



# GENDER Platform Evaluation

#gLOCAL2024 event:  
How evaluations contribute to addressing  
transformational change towards gender  
equality: Focus on agricultural research

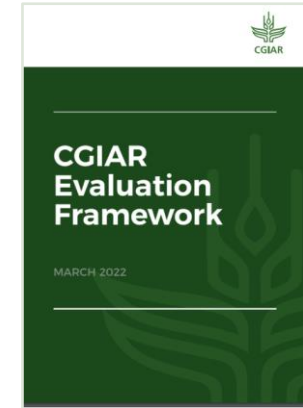
4 June 2024

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CGIAR IAES

# Framing: About CGIAR

**CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.**

CGIAR System (CGIAR) = all CGIAR Centers + the CGIAR System Organization + CGIAR Funders + System Council and its advisory bodies



CGIAR's global network of **12 Research Centers** contributes to an unrivalled mix of knowledge, skills and research facilities able to respond to emerging development issues.



Africa Rice Center



Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)



International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)



International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)



International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)



International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)



International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)



International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)



International Potato Center (CIP)



International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)



International Water Management Institute (IWM)



The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)



World Agroforestry (ICRAF)



WorldFish

## Standards and Principles:

- Relevance and use
- Independence
- Transparency
- **Legitimacy**
- **Gender Diversity Inclusion**
- Ethics
- **Evaluability**
- **Measurability**
- Credibility
- Mutual accountability
- Efficiency
- Comparative advantage
- **Fairness, confidentiality**
- **System-framing**
- Capacity building



# CGIAR Concepts, Framing



## Research

Generation and communication of data, information, and knowledge on an empirical basis



