



Food and Agriculture Organization
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AND ENVIRONMENT



The Role of Gender in Sustainable Dryland Management:

Gender-responsive SLM tool

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E-LEARNING SERIES

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on
DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

UNCCD- WOCAT project on Gender and SLM

Background

Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) requires integrating gender perspectives from the outset.

This means:

- ensuring equal participation of women and men,
- collecting sex-disaggregated data,
- and designing interventions that reflect their different needs and contributions.

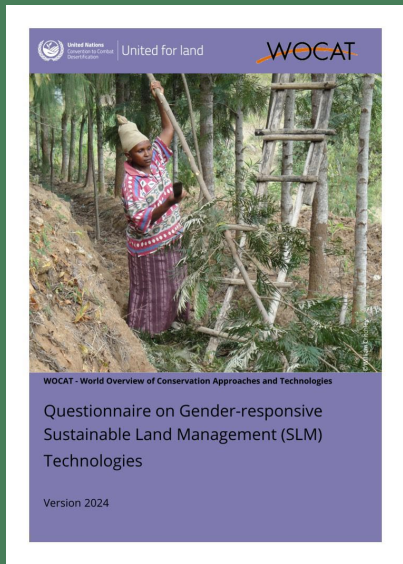
UNCCD- WOCAT project on Gender and SLM

Background

Launched in 2020 to **fill the gap in the availability of gender-disaggregated data** necessary for the analysis of SLM adoption patterns and the assessment of its differentiated impact on women and men

the project produced a **gender-responsive SLM tool** that supports project planners, designers, implementers and evaluators in collecting gender-disaggregated

Gender-responsive SLM tool



<https://wocat.net/en/wocat-media-library/questionnaire-on-gender-responsive-sustainable-land-management-slm-technologies/>

Aim:

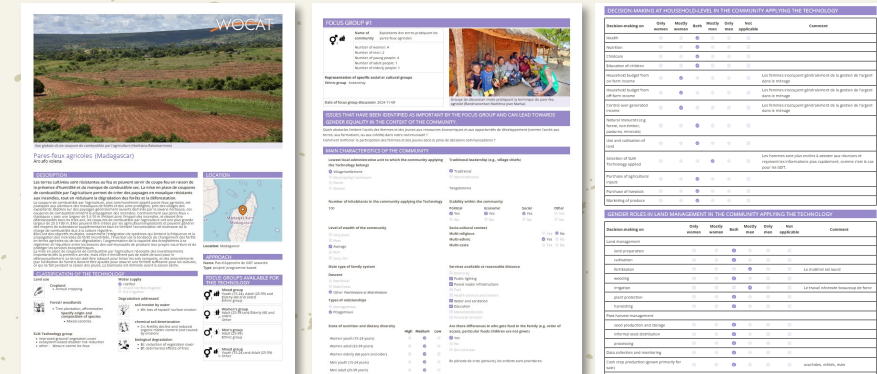
Add a gender lens to SLM Technologies and assess their gender-responsiveness

Evaluate how gender-responsiveness of SLM can be improved, stepping up adoption and dissemination, making SLM beneficial for women and men alike

The tool contains:

- a) a **Questionnaire** on gender-responsive SLM Technologies and Approaches (QG);
- b) a dedicated section in the **Global WOCAT SLM Database** to publish the data and view existing data entries; and
- c) an easy-to-read, automatically generated **summary report**.

The resulting data can be used widely, including by decision-makers, to understand the interaction between gender and SLM.



Gender-responsive SLM tool

Reflecting UNCCD-related gender indicators:

- **Socio-economic characteristics** of the community
- **Distribution of work** between women and men
- **Type and size of land** used by women and men, land **tenure**
- **Decision making** and **access** to services
- Responsibility for **activities** and **impacts** on women and men
- **Recommendations** on how to improve gender-responsiveness for better **adoption**

Focus Group Discussions:

The focus group discussion is the main activity organized and implemented to collect the relevant information in the QG.

The following groups should be considered:

- Women separate (young, adult, elderly)
- Men separate (young, adult, elderly)
- Mixed group (young, adult, elderly)

Additionally, it can be indicated if they represent **a specific social or cultural group** (e.g. ethnicity, indigenous peoples, caste, religion, ...)

