GREAT
GENDER-RESPONSIVE
PLANT BREEDING
AND SEED SYSTEMS COURSE

12TH–17TH SEPT 2022 | HYDERABAD, INDIA

26TH–30TH SEPT 2022 | ONLINE

GREAT
About Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT)

GREAT equips researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men originally in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), expanding to South Asia.

GREAT delivers courses to agricultural researchers from sub-Saharan Africa in the theory and practice of gender-responsive research, seeking to increase opportunities for equitable participation and the sharing of benefits from agricultural research and improve the outcomes for smallholder women farmers, entrepreneurs, and farmer organizations. By building and engaging communities of researchers equipped with the skills, knowledge, and support systems to develop and implement gender-responsive projects, GREAT will advance gender-responsiveness as the norm and standard for agricultural research. GREAT is supported with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Phase 1 (2015-2021) was a collaboration between Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda; and Phase 2 (2021-2022), partnership expanded to include the CGIAR GENDER Platform through the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

www.greatagriculture.org
The GREAT vision is based on a premise that agricultural research projects are often designed with little consideration of how the research outputs, technologies and interventions will impact both men and women. Researchers are increasingly expected to design projects that deliver equitable outcomes, yet there is only limited or inappropriate gender training out there for agricultural researchers. Considering gender in research requires thinking differently, and not just applying tools. GREAT will not only teach participants how to use tools, but also how to change the way they look at their research, to be able to identify relevant gender research questions, or potential points of negative or positive impact for women and men, and how to address these.

What we strive for is changing researchers and research systems. If GREAT can change the agricultural research paradigm so that gender is the lens through which all projects are conceptualized...

We have a GREAT vision:

“To equip researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men in sub-Saharan Africa.”
and implemented, research outputs will be more appropriate to the needs of both women and men farmers, and more widely adopted. Women will gain greater visibility and voice in agricultural research design and implementation.

All of this would culminate in increased benefits from agricultural research for men, women and children together.

The challenge in developing truly applied gender training courses for agricultural researchers bound GREAT proponents together, building a community of passionate supporters. We are indebted to the many visionary voices that have contributed intellectual input into the development of GREAT, and thank everyone who has generously devoted time, thoughts and resources to the GREAT vision.

Rhetoric around gender-responsive research is not new, but action and evidence is what is lacking. With GREAT intervention, we hope that the usual process of paying lip-service to gender without linking it to concrete commitments of time, budgets and personnel will change. Change is our greatest challenge. We hope you will join us as agents of change to implement this new vision of agricultural research to intelligently design research projects that maximize impact for all.

Thank you for joining the GREAT vision!

Hale Ann Tufan  Margaret Najjingo Mangheni
FIND OUT MORE

GREAT publishes quarterly newsletters, and sends email announcements about new courses. To receive these sign up for our email list at:

tinyurl.com/great-updates

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The latest information about all things GREAT is available online at the GREAT website:

greatagriculture.org

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Learn more about the transformative power of our GREAT custom courses:

tinyurl.com/great-custom

GET IN TOUCH

GREAT is a collaboration between Makerere University and Cornell University. For general questions please email us

✉️ great@cornell.edu

To discuss a custom course for your institution or project, please email Dr. Margaret Najjingo Mangheni (Makerere)

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🌐 www.greatagriculture.org

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Since the first GREAT course in 2016, we’ve trained 296 researchers from 66 institutions and 26 countries.

The participants have come from both national and international research institutions, including:

- AfricaRice
- Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria
- Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA)
- Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe
- Bioversity International
- Busitema University, Uganda
- Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), France
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST), Burkina Faso
- Centre National de Recherche Agronomique (CNRA), Côte d’Ivoire
- CGIAR Excellence in Breeding Platform (EiB)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana
- Crop Breeding Institute, Zimbabwe
- Department of Agricultural Research (DARS)
- Department of Agricultural Research Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi
- Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS)
- Department of Research and Specialist Services, Zimbabwe
- Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR)
- Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria
- Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), India
- Institut d’Economie Rurale (IER), Mali
- Institut de l’Environnement et Recherches Agricoles (INERA), Burkina Faso
- Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi (ISABU)
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD), Cameroon
- Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN)
- Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM)
- Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)
- Institut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique (ITRA)
- International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- International Potato Center (CIP)
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
- Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute (KALRO)
- Lake Chad Research Institute (LCRI), Nigeria
- Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi
• L’Institut Panafricain pour le Développement région Afrique de l’Ouest - Sahel (IPD/AOS)
• Makerere University, Uganda
• Michigan State University
• Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Specialists Services (MoA-DARSS), Eswatini
• Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF), Tanzania
• Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD), Nepal
• Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Climate, Water and Rural Resettlement, Zimbabwe
• Mulungushi University, Zambia
• National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Uganda
• National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Nigeria
• Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)
• Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI)
• SOJAGNON-NGO, Benin
• Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)
• Uganda Christian University
• Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi, Niger
• Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Burkina Faso
• University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin
• University of Zambia
• West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI)
• World Vegetable Center
• Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI)
• Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)
The Gender Responsive Plant Breeding Course has helped me to always use a gender lens in a range of activities including developing product profiles, formulating interventions and writing proposals.

Dr. Ramakrishnan M. Nair
GREAT Fellow, Plant breeding Course (Cohort 4)
Regional Director - South Asia:
Global Plant breeder - Legumes
South Asia/ Central Asia World Vegetable Centre.
Intensive, Applied, Transformative. The GREAT Project is centered around a unique course design.

