



Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & NRM

# How to measure benefits to women in climate smart agriculture projects: the W+ Standard

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# Today's situation

Women produce more than ½ world's food, yet own only 2% of titled land and receive less than 10 % of credit available for small businesses.

Barriers: Women farmers' abilities to innovate and adopt new practices that help them adapt to and mitigate climate change are limited by :

- lack of credit and extension services
- lack of **time** and skills
- lack of information and knowledge
- weak local institutions and exclusion

# Key Funding Trends

1. Women and girls are recognized as key agents in development, as never before
2. New resources are becoming available and there is significant interest in 'investing' in women and girls by public and private sectors (also for supply chains)
3. Mechanisms and sources of development financing and philanthropy(CSR, impact investing) are becoming increasingly diversified, but economic growth and return on investment are the priority.
4. And investments in women's organizations are miniscule .

# Climate Finance

Climate finance and innovative institutional arrangements could help women farmers and their groups overcome these barriers...but do they reach women?

- Green Climate Fund
- Adaptation Fund/NAPAs
- Mitigation funds/ carbon projects
- Projects of Fair Trade and Gold Standard



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# Meanwhile...

Drum is beating ever-louder from economists, development experts and advocates who insist that women and girls are the key to a sustainable future, from global health to food security to economic growth.

More than 100 Member States expressing widespread support for a stand-alone goal on gender equality, supplemented by cross-cutting gender targets in all other goals.

In business, mounting evidence shows women's leadership correlates with long-term performance.



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# Investments

Investments can be structured to positively impact the agricultural value chain - incorporating smallholder farmers and environmental factors – to successfully generate financial returns and benefit the local community and environment.

The “**women effect**” (multiplier effects) may be most apparent in smallholder agriculture, where supporting women farmers can boost family incomes as well as increase food security.

Impact investors are collaborating to increase the visibility of successful investments, to develop common impact and assessment criteria for investors. “Women are ‘hot’ investments”.

# However...

## Point 1:

Individual women and girls are receiving growing attention without support for 'the roots' - the sustained, collective action by women's organizations.

Median annual income of over 740 women's organizations around the world was USD 20,000 (2010).

Need for funding strategies that support women's organizations, including groups that may be smaller or harder to reach.



# Measuring Impact

## Point 2:

Accountability mechanisms are critical for measuring impact and creating messages that are easy for the public to understand.

Both ODA agencies and corporations are calling now for such mechanisms...but are finding them lacking.



# What is the W+?

The W+ is a results-based framework to quantify and monetize the “social capital” created by women, to reward their inputs to sustainable environments and communities.

An **innovative** framework to quantify and monetize the **social capital** created by women, to recognize and reward their contributions to sustainable environments and communities.

Leverages the well-established global carbon market that quantifies **environmental capital**.

A unique certification label that endorses projects that create increased social and economic benefits to women through:

- renewable energy technologies
- time and labor saving devices
- forest and agriculture activities
- employment opportunities





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Strengthening women's empowerment will provide environmental, social and economic benefits for climate change adaptation and mitigation, resilience and food security.





# W+: Accountability

W+ measures benefits for 6 domains: food security, as well as time, leadership, income, health and education.

Projects that measure progress against these domains can receive W+ certificates which can be sold.

Will provide new revenue stream to women and their organizations through benefit sharing mechanism.

## Pilot Projects 2014

A Biogas project in Nepal will generate “TIME” units for women based on reduced fuel wood collection times. Methods for other domains (health, leadership) also to be field tested, in this Prototype W+ Project.

Other pilots to also be developed for food security.

**Biogas user, Nepal**







# More information:

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