

Gender Mainstreaming in Agricultural Innovation Policy in Nepal: A critical review

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Outline



I. Introduction



II. Research question & objective



III. Research methodology




IV. Results and discussion



V. Overall conclusion

About research

- **Project:** Innovation for Terrace Farmers in Nepal and Testing of Private Sector Scaling Up Using Sustainable Agriculture Kits (SAKs) and Stall-Based Franchises ([SAK Nepal](#) project)
- **National implementation partner:** Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research, and Development (LI-BIRD), Pokhara, Nepal ([libird.org](#))
- **Internationally coordinated by:** University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
- **This research study funded by:** International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada



Why gender is still an issue in Nepalese agriculture?

- Second main source of Gross Domestic Product (23.95%)
- 74% population dependent in agriculture
- 80% population practice subsistence agriculture

- 60% women labour in agriculture
- 20% of land registered in women's names
- Women wages 25% lower than men
- Global gender gap index : 0.69, Nepal ranked 96th (WEF, 2022)



Research question & objective

Research question:

- ❖ To what extent have gender issues been mainstreamed in Nepalese agricultural innovation policy, particularly focusing on smallholder women farmers?

Objective:

- ❖ To examine gender mainstreaming approaches to policy and management responses, such as planning and gender responsive budgeting, within Nepal's emergent agricultural innovation system
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Methodology: mix method

Policy review & key informant interviews

❖ Policy mapping

❖ 10 policy documents reviewed

❖ 14 key informant interviews (key policy stakeholders, gender focal person and policymakers at the national level, and local implementer, local level government and NGO workers (samples selected using snowball sampling))



Ms. Bidhya Pandey
Gender focal person, Ministry
of Agriculture and Livestock
Development, Nepal



Mr. Madhav Lamsal
Planning, M & E officer, Department
of Agriculture, Kaski, Nepal

National consultation workshop with gender experts and gender focal persons



Gender think tank



Focus group discussion with smallholder farmers

2 focus group discussions

(n=25, Male: 11, Female: 14)

Study sites

- Jogimara village of Dhading district
- Majhthana village of Kaski district



Hill Region (or Mid hills) –

e.g. corn on terraces

Source: M.Raizada

Results and discussions



What is gender mainstreaming ?

- ❖ **Gender mainstreaming** is a strategy to reduce gender inequality by bringing about institutional change and empowering women as active agents of change, thereby reducing women's disadvantaged position in society (Tiessen 2004).
- ❖ **The Beijing Platform for Action (1995)** introduced it as a strategy that governments and organizations across the world could translate into practice at the national and local levels to reduce gender inequality (Caglar 2013).
- ❖ The most **common policy interventions** are **threefold**:
 - (1) designated responsibility for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of existing gender issues;
 - (2) capacity-building of gender diverse stakeholders; &
 - (3) strategy and management processes to formulate and use tools, such as gender-responsive budgeting, planning, and evaluation.

Gender and agriculture

20th century

21st century

Pre-WID
(Women in
Development)

WID

WAD
(Women &
Development)

GAD/GED
(Gender & Dev./
Gender Env't. &
Dev.)

60s

70s

mid70s

80s

Gender Analysis

Gender
Integration

Gender
Transformative
Approach

(GTA)

- Intersectionality
- Focus on the transformation of power dynamics and structures emphasize gender inequalities and inequity of system

Gender mainstreaming

- **Welfare** approaches
- Women as vulnerable group
- Reproductive roles

- Boserup (1970)- liberal feminism
- Integration of women into the workforce/economy
- Reproductive roles; Productive roles

- Challenge to unequal power relations of the economy
- Critical perspectives

What is agricultural innovation policy?

Major national agricultural policies, implementation guides and strategies, and action plans (10 policy documents)

The policy documents were selected based on three criteria:

- ❖ major ongoing policies in Nepalese agriculture,
- ❖ relevance for agricultural innovation (widely defined as institutional and technological change in smallholder agriculture), &
- ❖ stated implications for gender and social inclusion.

Agricultural innovation policy included in this study

Sn	Policy document
1	National Agriculture Policy, 2004
2	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, 2006
3	Nepal Agricultural Extension Strategy, 2007
4	NARC's Strategic Vision for Agricultural Research, 2011–2030
5	National Seed Vision, 2013–2025
6	Irrigation Policy, 2013 (revised)
7	National Agrobiodiversity Policy 2006 (revised 2014)
8	Agricultural Mechanization Promotion Policy, 2014
9	Agriculture Development Strategy, 2015–2035
10	14th Development Plan, 2016–2019

Source: Devkota et. al. 2022

Policy score card

Table 1 Grading details on gender integration in policies and plans

Grade	Level of gender integration
Grade 1	No reference to gender issues within the policy document (reference on gender differences in one or some of the followings: gender roles, access to and control over resources, decision making, unequal power relations)
Grade 2	Gender (or the elements mentioned above) is mentioned only in the objectives
Grade 3	Gender is considered as one of the relevant entry points within the objectives and implementation plan, but lacking a clear road map to implement
Grade 4	Gender is included within objectives and action plan, but without enough resources for implementation
Grade 5	Gender is mentioned throughout the document, with a clear action plan and budget, but they are not enough to bring gender transformative change within the organization and at a local level
Grade 6	Gender is mentioned within the objective and action plan, with a clear implementation resource (financial and technical)