GREAT courses are not like other gender trainings. We go far beyond gender sensitization, equipping researchers from diverse backgrounds with the skills to design and deliver research projects that result in better adoption, and more equitable and impactful results for the communities they serve.
What is the GREAT Approach?

GREAT courses are designed to make it easier for researchers to incorporate gender into their projects. We demystify gender, and provide social and biophysical scientists the theory, knowledge, tools and analytical approaches they need to bring gender into their research programs in a more grounded, realistic manner. Participants walk away better equipped to work together to increase adoption rates, and deliver equitable results that benefit men, women and children, across different crop value chains.

Theory and Knowledge. GREAT courses are grounded in applied gender theory. Participants learn how to use this knowledge to frame their research appropriately, and put it to work for the communities they serve.

Research Tools. GREAT courses cover mixed methods research, helping researchers select, design and use tools in a holistic, integrated fashion, that will help them learn the needs, desires and constraints of different value chain actors.

Analysis and Implementation. GREAT courses cover quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods, helping research teams unpack key themes and learnings from their field work, and translate these into research that delivers more equitable and effective results.

Whole Cycle Approach. GREAT courses examine gender through each step of the research cycle, from start to finish, helping researchers both better compete for grant funding, and seamlessly integrate gender into their research, from proposal to publication.

Interdisciplinarity. GREAT doesn’t aim to turn biophysical scientists into gender experts, or social scientists into crop breeders. Instead, it equips social and biophysical scientists with the skills and perspective to work better together towards common goals.

GREAT’s unique approach to gender training allows researchers of different backgrounds to work fluidly together, to design, carry out and deliver research projects as integrated teams. This enables more effective project management and development of more inclusive and effective technologies, which leads to better adoption and enhanced outcomes for farmers, value chain actors and consumers – including women, men and children.
“The training has enriched my understanding of the practice of gender inclusion. It is not merely having women and men participating, it is considering the interaction between the two outside of the project, and identifying potential opportunities that we can use to achieve the goals of the project.”

—Aman Bonaventure Omondi
GREAT Fellow, RTB Cohort Course
Epidemiologist, IITA, Burundi
Participants at a glance

- 30 course participants
- 21 men, 9 women
- 18 biophysical scientists, 12 social scientists
- 03 countries; India (17), Bangladesh (9), Nepal (4)
- 10 institutions:
  » 19 from the National Agricultural Research System (NARS)
  » 8 CGIAR
  » 2 Academia
  » 1 Government Ministry

Dr Biswajit Mondal

Biswaajit Mondal is a Scientist from the ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur, India working on chickpea breeding since 2015. His area of research focuses on genetic enhancement of nutritional / grain quality, pre-breeding and wide hybridization in chickpea. He is involved in varietal development and germplasm maintenance/ evaluation programs. He has contributed to development of four desi type (IPC 2011-112, IPCL 4-14, IPC 2007-28, IPC 2010-134) and one kabuli type (IPCK 2013-163) chickpea varieties, as well as three genetic stocks; IPC 2020-198 (with >2 seeds/ pod in 40% pods/ plant), ICC 12315 (tolerant to post emergence herbicide Imazethapyr) & ICC 15925 (heat tolerant) which has been registered with ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. Mondal obtained his PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Indian Agriculture Research Institute, PUSA, New Delhi in 2017; M.Sc. (GPB) from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, India & B.Sc. (Agriculture) from Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. He has no prior gender training.

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Biswa Ranjan Sahoo,

Biswa Ranjan, from India, is currently working with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Gender and Livelihood team and is based in Odisha. Bishwa has a good understanding of social issues of the community gained through experience working in different social development projects aiming at enhancing livelihoods through holistic agriculture and livestock interventions. Bishwa is a rural management postgraduate from Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar.

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Dr Satheesh Naik SJ

Satheesh Naik SJ is a scientist at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research. He has contributed to genetic enhancement of pigeonpea through wide hybridization, varietal and hybrid development approaches. He is the key player in the digitalization of pigeonpea breeding programs of ICAR-IIPR using breeding management system (BMS). Naik graduated from UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India with a PhD on Development of Aerobic Rice Hybrids and awarded degree in 2015 from University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru. He leads several internally and externally funded multidisciplinary projects from ICAR, BMGF, DBT etc. He has published >100 research papers/articles/conference papers/abstracts in leading national/international journals and national conferences.

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Dr Kishor Dahal,

Kishor Dahal is an agriculturalist with expertise in research, education and academic management. Dahal obtained his PhD from CQ University, Australia in table grape production system with an Australia Award scholarship. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Horticulture at Tribhuvan University and provides strategic leadership for IAAS in the capacity of assistant dean (academics) beside his teaching responsibilities. Dahal has won a number of competitive research grants including two from the university grant commission of Nepal. In addition to dozens of research articles in national and international journals, he has served as editor-in-chief of the proceedings of the 10th national seminar on horticulture 2018, and editor in a number of national and international journals. Dahal is interested in innovative research in vegetable breeding, academic administration, policy review and agriculture development.

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Dinesh Jamarkattel

Dineh is currently employed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal. He is an agricultural economist with more than six years of professional experience and works on agricultural value chain development and research initiatives in Nepal. He focuses on the development of agro-commodities value chains, with the goal of enhancing the welfare of Nepalese smallholders and value chain participants in central Nepal. He has previously collaborated with a number of significant Nepali organizations, including various EU, Save the Children, and USAID-funded projects. He has a proven track record in technical publications production, policy support, and business development. Dinesh graduated with a master’s degree in agricultural economics from Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, India in 2016. He previously completed a quick online course on gender that was administered by LASER PULSE, USA.

