

A woman in a red shirt and orange shawl stands in a tea plantation, with other women in the background. The woman in the foreground is looking towards the camera with a serious expression. She has a bindi on her forehead and is wearing a green and white patterned headscarf. The background shows several other women in traditional attire working in the tea fields.

Gender equality, women's empowerment and food systems

Samantha Hung, Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group

Asian Development Bank

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Women in food systems

- Women's contributions not fully recognized- 79% economically active women in developing countries spend their working hours producing food through agriculture
- Multiple constraints to full & equal participation.
- Sociocultural norms and agricultural practices, determine their roles in food systems.
- Empowering women leads to improved food security, better management of climate change impacts, better nutrition for women and their households and communities.
- Inclusive food systems - that enable women to participate and benefit equally and empower women.





Gendered impacts of climate change on women farmers

- Climate variability and extremes disproportionately affect women farmers: due to limited entitlements and assets & restricted access to the social and natural resources required for adaptation and resilience building.
- Extreme climate events and climate-related disasters- additional duties as laborers and caregivers & male out-migration
- Climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities in agriculture, but also create new opportunities to maximize women's potential as agents of change and resilience building.



Gender and climate resilient agriculture

- CSA has a significant role to play in reducing the gender gap in labor burden for women in agriculture
- Gender-responsive CSA leads to more sustainable results.
- CSA benefits to both men and women may be lost if the gender gap in agriculture is not taken into account
- Farmers' priorities for CSA technologies are linked with climatic conditions, socio-economic characteristics and willingness/ability to pay for available technologies.
- A gender-responsive approach to CSA identifies and addresses constraints faced by men and women, and their capabilities.



Constraints for women in CSA

- Important to provide knowledge/tools for female farmers to adopt CSA approaches and addressing the constraining factors
- Engaging household, community and enabling environment to sustain continued application of CSA practices
- Structural:
 - Limited access to credit, extension services
 - Restricted membership in cooperatives and water user associations
 - Lack of access or user rights to land, skill training, information, and restricted mobility.
- Power and agency, access to productive resources and assets and access to agricultural services, play a major role in the adoption and dissemination of CSA practices.



CSA benefits for women

- CSA technologies that reduce women's labor burden: seeded rice, zero tillage machines, laser land leveling, and green manuring, crop harvesters, weeder, solar pump irrigation, and post-harvest management practices
- CSA also has a role in improving women's access to agricultural resources and decision-making process as well as provide linkages to new market opportunities.