

## Sustainable and Resilient Farming Systems Intensification (SRFSI) Project



# Participation of Men and Women in SRFSI Project Activities

## 2015-2016

## ABSTRACT

In this report, we outline the progress the Sustainable Resilient Farming Systems Intensification (SRFSI) project has made in terms of gender mainstreaming in project activities. Of the over 13 000 project participants that have been involved in various activities implemented by the project, two-thirds of participants are men and a third are women. Across the three countries, the participation rate of women ranged from 31% to 37%. In light of various socio-cultural barriers women face, this participation rate is encouraging. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvement. We outline some strategies to double women's participation as we aim to reach our vision of a more equitable and gender-inclusive development in the Eastern Gangetic Plains.

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September 2016

Report submitted to the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)



## Abstract

In recognition of the importance of inclusive development, researchers in the Sustainable Resilient Farming Systems Intensification (SRFSI) project have made a conscious effort to mainstream gender in its project activities since its inception in 2014. Commencing with a gender awareness session with project participants where principles of gender inclusiveness and strategies were discussed, a number of activities were progressively incorporated into the project to ensure that gender is mainstreamed and that it remains in the agenda and is, therefore, applied by project team members in all aspects of the project.

Apart from field trials, SRFSI organises a range of activities for farmers in the Eastern Gangetic Plains (EGP). These include trainings and workshops, focus group discussions, field and market exposure visits and other capacity building activities. In this report, we outline the progress the Sustainable Resilient Farming Systems Intensification (SRFSI) project has made in terms of gender mainstreaming in the SRFSI project during the 2015-2016 period.

In total, 13 126 project participants had been directly involved in various activities implemented by the SRFSI project. About 67 per cent of the participants were male, while 33 per cent were female. Across the three countries involved in the project (Bangladesh, India and Nepal), the participation rate of women ranged between 31 to 37 per cent, with an average participation rate of 33 per cent. Currently, Nepal had the lowest number of project participants at 2207 farmers but had a relatively high percentage of women participation, at 37 per cent. India, on the other hand, reported 4012 project participants with an average participation rate of women of about 34 per cent. Bangladesh had the most number of project participants totalling 6907 farmers, but women's participation was slightly lower than the average at 31 percent. In light of the social and cultural barriers faced by women, these participation rates are encouraging. However, women participation can be improved further.

Activities that had the highest participation rates were field trials and focus group discussions; the latter, partly due to the design of FGDs where protocols were set to include exact numbers of men only, women only and joint FGDs. The lowest participation rates for women were in the workshop trainings and exposure visits. The low participation rates in these activities are a result of socio-cultural factors that hamper women's mobility, thus, effectively excluding them from participating in these activities.

To improve women's participation, the following strategies are proffered.

- Organise women only exposure visits to overcome some social restrictions inhibiting women from joining a traditionally male-dominated activity
- Set a target /quota for the number of women participants for the activities
- Find alternative ways to ensure women who could not come to exposure visits/ field trips for cultural reasons or other family obligations do not fully miss out by using other innovative extension methods such as ICT tools
- To increase women's participation in training workshops, determine the specific agricultural/ farm activities where women require training and organise the training around these needs

- Ensure women are specifically invited when trainings are conducted particularly for activities that are relevant to them and to their roles
- Send women trainers/ women extension agents
- Schedule trainings on days/ times women can attend
- Find “women leaders” in the village who can be role models/ “champions” to encourage other women.

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# Participation of Men and Women in SRFSI Project Activities

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## 1. Introduction

This report summarises the participation of farmers by gender in the Sustainable and Resilient Farming Systems Intensification (SRFSI) project activities. The report includes participation in field trials, farmer field days, exposure visits, training and workshops, focus group discussions and other activities in eight districts facilitated by SRFSI project partners – 1) Sunsari, Nepal, 2) Dhanusa, Nepal, 3) Madhubani, Bihar, India, 4) Coochbehar, West Bengal, India; (5) Malda, West Bengal, India 6) Purnea, India, 7) Rajshahi, Bangladesh, and 8) Rangpur, Bangladesh. Project partners recorded the participation in various activities using the *Gender Data Reporting Protocol and Data Gathering Instrument* attached in Appendix 1.