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B J Giridhar

B J Giridhar, from India, is currently pursuing a PhD at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI) based in New Delhi. He works on impact assessment of government irrigation programmes, and ecosystem services of farm ponds. His research interests include areas in farm management and resource economics. Giridhar obtained his MSc in Agricultural Economics from G B Pant University of Agriculture (GBPUAT) in India, 2018. He has no prior gender training.

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Limon Deb

Limon Deb, from Bangladesh, has been working as a Scientific Officer at Agricultural Economics Division of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) under the Ministry of Agriculture since 2015. He accomplished a B.Sc in Agricultural Economics and M.S in Agricultural Economics (Major in Finance) from Bangladesh Agricultural University in 2012 and 2014, respectively. He obtained MA in Economics (Major in Global Agricultural Economics) from Kangwon National University, South Korea in 2020. Currently his work focuses on perceptions and adaptation strategies of farmers in climatic vulnerable areas, rice market and price analysis, value chain and supply chain analysis, resource-use and technical efficiency of rice farmers, tailoring the rice-breeding program by suggesting appropriate product profiles, etc. He has no prior gender training.

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Md. Hasibur Rahaman Hera,

Hasibur Rahaman Hera, from Bangladesh, has been serving as Scientific Officer in the Plant Pathology Division at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Gazipur, Bangladesh since 2015. He obtained a BSc Agriculture (Honours) in 2011 from Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU), Patuakhali, Bangladesh, and MSc Soil Science in 2013 from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU), Dhaka, Bangladesh. His work focuses largely on rice blast and bacterial leaf blight disease resistant breeding. He also works on molecular detection and virulence analysis of rice diseases, germplasm and advance line screening against rice diseases. He has published his fundamental research papers in several international and national journals. He has no prior gender training.

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Dr Jawahar Lal Jatothu

Jawahar Lal Jatothu, is a Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding), Nodal Officer-Seed Section at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad, India. For the past 10 years, Jawahar has been working in oilseeds, majorly sesame and castor. His work mainly focuses on identification of trait specific accessions with resistance/tolerance to biotic/abiotic stresses in castor and development of elite breeding lines in sesame and seed production of Safflower, Sesame, Sunflower and Castor. He organizes seed production training programmes for different state farmers of India. Jawahar coordinates 35 oilseeds seed hub centers of 9 crops in 16 states of India. His main goal is to improve the livelihood of small and marginal farmers of India. He has no prior gender training.

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Gopal Bhandari,

Gopal Bhandari, from Nepal, is currently employed in the National Maize Research Program, Rampur, Chitwan under Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC). For the past 8 years he has been involved in agricultural research activities focusing largely on seed production, seed testing and certification, support research for varietal release and agronomic biofortification in cereals. His work also includes varietal performances trials at outreach sites, and his goal is to improve livelihoods as well as zinc nutrition in the Mid-hills of Nepal. Gopal obtained his M.Sc. in Entomology from Tribhuvan University in Nepal, 2014 and M.Sc. in Agronomy from Agricultural and Forestry University in Nepal recently in 2022.

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Dr Shubhadeep Roy,

Shubhadeep Roy, from India, is currently employed as scientist in Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and posted at ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He has 12 years of experience in the field of vegetables research and extension activities particularly entrepreneurship development, FPOs, livelihood security of rural mass through vegetable-based enterprises. He is currently involved in five externally funded research projects, and was also involved in a ICAR funded multi institutional research project on livelihood and nutritional security of tribal farm women. Roy obtained his Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi in 2010.

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Dr Nakul Gupta

Nakul Gupta is working in the capacity of scientist in Indian Institute of Vegetable research, Varanasi under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. He obtained his MSc and Ph.D. in Seed Science and Technology from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR), New Delhi, India. He works on vegetable seeds, and handles various projects on varietal/ hybrid seed production of vegetables, seed quality assurance, seed enhancement, seed drying and storage etc. In these projects, he is working on abiotic stress alleviation through seed treatment of nano-particles in vegetables, nano-particles seed coating, seed drying and storage studies with zeolite beads, pollination management through application of nano-based pollinator attractant and honey bee, ovule conversion enhancement in vegetables to get higher seed yield etc. Gupta has published 20 research papers in various national and international journals, more than 80 popular articles/chapters in different manual/ national and international books and compiled 8 technical manuals. During vegetable seed production, he has experienced the role and contribution of women particularly in hybrid seed production of various vegetables, where hand emasculation and pollination is pre-requisite. He has not received any prior training on gender.

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Dr Sayla Khandoker

Sayla, from Bangladesh, works as Scientific officer in the Agricultural Economics Division of Bangladesh agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Gazipur. She has 11 years of research experience in Agricultural Economics, and has been involved in agricultural policy research in partnership with national, regional and international scientists. Her work focuses largely on food and nutrition, agricultural diversification, women empowerment, gender and nutrition linkages, biofortification and environmental issues. Her goal is to improve livelihoods for women farmers, to upgrade women autonomy in household decision making as well as farm management and to achieve nutrition security of the rural households. Sayla obtained a PhD in Agricultural Economics from ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India in May, 2022. The title of her PhD thesis was “Dietary Diversity, Gender and Nutrition Linkages in Bangladesh”. She has no prior gender training but has experience on gender related field level data collection.

