Gender and Global IPM

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(Globalizing Integrated Pest Management: A Participatory Research Process. Norton et al., eds. 2005)

Gender Issues in Global IPM

- Why women need IPM
  - Livelihoods
  - Health
- What women bring to IPM
  - Specialized knowledge
  - Health perspectives
- Why women face severe adoption constraints
- How IPM research and technology transfer can address constraints

Gender and IPM Adoption

- Why are farmers in the Global South slow to adopt IPM?
- Half of them (at least) face extraordinary constraints to adoption because they are women
- Throughout the Global South, women have assumed more responsibility for agriculture during the last 25 years

The "Feminization of Agriculture"

- Women's labor and labor share increased during the last 25 years
  - Larger proportion of both own-account farmers and agricultural employees
  - Wider range of tasks on family farms
  - Total agricultural labor time increased
  - **50-80%** of people and work in agriculture
- Women's managerial responsibility (and authority, depending on setting) also increased
  - Women are no longer "secondary" workers in small-scale agriculture in much of Asia and Latin America
  - Women remain primary farmers in Africa

"Feminization of Agriculture" and "Feminization of Poverty" are linked

- Responsibility for agriculture has increased
- Women aim to increase value of their labor and output
- Women farmers are much less likely to access
  - Credit (formal)
  - Technology and Information, including IPM
  - Many production and marketing organizations
- Why?
  - Lack recognition of role as farmers
  - Primary structural constraint is **land**, not education

Gendered Land Constraint

- FAO estimates that women own or control much less land than men
  - 5% in Asia
  - 18% in Africa
  - 22% in Latin America
- Land rights raise women's productivity
- Research is needed to document
  - gender differences in ownership and effective control
  - Determinants and pathways toward equity
  - FAO, IFPRI, WB, USAID support; IPM research is relevant

Land, Labor, and IPM Adoption

- Landless women are least likely of all farmers to have access to technology transfer in IPM
- Landless women are less able to hire labor or call upon household labor
  - supply constraint
  - IPM adoption constraint
- Land ownership also tends to act as an incentive for adoption of labor-intensive and other relatively-expensive sustainable crop management strategies

Women are on the Front Lines of Pest Management

- Women do the work of pest management
  - Women spray pesticides in many settings where a decade ago they did not
  - Women handle pesticides and have greater exposure levels than do men, even where they do not spray
- Women make decisions that impact pest management practice
  - Aim for new markets that affect their pest management strategies
  - Choose among pest management strategies
  - Budget for, select, and purchase pesticides

Women offer specialized knowledge and perspectives

- Indigenous knowledge of pest management is often highly gendered
- Women farmers' priorities and hypotheses reflect gendered experience of agro-ecologies
  - Plants, soils, micro-climates
- Women may be more likely to innovate

Women Manage and Value Integrated Agro-ecosystems and Biodiversity

- Specialists in conservation and management of seeds
- More likely to integrate management of plants from diverse spaces: wild, field, and garden
- More likely to integrate livestock and plant ecologies
- Manage food crops for diversity:
  - Dietary diversity, seasonality, preparation and storage properties of foods, consumption quality of foods
- Specialists in medicinal plants
  - Although men often are assumed to be the healers

Women's Attitudes Toward Pesticides

- Women are responsible for family health, and often take leading roles in community health
  - More responsive to information about health costs of pesticides
  - Take active roles in community IPM, even when they are not farmers
- In the absence of IPM information, women value pesticides equally with men
  - Lack information about health costs
  - Women and men both view pesticides as economically necessary

Gendered Pesticide Use

- Bottom line: women are not “naturally” more inclined to prefer natural pest management
- Women are as likely as men to use pesticides in many settings
  - Despite lack of cash for inputs
    - E.g., women’s group formed to raise money for pesticides in Kenya
  - Very high levels of usage by women documented by FAO, PAN

Research and Technology Transfer to Enhance Women's Adoption of IPM

- How can we identify women in need of IPM?
  - Disaggregate all research by gender
    - Especially research linked to tech transfer
  - All women should be considered: farmers, farm family members, community members, agribusiness workers
- How can we address constraints such as land?
  - Incorporate women and gender analysis at all phases of stakeholder identification, research, and tech transfer
  - Work with women's groups (NGOs, community-based) to promote literacy, legal literacy, other bases for empowerment

IPM CRSP Model for Incorporating Women in Research and Technology Transfer

- Initial partner and stakeholder identification
- PAs and other qualitative data collection
- Baselines for Impact Assessment
  - Include women's labor, land, markets
- Research activities
  - Prioritize working with women
- Technology Transfer activities
  - Build on platforms created during research
  - Women's networks uncovered through research
  - Women's groups, Health organizations