Documenting Information
from and with land users

Entering data in
database

Review process

Data available
online

Open access data

WOCAT SLM DATABASE

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the Global Database on Sustainable Land Management
is the primary recommended database by UNCCD

WOCAT Global SLM Database

Information for UNCCD Parties

Key Numbers

- 2,482 SLM Practices published from 138 countries by 563 users
- 1,475 SLM Technologies
- 561 SLM Approaches
- 442 UNCCD PRAIS Practices
- 20 new practices published in the past 90 days

Search SLM Data All SLM Data Search

SLM Technologies

An SLM Technology is a land management practice that controls land degradation and enhances productivity and/or other ecosystem services.

View Add

SLM Approaches

An SLM Approach defines the ways and means used to implement an SLM Technology, including the stakeholders involved and their roles.

View Add

UNCCD PRAIS Practices

Archived PRAIS SLM best practices, as previously shared through the UNCCD PRAIS system in the UNCCD reporting process.

View Add

Carbon Benefits Project (CBP)

Tools for assessing the carbon benefits and greenhouse gas emissions of an SLM Technology.

View Add

Gender-responsive SLM

Tool for assessing gender responsiveness of SLM Technologies and Approaches.

View Add

Economics

Analyzing the Costs and Benefits of Sustainable Land Management Technologies.

View Add

WOCAT

ABOUT SLM LDM DATABASE DECISION SUPPORT REGIONS & COUNTRIES PROJECTS MEMBERSHIP TEAM MEDIA

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Search Gender-responsiveness

Country Project Institution Language

Advanced filter for SLM Technologies SLM Approaches

Your search results (23) Sorting by "Updated at"

Fixation des dunes sur des terres communautaires sylvo-pastorales (cuvettes oasiennes) des départements de Gouré et de Mainé-Soroa [Niger]

La lutte contre l'ensablement des cuvettes oasiennes dans les départements de Gouré et de Mainé-Soroa est réalisée à travers deux techniques de fixation des dunes: (i) la fixation mécanique ou primaire (palissades inertes, fascines) qui stabilise les masses sableuses en mouvement ou empêche la formation de ces masses sableuses sur des obstacles (infrastructures, boisements, bordures de cuvettes), et (ii) la fixation biologique ou définitive qui consiste à créer une couverture végétale permanente sur la dune.

Compiler: [BOUKARY BAKO Mamane Maitougaré](#) Creation: 2024-11-29 14:58

Drought-Resilient Agroforestry System [Nigeria]

This technology promotes gender-responsive sustainable land management in Origo Maje, Ogun State, through agroforestry, soil conservation, and climate-smart agriculture practices that empower women and men equally to enhance land productivity, restore degraded ecosystems, and improve livelihoods.

Compiler: [Owolabi Adesunmi](#) Creation: 2025-01-23 13:09

Intercropping of maize and lablab [Botswana]

Intercropping maize with high-forage legumes, such as Lablab, is a sustainable farming practice embraced by the Gulgwe Cluster Fence members in Mosetse village, Botswana. This method involves growing forage legumes alongside cereal crops like maize, offering a range of environmental, agronomic, and economic benefits through rotational systems.

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Reforestation de la mangrove basé sur un projet [Senegal]

Le reboisement de la mangrove aide à lutter contre la désertification et la dégradation des terres de plusieurs façons essentielles. Les sites de reboisement se trouvent à l'intérieur de l'AMP (Aire Marine Protégée) de Bamboung, plus précisément dans le secteur de Sadiala. Ce secteur comprend trois sites : Sadiala 1, Sadiala 2, et Sadiala 3, couvrant respectivement 4,89 ha, 0,232 ha, et 0,06 ha, pour un total de 5,182 ha. Les écosystèmes forestiers de ces sites montrent une certaine régénération naturelle, bien que...

Compiler: [Marthe-Thérèse Ndella Diouf](#) Creation: 2025-01-09 13:21

Home garden and Agroforestry [Cameroon]