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Dr Mst. Sharmin Sultana

Mst. Sharmin Sultana, from Bangladesh, is an Assistant Scientist in the Plant Breeding and Grain Quality, Nutritional Analysis Division at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Bangladesh. She completed her Ph.D. in Food Technology from the University of Malaya in 2019. She has been employed in a Postdoctoral Research Position in Nutrition & Dietetics Dept. University Putra Malaysia from the period 1st October 2019 to 31st December 2020. Sharmin has comprehensive understanding of the modern analytical methods and modification of polysaccharides and/or protein components from cereals or other plant biomass resources. She has no prior gender training.

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Dr Mohammad Zahirul Alam Talukder

Mohammad from Bangladesh is a Senior Scientific Officer in the Plant Breeding Division at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI). He obtained his PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. He has been associated with development of 4 maize hybrid varieties and 2 barley varieties. He has published 25 peer-reviewed research publications in maize genetics, molecular breeding and grain quality. He is doing research on genetic improvement of minor cereals and specialty traits through integrated conventional and molecular breeding approach. His current research work focuses on employing genomic assisted breeding to develop biofortified minor cereal. He is also interested in using marker-assisted selection to develop variety that is resilient to biotic and abiotic stress. His goal is to improve livelihoods for women farmers in Bangladesh as a way to improve family health and wellbeing. He supervises postgraduate students conducting research in genetics and plant breeding. He has no prior gender related training.

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Sumaiya Haque Omy

Sumaiya Haque Omy is a Bangladeshi young scientist currently working at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institution (BARI). She has been working as plant breeder in maize, barley, oat and millet breeding programs for the last 10 years. Her research interest is to making varietal improvement in the high value cereals considering resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Her work largely involves women farmers’ livelihood improvement, and creates opportunity for small scale business. Sumaiya obtained her masters in Plant Sciences from Wageningen University in The Netherlands, 2015. She has never experienced any gender training before.

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Mohammad Washiq Faisal

Washiq Faisal, from Bangladesh, is currently employed by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) as a Research Associate. He attained his master’s degree in Agronomy from Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh. Washiq has been involved in applied agricultural research under the banner of Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to tackle food insecurity through improved nutrient-rich, high-yielding varieties and sustainable agronomic practices for nearly 15 years. He leads an innovative and multi-disciplinary research to focused on the principles of sustainable and ecological intensification in smallholder dominated and tropical agricultural systems in Bangladesh. His current research, among others, focuses on climate-driven epidemiology of two crop diseases, Stemphylium blight (SB) of lentil and leaf rust of wheat in the environments of South Asia. In collaboration with CIMMYT, Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Bangladesh Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), ‘Agvisely’ is an agro-meteorological services tool provides location-specific advice to farmers where Washiq has been studied 25,506 article and identified temperature threshold at different phonological stages for rice, wheat and maize.

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Ajaya Karkee

Ajaya Karkee, from Nepal, is currently employed by the Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), and based in Kathmandu. Karkee has for the past 8 years been involved in plant pathological research, especially on disease resistance, integrated plant diseases management in collaboration with national, regional and international scientists. His work focuses largely on diseases resistance especially on wheat rust. Karkee obtained his M Sc Ag in plant pathology from Tribhuvan University in Nepal, 2012.

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Hasan UZ Zaman Raihan

Hasan Uz Zaman Raihan, from Bangladesh, has been working as a scientist at the Plant Breeding Division of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute since 2012. His research focuses on barley, millets and quinoa breeding in field and controlled conditions. He is interested in managing different biotic and abiotic stress of economically important crops. His major responsibilities are development, planning and execution of research programs and project collaboration with national and international Organizations. Mr. Raihan did MSc Genetics and Plant Breeding from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University in Bangladesh, 2011. He has no prior gender training.

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Anushma P L

Anushma P L, from India, is currently employed by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, based in Bengaluru. For the past 8 years, she has been involved in fruit crop production and her work majorly focuses on high density planting systems and mixed fruit cropping systems for sustainable fruit production. Anushma is currently pursuing her PhD on rapid clonal propagation techniques in guava at Kerala Agricultural University and she has not undergone any gender training.

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Basanti Sarangi

Basanti, from India, currently works as a social scientist at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). She has over five years of working experience in the Development Sector, with proficiency in Program implementation and management, monitoring and evaluation; data analysis, documentation, and report writing among others. She also has experience in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development projects of European Commission. She is currently pursuing a Phd in Rural Management.

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Samit Kumar

Mr. Samit Kumar, from India is an agribusiness professional working with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) as ‘Associate Scientist-Agribusiness & Entrepreneurship Development. He undertakes research, monitoring and learning on women’s agribusiness and entrepreneurship development, with a specific emphasis on FPOs/FPCs. Holds an MBA in Agri-business Management from the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, India. He has over 16 years of work experience with companies like Monsanto, NCDEX, Mahindra & Mahindra, etc. Mr Kumar has successfully led teams and projects related to farmer empowerment, technology commercialization, business incubation, etc. He has worked extensively with the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), startups and entrepreneurs across geography to map their value chain, governance, institutional strength, business behaviour, marketing strategy, operational excellence, supply chain and market linkages. At IRRI he also leads and corroborates research & analysis geared towards methodically improving women's economic empowerment (WEE) outcomes and possibilities. He has no prior gender training.

