

Developed countries have jointly pledged to mobilize 100 billion per year until 2020 (variety of public, bilateral, multilateral and alternative sources) as part of their climate debt. We don't know if we will reach this amount by 2020. It is officially a "debt", thus it is an obligation, not charity or aid, as it is the consequence of the CO2 pollution accumulated by developed countries. The challenge is that voluntary contributions are unpredictable and make it hard to plan projects.

Climate finance is not gender-neutral. Women often have greater barriers to access finance, grants, private loans. Women are disproportionally represented in the informal sector and are subject to gender-based discrimination. They often do reproductive and unpaid care work and suffer under income gaps, lack of access to information and lack of property rights. We need more private sector investments in micro- and small projects and not just medium and large-scale, in order to access and support the women who usually are found in these sectors. What makes climate finance projects more gender aware? See checklist in the presentation! We are fighting for stronger integration of human rights into the climate process.

IV.c. Practical recommendations based on practical case studiies

CASE 1: Riyad Mucadam, Marshall Islands, Eco Islands
Facilitator: Karina Larsen
Note-taker: Shanar Tabrizi
Participant, Sabera Khan, Berta, members from WGC from Bolivia and Ghana

1) **SOCIAL challenge:** Male-dominated field, men get confused when the women come to install. Ship arrives and you have three girls with equipment, it takes a couple of days for it to sink in. Also, out of 6 girls he trained 2-3 became pregnant and dropped out.

Solutions discussed:

a. Involve more men and bring along as gender champions in the villages to make the gender sensitization more gradual.
b. Work on awareness raising campaigns
c. Do stakeholder analysis to see which international and national gender organizations you can link up to in solidarity and in order to acquire proper gender tools necessary.

d. Acquire gender training, currently little knowledge of using gender tools. Link up with local organisations with strong gender experience.
e. Make use of the fact that you are training young girls to gain technical expertise as a USP (unique selling point).
f. Develop a trainer of trainers or apprenticeship scheme, building capacity of women as entrepreneurs. It is important that the apprentices then give back to the community. They could be strategically chosen from a wide range of communities. A suggestion was a 2 year apprenticeship where the last 6 months the women have to train other women.

2) FINANCIAL challenge: After the young girls have accomplished the project, as a small company they can't sustain employment. The electric utility can hire the girls but don't see value in it because its male dominated. It is also difficult to compete financially with donors in the region. In the Pacific there are donor-funded projects that eat away at the market and take away the incentives for businesses as they can't compete financially with a free service. He has thought about various models, like developing an ESCO. The challenge here is capital but also whether there is a demand. He has also considered taking on the whole national utility company and provide leaner, more responsive and overall better technologies such as smart grids. So far the utility company is using all diesel. Riyad is personally motivated by this. But how to sell or distribute this?

Solution discussed:

a. **Do your homework and evaluate your goals:** Sometimes for an entrepreneur it's about the mind-set. Do your homework and understand the market and your business. There is a business angle but you must map out the business opportunity and what he benefits can be. The decision doesn't have to be making you wealthy. Not everyone is looking to be billionaires. Focus on your goal and be clear in your mind in which business approach suits you. Hard work begins with you putting preliminary documents and information in place. Without that no one is going to help you.
b. **Identify key markets/clients** what market shares can be taken? Rural or urban? Fish is the main staple so storing fish is key. Main markets are however in urban areas.
c. **Develop your business model:** Make a business case for your business itself. What do you need to put in place to convince anyone?
d. **Build relationships:** If it is institutions you apply to, don't forget that you as a person are applying to another person sitting in an institution. You need to know your stuff, your project and every single aspect. Don't be fearful of the other person but build a relationship to them. Convince them why they should give you money.
e. **Use expertise help** Where PFAN and CTCN comes in is the structuring bit. Are we looking at seed capital? Equity finance? Mezzanine finance? Loans? Can the business absorb loan? You need expertise help to put it together.
f. **Look at examples:** for example in Zambia two utility companies entered a partnership; one state-owned called ZESKO, the other is CEC (Copperbelt Energy Production). Because the national power company was unable to provide stable and sustainable power to the mines the entrepreneurs at CEC saw an opportunity to build the infrastructure and partner with Zesko. They then took this share of the market from the utility. Zesko didn't mind as they didn't have the capacity anyway. This suggests that it does not always have to be a David and Goliath situation where you for example take on the whole utility company. Sometimes it's complementary! This is preferable, because then you won't get the government against you. In this situation you can be complementary and help the utility phase out diesel. So find a segment of the market where you're not competing with government but rather complementing. Ryiad: *Yes but I'm worried the utility company will steal my idea and then say adios. Today there is no legal impediment, but the stature might change. Primary cost is the infrastructure.*
g. **Discover co-benefits:** When you look at innovative ways of funding projects look at the local social services you serve that is usually the responsibility of government and sell this to them, for a grant.
h. Take a look at anchor clients (about 2) to be on board first, for example fishing industry and fuel industry (like gas stations, petrol stations that need electricity to pump). A telecom would be the

