

Name of project:	Cereal System Initiative for South Asia (CSISA)
Donor:	BMGF and USAID
Implementing organization:	International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines
M&E organization:	
Project start date:	12-01, 2008
Project end date:	11-30-2011
Geographic coverage: (countries)	SouthAsia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal);
Status of impact assessment (when are/were baselines to be conducted, what quantitative or qualitative assessments have been done, etc.)	Baseline socio-economic surveys in several hubs in India, Bangladesh and Nepal in 2009 (Ongoing); Focus group discussions were conducted using qualitative assessment ; Village surveys were also conducted
To what extent is the project targeted to women?	<p>Objective 6.2. Understand the micro-level constraints to rapid productivity growth and adoption of resource conserving technologies in intensive cereal systems of South Asia</p> <p>The focus group discussions included perceptions from women's groups: The household surveys have sex disaggregated variables</p> <p>A case study on the consequences of mechanization on men and women workers is being implemented in EUP, India. Women are also target beneficiaries of the new cropping patterns in the hub sites in Nepal.</p>
Does this project aim to directly build assets, or would increases in assets be a secondary effect (e.g. project aims to increase incomes, but people might then invest in assets)?	This project aims to directly build assets (human capital through training, Increases in assets will be a secondary effect of this project. Eg.
What kinds of assets might have observable changes (for men or women)?	(For each type of capital below that you think your project may affect, please mention the kinds of assets that may be affected)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural capital (e.g. land, water): 	Land, livestock, water and aquatic resources;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical capital (e.g. housing, equipment, cell phones): 	Housing, farm machinery, cell phones, irrigation facilities livestock, household assets (house, pipe drinking water, cooking gas, open-well, latrine, television, food ration card, BPL card, electric fan, etc), threshing machine, storage bins; tools and technology (zero tillage, etc) seed, fertilizer, pesticides, traditional technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial capital (savings, credit, remittances): 	Savings, credit, remittances, jewelry, pensions, wages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social capital (e.g. group membership, connections, either within communities or 	Individual memberships in MNERGA, membership in cooperatives, Self-Help groups, formal groups

with outsiders):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human capital (e.g. education, tr 	Education of adults, young and children; nutritional and health status, skills, health and nutritional status, knowledge and skills

Brief abstract about the project—what is it trying to achieve, what is the strategy being used for integrating gender into project implementation and in M&E/impact evaluation? (max 1 page)

**Cereal System Initiative for South Asia (Central Bihar hub# 6)
Delivery action plan for partners in central Bihar hub**

The Cereal System Initiative for South Asia was launched in June 2009, to improve cereal productivity and farm income in four countries of South Asia. The proposed Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) will provide an overall strategy and a new umbrella for contributing new science and technologies to accelerating short- and long-term cereal production growth in South Asia’s most important grain baskets.

CSISA will focus initially on 9 hubs in areas of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal that will represent key incentive cereal production systems. The hubs provide a basis for active learning about mechanisms for rapid adoption and intensification of improved cereal seed and crop management practices, for understanding critical components of public-private sector partnerships, and for developing business plans and supporting policies to stimulate private-sector investments. Improved cultivars and hybrids of maize, rice, and wheat selected under conservation agriculture practices will be developed and management concepts for future cereal systems will be designed and evaluated, alongside policy analysis and advocacy, and capacity building at all levels. The project will have eight objectives:

1. Widespread delivery and adaptation of production and postharvest technologies to increase cereal production and raise incomes.
2. Crop and resource management practices for sustainable future cereal-based systems.
3. High-yielding, abiotic stress-tolerant, and disease- and insect-resistant rice varieties and hybrids for current and future cereal and mixed crop-livestock systems.
4. High-yielding, abiotic stress-tolerant, disease-resistant wheat varieties for current and future cereal and mixed crop-livestock systems.
5. High-yielding, heat-tolerant and disease-resistant maize inbred lines and hybrids for current and future cereal and mixed crop-livestock systems.
6. **Technology targeting and improved policies for inclusive agricultural growth.**
7. Creating a new generation of scientists and professional agronomists for cereal systems research and management.
8. Project management, communication and impact assessment.

Objective 1 focuses on achieving both short- and long-term impact on sustained cereal production growth by reducing yield gaps through accelerating the delivery of available

and future technologies through private-public sector partnerships, including business models and information systems for scaling up such delivery systems to large areas.