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Sandeep Kumar G. M.

Sandeep Kumar G.M., from India, is currently working as a scientist (plant pathology), at ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru. His current work is on diagnosis and management of emerging diseases of vegetable crops in India. Further, he is also involved in identification of resistant sources, phytosanitary certification, providing disease management advisories to farmers and training extension functionaries on disease management technologies. His goal is to develop ecologically sustainable and farmer friendly plant health management technologies. Sandeep obtained his M.Sc. from the College of Agriculture Pune in 2007.

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Dr Ramya M J

Ramya M. J. from India, is currently working as Assistant Breeder in Orbi Seeds International Pvt. Ltd. and for her Ph. D Research she collaborated with the Same Company and based in bangalore. Ramya for the past four years working on Muskmelon Breeding. Her work mainly focuses on imparting and identifying fusarium wilt resistant lines for both Indian and world market and also standardizing the seasons for seed production. Main work focus is on development of resistant hybrids by keeping in mind of consumer preference and market suitability. She completed her Ph.D in Seed Science and Technology from University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore in 2022 from India. She has no prior gender training.

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Dr Manoj Kumar Nalla

Manoj Kumar. Nalla, from India, is currently employed by the World Vegetable Center and based at South Asia regional office, Hyderabad. He has been involved in pepper breeding for four years. His primary focus at the World Vegetable Center is crop improvement of the pepper in South Asia. His research interests include elucidating the mechanisms of host resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses, as well as developing improved lines for the sustainable and profitable production of consumer-safe pepper. Manoj Kumar Nalla earned his doctorate in vegetable science at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. During his Ph.D., he studied cytoplasmic male sterility in Capsicum.

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Dr Niyati Singaraju

Niyati Singaraju, from India, is currently working as an associate scientist in gender research at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), based in New Delhi. She has been involved in research projects on gender and agri-food systems focusing specifically on research to improve climate and livelihood resilience for women farmers and agri-business entrepreneurs. She is also engaged in a project aided by the World Bank with the Odisha government that focuses on testing and promoting climate-resilient seed varieties of rice, pulses, and oilseeds. This research project also aims to strengthen women’s entrepreneurship capacity in seed systems. Niyati obtained her PhD in Development Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. As part of her doctoral research, Niyati worked on gender dynamics in rice farming in India. She has no prior training in the science of plant breeding.

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Prof. Virendra Kamalvanshi

Virendra Kamalvanshi is an academician in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. As an academic practitioner in agricultural economics, his aim is to facilitate students’ understanding related to core agricultural economics issues through customised tools, techniques and practical exposure. He has more than 17 years of professional experience in teaching, research and extension in the field of Agricultural Economics. In context to gender-responsive plant breeding and seed systems, he has done a project entitled “Identifying actionable entry points for more gender intentional, farmer responsive product profiles for wheat target environments and practical steps for future improvement of these practices” in eastern Uttar Pradesh, India in collaboration with Professor Conny Almekinders, Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University, Netherlands.

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Dr Ramya K T

Ramya K.T, from India, is currently employed by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research based in Hyderabad. Ramya works in breeding cereals and oilseeds in partnership with national, regional and international scientists. Her work focuses largely on improvement of oil quality and yield and her goal is to improve livelihood for women farmers and create value chain for sesame. Ramya obtained her PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, 2015. She has no prior gender training.

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Sradhanjali Mohapatra

Sradhanjali Mohapatra from Odisha, is currently employed by the NIRMAN under ICARDA program and based in Bhubaneswar. Sradhanjali has for the past 5 years been involved in pulse breeding and foundation seed program under OSSC and OSSOPCA. Her work focuses on improved seed varieties are available in farmers and to improve livelihoods for women farmers in Odisha as a way to improve family health and well-being. She has no prior gender training.

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Dr Sharmistha Ghosal

Sharmistha from Bangladesh, is currently employed by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) based in Gazipur near Dhaka. Sharmistha has worked for the past 15 years as a rice breeder with national and international scientists. Her present goal is to develop variety for stress tolerance ecosystem like flood prone environment based on product profiles, developed based on consumer preferences. She is also working on the development of premium quality rice. She obtained her PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from University of Philippines Los Bannos, in Philippines, 2019. She has no prior gender-responsive breeding training.

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“[GREAT has] this unique combination of qualitative trainers, quantitative trainers and even the analytical thinking is actually quite unique....dealing with many teams over time, they’ve gained a competency around contextualizing gender issues that is quite unique that we should tap to as a community in development.

“Work with the GREAT trainers so that they understand your project and then now they can contextualize the training to fit your needs. There is a lot of value.”

—Esther Njuguna-Mungai
GREAT Client, Tropical Legumes III Custom Course
Gender Specialist, ICRISAT, Kenya
True mainstreaming.

Designed for projects and institutions, our custom courses bring GREAT to you.

With capacity building to create a critical mass, GREAT custom courses allow your organization or project to train larger groups of researchers in a cost-effective manner, helping effective gender-responsive research become the norm, not the exception. We’ll work with you to design the course that fits your needs.
Find out what GREAT can bring to your institution or project

Is your institution or project ready to make effective gender-responsive research the norm? GREAT custom courses are a cost-effective approach to providing high quality, applied gender training to larger groups of researchers.