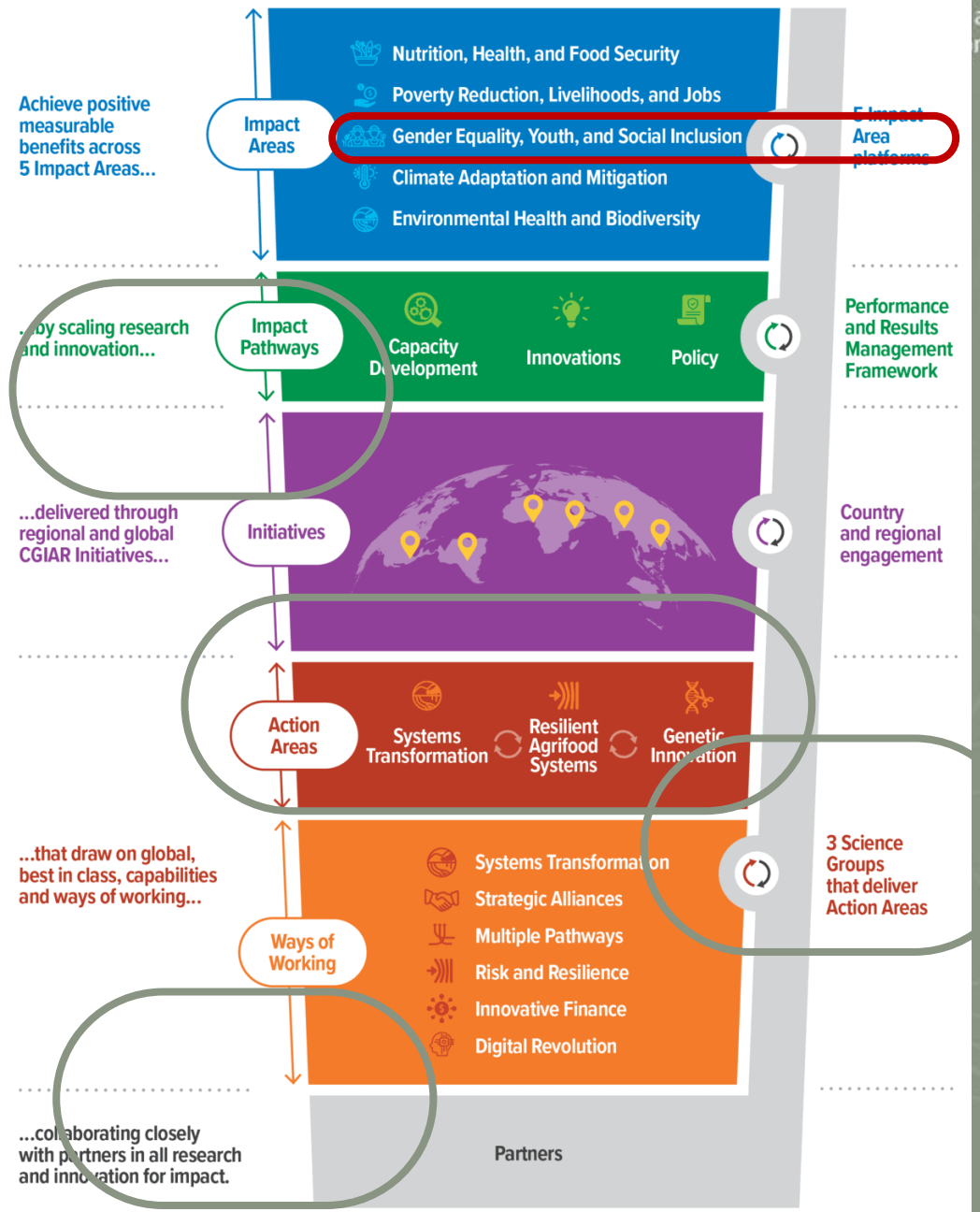
## Science

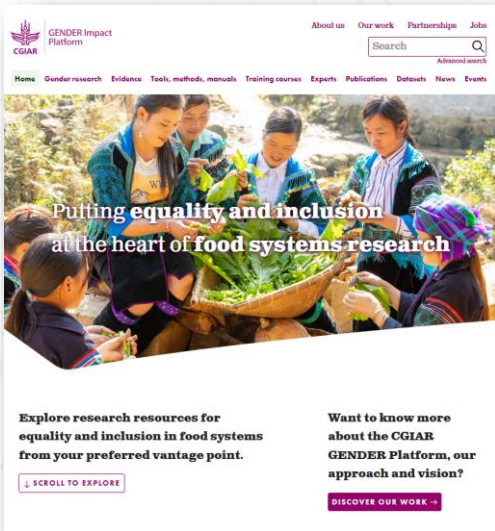
Rigorous theory-based research.



"Generate scientific evidence on multiple transformation pathways

CGIAR research and innovation will:





# Background and Objectives of GENDER Platform Evaluation

## CGIAR context

- 2030 CGIAR Research and Innovations Strategy:
  - No Gender+ Strategy
  - GDI Action Plan for workplace
- Since 2022, OECD Gender Tagging of initiatives

## GENDER Platform Evolution since 2020

- Formally launched in January 2020, transitioned to **Impact Area Platforms aligned to SDGs**. Impact Area Platform for Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion (2022 – 2030).
- Contributed to providing technical resources, support, and advice on gender in designing CGIAR Research Initiatives.

## GENDER Platform Evaluation Purpose and Objectives

1. **Assess the progress;**
2. **Document lessons and best practices;**
3. **Provide forward-looking recommendations** for the GENDER Impact Platform.

Platform Management Unit and Communications

Alliances module

Evidence module

Methods and tools module

# CGIAR Evaluation Framework

## Evaluation Team Lead



**Donna Podems** – Feminist Evaluator, Sr. Research Fellow, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

**CGIAR Evaluation Framework standards and principled feminist evaluation (PFE) principles aligned with the six principles guiding the GENDER platform and Feminist evaluation**



### **Support**

– Support all CRPs, Centers, and Platforms.



### **Inclusion**

– Be inclusive to ensure diverse representation.



### **Responsiveness**

– Ensure that activities under its work packages are responsive and driven by the needs of the CGIAR system and the gender researchers within it.



### **Value Addition**

– Add value to work being done in CRPs, Platforms, and Centers.