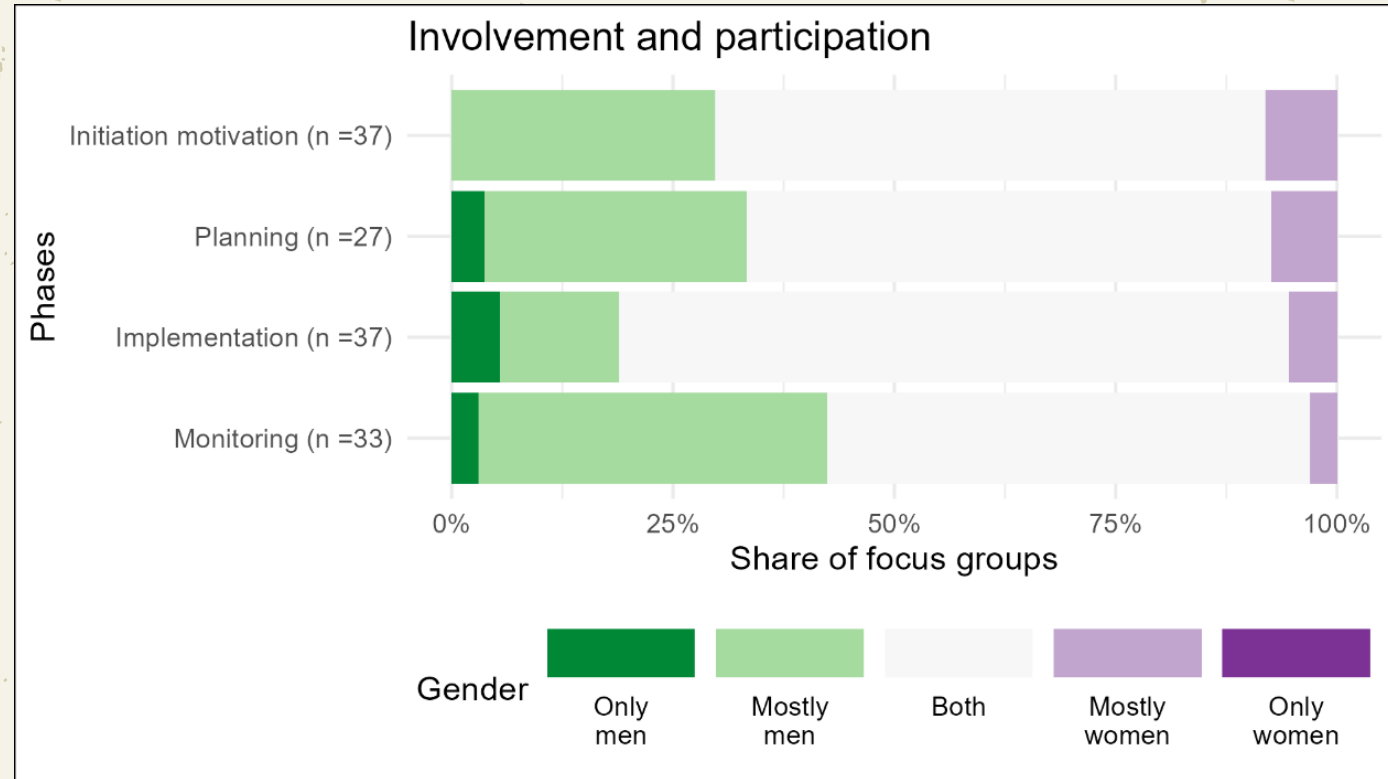
Innovative production of home garden crops using improved technologies to boost growth, making it eco-friendly to both humans and the environment. It was innovative in that we used improved seeds and equally promoted the use of manure in the farming. The crops cultivated in this home garden included: cabbages, celery, leeks, persil and basilic.