This investment in researcher capacity can provide short- and long-term returns through enhanced collaboration between social and biophysical researchers, increased grant competitiveness through more informed project planning and budgeting, more successful varietal adoption through greater understanding of what all community members’ needs, and better outcomes for men, women and children.

GREAT custom courses have key elements of the GREAT cohort course, i.e., they target scientists conducting ongoing research into which they will immediately apply the gender skills they have acquired; a mix of social scientists and biophysical scientists; and, they are split into two phases:

**Phase 1:** Five to six days of face-to-face or online training in applied gender theory, mixed methods data collection and analysis plans, and communications

**Phase 2:** Two months of application of skills acquired in participants’ on-going research projects with online virtual trainer support/mentoring

“My mindset prior to this training was that it will be either impossible or too difficult to relate specific breeding programs or activities to desired societal goals, considering different market segments and agro-ecologies. However, the GREAT course has generated impressive results by converging social scientists, breeders and gender specialists to discuss and understand a common language. With the rigorous training we had this week, I have a better understanding of the need to integrate gender into our breeding activities from pre-breeding to variety release stages. This will really help me come up with different crop varieties that will satisfy different market segments and increase the adoption rate of the future varieties. This kind of workshop is going to transform African plant breeding programmes and make Africa more food secure.”

– Umar Mohammad Lawan
GREAT Fellow, Tropical Legumes III Custom Course
Plant Breeder, Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria
We offer both physical and virtual courses
Gender-responsive plant breeding and Seed Systems Course Team

GREAT’s training team draws from a diverse team of experts, and brings deep expertise in areas including plant breeding, gender theory, community development, sociology, communications, monitoring and evaluation, participatory research, rural development, etc.

Prof. Margaret Najjingo Mangheni

Prof. Margaret Najjingo Mangheni is an Associate Professor of agricultural extension at Makerere University in Uganda. With over 30 years of experience, Margaret’s expertise spans in a range of areas including design and delivery of experiential and transformative training programs; higher education curriculum development and delivery; project administration and management; agricultural strategy and policy formulation; research and publications in gender responsive agriculture, extension systems and approaches, among others. She serves on Boards of various organizations including the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). She is the co-Principal investigator of GREAT. At this course, Margaret will provide overall leadership as well as deliver sessions on Principles of gender responsive agricultural research and seed systems; and mixed methods research design.

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Prof. Hale Ann Tufan

Prof. Hale Ann Tufan is an Associate Professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science with an adjunct appointment in the Department of Global Development at Cornell University. In her work with plant breeders, social scientists, and research institutions, Tufan explores how agricultural research processes and outputs can positively contribute to gender equality and social inclusion. Through her research to develop methods and approaches she enables gender analysis in agricultural innovation, while advocating for inclusive agricultural research by challenging power and norms in the research ecosystem. She is currently the priority setting co-lead of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Crop Improvement, principal investigator of the Gender Responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT) project, principal investigator of Muhogo Bora: Cassava for All, survey division lead of NextGen Cassava, and gender research lead of the Feed the Future Insect-Resistant Eggplant Partnership.

Tufan brings a multidisciplinary background to her research spanning Ph.D level research in molecular plant pathogen interactions, plant breeding with CIMMYT, international agricultural research for development program management, and gender research and capacity development across sub-Saharan Africa. At this course, Hale will deliver a keynote session on the linkage between social science and agricultural technology design.

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Dr Ranjitha Puskur is a socio-economist specializing in agricultural innovation systems and gender. Her research is focused on mobilizing science and knowledge for innovation to result in pro-women and pro-poor developmental outcomes in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. In her career, spanning 20 years in CGIAR at IWMI, ILRI, WorldFish and IRRI. She has led gender research programs including in the CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems which for the first time in CGIAR focused on gender-transformative approaches and led to new thinking in the system. She has led work on gender-responsive breeding and seed systems and women’s entrepreneurship at IRRI, in her role as the leader of IRRI’s research program on Gender and Livelihoods. She leads the Evidence Module of the CGIAR GENDER Platform and leads work across CGIAR to synthesise, generate and communicate evidence on key thematic areas to influence policy, investments and practice. She leads the Work Package on equitable seed systems in the OneCGIAR initiative ‘SeEdQUAL’ and the Work Package on ‘Socio-technical Innovation Bundles for women’s empowerment and resilience’ in HER+. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from IARI in New Delhi, India. At this course, Ranjitha will deliver courses on Market and gender-responsive plant breeding and seed systems.

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Dr Amon Ashaba Mwiine

Dr Amon Ashaba Mwiine is a Lecturer in the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University. He holds a PhD (Sociology) from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Dr. Mwiine currently teaches Men Studies: Masculinities and Development; Gender and Sexuality and Feminist theory. His research interests are in Critical studies of men and Masculinity; ethnographic and narrative forms of qualitative research; gender and politics. Dr Mwiine holds a 2-year fellowship in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University (2019-2021), supported by Andrew W. Mellon foundation. His research project interrogates ways in which feminist activism encounters notions on men and masculinities and the implications these dialogic interactions have for critical feminist theory and practice. At this course, Amon will facilitate courses on Women empowerment and masculinities, qualitative gender research as well as Gender Transformative Approaches in Agriculture.