### **Transparency and accountability**

– Promote transparency and accountability

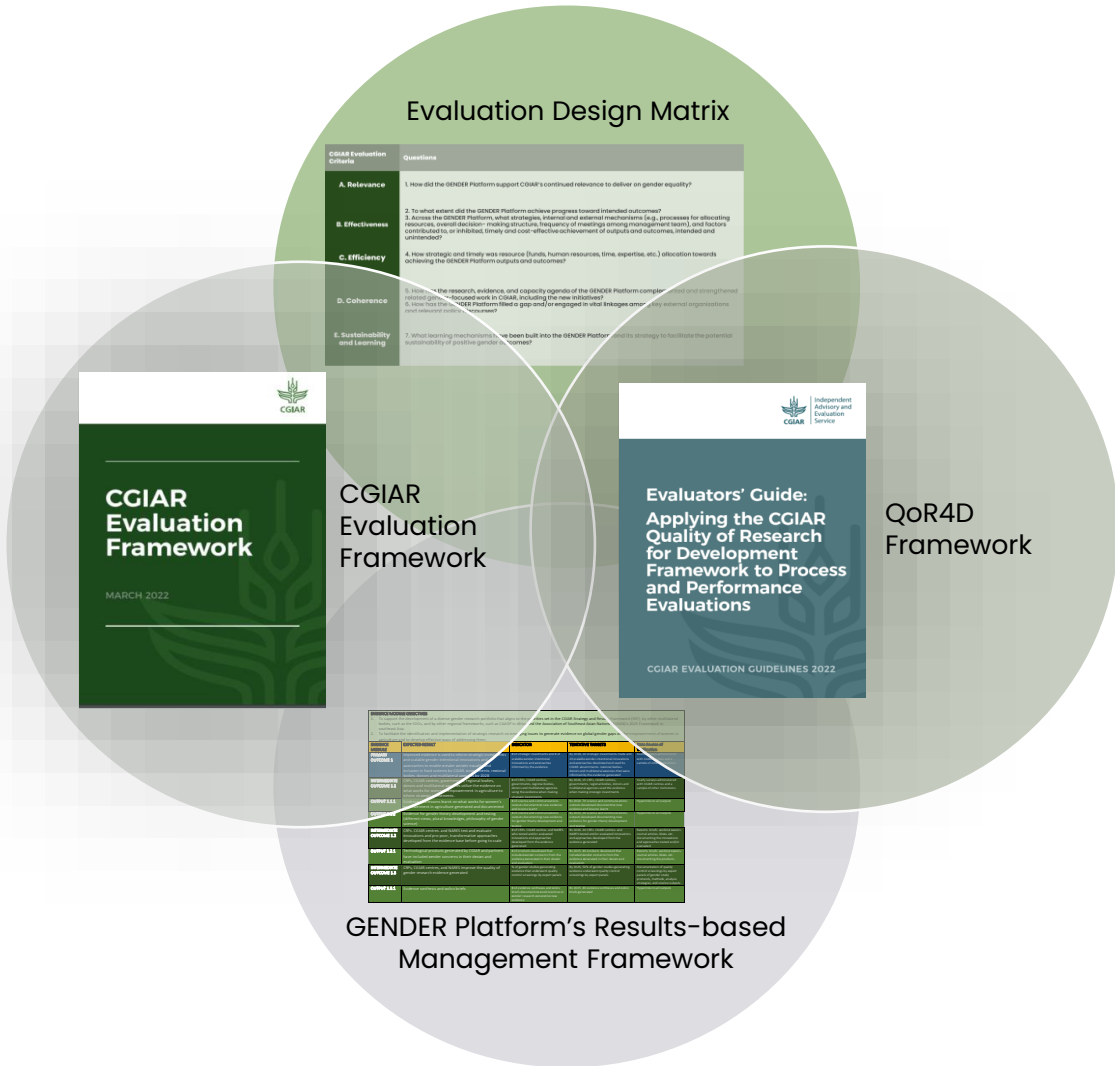


### **Reflection and Feedback**

– Have regular critical reflections on how the GENDER Platform is functioning to remain relevant and effective.



