



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues (IGETI)

Territory as an entry to gender equality

There are still many gender inequalities in terms of the access to land and other natural resources, due to local traditions and socio-cultural factors, which result in social inequalities and asymmetric power relations.

Cultural norms regulate the access to land of men, women, boys and girls. Land tenure systems are determined by customary laws where the land lord acts as the guardian for the land of the community and allocates the land among the families, based on their specific needs.

Women on average comprise 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and are heavily involved in food and cash crops production. Nevertheless, women have less access than men to productive resources and opportunities across all regions.

In many traditional cultures women are still not considered as producers and therefore do not have the same access to land than men.

Why gender equality?

If women have the same access to productive resources and services as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20–30 percent. Their access to land is limited by:

- ▶ Marital and inheritance laws, family and community norms
- ▶ Limited participation in community meetings and decision-making processes
- ▶ Limited participation in rural organizations such as producer's organizations
- ▶ Unequal access to land markets.

The “gender gap” in land rights can be reduced by strengthening women's land rights through legal reform, joint titling and/or land certification programmes; transferring land to women through redistributive land reform, microplots and collective plots; increasing their representation in land administration bodies; and developing legal literacy programmes, among others.

The territory is an intergenerational social product, framed by many different (sometimes conflicting) stakeholders that promote a set of values, cultures, interests that vary from one region to another.

Territory is about (bio)diversity and heritage.

Territories are therefore places where stakeholders interact and negotiate, based on their political power.

Need for a New Approach

Most land tenure regimes in both developed and developing countries are characterized by strong gender disparities in land distribution high asymmetry of power, weak land governance structures, mixtures of different uncodified customary rules, values and practices on tenancy and management arrangements, conflicting religious, statutory and legal arrangements.

Classic rural development approaches do not respond to this complexity and there is an urgent need to improve and adapt approaches and tools to meet these evolving challenges.



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Integrating Gender Equality in Territorial Issues (IGETI)

IGETI is an approach to the overall question of governance of natural resources to assist stakeholders to promote gender equality in territorial development. Government officials, civil society, NGOs, field workers and development planners, researchers and policy makers working at field level are the target audiences of this initiative.

The **IGETI Guidelines** aim to have a deeper understanding of existing inequalities between men and women within the considered territory, and assess the stakeholders' visions and livelihood strategies.

To strengthen the knowledge and skills of users to establish an environment where all stakeholders in a given territory are heard, sensitized and empowered to participate in decision-making for territorial/landscape development, the IGETI approach: 1. Applies gender equality as a "yard stick" for participatory dialogue and negotiation processes on interventions aimed at improving gender equality in territorial development at field level; and 2. Assists target users to become more aware of how asymmetries of power affect participation in decision-making processes.

IGETI field application: Angola, Somaliland and Kenya.

IGETI adaptation guidelines take into account main components such as pastoralist, forestry, climate change and fisheries.

The Four IGETI Phases

1. **Gender-sensitive territorial diagnosis:** Identification of stakeholders and historical territorial analysis
2. **Dialogue and gender responsive proposals:** Definition of coherent and feasible territorial development proposals, assisting the participatory process and promoting a social dialogue
3. **Negotiation process and Consensus-building:** Development of a Social Territorial Agreement
4. **External Monitoring and Evaluation:** Evaluation of the process.

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