Participation in project activities varied across the districts and the period coverage. In Sunsari, the project activities were conducted in Saalbani, Bhokraha, Kaptangunj, Simariya, and Bhaluwa during the period May 2015 to April 2016. In Dhanusha, the project activities were executed in Giddha, Lalgadh, Raghunathpur, Phulgama and Sinurjoda between May 2015 and April 2016. In Madhubani, project activities were implemented in Nanaur, Mauahi, Korahia and Sukhet from April 2015 to April 2016. In Purnea, the project activities were executed in Tikapatti, Purani Garel, Dogachhi, Kathaili, and Udainagar during June 2015 to May 2016. In West Bengal, the project activities were conducted in Coochbehar covering Patchara, Folimari, Ghuhumari, Mansai, Durganagar, and in Malda covering Ugritola, Bidyanandapur, Mahadipur, Kalinagar and Gorangapur during the Rabi period 2015 until Rabi period 2016. In Rajshahi, project activities were conducted in Premtoli, Baduria, Nabinagar, and Dharampur while in Chapai Nawabgonj, the project activities were conducted in Laxmipur from April 2015 to April 2016. In Rangpur-Dinajpur, the project activities were performed in Kolkondo, Lakshitari, Durgapur and Borodargha and Mohonpur between April 2015 and April 2016. Reported project activities covered activities during the Kharif, Rabi and summer seasons.

The following section reports on participation by gender in the various project activities. It should be noted that the numbers reflect the number of farmers that participated in the activity, and as some farmers may have participated in multiple activities, they may have been counted multiple times.

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## 2. Participation by men and women farmers in SRFSI project activities

SRFSI held and organised various activities for project participants and farmers in the eight districts where SRFSI is operating. The participation of farmers by gender in these SRFSI activities including field trials, farmer field days, exposure visits, training and workshops, focus group discussions and other activities is outlined below. The total participation by district is also shown in the last sub-section.

### 2.1 Field Trials

Field trial participation by farm-households was recorded in three ways – male only, female only or joint. Joint participation is assigned if the farm activities and decisions are done by both male and female head of household. Otherwise, the assignment is either male or female, depending on who predominantly makes the decisions in the farm.

Field trials were the most participated activities of female farmers. Of the total of 1461 farmers who participated in field trials, 37% were joint male and female farmers, 47% were male only and 16% were women only (Table 1). Across the districts, women only participation was observed at 2% to 23%, men only at 0-81% and 0-83% joint (combined female and male participation). Specifically, in Sunsari, 266 participants were engaged and a combined 79% of female farmers (14% women only and 65% under joint participation) was documented. In Dhanusha, however, there were 126 participants involved and about few (19%) female household members were engaged. In Madhubani, a total of 117 participants were engaged and female only participation was observed at 21%, while the majority (79%) were male household members only (there were no joint male and female recorded). A total of 172 farmers in Coochbehar, West Bengal participated in the field trials and 23% of the participants were female only members and the remaining 77% were joint participation of male and female household members. In Malda, West Bengal, 181 participants were involved and 83% were joint participation of men and women while the remaining 17% were female participants. In Purnea, a total of 175 participants were documented and 80% were male participants and the remaining 20% were female participants. In Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, 207 farmers participated in the field trials and a combined 26% were participated by both household heads (men and women), 72% are male only while female only was minimal (2%). In Rangpur and Dinajpur, among the 217 participants, a large proportion (69%) were participated by male only household members, 16% by female only and 15% by both male and female household members.

**Table 1. Field trials participation by gender**

| <b>District</b>                       | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Joint</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Sunsari, Nepal</i>                 |             |               |              |              |
| Number of Participants                | 57          | 36            | 173          | 266          |
| Percentage to Total                   | 21%         | 14%           | 65%          |              |
| <i>Dhanusha, Nepal</i>                |             |               |              |              |
| Number of Participants                | 102         | 24            | 0            | 126          |
| Percentage to Total                   | 81%         | 19%           | 0%           |              |
| <i>Madhubani, India</i>               |             |               |              |              |
| Number of Participants                | 93          | 24            | 0            | 117          |
| Percentage to Total                   | 79%         | 21%           | 0%           |              |
| <i>Coochbehar, West Bengal, India</i> |             |               |              |              |

|  |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of Participants                             | 0   | 39  | 133 | 172  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 0%  | 23% | 77% |      |
| <i>Malda, West Bengal, India</i>                   |     |     |     |      |
| Number of Participants                             | 0   | 30  | 151 | 181  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 0%  | 17% | 83% |      |
| <i>Purnea, India</i>                               |     |     |     |      |
| Number of Participants                             | 140 | 35  | 0   | 175  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 80% | 20% | 0%  |      |
| <i>Rajshahi &amp; Chapai Nawabgonj, Bangladesh</i> |     |     |     |      |
| Number of Participants                             | 149 | 4   | 54  | 207  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 72% | 2%  | 26% |      |
| <i>Rangpur &amp; Dinajpur, Bangladesh</i>          |     |     |     |      |
| Number of Participants                             | 150 | 35  | 32  | 217  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 69% | 16% | 15% |      |
| <i>Total</i>                                       |     |     |     |      |
| Number of Participants                             | 691 | 227 | 543 | 1461 |
| Percentage to Total                                | 47% | 16% | 37% |      |