# Integrating Multiple Frameworks and Approaches



## And a mix of evaluation theories:

- Participatory evaluation
- Feminist evaluation
- Utilisation-focused evaluation
- Theory-driven evaluation



# Conducting and Using Evaluability Assessments in CGIAR


CGIAR EVALUATION GUIDELINES 2022

# GENDER Platform: Evaluability Assessment

– in response to specific requests from the Platform.

H. The EA process encouraged reflection by the GENDER Platform and learning by IAES on the utility of the tool; towards assuring the cost-effective and smooth design and implementation of the evaluation.

Figure A1. GENDER Platform - EA result using stoplight system

	Indicator
<b>Evaluability assessment criteria met</b>	'Yes' to 11 core questions
<b>Evaluability assessment criteria partially met</b>	'May be' to 3 with caveats
<b>None of the evaluability assessment criteria are met</b>	None

- EA approach was collaborative and **learning-focused**
- **Core domains only**
- **Jointly** carried out by the GENDER Platform team, with facilitation and QA from IAES.
- **Self- Evaluability Assessment** by the GENDER platform team, including the Director, Program Management Specialist (the Consultant), and the MEL focal point.
- IAES conducted 3 scoping interviews

Source: CGIAR IAES

**Conclusion:** The EA results show readiness of the evaluand (the GENDER platform) for evaluation.

**Recommendation:** In response to the EA findings and conclusions, in proceeding, the evaluation should deploy a participatory approach to promote buy-in and learning and ensure a repository of documents to support the evaluation process to meet its objectives and the needs of the three stakeholder groups.

An EA – an **early** review of a proposed activity to ascertain whether its objectives are adequately defined, results verifiable, and evaluation questions answerable.

An EA establishes **whether** and **how** an intervention can be evaluated **reliably and credibly**.



# Results and Recommendations: a Sample





# Gender Platform – Evidence Module Background

synthesizing, generating and communicating evidence, identifying emergent issues and closing data gaps ... towards more equitable and inclusive food systems.

## Evidence explainers

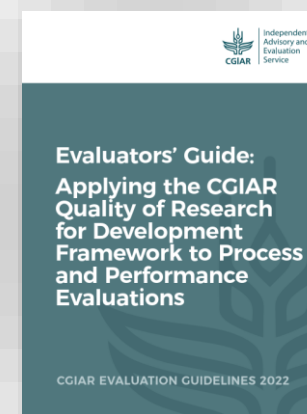


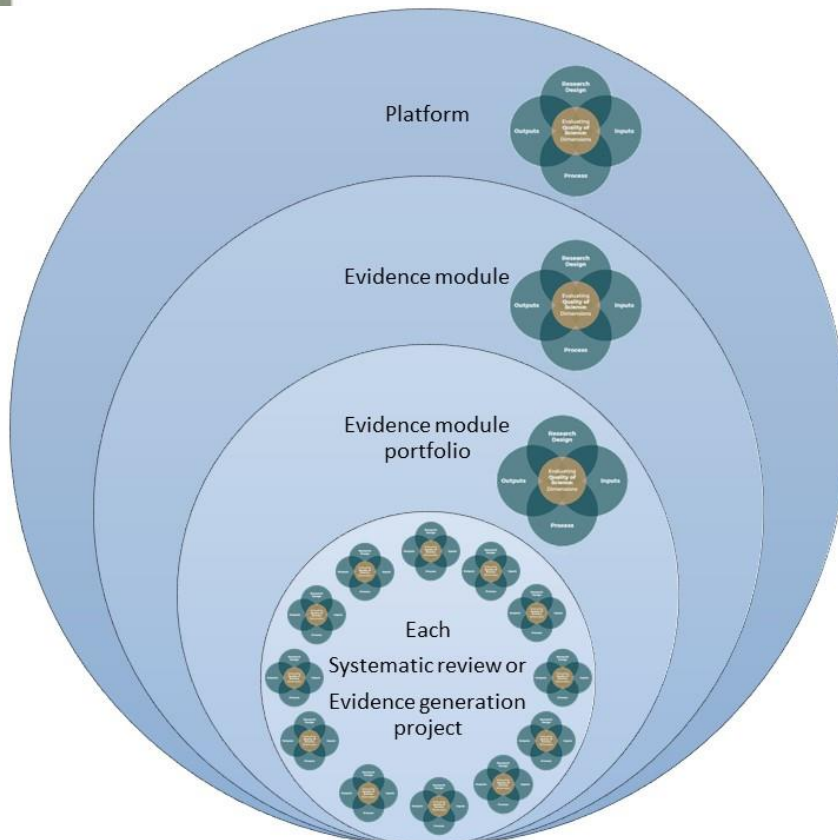
- Evidence Gap Maps (2)
- Systematic Reviews (6)
- Scoping Reviews (4)
- Big Data Harnessing (6)
- COVID-19 and Gender (4)
- Climate-ag-gender-inequity hotspots (2)
- Evidence generation projects (5)
- CSA Learning Agenda (1)
- Resilience and empowerment indicators (1)
- Participatory Foresighting Analysis (1)
- Migration impact study (1)