Source Gumucio and Tafur Rueda (2015), adapted by the authors

Source: Devkota et. al. 2022

Scoring of national agricultural innovation policy

❖ Critique of 10 policy documents

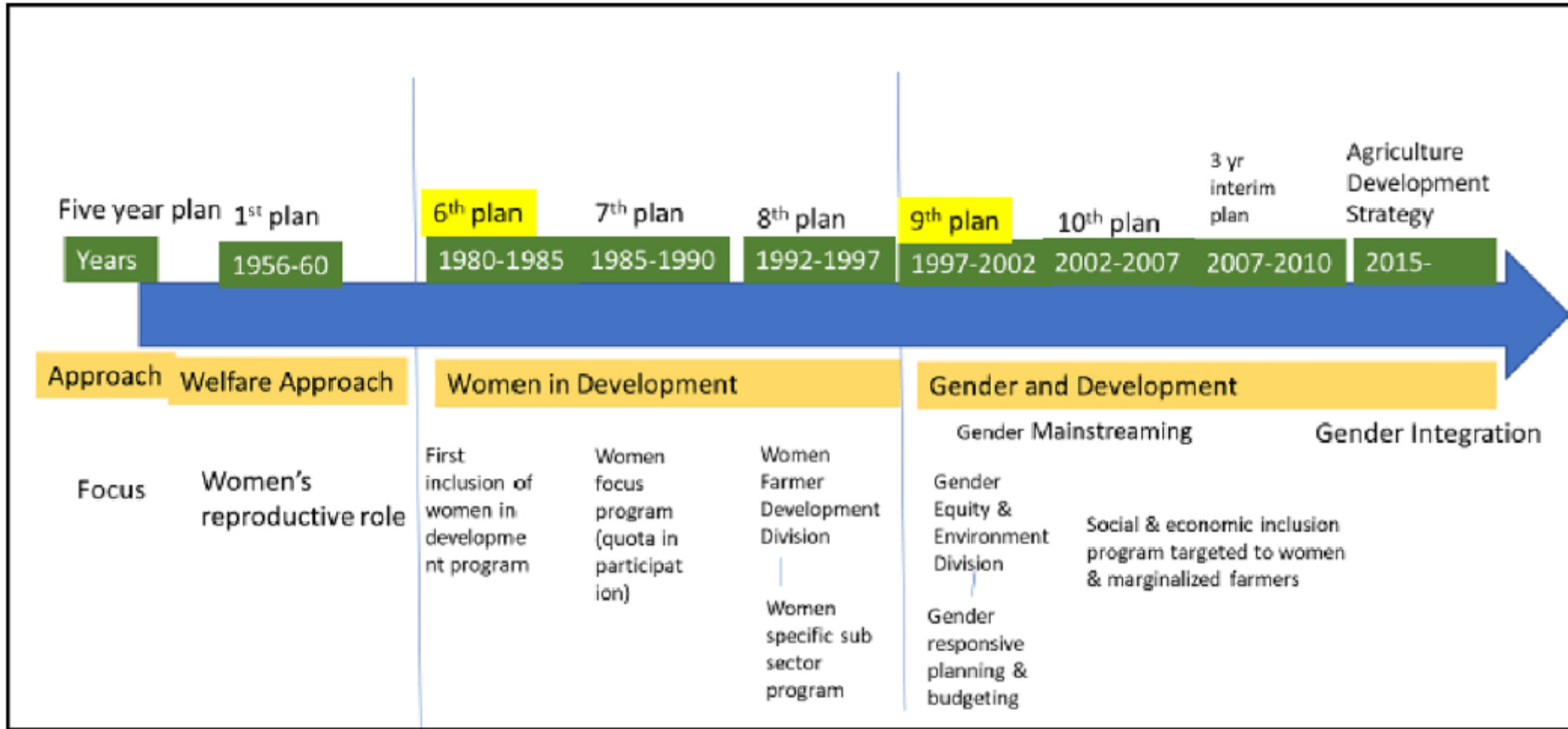


An increasing trend on gender responsiveness in agricultural program budget (%)

Year	MoALD annual budget, NPR (in Billion)	Directly gender responsive***	Indirect gender responsive**	Gender neutral*
2012/13	12.3	76.4	22.9	0.7
2013/14	24.8	53.7	46	0.3
2014/15	23.3	66.6	33	0.4
2015/16	26.7	62.7	37.1	0.2
2016/17	27.4	24.3	75.7	0

Data source: (MoAD, 2017b)

Gender specific initiatives relevant to agriculture in Nepal



Conclusions



Technical approach has been used to mainstream gender within agriculture system in Nepal.



Gender is still considered as a homogenous group of women farmers.



Limited capacity and resources at central to local level.

Recommendations

- Investment in capacity building
- Develop implementation guideline to translate gender policy into practice
- Harmonized approach to prioritizing gender in policy planning and implementation
- Cross learning across different departments

For more
details

- Devkota, R., Pant, L.P., Hambly Odame, H. *et al.* Rethinking gender mainstreaming in agricultural innovation policy in Nepal: a critical gender analysis. *Agric Hum Values* **39**, 1373–1390 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-022-10326-1>

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