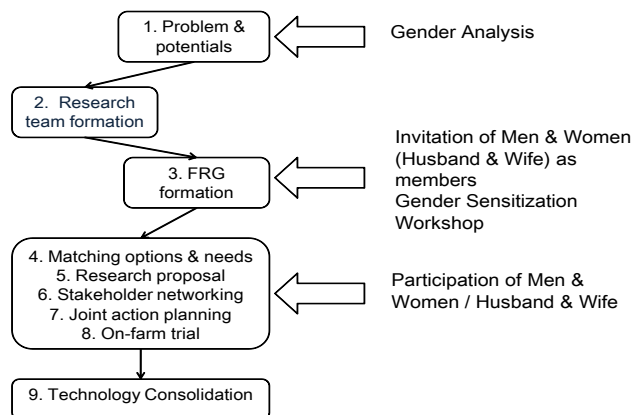


## Who are Farmers? Gender Consideration and Appropriate Technology Development

*"I participated in a sweet potato FRG while my husband was in a maize seed production FRG. Because of the experiences in FRG, I now understand much better the farming of different kinds of crops. When my husband comes back from his FRG activities and tells me what he has learnt there, I can apply it in our farm. I now prepare seeds to sow on time not waiting for my husband's instruction. My husband is very happy about the changes in me."*

*A female FRG member, Adami Tulu Jido Kombolcha District*

Gender consideration has been one of the core principles of FRG approach for technology development. By involving both men and women in the process of technology development/improvement, it does not only providing both sexes equal chance on access to technical information but also improving productivity and profitability in farming. It is because of the fact that women involve in farming activities as much as men and have larger potentials to contribute in improving production more than what we usually think.



FRG steps with gender aspect

In September 2010, FRG II conducted a gender impact survey in the Central Rift Valley, where the project's previous phase (FRG) operated with two agricultural research centres at Melkassa and Adami Tulu (MARC and ATARC, respectively). The two centres adopted gender consideration in their FRG based research since 2008 by inviting both husband and wife of each member household to all the activities.

The survey has found, although not quantified, several signs of positive impact in both productive and reproductive activities within the household. Women's confidence was enhanced through participating in research activities. Men's confidence on their wives in farming activities was enhanced too.

Simply inviting women along with men to the activities can have impact on research outputs as well as on mutual understanding and better resource utilisation arrangement within the household. In addition to including both husbands and wives in farmer groups, FRG approach recommends to conduct gender analysis workshop at the beginning of planning stage. Obviously, facilitation skills of researchers to make both sexes to participate in discussion and analyses processes at different stages are important. Collaboration with DAs is also essential to promote gender consideration. However, the most important action to start with is to invite wives along with husbands to any FRG based research activities.



Gender Training for Researchers at EIAR

The outputs of the gender impact survey were used for training organised by EIAR with support from WB/RCBP, for socio-economics/research extension researchers from various research centres in October, 2010. Experiences of FRG provided practical examples to the participants for thinking how gender consideration can be incorporated into their day to day activities.

For those who need further information, please contact MARC and/or ATARC for practical experiences of integration of gender in research activities. Contact EIAR Gender Coordination Office for basic gender guidance and FRG II office for information of gender in FRG approach. "Gender Mainstreaming Strategy 2009-1012" is also available from the Gender Coordination Office.

If you have any experience of gender consideration in technology development and extension and ready to share it with others, please send the information to FRG II Office.

Following gender related materials are available from FRG II website or the project office.

- Country Gender Profile Ethiopia, December 2006, FRG <http://www.jica.go.jp/project/ethiopia/5065025E0/05/pdf/profile.pdf>
- Gender Sensitisation Session Guideline, November 2007, FRG [http://www.jica.go.jp/project/ethiopia/5065025E0/05/pdf/proceedings\\_02.pdf](http://www.jica.go.jp/project/ethiopia/5065025E0/05/pdf/proceedings_02.pdf)
- The report of the gender impact survey will be available from FRG II website very soon.

## Seed Treatment to Reduce Risk and Cost

FRG II is going to support seed treatment trials starting from November, 2010. As quality seed is one of the priority areas, the trials aim to find solutions to seed and soil borne pest and diseases. The seed treatment technologies for various crops, which is not common in Ethiopia yet, are expected to reduce risk at early stage of growth and reduce cost of their control. Seed treatment could be also important for ensuring the quality of cash crops.

### OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO THE PROJECT

- If you have been forwarded this newsletter and would like to receive it in future, please send e-mail to <[research4farmers@gmail.com](mailto:research4farmers@gmail.com)>
- Your comments and suggestions are very important to us.