## Aims to

- 1) improve the **quantity and quality of gender-related evidence** ... to achieve gender-equitable development outcomes
- 2) position the CGIAR GENDER Platform as the *go-to-place* for **high-quality evidence and knowledge on equitable and sustainable food systems**

Achieved through alignment with the priorities of the CG, multilateral bodies and regional frameworks and identification and implementation of **strategic research** on emerging issues





## Enablers of high QoR4D (credibility, legitimacy) and its evaluation

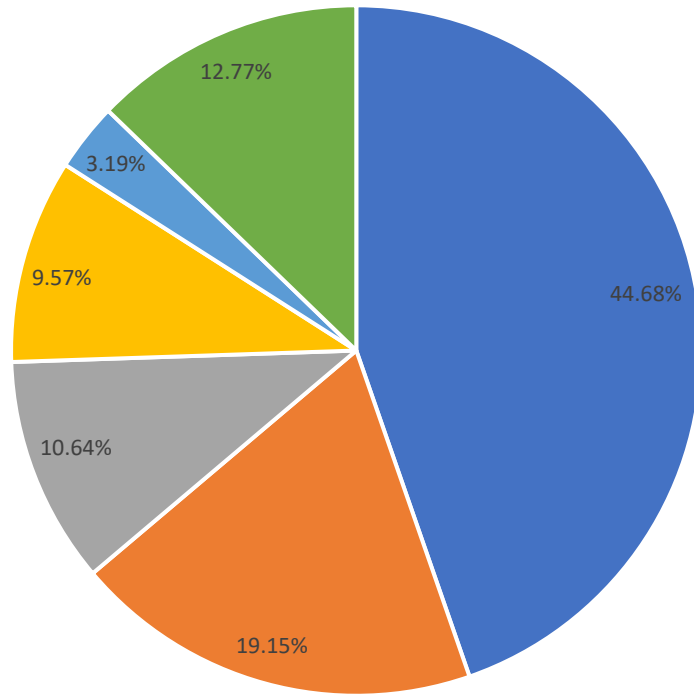
- Project identified and developed through participatory methods
- Iterative multi-stakeholder action learning approach supported
- High QoR4D enhancing behaviours identified during programme/project/evaluation conception by implementing team (including partners), supported and tracked
- Advanced planning ability accompanied with secure knowledge of future budget amounts and release timings
- Research team with diverse skill sets
- Fieldwork supporting interaction with multiple stakeholders



**Key Finding.** Mixed findings on how the Platform should engage with youth and social inclusion. Limited data on how the Platform's work translated into the new Gender Equality, Youth and Social Inclusion Impact Area. Currently there is a lack of clear direction on how these different aspects are to be addressed in one Platform.