## 2.2 Farmer Field days

Farmer field days were also among the most participated activities by women farmers. Overall, 3724 farmers participated in farmer field days (Table 2). The majority of the participants were male (62%) while female farmers comprised 38%. Across the districts, female participation was observed at 23% to 46%, while male participation was between 54-77%. In Sunsari, all the farmer field days were organised by the District Agricultural Development Office (DADO) except for one conducted by the Regional Agriculture Research Station in Tarahara. A total of 202 farmers participated in field days, of which 28% were female farmers. In Dhanusha, the farmer field days were executed by DADO with some involvement of the staff from the National Rice Research Programme (NRRP). Out of the 502 participants, 36% were female farmers and 64% were males. In Madhubani, farmer field days were organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). There were 94 farmers who participated in the activities (55% male and 45% female). In Purnea, farmer field days were facilitated by Bihar Agriculture University (BAU)/Jeevika. A total of 180 participants were involved in the activities and 43% were female farmers. In Coochbehar, farmer field days were facilitated by the Department of Agriculture – West Bengal (DOAWB), Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV) and Sabujmitra FC. A total of 119 participants were engaged and 46% were female farmers. In Malda, all the farmer field days activities were organised by UBKV. From the 141 participants, 23% were female farmers. In Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, farmer field days were conducted by various organisations – Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). From the total 640 farmers who participated, 26% were female farmers while 74% were male farmers. In Rangpur-Dinajpur, farmer field days were implemented by DAE, Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) and BARI where a large portion of the participants totalling 1846 farmers were observed. From these participants, 57% were male farmers and 43% were female farmers.



**Table 2. Farmer field days participation by gender**

| <b>District</b>                                    | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Sunsari, Nepal</i>                              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 145         | 57            | 202          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 72%         | 28%           |              |
| <i>Dhanusha, Nepal</i>                             |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 319         | 183           | 502          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 64%         | 36%           |              |
| <i>Madhubani, India</i>                            |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 52          | 42            | 94           |
| Percentage to Total                                | 55%         | 45%           |              |
| <i>Coochbehar, West Bengal, India</i>              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 64          | 55            | 119          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 54%         | 46%           |              |
| <i>Malda, West Bengal, India</i>                   |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 108         | 33            | 141          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 77%         | 23%           |              |
| <i>Purnea, India</i>                               |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 102         | 78            | 180          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 57%         | 43%           |              |
| <i>Rajshahi &amp; Chapai Nawabgonj, Bangladesh</i> |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 474         | 166           | 640          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 74%         | 26%           |              |
| <i>Rangpur &amp; Dinajpur, Bangladesh</i>          |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 1051        | 795           | 1846         |
| Percentage to Total                                | 57%         | 43%           |              |
| <i>Total</i>                                       |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 2315        | 1409          | 3724         |
| Percentage to Total                                | 62%         | 38%           |              |

## 2.3 Exposure Visits

Exposure visits involved the least number of participants among the SRFSI activities. Overall, there were 1081 farmers who were able to participate in exposure visits (Table 3). The majority (78%) of the participants were males and only 22% were females. Across the districts, female participation rate varied from 4% to 41%. In Sunsari, exposure visits within the district and in Dhanusa were organised by the International Development Enterprises (IDE), DADO, and RARS in Tarahara. A total of 120 farmers participated and 24% of these were female farmers. In Dhanusha, exposure visits (including training) interaction of farmers with CA input suppliers were conducted within the district and in Sunsari, by IDE. Similarly, DADO also organized district level field visits including training to farmers in NRRP, Hardinath. There were 57 farmers who participated in these activities of which 18% were female. In Madhubani, only one training-cum-exposure visit was conducted by ICAR Research Complex for the Eastern Region (RCER), Patna, involving 46 farmers (30% were female participants while 70% were male). In Coochbehar, exposure visits were organised by Satmile Satish Club O Pathagar (SSCOP) in the district. A total of 167 participants were

recorded (41% female and 59% male farmers). There was no exposure visit organised in Malda. In Purnea, one exposure visit was organised by BAU, Sabour in the district. Of the 50 participants, 36% were female farmers. In Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, exposure visits were conducted by BARI. A total of 495 farmers were organised and 19% of them were females; 81% were males. In Rangpur-Dinajpur, a total of 146 participants were able to participate in exposure visits within the district organised by the RDRS. However, participants were predominantly male; only a few participants were female farmers (4%).

