Gender Advisory Board

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development

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Origins and history

- Established as a result of the Gender Working Group recommendations to CSTD of 1995 in conjunction with the Fourth World Conference on Women
- Male commission members with female expert advisors
- Expert consultation process which produced substantive results: 7 “Transformative Action Areas”
- Report and recommendations accepted by ECOSOC in 1995.

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Transformative Action Areas

1. Gender equity in science and technology education
2. Providing enabling measures for addressing gender inequalities in scientific and technological careers
3. Making science responsive to the needs of society: the gender dimension
4. Making the science and technology decision-making process more "gender aware"
5. Relating better with "local knowledge systems"
6. Addressing ethical issues in science and technology: the gender dimension
7. Improving the collection of gender disaggregated data for policy makers.
8. Equal opportunity for entry and advancement into larger-scale science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and innovation systems

Follow up to the UNCSTD Recommendations

1. Creation of the Gender Advisory Board (GAB) with a mandate as an advisory body to the CSTD
2. Members from Brazil, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sudan, UK, USA
3. Established Regional Secretariats
4. Assisted national committees
5. Inputs into CSTD panels and reports
6. Collaborations with UNESCO, TWAS, and OWSDW

Some lessons learned:

- Women in science and science for women
- Who are the stakeholders?
- Evidence based decision making
- Importance of involving men

Policy Framework

- Beijing Platform for Action
- World Conference on Science, 1999
- Gender equality and the MDGs
- 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which agreed that:

  equal access to education, training and science and technology empowers women and girls in the context of global economic and technological changes and promotes development, all human rights, human rights education and learning at all levels, as well as gender equality, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and the eradication of poverty.

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Science for Women

- Impact of technical change on women's lives affects ALL areas of all STI for development
  - Environment, health, industry…as well as STI
  - Requires the action of policy and programming in all ministries and areas of STI for development

1. Work with the CSTD Secretariat to address the women for science issues with a report **:** Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology and Innovation (mentioned yesterday)
2. GenderInSITE

Applying a Gender Lens to STI for Development

- Five pivotal development issues in which STI can improve the lives of women and increase development:
  - Food security, agriculture and nutrition
  - Water
  - Energy
  - Transport
  - Women's livelihoods and income-generating activities

Food security, agriculture and nutrition

- Women are responsible for 60-90% of agricultural production in the developing world (paid and unpaid)
  - Fifty to 80 per cent of non-agricultural employment is informal,
  - In some sub-Saharan countries, virtually all unpaid work of women is agriculture-based
- They have low access to resources (credit, technology, information, training and education) for increasing their outputs
  - little support to move from subsistence farming to higher-value, market-oriented production.
  - A study of farm credit schemes in Africa found that women's share of loans was 10%

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Food security, agriculture and nutrition

- If women had the same access to productive resources as men*, they could increase yields on their farms by 20–30 percent.* This could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5–4 percent*, reducing global hunger by 12–17 percent.*
- Technology needs: improved small-scale agricultural implements; food processing, preservation and storage technologies

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Water

- In times of decreasing water availability, women use water for cooking, cleaning, health and hygiene, and if they have access to land, for growing food.
- Women's access is limited
- Women's multiple uses of water are overlooked
- Women's uses and concerns are often overlooked in water projects

Technology needs:

- Clean water for household use
- Water for crop irrigation
- Decision making in community water use

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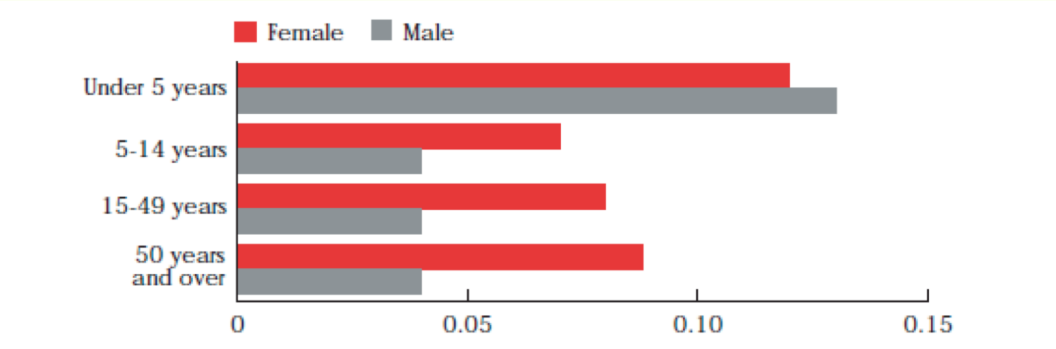
Energy

- High dependence on biomass for indoor cooking: health and environmental concerns
- Increasing distances to fetch fuelwood (and water): health, education and safety concerns
- Reliable and efficient lighting and use of electricity

Technology Needs: clean cooking fuels; recognition of role as active agents in use, production and selling of energy



Acute Respiratory Infection Central Kenya

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Transport

In Tanzania, women spend four times as much time on transport-related tasks as men.

1. Gender trends of transport users
   - More frequent trips during the day
   - More burdened by children and parcels – market goods, agricultural produce, etc.
   - Need it for collecting fuel and water
   - Transport vehicles and systems designed for men
   - Security issues
2. Women and men are marketers of products
   - Transport of market goods : barrows, bicycles
3. Transport workers – TVET and STI education

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Women's livelihoods and income-generating activities

- Women tend to have less access to decent work and regular or full-time employment
- Gender differences in wage gaps are large and in favour of males
- This is a critical entry point into innovation systems for women in most of the developing world: at the micro and small enterprise levels, it is a major form of income generation for women around the world

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Women's livelihoods and income-generating activities

Technology Needs:

- Technical assistance: technologies to improve output and quality;
- Access to reliable basic infrastructure
- Credit and venture capital
- Capacity building and enterprise support
- Protection of women's IPRs

M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

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Interconnections

- All of these issues are interconnected – influencing and influenced by global environment and development challenges
- Holistic integrated approaches will be most successful and achieve the greatest range of results

Gender, water, rural livelihoods and drip irrigation in Nepal

- Replaced manual irrigation, with effects on gender roles, work load, household food, nutrition intake and gender perceptions in relation to: vegetable production, the economics of the technology, and its adoption
- Drip-irrigated vegetable production a female-dominated activity in production and marketing
- Project formed self-help groups, provided technology, and established vegetable collection centres

Interconnected and reinforcing results:

- Increase in total household food availability, with Improved vegetable and dairy production leading to increased nutrition
- Improved access to and control over resources by women, => increased status and involvement in family and community decision making
- Reduced workloads/time in fetching water
- Economic empowerment: incomes increased; employment creation; local economy supported
- Collective empowerment: self-help and credit groups

GenderInSITE

- Promoting the awareness of decision makers at all levels that *STI for development policy and programs will be more effective, equitable and sustainable when the gender lens is applied* – that is, when they reflect the vision, aims, concerns, perspective, knowledge and abilities of both women and men.

- There is understanding, but many policy makers are not aware of the impact – hence the need for a campaign to demonstrate the benefits of a gender assessment of all policies in STI and development -> Important to understand policies as well as issues

- Women in science: science for women and men

- In the 8 Transformative Action Areas + ICT

CSW Agreed Conclusions

Para 23:

- compilation and sharing of good practice examples and lessons learned in mainstreaming a gender perspective into science, technology and innovation policies and programmes, with a view to replicating and scaling up successes and in this regard looks forward to any steps or actions that could be taken by the relevant United Nations bodies*, especially the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.*

Mandate of the GAB

Thank you.