- **Name.** Nearly all interviews referred to the Platform as the GENDER Platform and spoke predominantly about gender. (Not specifically ID as an issue or challenge by respondents).
- **Mixed reviews.** Some respondents had strong feelings about the gender, youth and social inclusion Platform, which broke down into three themes.
  - **Neutral.** Gender is about intersectionality (feminist approach), always involves youth, social inclusion and other categories. Title calls attention to these areas but changes nothing about the Platform's focus, youth also refers to girls. Some data suggest that the title suggests the CGs lack of understanding gender research.
  - **Concern.** Respondents questioned the Platform's focus--how does the title shift focus and funding; the Platform is now divided in three ways. Does the Platform need three strategies, funded separately? How would this dilute a focus on gender and who does youth and social inclusion research?
  - **Negative.** Some respondents noted that this is a gender platform, not a "woman's platform." Therefore, it should not be a "youth" platform; youth and social inclusion are categories; gender is about relationships—further data suggested that the title points to CGIAR's lack of understanding gender and its significance to agricultural research.

## COHERENCE



Through **the platform** 44.7% (N = 94) strongly agreed that they have effectively engaged wider network of researchers and institutions working in gender equality.

■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ I don't Know



# Evaluation Recommendations: **Management Response from the GENDER Platform**

Status of MR	Recommendation
<p><b>Fully Accepted</b></p>	<p>3. <u>Tracking of results</u>: There are mixed findings regarding the use of M&amp;E. On the one hand, the Platform reports its outputs and progress towards outcomes on an annual basis, in compliance with CGIAR reporting requirements. On the other hand, qualitative data indicated that some M&amp;E processes are not well covered by the Platform, such as impact assessment and other information needs. The conundrum may be related to the point that information required by the CG M&amp;E is not sufficient to fully tell the Platform’s story or guide management and planning. The GENDER Platform needs timeous empirical evidence to learn, reflect, adapt as needed, and to demonstrate their impact and/or the GENDER Platform’s inroads. (See Recommendations on this same issue under CG Management). More strategic and practical M&amp;E use would benefit the GENDER Platform, and therefore benefit the CG. <i>(3 sub-recommendations)</i></p>
<p><b>Fully Accepted</b></p>	<p>4. <u>Expanded Platform</u>: The evaluation unearthed diverse perspectives from a broad range of internal and external stakeholders on the Platform’s expanded mandate, formally beginning from the final month of the evaluation. This suggests that partners (internal and external) are not entirely clear on the Platform’s expanded mandate. The data suggest three distinct findings: (1) gender is intersectional and already engages with youth and social inclusion, so no need to address it as a separate topic, the title change is reasonable; (2) there needs to be separate strategies and budgets for all three, or at least two; gender equality and youth inclusion; (3) projects can focus on one, both or all three. <i>(2 sub-recommendations)</i></p>

The Platform hired a head of **program portfolio, an ME consultant and a scientist of gender and impact assessment**. Working with PPU to ensure reporting allows to reflect the work of the Platform better.

Developing **position papers on social inclusion and youth**, which will feed into the strategy to be developed and will be used to answer the three questions.

# Lessons about transforming: one step at a time

- ✓ **Stand the ground**– Process and design of an evaluation is critical, the evaluator “equity lens”, co-creation and consultation, validation. Using evaluation approaches that are inherently use-driven, address structural barriers, and are participatory e.g. a feminist approach– was relevant and helped to eventually break the ice .
- ✓ **Legitimacy of evaluation process:** the power of recommendations– Management Engagement and response Guidelines. PFE has helped broaden and showcase the value of social science, in the context of hard sciences, biophysical, and then– led to deeper insights and more realistic recommendations.
- ✓ **Definitions matter: beneficiaries may not be users**– People identified as users both upstream and downstream of the Platform; purposefully including those who need sensitization inside CGIAR; ensuring that voices from them as end users are heard (versus ‘on ground’)
- ✓ **‘Transformation’ is in the eyes of beholders** –change that is transformational, coherent and holistic, purpose of the evaluation – to go beyond accountability and learning. To drive transformational change that can fundamentally shift R4D pathways , moving beyond just ‘what has worked’, to ‘how it can work better’ to bring ‘legitimacy’ of science





# Thank you



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