**Table 3. Exposure visits participation by gender**

| <b>District</b>                                    | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Sunsari, Nepal</i>                              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 91          | 29            | 120          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 76%         | 24%           |              |
| <i>Dhanusha, Nepal</i>                             |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 47          | 10            | 57           |
| Percentage to Total                                | 82%         | 18%           |              |
| <i>Madhubani, India</i>                            |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 32          | 14            | 46           |
| Percentage to Total                                | 70%         | 30%           |              |
| <i>Coochbehar, West Bengal, India</i>              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 99          | 68            | 167          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 59%         | 41%           |              |
| <i>Purnea, India</i>                               |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 32          | 18            | 50           |
| Percentage to Total                                | 64%         | 36%           |              |
| <i>Rajshahi &amp; Chapai Nawabgonj, Bangladesh</i> |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 402         | 93            | 495          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 81%         | 19%           |              |
| <i>Rangpur &amp; Dinajpur, Bangladesh</i>          |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 140         | 6             | 146          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 96%         | 4%            |              |
| <i>Total</i>                                       |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 843         | 238           | 1081         |
| Percentage to Total                                | 78%         | 22%           |              |

## 2.4 Training and Workshops

Among the SRFSI activities, training and workshops were least participated by female farmers. Out of the total 2211 participants, a large majority were males (79%); only 21% were females (Table 4). Across the districts, the participation rate of women varied between 0-39%. Looking at the district-level data, in Sunsari, the training conducted by IDE and RARS in Tarahara include community business facilitator training, Conservation Agriculture training, zero tillage tractor operator training, orientation on Kharif season trial and orientation on Rabi season trial. A total of 244 farmers participated in these training and 24% were female farmers. In Dhanusha, a total of 123 farmers, of which 15% were female, participated in various trainings (e.g., weed management, Global Positioning System (GPS) and data recording, moisture meter training, Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), zero-till machine operation, conservation agriculture and crop management practices organized by NRRP,

DADO, iDE and the Agronomy Division and Agricultural Engineering Division of NARC from Khumaltar. There were no reported training and workshops in Madhubani. In Purnea, training and workshops conducted by BAU/Jeevika include the use of mechanical transplanter for unpuddled transplanted rice, direct seeded rice, zero tillage technology for maize, and producer group members training. From the 541 participants, 39% were females. In Coochbehar, the training conducted by UBKV include the use of mechanical transplanter for unpuddled transplanted rice, direct seeded rice, trial layouts, machinery calibration, zero tillage and training on data recording. All the 119 farmer-participants were males. In Malda, UBKV conducted training and workshops on Rabi trials and layout, technical operations, crop practices, seasonal crops, and data recording. A total of 425 farmers participated of which, only 19% were female farmers. In Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, various training on Conservation Agriculture (CA) technology, strip wheat and maize, land laser leveller, strip mungbean, rice transplanter technology, SRSFI review and planning workshop, data collection and country planning meeting were facilitated by BARI and DAE. From the total 642 participants, 87% were male farmers while 13% were female farmers. In Rangpur & Dinajpur, farmers were trained in various activities such as farmers' orientation on Rabi season, CA technology in wheat and maize cultivars, rice transplanter operations, demonstration and installation of laser land leveller and data collection techniques by the RDRS and DAE. A total of 117 participants were documented and 11% were female farmers.

**Table 4. Training and workshop participation by gender**

| <b>District</b>                                    | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Sunsari, Nepal</i>                              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 186         | 58            | 244          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 76%         | 24%           |              |
| <i>Dhanusha, Nepal</i>                             |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 105         | 18            | 123          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 85%         | 15%           |              |
| <i>Coochbehar, West Bengal, India</i>              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 119         | 0             | 119          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 100%        | 0%            |              |
| <i>Malda, West Bengal, India</i>                   |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 345         | 80            | 425          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 81%         | 19%           |              |
| <i>Purnea, India</i>                               |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 328         | 213           | 541          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 61%         | 39%           |              |
| <i>Rajshahi &amp; Chapai Nawabgonj, Bangladesh</i> |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 558         | 84            | 642          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 87%         | 13%           |              |
| <i>Rangpur &amp; Dinajpur, Bangladesh</i>          |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 104         | 13            | 117          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 89%         | 11%           |              |
| <i>Total</i>                                       |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 1745        | 466           | 2211         |
| Percentage to Total                                | 79%         | 21%           |              |

## 2.5 Focus Group Discussions

From the total of 2195 FGD participants, there was a good mix of male (60%) and female (40%) participants (Table 5). Across the districts, women's participation was observed from 16% (in Malda) to as high as 57% (in Madhubani). In Sunsari, FGDs on node characterisation were conducted by RARS in Tarahara. A total of 350 farmers participated in the FGDs and 49% were female farmers. In Dhanusha, FGD sessions were facilitated by DADO. A total of 125 farmers participated and 45% were female. In Madhubani, FGD sessions were conducted on the perceptions of the farmers on SRFSI technologies. From the 213 participants, the majority (57%) were composed of female farmers. In Coochbehar, FGD activities on performance appraisal on Kharif and pre-Rabi trials were conducted by SSCOP, Anwehsa, and Sabujmitra FC. A total of 84 participants were documented and 23% were females. In Malda, the same activities on performance appraisal on Kharif and pre-Rabi trials were conducted by Manikchak Program Farmers Club and Vivekanada Farmers Club. From the total 100 participants, a majority were male; only 16% were female farmers. In Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, FGD sessions/ farmers' consultation/ farmers' selection pre-consultation meetings were conducted involving 508 farmers. From these participants, a slightly higher number of males attended (with 48% female farmers). In Rangpur-Dinajpur, FGD sessions/ farmers' consultation/ farmers' selection pre-consultation meetings were also conducted involving 637 farmers with 24% women participation rate.