Compiler: [Fenwi Linda Ngongoh](#) Creation: 2024-11-13 09:42

<https://wocat.net/en/database/list/?type=gender>

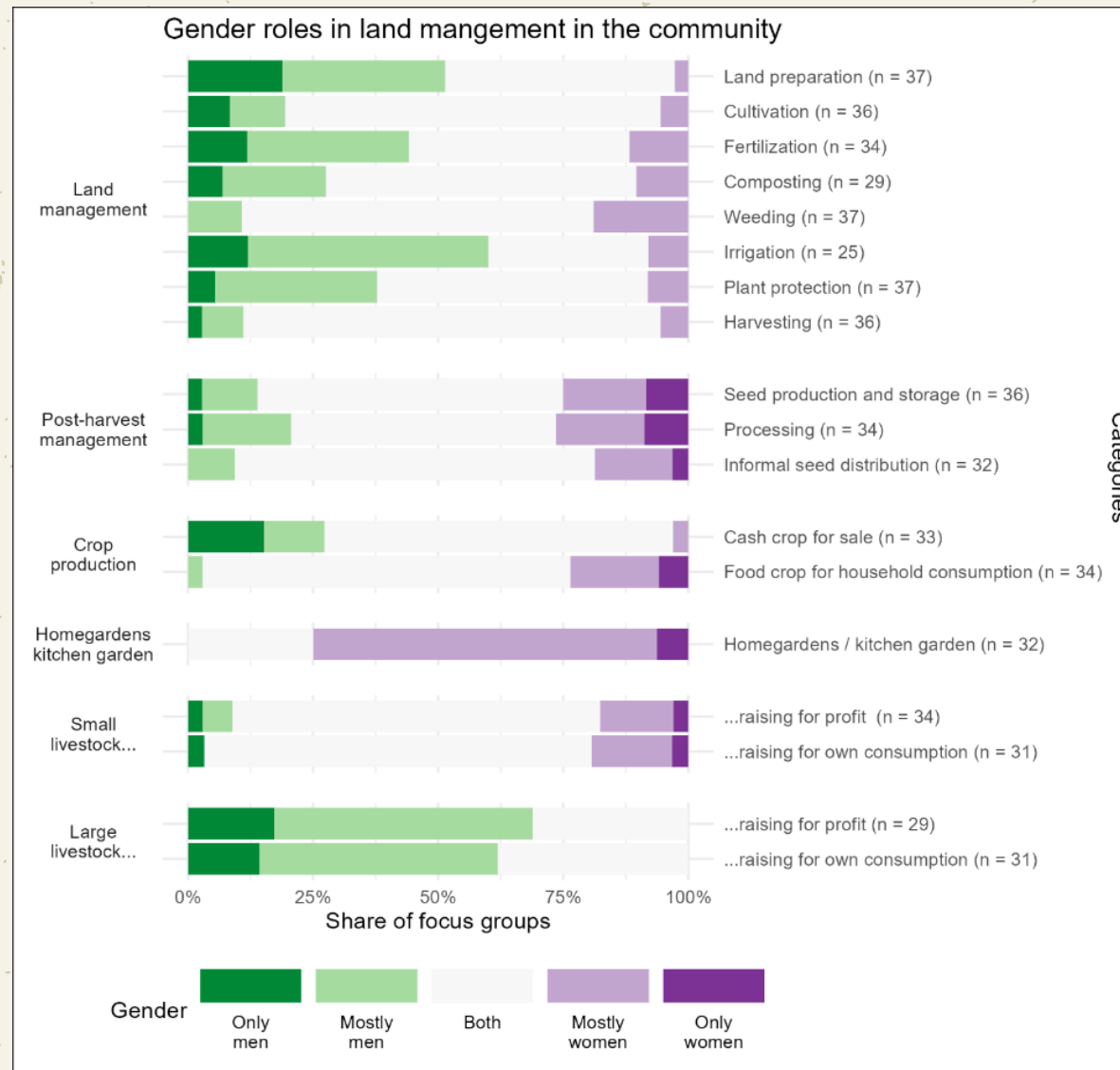
<https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/>

Gender-responsive SLM tool – data analysis



Gender involvement and participation in the different phases of the SLM technology (% of focus groups; N = 37, n responses per phase).

Gender-responsive SLM tool – data analysis



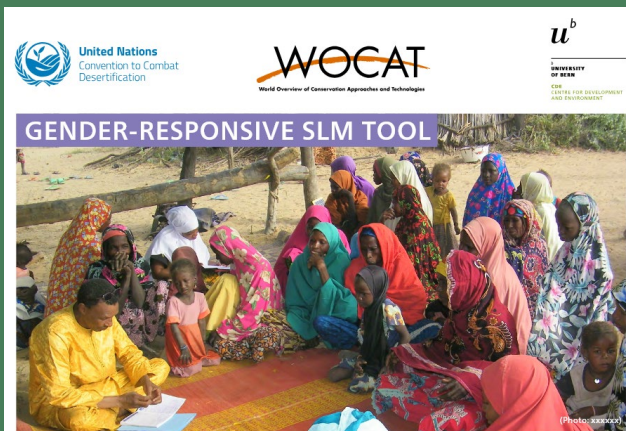
Perceived roles of women and men in land management activities (% of focus groups; N = 37, n responses per activity).