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Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo

Grace Bantebya-Kyomuhendo is a Professor of Women and Gender Studies; and advocate for gender equality, social transformation and respect for women's rights. She is a distinguished social anthropologist with a wealth of experience in gender/ feminist and social norms research and training. Grace has been a GREAT trainer for the last three years and has also trained other groups in gender analysis and mainstreaming. Prof. Bantebya recent research projects include the “Whole University Approach: Kicking Sexual Harassment out of Higher Education Institutions in Uganda” (KISH Project 2019 to date) and “From Promises to Actions: Shifting Gender Norms and Public Perceptions about Unpaid Care Work in Workplaces and Families in Uganda.” (2021 to date) She has published widely, most recent ones include Grace B Kyomuhendo et al (2021) Teenage Pregnancy and Social Inequality: An impediment to achieving schooling for all in Uganda Routledge; Grace B Kyomuhendo et al (2018) Empowering adolescent girls in developing countries: gender justice and norm change Routledge. At this course, Grace will facilitate sessions on Concepts of gender and social difference, personal reflections on gender as well as conceptualization of gender.

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Dr Amrita Datta

Dr Amrita Datta is an Assistant Professor of Development Studies at the Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. Amrita’s research interests are in the areas of migration and mobilities, agrarian change and rural development, women’s work, and gender and development. Amrita’s forthcoming book, Migration and Development in India: The Bihar Experience (Routledge), based on empirical research, studies out-migration from rural Bihar in the context of neoliberal economic development in India. Amrita has published in several edited volumes and journals such as the Journal of Development Studies, Asian Journal of Women’s Studies, Children’s Geographies, Indian Journal of Labour Economics and the Economic and Political Weekly. Amrita has a PhD in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and an M.Phil in the same subject from the University of Cambridge. At this course, Amrita will facilitate a session on Why gender matters in agriculture with a focus on South Asia.

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Dr Maria Nassuna Musoke

Dr Dr. Maria G Nassuna-Musoke is a lecturer of Veterinary reproduction, Obstetrics, Gynecology & Assisted Reproductive Technologies at Makerere university. She has traversed the disciplinary boundaries to training, coaching, processes facilitation, mentoring and research. She equips and empowers professionals of Agricultural Research & Development, Higher education institutions and organizations working in Agricultural Rural development with leadership and management skills through “personal masterly and soft skills. Maria is a certified Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) facilitator and trainer and trains for the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and for the Gender Responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT). At University, she supervises PhD, Masters and under-graduate student research with interest in efficient and effective agricultural production systems. She received a grant from the Sida Funded AgriFoSe, to synthesize science and reproduce a synthesis in a format that can be used to support policy and improve practices within the agricultural sector. At this course Maria will facilitate sessions on Interdisciplinary research, Introduction to Theory of change, and Communicating gender to different audiences.

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Dr Hom Gartaula

Dr Hom Gartaula is a Social Scientist working as a Theme Leader for the gender and social inclusion research at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). He is an interdisciplinary social scientist specializing in gender and social inclusion, youth, agriculture, climate change and food security. His research focuses on gendered dimensions of food security, on-farm conservation of crop genetic resources, farmers’ indigenous knowledge and its transmission, participatory technology development, farmer-scientist research collaboration and governance, and labor out-migration and its implications for small-scale agriculture. Gartaula holds a PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology, with a disciplinary orientation on Sociology and Anthropology of Development, and an MSc in Knowledge Management and Social Change from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. At this GREAT course, Hom will facilitate a session on gender and resilience as well as share case studies on women empowerment in agriculture programs.

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Dr Eva Weltzien

Dr Eva Weltzien is a freelance consultant whose research focused on the effective use of sorghum, pearl millet and barley genetic resources for variety development and seed systems that best meet women and men farmers’ needs in dryland areas. She coordinated research on sorghum improvement in West-Africa for ICRISAT for 17 years, focusing on methodologies for participatory plant breeding and enhancing local seed systems. In 2015 she was awarded the ‘Justus von Liebig Prize for World Nutrition’, jointly with her husband Fred Rattunde.

She received her Doctorate degree from the Technical University of Munich, Germany in collaboration with ICARDA in Aleppo/Syria, after studies at the University of Hohenheim, Germany, and Iowa State University, USA

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Ms Salome Yesudas

Ms Salome Yesudas, from India, holds a master’s degree in Food and Nutrition. She worked more than a decade with bio diverse farmers especially with women at Farm science center managed by Deccan development Society located in a small town Zaheerabad in India, then associated as Subject expert Gender in Water and Nutrition at FAO national project. She has also worked on many action research projects in collaboration with international agencies like FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, IDRC – Canada, IIED - UK, MCGILL University Canada, Institute of French Pondicherry etc. Life member of the Nutrition society of India and served on the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) Task Force on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems and Nutrition for 10 years (2001-2012).

Traveled extensively throughout India (27 states out of 29 states) 25 countries to participate in international events / workshops / conferences. She has published books, manuals, articles and also edited many documentary films related to gender, nutrition and agriculture.

At this course, Salome will facilitate a session on collecting gender data as well as share practical tips for the fieldwork in South Asia and field visit etiquette.

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Mr Godfrey Kayobyo

Mr Godfrey Kayobyo is a socio-economist based in Uganda, who works as a consultant with Nkoola Institutional Development Associates (NIDA). His work has included research briefs and impact assessments for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Opportunity International, Uganda’s national agricultural advisory services (NAADS), CTA and others. At this course, Godfrey will facilitate a session on Gender-responsive Theory of Change, Monitoring, learning and Evaluation as well as provide external monitoring, learning and evaluation support.