**Table 5. Focus group discussions participation by gender**

| <b>District</b>                                    | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Sunsari, Nepal</i>                              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 180         | 170           | 350          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 51%         | 49%           |              |
| <i>Dhanusha, Nepal</i>                             |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 69          | 56            | 125          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 55%         | 45%           |              |
| <i>Madhubani, India</i>                            |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 91          | 122           | 213          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 43%         | 57%           |              |
| <i>Coochbehar, West Bengal, India</i>              |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 65          | 19            | 84           |
| Percentage to Total                                | 77%         | 23%           |              |
| <i>Malda, West Bengal, India</i>                   |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 84          | 16            | 100          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 84%         | 16%           |              |
| <i>Purnea, India</i>                               |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 91          | 87            | 178          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 51%         | 49%           |              |
| <i>Rajshahi &amp; Chapai Nawabgonj, Bangladesh</i> |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 262         | 246           | 508          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 52%         | 48%           |              |
| <i>Rangpur &amp; Dinajpur, Bangladesh</i>          |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                             | 485         | 152           | 637          |
| Percentage to Total                                | 76%         | 24%           |              |

*Total*

|                        |      |     |      |
|------------------------|------|-----|------|
| Number of Participants | 1327 | 868 | 2195 |
| Percentage to Total    | 60%  | 40% |      |

## 2.6 Other Activities

Other activities were also reported by various project partners. A total of 2454 participants were involved in various activities not mentioned above (Table 6). The majority of these participants were male (77%) and the rest were female (23%). Across the districts, the participation rate of women was from 0% to 37%. Other activities conducted by IDE in Sunsari include meeting with Zero-tillage dealer and tractor operators, laser land leveller demonstration and review meetings - of the total 66 participants, only 9% were female farmers. In Dhanusha, other activities identified include business plan training and market management and promotion to service providers/agrovets organised by IDE among 26 male participants. In Madhubani, other activities include a demonstration of rice transplanters involving 104 farmers. From these participants, 16% were female farmers. There were no reported other activities conducted in Purnea. In Coochbehar, West Bengal, other activities conducted by DOAWB, UBKV and SSCOP, Sabujmitra Farmers Club and Anwasha include zero-tillage out-scaling activities on various crops. From the 293 participants, a large majority were males and only 10% were females. In Malda, the same activities on zero-tillage outscaling on various crops were facilitated by DOAWB, UBKV & Farmers Club. A total of 513 farmers participated of which only 9% were female. In Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, other activities include innovation platform committee establishment meetings, motivational meetings with farmers club about CA technology, discussion with input dealers, a knowledge sharing visit by African Scientists, field visits with DAE focal persons, and meeting with Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) on water irrigation infrastructure. A total of 483 participants were involved in these activities and 22% were female farmers. In Rangpur & Dinajpur, other activities include monthly staff coordination meetings, innovation platform committee establishment meeting, Upazilla Agriculture technology fair and Participatory Group Discussions. A total of 969 participants were involved in these activities, of which 37% were female farmers.

**Table 6. Other activities participation by gender**

| <b>District</b>                       | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <i>Sunsari, Nepal</i>                 |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                | 60          | 6             | 66           |
| Percentage to Total                   | 91%         | 9%            |              |
| <i>Dhanusha, Nepal</i>                |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                | 26          | 0             | 26           |
| Percentage to Total                   | 100%        | 0%            |              |
| <i>Madhubani, India</i>               |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                | 87          | 17            | 104          |
| Percentage to Total                   | 84%         | 16%           |              |
| <i>Coochbehar, West Bengal, India</i> |             |               |              |
| Number of Participants                | 264         | 29            | 293          |
| Percentage to Total                   | 90%         | 10%           |              |

*Malda, West Bengal, India*

|                        |     |    |     |
|------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Number of Participants | 468 | 45 | 513 |
| Percentage to Total    | 91% | 9% |     |

*Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, Bangladesh*

|                        |     |     |     |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Participants | 376 | 107 | 483 |
| Percentage to Total    | 78% | 22% |     |

*Rangpur & Dinajpur, Bangladesh*

|                        |     |     |     |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Participants | 610 | 359 | 969 |
| Percentage to Total    | 63% | 37% |     |

*Total*

|                        |      |     |      |
|------------------------|------|-----|------|
| Number of Participants | 1891 | 563 | 2454 |
| Percentage to Total    | 77%  | 23% |      |