largest client but they are government owned. Supermarkets would be a good anchor client (and they have parking lots that could solve the land problem, put solar on roof).

3) **TECHNICAL challenge:** technology difficult to sustain in harsh climatic condition of high temp and high humidity with salt content, people have negative feedback from those options that fail. Land scarcity on the island is a problem for providing renewables. Off-grid wind not possible as wind is limited. There doesn't seem to be any legal impediments however.

Solutions discussed:

a. Proper technical feasibility study looking at feasibility for renewables on Marshall Islands, how to use land efficiently, enabling environment (social and financial) etc.
b. Learn from other experts, and look at best practise scenarios
c. Seek outside technical help, e.g. from CTCN or others with experience of refrigeration
d. Learn from other smart land-use or micro-grid examples, for example how did Ryme approach decentralisation and the land issue in Lebanon?

<u>CASE 2: SOL & Navdanya, "Seeds of Hope", France and India</u>

Facilitator: Usha Nair
Note-taker: Mejs, YOUNGO
Participants: Fatou, Jamila, Ruth (translator), Neha, Sabera

1) **SOCIAL challenges:**
   - In certain areas women not showing up for farmer meetings due to norm and social structures. How to overcome this as an NGO? How scale up and reach more women?
   - Migration or youth to urban areas meaning lack of farmers in the future. One of their main objectives of working in the village is to stop youth urban migration, by e.g. improving economic opportunities in the villages and provide employment.
   - Slow progress to organic farming and difficulties getting the message through. How to overcome scepticism and technical barriers to converting to organic farming and getting farmers to abandon pesticides. Also people are planting hybrid seeds which are problematic. We need to disconnect people from their dependence on that which has been going on for 40 years, and get them back to traditional methods with robust and climate resilient seeds.
   - Inter-generational gap: There's also an inter-generational gap now between the people who started farming under the green revolution, and those who want to do more organic farming.

Solutions discussed:

a. **Initial meetings with both men and women:** Jamila: we started with meetings with both men and women together. One of the tools we used was to divide them into groups and get men and women to note down what they do everyday morning to evening. Men realised that women were doing so much more than they initially thought and that they need to give more support.
b. Need to find women's strengths. They are for example good at maintaining good relationships with the city leaders and other groups. That's a reason for encouraging women to come to the farmers' groups. Women also make it easier to facilitate conversation. The experience from Morocco is that men often continue conversations in the cafes where women can't participate and thus miss out on important information. There the cooperatives have helped women gain courage to speak out and be listened to. It's a socio-economic problem.
c. **Inter-generational dialogue:** involving all generations, speaking to them about the importance of women's work. This helped in raising awareness and getting men to agree that women need to be more engaged in economic activities and take part in decision-making.

d. **Highlight the value and contribution to communities** of youth in rural areas. In Morocco the local government helped in supporting this effort in order to keep migration limited; "therefore we have a future". The problem is that in India, even when the economic aspect was improving, the youth were still going to the city. They said that quality of life was better in the city; more resources and activities.
e. **Link up to women in urban areas.** In Morocco rural women have linked up with women in urban areas for the promotion and marketing of argan oil products in towns.

