Gender and agroforestry – ownership of trees in the context of climate change (David Edmunds, CCAFS)

What does it mean to say that tree tenure is “gendered”?

• 15 years ago, agro-foresters argued that men & women may have tenure:
  – in **different spaces**
  – over **different species**, or forms of the same species
  – over **different tree products**
  – over trees at **different times** by season or in crises
Gendered tenure is complex
What has changed in the intervening 15 years?

– Shrinking of common lands that were often critical to women
– The spread of market relations and pressures to reduce complexity
– Titling of property and the concentration of tenure rights
– A concern for women’s labor time, and the responsibilities involved in agro-forestry
Men and women continue to negotiate tree resource tenure

• But under uneven and dynamic relations of power
  – Expanded titling
  – Spread of women’s groups
  – Expanded recognition of community control over landscapes
  – Resistance to homogenizing agricultural landscapes
Where does climate change fit?

- For mitigation, expanded role of private companies & contracts – for better or worse
- Urgency can undermine gender negotiations
- Scale of problem discourages context-specific definitions of tree tenure
- Rapidly changing conditions upset customary tenure arrangements – for better or worse
What approaches are needed then?

– Assure recognition by all actors of gender differences in resource access, use and control (and meaning)
– Focus on procedural justice through gender-informed negotiations over complex tree tenure
– Embrace rapid pace of change with experimental, adaptive and learning-oriented approaches across scales
– Strengthen capacity of women and their groups
– Resist homogenized agricultural landscapes
What are you seeing in the field?

1. Are titling programs simplifying tenure arrangements, and is any of this tied to CC mitigation? Any impacts on women?

2. Are there increased pressures to homogenize landscapes for CC mitigation?
   a) Are women’s livelihood options decreased?
   b) Are labor burdens increased with CC mitigation and adaptation projects?

3. Does the dynamic context of climate change help women re-negotiate gender relations, including tree tenure, for the better?