## 2.7 Total participation across districts

Across the districts, the participation rate of women combining women only and joint participation was from 25% to 42% (Table 7). In Sunsari, from the total 1248 participants involved, female participation was highest at 42% either as female farmers (28%) or as a joint participation of male and female farmers (14%). In Dhanusha, there was a 30% female participation out of a total of 959 farmers. The lowest project participation relative to other districts was observed in Madhubani, a total of 574 participants were documented and more than a third (38%) of these were female farmers. In Purnea, a total of 1124 participants were engaged and 38% were females. In Coochbehar, a total of 954 project participants were engaged and women participation was at 36% either as female farmers (22%) or as a joint participation of both gender (14%). In Malda, from the total 1360 participants, a low women participation rate was observed at 26% (15% as female only and 11% as joint participation). In Rajshahi & Chapai Nawabgonj, from the 2975 participants, female participation was recorded at the lowest rate of 25% either as female only members (23%) or as a joint participation of male and female family members (2%). Lastly, in Rangpur & Dinajpur, the highest project participation relative to other districts was observed with 3932 farmers. The participation rate of women was at 35% either as female only members (34%) or as a joint participation of male and female household members (1%).

**Table 7. Total participation by gender by district**

| District                              | Male | Female | Joint | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| <i>Sunsari, Nepal</i>                 |      |        |       |       |
| Number of Participants                | 719  | 356    | 173   | 1248  |
| Percentage to Total                   | 58%  | 28%    | 14%   |       |
| <i>Dhanusha, Nepal</i>                |      |        |       |       |
| Number of Participants                | 668  | 291    | 0     | 959   |
| Percentage to Total                   | 70%  | 30%    | 0%    |       |
| <i>Madhubani, India</i>               |      |        |       |       |
| Number of Participants                | 355  | 219    | 0     | 574   |
| Percentage to Total                   | 62%  | 38%    | 0%    |       |
| <i>Coochbehar, West Bengal, India</i> |      |        |       |       |
| Number of Participants                | 611  | 210    | 133   | 954   |

|  |      |      |     |       |
|--|------|------|-----|-------|
| Percentage to Total                                | 64%  | 22%  | 14% |       |
| <i>Malda, West Bengal, India</i>                   |      |      |     |       |
| Number of Participants                             | 1005 | 204  | 151 | 1360  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 74%  | 15%  | 11% |       |
| <i>Purnea, India</i>                               |      |      |     |       |
| Number of Participants                             | 693  | 431  | 0   | 1124  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 62%  | 38%  | 0%  |       |
| <i>Rajshahi &amp; Chapai Nawabgonj, Bangladesh</i> |      |      |     |       |
| Number of Participants                             | 2221 | 700  | 54  | 2975  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 75%  | 23%  | 2%  |       |
| <i>Rangpur &amp; Dinajpur, Bangladesh</i>          |      |      |     |       |
| Number of Participants                             | 2540 | 1360 | 32  | 3932  |
| Percentage to Total                                | 65%  | 34%  | 1%  |       |
| <i>Total</i>                                       |      |      |     |       |
| Number of Participants                             | 8812 | 3771 | 543 | 13126 |
| Percentage to Total                                | 67%  | 29%  | 4%  |       |

## 2.8 Summary of Participation by Country

The participation of farmers by country – Nepal, India and Bangladesh is summarised in Table 8.

**Table 8. SRFSI activity participation by country by gender**

|                                 | Nepal |            | India |            | Bangladesh |            | Total |            |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|------------|------------|-------|------------|
|                                 | No    | % to Total | No    | % to Total | No         | % to Total | No    | % to Total |
| <b>Field Trials</b>             |       |            |       |            |            |            |       |            |
| Male                            | 159   | 41%        | 233   | 36%        | 299        | 71%        | 691   | 47%        |
| Female                          | 60    | 15%        | 128   | 20%        | 39         | 9%         | 227   | 16%        |
| Joint                           | 173   | 44%        | 284   | 44%        | 86         | 20%        | 543   | 37%        |
| Total                           | 392   |            | 645   |            | 424        |            | 1461  |            |
| <b>Farmer Field Days</b>        |       |            |       |            |            |            |       |            |
| Male                            | 464   | 66%        | 326   | 61%        | 1525       | 61%        | 2315  | 62%        |
| Female                          | 240   | 34%        | 208   | 39%        | 961        | 39%        | 1409  | 38%        |
| Total                           | 704   |            | 534   |            | 2486       |            | 3724  |            |
| <b>Exposure Visits</b>          |       |            |       |            |            |            |       |            |
| Male                            | 138   | 78%        | 163   | 62%        | 542        | 85%        | 843   | 78%        |
| Female                          | 39    | 22%        | 100   | 38%        | 99         | 15%        | 238   | 22%        |
| Total                           | 177   |            | 263   |            | 641        |            | 1081  |            |
| <b>Training &amp; Workshops</b> |       |            |       |            |            |            |       |            |
| Male                            | 291   | 79%        | 792   | 73%        | 662        | 87%        | 1745  | 79%        |
| Female                          | 76    | 21%        | 293   | 27%        | 97         | 13%        | 466   | 21%        |
| Total                           | 367   |            | 1085  |            | 759        |            | 2211  |            |
| <b>Focus Group Discussions</b>  |       |            |       |            |            |            |       |            |
| Male                            | 249   | 52%        | 331   | 58%        | 747        | 65%        | 1327  | 60%        |
| Female                          | 226   | 48%        | 244   | 42%        | 398        | 35%        | 868   | 40%        |