2) FINANCIAL challenges:

- Distribution and access to markets
- Access to finance

Solutions discussed:

a. **Use the cooperatives:** In Morocco they started with the women's own savings but then formed them into cooperatives and they've been able to create business models and build the business up to a certain level.
b. **Have high ambition:** Sabera: you have to aim for something big, your ambition has to be high so you can reach there. Women have the capacity and ability. Women do not only look at profit aspect of business but also on social implications of business and have to keep interest of families in mind.
c. **Need for change of rules/policies:** Funders need to adjust their guidelines so they're not only looking at profit but also at socio-economic aspects.
d. **Highlight social value:** An advice is that when you look at innovative financing opportunities, look at the social value that you provide and sell this as a service to the community and try to justify it as a public grant, e.g. helping to prevent migration.
e. Morocco experience: women coming together and adding their savings to a collective pot. You didn't just put money in the pot, you also put 'hours of work'. After organising in a cooperative they were then able to access micro-credits. They don't have access to bank credit because the cooperatives are not in the business register and are thus not eligible to get loans. They had a farmer's credit with a high 8% interest due to the risk of drought and other climate-driven weather problems. There's a risk there will be no harvest.
f. Senegal experience: it is vital to get micro-credit funds. Women can do small businesses but the problems arise when they want to scale up and for example buy machines. We put the small businesses in touch with the credit unions, but the interest is far too high to repay (In India the interest rates are low but in Africa the institutions are opportunistic and have very high rates. The regulators don't regulate them). In Senegal, the interest rates also differ for men and women as men are able to give the banks collateral, like land or some property. The women don't have that. In general, men deal with inherited land, and it's not in the women's hands to deal with it. Ultimately, the men are better able to leverage finances than women because they have more assets.
g. **Access to finance**: You need to understand how finance is structured, different value chains of where women can enter. Women are more unaware of the sources of funds available to them. Even when they know where to go, they don't know how to frame the proposal. Fatou: women don't have experience in creating a business plan, and they wouldn't know how or to whom to present it. Perhaps the cooperatives could request some training? They need training to enter the business world, and survive there.

<u>Inputs from group discussion:</u>

- **Discussion on domestic abuse:** In Morocco, drinking and domestic violence is also part of the problem. It wasn't uncommon for their cooperative members to be beaten and have the little money they earned taken away. After the women started self-help groups they would put their money together in

little savings. The government also helped them with microcredit loans. Then the women would start simple businesses – maybe selling pickles. Slowly the business would grow, make profits, and then they put all the profit back in the business. That's something women do- out the profit back in the business. Now I ask the women, do the men still beat you? No, the men are now feeling shame, because it is the women bringing in the money, educating the children, doing it all. So there's not domestic violence.

- **Discussion on access to power and finance:** The experience from Senegal is that men have the power and the women are side-lined. Women did some manual labour but did not make decisions. They worked hard on getting women together to build up their confidence. They gave them public speaking classes and have now seen a big change in their ability to come together and speak out. In Morocco the women need permission from the men in order to go work in the cooperatives.
- **Raising awareness through children and youth:** In Morocco they started raising awareness with school projects. The teenage girls brought their mothers in to see stoves they had built, which also engaged their fathers in hearing about the work they were doing. It is important to start with children, as they will then grow up with a more sustainable mind-set and view on what they are capable of. They are however also able to influence their family at home.
- **Lack of government support**: Senegal does have a line of credit from the government for women. But you have to be in the government party to get it and the women working in the fields don't have time to go to political party meetings. I am a member of 400 small credit enterprises, all of whom cannot touch that government credit line. In Morocco there are no government schemes supporting women financially.
- **Sabera on women being cautious**: I've worked with women working in many sectors. My experience is that women tend to be very cautious. Their targets are not as high as the men. Here's an example from Zambia: I called for a meeting for women in mining with the hope that we could create a fund for women. In my mind, I wanted these female entrepreneurs to be on par with the men, where they would be able to bid internationally for buying mines. However, all the women asked me was if I can give them money for picks and shovels. The cooperatives actually have the capability to be a global force and go beyond just picks and shovels. **Jamila**: actually, I find that women are more risk-taking and active than men. Our argan oil cooperatives in Morocco expanded first into a federation, which lobbied and advocated on our behalf. Then we also formed a consortium, which was supposed to look for international markets for our products. So it was amazing that the women, even with the 8% interest rate, still felt confident to take the loan, as they were sure they would get a harvest. All the work was done by local workers, but they got international labs to verify that their product met international standards. "Women have tons of creativity and hard work. They just don't have power, or money".
- **Do women have a different approach to business?** Jamila: we don't want to throw our heart into the big business world while forgetting our families. Fatou: women have a specificity that they don't want to lose and start behaving like the 'big boys'. They don't want to start behaving like that. They want to preserve their own ways and values, which means that the enterprises they enter should also benefit all of society, and not just be a pure profit-making venture. We feel like we have to show a socioeconomic benefit for the world. Usha: you are not looking so much at profit, as at how much good you are doing for society. That's why sometimes the business proposals from these cooperatives don't look as good, because it's not highlighting all the commercial profit which the financial institutions want to see. Fatou: but it's the financial institutions that need to change so that they look for what the women want to include! Usha: so we have to think more and more about how can these businesses benefit everyone. We even need to think about work-life balance. "We don't want to enter or re-create the man's world, we want to create a new world".

