



Integrating Gender in Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI): What Have We Learned?

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PRCI Approach to Integrate Gender

Gender is integrated in all components of PRCI:

- Technical trainings focused on gender—increasingly demand driven and collaborative
- Gender integrated into the PICA process, starting with the gender audit
- Support to the Research to Policy Team, workshops and joint events
- Collaboration on specific research activities

















Gender Training Modules https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-Strengthening/gender

- Module 01: Integrating Gender in Policy Research and Outreach
- Module 05: Value Chain Analysis How and Why to Address Gender
- Module 06: Influencing Policy in Gender Research: Panel Discussion on Influential Policy Research
- Module 14: Integrating Mixed Methods in Research
- Module 19: Introduction to WEAI
- Module 23: Implementing Indicators of Reach, Benefit, Empower, and Transform
- Module 37: Integrating Gender into Research and Development Projects
- Module 38: Presenting Gender Research
- Module 42: Beyond Add Women and Stir: Effective Proposal Writing for Gender-related Research



Assessment of PRCI's Approach

Purpose: To understand the extent to which the PRCI approach to integrate gender influenced awareness and knowledge of gender issues as well as research and institutional practices

Approach:

- Qualitative interviews with representatives of partner centers (23 researchers from 9 policy research centers)
- Open discussions during the PRCI Global Gathering in Accra, April 2023

Discussions:

- Key insights
- Changes in practices
- Remaining constraints
- Way forward





Findings of the Assessment - Research

- Wide range of views on gender—from dismissive to appreciative
- PRCI was successful at sensitizing researchers about the importance of integrating gender in research
- Recognition that gender integration is a process not a one-off activity
- Gender trainings were considered to be "useful" and "necessary" to integrate gender into research
- Collaboration on research projects helped research teams apply gender research skills and use new tools and methods—such as qualitative data collection and analysis



Findings of the Assessment – Organizational Practice

- No significant structural changes in gender practices within partner institutes were reported/attributed to PRCI
- Most PRCI support focused on research
- The gender audit generally showed satisfaction with organizational practices
 - o Equal access to services, training, and professional development
 - Gender equality in remuneration
 - Positive working environment for women in their organization
- Room for improvement: gender policies, childcare and dependent leave policies, and stated gender equality goals



Remaining Constraints

- Research constraints:
 - Limited capacity to carry out gender-focused research remains a constraint
 - Limited availability of sex-disaggregated data for deeper analysis of gender issues and dynamics
 - Limited funding to support gender-focused research
- Institutional constraints
 - Unfavorable attitudes about gender integration remain
 - Misconceptions that gender research is carried out by women
 - Need for more gender expertise on staff



Strengthening the PRCI Approach—The Way Forward

Research

- Develop joint gender research concept notes and proposals
- Integrate gender expertise into research teams/projects from the start
- Don't rely on one gender expert for integrating gender across all research within the organization

- Establish gender focal points within organizations to provide support and elevate gender research results
- Train men as champions of gender equality and have them serve as mentors to other men within their institutes

Institutional practice

- Integrate
 monitoring and
 reflexive learning
 procedures to
 continually improve
 gender integration
 in organizational
 and research
 practices
- Make leadership accountable for monitoring progress on gender integration









THANK YOU!

PRCI Website: https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/

Gender trainings: https://www.canr.msu.edu/prci/Capacity-

Strengthening/gender

Follow up with more questions:

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