Gender and climate change in Suriname, with focus on the Agriculture sector

Iwan Samoender

Climate Change Focal Point Ministry of Agriculture Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Suriname
St Lucia, 9 Oct. 2018
National Gender policy imbedded in Gender Action and Work plans

- National development plan (OP 2017-2021)
- Institutional arrangements for improved gender policy development.
- Poverty reduction from a gender perspective
- Macroeconomic planning to increase the participation of women in the labour market
- Equal participation in decision making
- The development of legal and policy instruments that enhance human rights
Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA)

To develop, coordinate and evaluate national gender policy.

Links national and international organisations and the government and other actors

To mainstream gender into the policies and programmes

Gender Focal Points in almost all Ministries to mainstream gender within policy, plans, and projects
Characteristics of agriculture sector

- 16% of the population in Agricultural production, main crop: Rice
- Important crops: rice, vegetables, bananas, plantain, citrus, cassava
- 85% of Agricultural land in low lying coastal plains
- Employment and income to ca 17% of economic active population
- Main livestock production: poultry, beef, pork, milk
- Dependent on water resources and climatic conditions, use of outdated tech. increases sensitivity
- Vulnerable to climate change impacts (erratic rainfall, droughts, floods)
## Analysis of agriculture sector focused on Gender, division of labour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased workload and responsibilities in rural areas</td>
<td>Migration to coastal area and goldmines in search for employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subsistence farming, regarded as an extension of the reproductive work</td>
<td>Commercial production and processing in coastal plain, in the interior the role of men increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring for livestock and poultry for own protein supply.</td>
<td>Commercial live stock production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support with labour-intensive activities in small independent family businesses, or post harvest handing, processing, value chain</td>
<td>Men do the soil preparation, spraying (fertilizer or pesticides) and share other activities with women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Case study 1: Project title: Improving technical and institutional capacities for disaster and climate risk management and sustainable agriculture in Jamaica, Guyana and Suriname TCP/SLC/3603 (FAO, Ministry of Agriculture)

- In the coastal plain one **single woman-headed** household, small-scale farmer, Ms. Matabadal selected based on past experience and social-economic position. She runs the farm and household after the death of her husband.

**Results:** adaptation to flooding and saltwater intrusion, increased crop production, increased income, expansion of raised dam (from 1500 m² to 3000m²), on-farm coaching in inter-cropping, rainwater harvest tank and micro-irrigation system, shed for seedlings, improved infrastructure
Mucuna- Rice system for sustainable soil management and resilient dryland production in the interior (Women in the interior engage more (71%) than men in subsistence farming)

Results:
- increased food security of households
- drought resilient crop production
- sustainable production
- training and on-site coaching in new technology
Cas Study 2: Sustainable poultry production a way to improve nutrition in Apetina. joint initiative of Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, FAO, UNDP Suriname, GCCA+ project and local NGO Kuluyawak Foundation- Gender Dimension on Food Security: Case Study of Apetina Village By Manorama Sunuwar, Gender Specialist UNDP Suriname

Fish as a major source of protein diet was endangered and the health of the villagers was seriously threatened by mercury contamination in many rivers of Sipaliwini.

No prior experience of rearing domestic animals and birds.

The project provided baby chicks and adult chickens (by air), training on rearing chicken, equipment and materials to build chicken pens and for feed production etc.

Men took lead on the construction of the chicken pen while women played supportive role for this. Women took lead on rearing chicken and its utilization. Children also supported them to feed chicken and put it in the pen from outside.
Results:

- Though whole community benefited from the project, women claim to have benefited most from as they don’t have to be anxious to manage protein diet like in past days.

- Triggered the need in women to build capacity on slaughtering and processing to serve food to growing visitors in *Apetina*.

- Increased food security for the community.
Case study 3: Reducing Farmer Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts through the Promotion of Climate Smart Agricultural Technologies in Suriname (IICA, UNDP-GCCA+, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

- Implemented in the coastal area - *Weg naar Zee* (droughts and salinity)
- Demo greenhouse micro-irrigation systems (drip and irrigation) rainwater harvesting ponds on plot sites
- Training for farmers, extension officers in implemented CSA technologies
- Area of large scale men-headed commercial farms. **They only female member of VBBWZ not selected for the pilots, did not meet some criteria for selection. (gender dimensions on next slide)**
- In the training part of this project both men and women participated, men participate more because the farms are male headed.
- 2 women and 7 men farmers of VBBWZ were selected to be trained in CSA in Mexico
Gender dimensions:

• Woman headed farm, husband sells the produce in the market. For the labour intensive activities she depends on her husband (land preparation, mowing, weeding, ploughing, spraying).

• She considers these jobs as typically men’s jobs. Says that if selected for the greenhouse her livelihood would have improved: decreased workload, less dependency on her husband, increased productivity and increased income.

Results

• Empowered by participation in capacity building in CSA in Mexico and Suriname, and applies gained knowledge in farm management (identification and control of pest and diseases, fertilization, propagation by seeds, transplanting etc.) on her farm. The result is increasing productivity on the farm. In the wet season she wants to start with applying the knowledge of making composts with worms.

• Future plans for a greenhouse, but financing applying a loan is a major constraint, the land is in the name of the husband.

• In the wet season she wants to start with applying the knowledge of making composts with worms.
lessons learnt for Agriculture policy and planning

• equality of access to education and training in Agricultural practices for women
• access to micro-financing attached to the training process
• needs of women should adequately be reflected in sustainability planning
• establishment of gender-sensitive policies in dealing with the impact of climate change.
• The promotion of a gender-balance in resilience building
• Gender and climate change mainstreaming of Agriculture policy, planning and programs
• The empowerment of youth in agriculture