<u>CASE 3: Gender Development Association, Laos</u>

1) **SOCIAL challenges:**

- Working in the bureaucratic realm of needing government approval for engaging with communities, accessing funding etc. Makes them dependent on government timeline and need to adapt language.
- Communication: currently information is shared verbally and not documented

Solutions discussed:

a. Find a documentation methodology and a way of documenting what is happening. Currently communication is done orally so it's difficult to keep track of decisions made.
b. Organise community-level meetings as part of monitoring process. Here you set up a dialogue and get people to engage in experience sharing.
c. Continue working with women's groups and unions
d. Linda: who are the project owners? Include the local authorities, they refused the presented approach and said it's not under their budget. No fixed ideas had been proposed. The drivers of the projects are the women's groups where a specific governance and structure is set. A joint monitoring mechanism has been agreed on as well as a structure on meetings and inviting local authorities. Meeting reports give some of the needed information.
e. Set up project management committees consisting of
    - Women (trainer of trainers+ older women). Women are responsible for the financial management in the families. The community is at the core of everything.
    - Supportive men: the men in the villages have been very supportive and encouraging during the trainings
    - Focal point village authority

2) FINANCIAL challenges:

- Getting core funding instead of tied (as they are dependent on organisational funding today). No core funding anymore for GDA, need for solid grants.
- Unable to comply with requirements of financial institutions as budgets do not align and they need technical assistance. Staff capacity and living up to expectations of funder partners in terms of evidence-based research, language used in budgets, audits etc.

Solutions discussed:

a. Apply for technical support from organisations to build capacity of staff and bridge capacity gaps. This is not like applying for grants but support that can be provided for free either nationally or internationally. This is "investor readiness programmes" and can be applied for with e.g. USAID and other international institutions.
b. In terms of accessing finance a challenge is that there is no strong financial team in the organisation. The manager doesn't speak English and they can't comply with the requirements. Online budgets are complex. A good start could be to hire an intern who studies finance to assist, and to build relationships with various institutions.

<u>Results of stakeholder analysis:</u>

- External stakeholders
    - Passive:
        - Government: Ministry of Home Affairs
        - Government: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
        - Village level: matriarch/older women (play and important role in community village decision making), village authority focal point
    - Active:
        - Allies at local level too
        - Women's groups- member of union but also villagers
        - Lao Women's Union (LWU)- village authorities
- Internal stakeholders
    - Passive:

        - Extended family
        - Other villagers, men (responsible for financial tasks)
    - Active:
        - Gender Development Association (reports to Ministry of Home Affairs)
        - Trainer of Trainers participants
        - Villagers, women who collect timber products, villagers involved in deciding who collects
        - NTFP collectors (head of households)
        - Helvetas (their funder, reports to Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quotes:

- Ruth: "I remember the green revolution – I was 11. I thought the world was going to be saved".
- Usha: "We don't want to enter or re-create the man's world, we want to create a new world".
- Jamila: "Women have tons of creativity and hard work. They just don't have power, or money".
- Fatou: "We are particularly focusing on youth because if you want to change the world you have to focus on the future"." We need to talk about climate change because even if our people are living the reality of it they don't have the tools to cope".
- Jamila: it's important that women be present in the field of energy because they can make sure the knowledge is passed on to their children so they are educated.
- Sabera: you have to aim for something big. Your ambition has to be high so you can reach there. Women have the capacity and ability. They do not only look at profit aspect of business but also on social implications of business, and have to keep interest of families in mind.