|                         |      |     |      |     |      |     |       |     |
|-------------------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|
| Total                   | 475  |     | 575  |     | 1145 |     | 2195  |     |
| <b>Other Activities</b> |      |     |      |     |      |     |       |     |
| Male                    | 86   | 93% | 819  | 90% | 986  | 68% | 1891  | 77% |
| Female                  | 6    | 7%  | 91   | 10% | 466  | 32% | 563   | 23% |
| Total                   | 92   |     | 910  |     | 1452 |     | 2454  |     |
| <b>Grand Total</b>      |      |     |      |     |      |     |       |     |
| Male                    | 1387 | 63% | 2664 | 66% | 4761 | 69% | 8812  | 67% |
| Female                  | 647  | 29% | 1064 | 27% | 2060 | 30% | 3771  | 29% |
| Joint                   | 173  | 8%  | 284  | 7%  | 86   | 1%  | 543   | 4%  |
| Total                   | 2207 |     | 4012 |     | 6907 |     | 13126 |     |

As shown in the table, Nepal reported the least number of participants but had the highest rate of women participation. From the 2207 total project participants in Nepal, women participation rate was at 37% (either as female members (29%) or as a joint participation (8%) of both male and female members). Field trial activities were mostly participated by women (59%) either as female members (15%) or as a joint participation of female and male members (44%). Focus group discussions had a good mix of participants from male (52%) and female (48%) members. Also, farmer field days had good participation from women farmers at 34% (above the 33% average participation across countries). The least participated activities by female members were exposure visits (22%), training and workshops (21%) and other activities (7%).

Meanwhile, India reported a total of 4012 project participants and women participation rate was slightly higher than the average across countries (34%), either as female members (27%) or as a joint participation of male and female members (7%). The highest rate of women participation was observed for field trials (combined 64%), followed by focus group discussions (42%), farmer field days (39%) and exposure visits (38%). The remaining project activities had low participation from women (below the 33% average participation across countries). This includes training and workshops (27%) and other activities (10%).

Bangladesh reported the highest number of project participation at 6907 members, however, women participation rate was slightly below the average at 31% either as female members (30%) or as a joint participation of male and female members (1%). The activities highly participated by women (above the 33% average participation across countries) include farmer field days (39%) and focus group discussions (35%). The least participated activities were other activities (32%), field trials (combined 29%), exposure visits (15%) and training and workshops (13%).

### 3. Conclusion

In total, there were 13 126 project participants involved in various activities implemented by the SRFSI project to date. In these activities, the majority of the participants were male members (67%) and the remaining 33% were female members (29%) or jointly participated by both male and female members (4%).



Across the countries, the participation rate of women was from 31% to 37%. Currently, Nepal had the lowest number of project participants at 2207 farmers but had a relatively high percentage of women participation at 37%. India reported 4012 project participants with slightly above average women participation rate of 34%. Lastly, Bangladesh had the most number of project participants totalling 6907 farmers, but women's participation was slightly lower than the average at 31%.

It was observed that across the countries, the most participated project activities for women were on-field trials (combined 53%), focus group discussions (40%) and farmer field days (38%). These activities do not require the women to travel far from home. It seems that in all countries, women have low participation in training workshops (21%), exposure visits (22%) and other activities (23%). This is perhaps because these activities require women to travel from home and leave the household. Owing to cultural and social aspects limiting their mobility, women have low participation rates in these activities.

While the SRFSI project was able to achieve participation rate of women at about 33% (one female for every two male farmers), this participation rate could be improved further. Some strategies that can be put in place include:

- Organising women only exposure visits to overcome some social restrictions inhibiting women from joining a male-dominated activity (i.e., travel)
- Setting a target /quota for the number of women participants for the activities
- Finding alternative ways to ensure women who could not come to exposure visits/ field trips for cultural reasons or other family obligations do not totally miss out, e.g., by using ICT (e.g., recording a video of the exposure visit and making it available to farmer groups/ women groups, whereby a video session can later be organised where women who could not physically come, can watch the video)
- To increase women's participation in training workshops, determine the specific agricultural/ farm activities where women require training and organise the training around these needs
- Ensure women are specifically invited when trainings are conducted for activities that are relevant to them and to their farm roles
- Send women trainers/ women extension agents
- Schedule trainings on days/ times women can attend (e.g., training days/times should not clash with other key demands on women's time such as when they need to take their children to school or pick them up from School)
- Find "women leaders" in the village who can be role models and/or "champions" to encourage other women.

