

# Gender Gaps, Approaches, Analysis and Actions in Forest Landscapes

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# What is a gender gap?

- A disproportionate difference or disparity between the sexes

# Gender gaps in Forestry

- Gendered governance – women's ability to participate in community-based forest governance less than men's
- Tree tenure – women's access to trees and products are more limited than men's
- Forest spaces – spatial patterns of forest use reflect gender norms and taboos, and men's greater access to transport

# Gender gaps in Forestry, cont'd

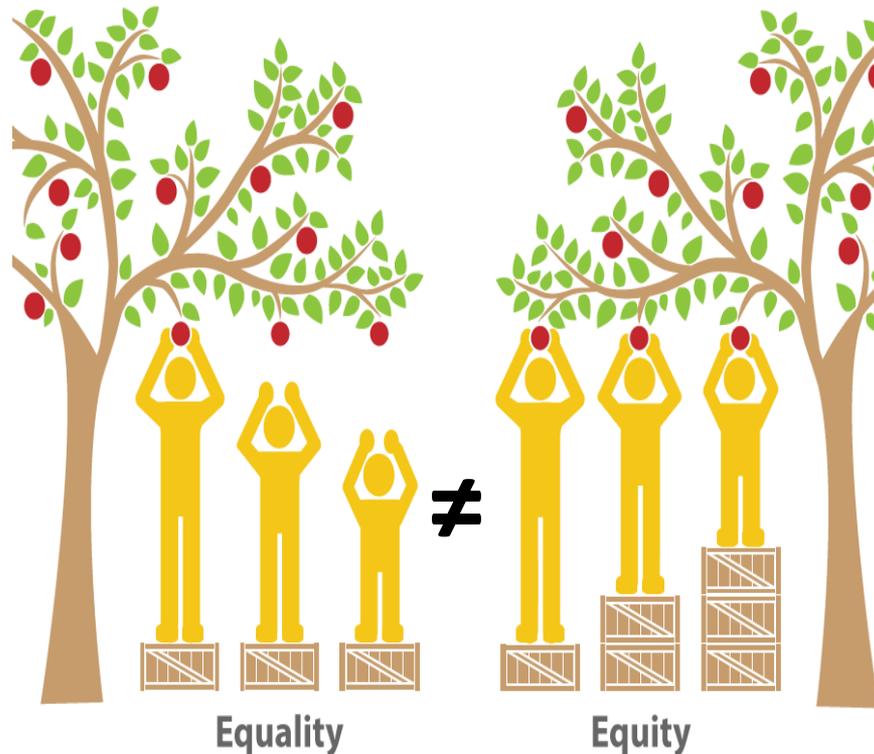
- Gendered division of labour – gender specialization in collection of forest products
- Ecological knowledge – women and men have distinct and complementary knowledge

None of these gaps are static and they shift over time! Simple actions can help address these gaps.

# Gender Equality vs. Equity

## Gender Equality

Women and men have equal access to social goods, services and resources and equal opportunities in all spheres of life



## Gender Equity

Fairness in the treatment of women and men, according to their respective needs.

A gender equity goal often requires built-in measures to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages faced by women or men.

# Approaches

## ***Gender-blind:***

do not account for differences between men and women. Overlook women's groups and interests and reinforce unequal power relations

## ***Gender-aware:***

demonstrate knowledge of women's and men's needs, interests and assets; collect sex-disaggregated data. Do not set out to address underlying inequalities

## ***Gender-transformative:***

account for gender differences and inequalities and designs to address them and transform relationships between men and women that produce inequalities

# Transformative gender approaches require:

- Critical awareness of gender roles and norms
- Involving men and boys to encourage collaboration and discourage conflict
- Challenging distribution of resources and allocation of duties
- Increasing women's bargaining power

# Examples

- household approaches that foster equitable decision-making and relationships
- participatory action research that empowers those involved and build social capital
- initiatives to foster behavioral change – e.g. awareness campaigns, radio, TV, social media and other communication-based approaches
- supporting collective action and networks

# Gender Analysis

- Sex-disaggregated data: information that is collected about males and females
- Gender-disaggregated data: analytical indicators derived from sex-disaggregated data on social and economic attributes
- Gender analysis: used to understand the relationships between men and women, their access to resources, their activities, and the constraints they face. It generally requires sex-disaggregated data.

# Gender Analysis, cont'd

A method (there are many) that:

1. Describes existing gender relations in a particular environment, e.g. within a household or firm, community, ethnic group.
2. Systematically organizes and interprets information about gender relations to identify gender-based constraints and make clear the importance of gender differences for achieving development objectives.

# Outcomes of gender analyses

- Description of men's and women's roles
- Identification of gender-based constraints that shape men's & women's ability to:
  - actively participate
  - benefit from
  - be empowered

within the sector, forest landscape, forest value chain, or the project, program, policy, intervention, etc being planned

- Recommendations for overcoming those constraints & improving opportunities for both men and women

# Where are gender differences found in forest and agroforestry value chains?

- Gendered participation in chain activities (e.g. harvesting, processing, trading)
- Gendered benefits (e.g. income, food, social capital)

# Factors contributing to gender differences

## Economic

- globalisation, migration, urbanisation, etc

## Governance, political and institutional

- overlapping customary and formal institutions, laws and regulations, devolution

## Environmental

- resource degradation, climate change

# Value chain interventions that enhance gender equity

- Equitable training opportunities aimed at meeting women's and men's needs and constraints (e.g. agroforestry techniques, beekeeping, business skills development)
- Inclusive market-oriented activities such quality improvement campaigns, networking with traders, trade fairs, etc.
- Targeted credit for NTFPs to women and other traditionally less empowered groups

# Value chain interventions that enhance gender equity, cont'd

- Support to collective action (forest user groups, NTFP marketing groups, etc)
- Awareness campaigns highlighting women's and men's forest-related opportunities (e.g. through social media, radio, TV)
- Interventions introducing labour-saving technologies that free up women's time (e.g. nut cracking machines, trees for fodder and woodfuel, energy efficient stoves, biogas plants)