Gender-responsive SLM tool – data analysis

How to overcome gender differences in SLM

Main Barriers / Challenges	Suggested Solutions / Recommendations
Heavy workload & division of labour: Women often carry double burdens (household + farming), men focus on physically demanding or commercial tasks.	Promote labour-saving technologies; support equitable division of tasks; design activities mindful of women's time constraints.
Limited access to land and resources: Women face insecure land rights, limited inheritance, and reduced access to credit and inputs.	Advocate for women's land rights; provide gender-sensitive credit and microfinance; ensure equal access to tools, seeds, and inputs.
Exclusion from decision-making: Men often dominate land and resource decisions at household and community levels.	Encourage joint decision-making in households; involve women in community and project governance structures; raise awareness with traditional and religious leaders.
Limited training & knowledge access: Women have fewer opportunities to join trainings or extension services due to time, literacy, or cultural barriers.	Organize flexible, gender-sensitive training (different times, local languages, women-only sessions); strengthen peer-to-peer learning and women's groups.
Cultural norms and restrictive beliefs: Taboos, traditional roles, and perceptions that "women are weaker" restrict participation.	Sensitize communities on gender equality; collaborate with local leaders to challenge restrictive norms; promote awareness-raising and education.
Safety and mobility constraints: Women face risks (harassment, attacks, remote field locations) and lack safe working conditions.	Improve safety (lighting, community patrols, emergency response); locate activities closer to homes; ensure protective gear for activities like beekeeping.
Technology and tools not adapted: Local tools (e.g. modern beekeeping equipment) are not accessible for women.	Provide improved, gender-responsive tools and equipment; adapt technologies to different physical capacities.
Perceptions and policy gaps: National laws and policies often reinforce gender differences and overlook women's contributions.	Adopt women-friendly laws and policies; integrate gender into land restoration policies; support women's legal empowerment.

Gender-responsive SLM tool – capacity building

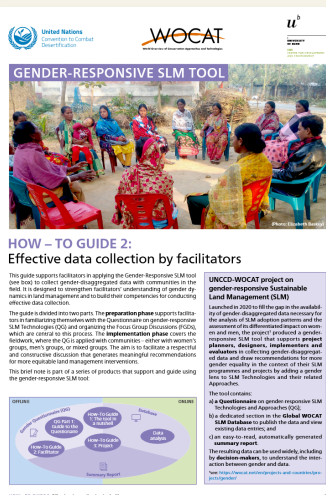


HOW – TO GUIDE 1:
The tool in a nutshell

How-to guide 1: The tool in a nutshell, designed to support users of the gender-responsive SLM tool in preparing, collecting, and uploading data to the database.

How-to guide 2: Effective data collection by facilitators, designed to strengthen facilitators' understanding of gender dynamics in land management and to build their competencies for conducting effective data collection.

How-to guide 3: Tool application in project management cycles, supporting project planners, designers and implementers in ensuring the programmes and projects benefit both women and men, and deliver more lasting and equitable outcomes.



HOW – TO GUIDE 2: Effective data collection by facilitators



HOW – TO GUIDE 3: Tool application in project management cycle

PROJECT CYCLE

The different components of the tool can be applied throughout the project management cycle – both as a source of information and knowledge on SLM practices and gender as well as for data collection and analysis. For example, it can be used during monitoring and evaluation to generate recommendations that enhance equality and equity. The table below outlines the potential uses of the tool across the different stages of the project cycle.

	ONLINE	OFFLINE
Project Cycle	Source of information and knowledge: WOCAT database and summary reports	Data collection and analysis: Questionnaire (Q1)
Planning and Design	• Review existing documents on identified gender dynamics in SLM – e.g. in similar regions or from similar contexts, for comparable SLM practices (all sections) • Review gender-responsive SLM practices (all sections) • Review gender-specific differences in SLM practices at an early stage • Review recommendations to establish and support a gender-responsive design (section 6)	• Review gender-related aspects such as division of labor, decision-making roles, and land tenure (section 4) • Review gender-responsive on-farm activities with guidelines from the questionnaire (chapter section 5) • Review recommendations when engaging with beneficiaries and stakeholders to support inclusive project design (chapter section 6)
Monitoring	• Review gender-related aspects that can enhance the monitoring of project indicators (all sections) • Review the gender-responsive design (chapter section 6)	• Review gender-related aspects that can enhance the monitoring of project indicators (all sections) • Review the gender-responsive design (chapter section 6)
Implementation and Evaluation	• Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6)	• Review gender considerations that can enhance the monitoring of project indicators (all sections) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6)
Evaluation and Closure	• Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6)	• Review gender considerations that can enhance the monitoring of project indicators (all sections) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6) • Review gender-responsive design (chapter section 6)

HOW – TO GUIDE 3: Tool application in project management cycle

Gender-responsive SLM tool – experiences from the field

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Planting Pits in Conservation Farming for Improved Soil Health and Sustainable Land Management [Zimbabwe]

Creation: 2024-11-27 01:26 Updated: 2025-03-26 13:45
Compiler: **Fadziso Mawunganidze** Editors: – Reviewers: [Camilla Steinboeck](#), [Rima Mekdaschi Studer](#)

GENDER [EN](#)

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Completeness: 97%

1. General information
2. Short description of SLM Technology and if available the related Approach

<https://wocat.net/en/database/gender/51/>

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Q&A