Objectives 2-5 concentrate on R&D for developing critical new technologies that will have both medium- to long-term impacts on re-vitalizing growth and adding new value to the productivity intensive cereal and mixed crop-livestock systems in South Asia, through the efficient mechanisms created in Objective 1. New breeding products (Objectives 3-5), for example, will be developed for the predominant current and future cropping systems and management practices. They will be tested in future systems (Objective 2) research and channeled directly to farmers for evaluation, feedback and adoption (Objective 1). Under Bihar Hub (#6) of CSISA we have discussed and planned following technical plan for NARES partners in Central Bihar hub (#6). Objective 6.2 Understanding micro-level constraints to rapid productivity growth and adoption of resource conserving technologies in rice-wheat systems are being addressed by IRRI, CIMMYT and ILRI. IRRI works in several hubs namely in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Gazipur, Bangladesh. CIMMYT works in hubs in Haryana, Punjab, India, NW Bangladesh, Central Nepal and Pakistan Punjab. IRRI, CIMMYT and ILRI use a common questionnaire for the Village level surveys (A) and household survey (B) with sex disaggregated variables. The data base will be managed by IRRI.

Gender concerns are/will be being addressed in various stages of the project; 1) Identification and preparation; 2) design and appraisal; 3) implementation; 4) implementation completion. Focus group discussions on the perceptions on several technologies were conducted with different groups (small, medium, large, landless farmers and poor women). Benchmark survey or baseline studies in hubs in India, Bangladesh and Nepal with gender-disaggregated gender variables are going on with farming households (CSISA cooperators and non-CSISA farmers). The baseline survey questionnaires include gender-differentiated variables (See appendix 1). Case studies on the outcomes and impact of specific technological interventions are being conducted in several hubs led by IRRI, CIMMYT and ILRI. IRRI for example is conducting a case study on the consequences of the introduction of machinery eg combine harvester, zero tillage on men and women (from farming and landless) labor by an ag economist and gender specialist. Other labor-saving technologies eg direct seeding, use of herbicides in eastern Uttar Pradesh, shift from rice-rice cropping systems to rice-fish cropping systems in Bangladesh and other project interventions which will directly affect women's resources will be conducted by the social scientists from IRRI in specific hubs. Other case studies on the impact of technologies on men and women will be conducted in Nepal. These case studies will include both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. A series of workshops cum training activities will be conducted to enhance the capacities of NARES partners in developing gender-related goals, priorities and clear targets based on the available information and consultation with stakeholders. Gender will be integrated in PVS related to crop varietal improvement (rice and non-rice) by imposing representation of women cooperators (at least 30% of participants) in seed production and dissemination and establishment of community seed banks through partnerships with extension eg KVKS. Gender-sensitive impact assessment to broadly cover social, cultural and economic aspects will be assessed for different categories of women. Baseline household surveys led by IRRI are being implemented by NARES partners in

eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bangladesh and Nepal. IRRI , CIMMYT and ILRI have conducted trainings (Use of PRA, surveys) for the PIs. Out of the 3 PIs, only one is a female sociologist. However, there is a need for reassessment of their capacities in integrating gender into development activities such that necessary training activities should be conducted. Key gender-sensitive indicators to assess the social and cultural outcomes and impacts will be developed with NARES partners and stakeholders.

.Annex 1. Gender -disaggregated information

A. *Village level survey*

Topics	Gender variable
Village population and household type	Female headed household
Social indicators	Schooling of boys, girls, adult men and women
Input and output prices	Wages of male and female farmers during normal and peak periods
Participation of husband and wife	Who does production activities for rice, wheat, maize and livestock management

B. *Household survey*

Topics	Gender variable
Household identification	Sex of household head
Labor requirements in rice, wheat and maize by activity Labour requirements for maize/sugar-cane/cotton cropping on largest plot (/LU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hired labor days of male and female • Number of family labor days of male and female
Permanent on-farm labor	By sex of laborer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number • Salary • Region of laborers
Male and female household heads' characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Years in school • Years in farming • Primary occupation • Secondary occupation
Number of household members	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total in households 2. Working on farm, full time 3. Working on farm, part time 4. Schooling/studying 5. Working/employment off-farm 6. staying out of village (some time of year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male and female adults >15 years old • Male and female members between 6 to 15 years old • Male and female children (<6 years old)
Average monthly household expenditure and involvement in decisions	Decision makers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female • Jointly

C. Household census (farming and landless) for the study on the consequences of mechanization on male and female workers. This includes participation of each family member in all production, post harvest and processing activities; whether the family members hire or rent machinery, etc.