It is hoped that through a concerted effort, we can increase women's participation and meet our vision of an equitable and gender-inclusive development in the EGP.

*~ End of Report ~*

# **Gender Data Reporting Protocol and Data Gathering Instrument**

**Maria Fay Rola-Rubzen, Roy Murray-Prior, Kuhu Chatterjee and John Dixon**

# Gender Data Reporting Protocol

## Background:

The Sustainable and Resilient Farming Systems Intensification Project aims to target 7000 farmers (and eventually 3 million farmers) in the Eastern Gangetic Plains (EGP). As women are key players and contributors in the agricultural sector, it is critical that they are included in project activities. One of the ways to ensure that women are not neglected is to monitor the project's progress with respect to gender inclusiveness. This protocol serves as a guide for recording and monitoring the participation of men and women in SRFSI activities and initiatives.

## Objectives:

1. To gather gender disaggregated information on SRFSI activities.
2. To capture impact and *most significant change* stories.
3. To enable continuous monitoring of SRFSI activities and interventions on both men and women.
4. To use the information gathered to provide feedback to project partners and the SRFSI management team.

**Deliverable:** Report on gender participation in SRFSI project activities for each district.

## Guidelines:

- Each district socio-economics coordinator will collect information on activities in each node including participants in field trials, field days, exposure visit, training and workshops, FGDs and other relevant activities using the data sheet below, every 6 months in time for the annual and semi-annual report (i.e., 30 April and 31 October). Please submit the **gender activities report** attaching the completed gender activities form below.
- Each district socio-economics coordinator should select one male and one female farmer (who are involved in the SRFSI trial) in each node to monitor. These same farmers will be interviewed after each season using the impact story tool below. **Two impact stories** should be prepared and submitted every 6 months in time for the annual and semi-annual report. Please include relevant photos to

accompany the impact stories. The photos should be in high resolution and labelled with the name of the farmer and accompanied with a one line description of the photo.

**Report to be submitted to:** Dr Fay Rola-Rubzen via email: [F. Rola-Rubzen@curtin.edu.au](mailto:F.Rola-Rubzen@curtin.edu.au), copied to Dr Mahesh Gathala via email: [m.gathala@cgiar.org](mailto:m.gathala@cgiar.org)

## SRFSI Activities by Gender

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

District(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Period covered:** Jan 2014 – Sept 2015

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Table 1: Field trial participants by gender\***

[illegible]

\* For the purpose of this study, we will be using male if the farm activities and decisions are done predominantly by the male; female if the farm activities and decisions are done predominantly by the females; and joint if the farm activities and decisions are done by both males and females

**Table 2: Farmers' field days participants by gender**

| Node | District | Field day event name | Date | Organizer | Venue | Number of Participants |        |       |
|------|----------|----------------------|------|-----------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|
|      |          |                      |      |           |       | Male                   | Female | Total |
|      |          |                      |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                      |      |           |       |                        |        |       |

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**Table 3: Exposure visits participants by gender**

| Node | District | Event (Exposure visit) | Date | Organizer | Venue | Number of Participants |        |       |
|------|----------|------------------------|------|-----------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|
|      |          |                        |      |           |       | Male                   | Female | Total |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                        |      |           |       |                        |        |       |

**Table 4: Training and workshop participants by gender**

| Table 11 Training and workshop participants by gender |          |                    |      |           |       |                        |        |       |
|---|----------|--------------------|------|-----------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|
| Node  | District | Training/ workshop | Date | Organizer | Venue | Number of Participants |        |       |
|   |          |                    |      |           |       | Male                   | Female | Total |
|   |          |                    |      |           |       |                        |        |       |

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**Table 5: Focus group discussion participants by gender**

| Node | District | FGD description | Date | Facilitator(s) | Venue | Number of Participants |        |       |
|------|----------|-----------------|------|----------------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|
|      |          |                 |      |                |       | Male                   | Female | Total |
|      |          |                 |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                 |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                 |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                 |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                 |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                 |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                 |      |                |       |                        |        |       |

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**Table 6: Other activities participants by gender**

| Node | District | Name of activity | Date | Facilitator(s) | Venue | Number of Participants |        |       |
|------|----------|------------------|------|----------------|-------|------------------------|--------|-------|
|      |          |                  |      |                |       | Male                   | Female | Total |
|      |          |                  |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                  |      |                |       |                        |        |       |
|      |          |                  |      |                |       |                        |        |       |

~ end ~