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Dr Losira Nasirumbi Sanya

Dr Losira Nasirumbi Sanya is a result oriented social and development research professional with over 10 years of extensive strategic, adaptive and applied research experience. She holds an MS in Agricultural Economics and a BA in Social Sciences and a PhD in Agricultural and Rural Innovation, all from Makerere University, Uganda. She has attained further professional training in Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D); designing and managing multi-stakeholder processes for rural innovation; value chains and market-oriented research; and Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment of R&D Investments in Agriculture. At this course Losira will be in charge of moderating the virtual aspect of the course.

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Mr Rao, S V Prasad

Mr SV Prasad Rao had worked as Senior Administrative Officer in the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Telangana, India, for 37 years and retired in May 2022. During his tenure at ICRISAT, he was involved in organizing 6-months In-service Training Programs to African Participants from 1992 to 2005 that was conducted every year. He also assisted in organizing international training courses and workshops at Nepal and Sri Lanka. He had a wide range of experience in providing administrative support to training courses, workshops, seminars etc., organized at ICRISAT, Patancheru, regularly. In addition, under administrative direction, he directed, managed, supervised and coordinated the activities and operations of the Administrative division within an assigned department including purchasing, budgeting, accounting, personnel, information technology, and administrative support programs and services; supervised and directed assigned professional and administrative support staff; coordinated assigned activities with other divisions, departments and outside agencies; and provided highly responsible and complex administrative support to the department Director. At this course, he is providing administrative and logistic support to this course as a Consultant.

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Ms Elizabeth Asiimwe

Ms Elizabeth Asiimwe is an agricultural extension professional, works at Makerere University as the project manager for the Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation (GREAT) project. Her work experience ranges from promotion of agricultural inputs/agribusiness in the private sector, project administration management, research and communication work with interests in gender, ICTS, communication, as well as human nutrition. Her background training is in Agricultural Extension Education and Project Management. Prior to working at Makerere, Elizabeth worked as a research assistant on the Sustainable Intensification for Cropping Systems project at IITA Uganda. At this course, Elizabeth is in charge of technical and logistical management as well supporting delivery of some sessions.

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Dr. Deborah Rubin, Cultural Practice
Dr. May Sengendo, Makerere University
Dr. Margaret Smith, Cornell University
Providing access to curated resources for gender-responsive agricultural research

Staying Connected:

The GREAT Quarterly Newsletter

Four times per year GREAT sends out an email newsletter to hundreds of recipients around Sub-Saharan Africa and globally, with updates from the project, spotlights on upcoming events and important resources, and the latest blog entries. If you’d like to stay in the know, and be aware of what’s new in the gender and agricultural research world, sign up to get the newsletter delivered to your inbox, too!

See previous newsletters: [https://www.greatagriculture.org/content/news](https://www.greatagriculture.org/content/news)
To sign up visit: [tinyurl.com/great-updates](http://tinyurl.com/great-updates)
Finding Resources: The GREAT Zotero Group

Complementing the training and mentoring components of the project, GREAT also curates a collection of gender resources for agricultural researchers. This resource is freely available to anyone via the GREAT Zotero Research Group: tinyurl.com/great-zotero

Resources cover gender-responsiveness for agricultural research for a broad range of crops and come from a diverse array of sources, including articles from GREAT trainers and the broader GREAT Community of Practice (CoP), as well as a collection of essential resources for gender-responsive agricultural research.
A community dedicated to creating more impactful research

With a growing network of fellows, trainers, and practitioners across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, the Community of Practice (CoP) is the true spirit of GREAT, connecting the GREAT family across disciplines, roles, institutions and national borders. Through the CoP GREAT fellows collaborate on project proposals, peer review articles, and share resources and job opportunities. Beyond this, the CoP brings the transformative power of the GREAT course into institutions across Africa, laying the groundwork for institutional change.

“That no one is an island” is a common African adage, with the implication that nobody can achieve anything by working on their own. Multi-disciplinary research is key to achieving the GREAT vision of enabling researchers to undertake more inclusive research projects in order to create effective agricultural systems that address the priorities of men and women throughout Africa.”

— Bernice Waweru
GREAT Fellow, Cereal Grains Cohort Course
Molecular Breeder, KALRO, Kenya
Welcome to the family.

The GREAT CoP connects you to an international network of agricultural researchers.

Making gender-responsive research the norm takes more than just training researchers, it takes changing research and cultural norms within respective fields. Through the GREAT CoP our Fellows are able to draw on the group’s expertise, share resources, provide peer review, and collaborate on proposals.

The GREAT Community of Practice Advisory Board

**Bright Asante**
CSIR-CRI, Ghana

**Nchimunya Bbebe**
Mulungushi University, Zambia

**Williams Esuma**
NaCCRI, Uganda

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**Aman Bonaventure Omondi**
Bioversity International, Burundi

**Hellen Opie**
NARO, Uganda

**Almamy Sylla**
IER / ICRISAT, Mali

**Bernice Waweru**
KALRO, Kenya
Diversity is our strength.

GREAT brings together experts from a wide array of disciplinary backgrounds and professional experience.

Having such a rich diversity of knowledge, skills and experiences together on one team allows us to offer GREAT course participants a truly unique training, and provide top-notch mentoring and support during the field research portion of the GREAT program.
The GREAT External Project Advisory Committee

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GREAT receives monitoring, learning and evaluation support from Aline Impact, Ltd. UK