



SECURING  
WOMEN'S  
RESOURCE RIGHTS  
THROUGH GENDER  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
APPROACHES



Country Virtual Learning Exchange Workshop Series

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*Insights from*

**UGANDA**



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#### ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

### SECURING WOMEN'S RESOURCE RIGHTS THROUGH GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

In 2020, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) invited a consortium of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to work with selected IFAD projects to promote and strengthen women's land rights through the integration of gender transformative approaches (GTAs) in rural development interventions by improving policies, tools and practices.

<https://www.cifor.org/wlr>

[https://www.ifad.org/en/gender\\_transformative\\_approaches](https://www.ifad.org/en/gender_transformative_approaches)

#### INITIATIVE CONTACTS



**Anne M. Larson,**  
Theme lead for Governance,  
Equity and Wellbeing

[a.larson@cifor-icraf.org](mailto:a.larson@cifor-icraf.org)



**Marlène Elias,**  
Gender Lead

[marlene.elias@cgiar.org](mailto:marlene.elias@cgiar.org)



Investing in rural people

**Tshering Choden,**  
Technical Specialist  
for Gender and Social  
Inclusion, Gender Team

[t.choden@ifad.org](mailto:t.choden@ifad.org)

**Rikke Grand Olivera,**  
Lead Technical Specialist,  
Tenure Team

[r.olivera@ifad.org](mailto:r.olivera@ifad.org)

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## WEBINAR SERIES

The Country Virtual Learning Exchange Workshop Series served as a platform to share insights and lessons learnt from this initiative, highlighting research from each country project on securing women's resource rights through GTAs. The aim was to showcase the diversity of the projects' implementation, fostering cross-learning and highlighting initiatives and lessons from each country's efforts in securing women's resource rights through GTAs.



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WEBINAR LEAD



Emily Gallagher  
CIFOR ICRAF

# Webinar Overview

The webinar featured four panels exploring critical aspects of gender equality in land rights in Uganda. Beginning with an overview of the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP), speakers highlighted efforts to empower women and youth through oil palm cultivation and Gender Transformative Approaches (GTAs).

The discussion then delved into the challenges faced by women in accessing land rights and the implementation of legal empowerment clinics. Insights were shared on the social, cultural, and economic impacts of the NOPP, emphasizing the need for holistic interventions. The webinar also explored the collaborative process of co-creating and testing GTA tools, including Legal Empowerment Clinics and Masculinities Training. Finally, the importance of national and global learning exchanges in advancing women's land rights advocacy and policy reform was underscored. Throughout the webinar, speakers emphasized the need for multisectoral collaboration and continuous community engagement.

## Panel on National Oil Palm Project (NOPP)

The discussion began with Mohamed El-Ghazaly, representing IFAD Uganda, providing a comprehensive overview of the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP), emphasizing its focus on enhancing smallholder farmers' incomes and empowering women and youth. The project, spanning ten years with a significant financial investment, operates through two main components: oil palm cultivation and Gender Transformative Approaches (GTAs). Plaxeda Sunday, from NOPP Uganda, delved into the implementation strategies of GTAs, highlighting the project's commitment to ensuring women and youth's involvement in decision-making processes. She emphasized the importance of targeting 50% of project beneficiaries as women and youth, aiming to uplift them economically and enhance their community participation.

During the Q&A session, speakers addressed challenges faced in implementing GTAs, particularly resistance from men entrenched in patriarchal societies. Plaxeda shared insights on overcoming this resistance by engaging households holistically, emphasizing the benefits of GTAs for entire households rather than solely focusing on women. The discussion underscored the importance of community-level engagement and the positive impacts observed when men understand the broader benefits of gender equality initiatives.

SPEAKERS



Mohamed El-Ghazaly  
IFAD Uganda



Plaxeda Sunday  
NOPP Uganda



# Panel on Gender, Land, and Resource Rights in Uganda

SPEAKERS



Lillian Achola  
LANDnet Uganda



Alice Tibazalika  
Association of Ugandan Professional Women in Agriculture & Environment



Concepta Mukasa  
Association of Ugandan Professional Women in Agriculture & Environment

During the panel discussion on Gender, Land, and Resource Rights in Uganda, Lillian Achola from LANDnet Uganda delved into the intricate challenges faced by women in accessing land rights despite existing legal frameworks. She emphasized the stark contrast between legal provisions and their implementation, attributing this gap to deeply entrenched cultural norms and women's limited legal literacy. Achola highlighted that while Uganda boasts various legal frameworks, including constitutional provisions for gender equality and land ownership rights, the practical realization of these rights remains elusive in patriarchal societies. Moreover, she underscored the importance of initiatives like legal empowerment clinics in advancing recognition and protection of women's land and resource rights.

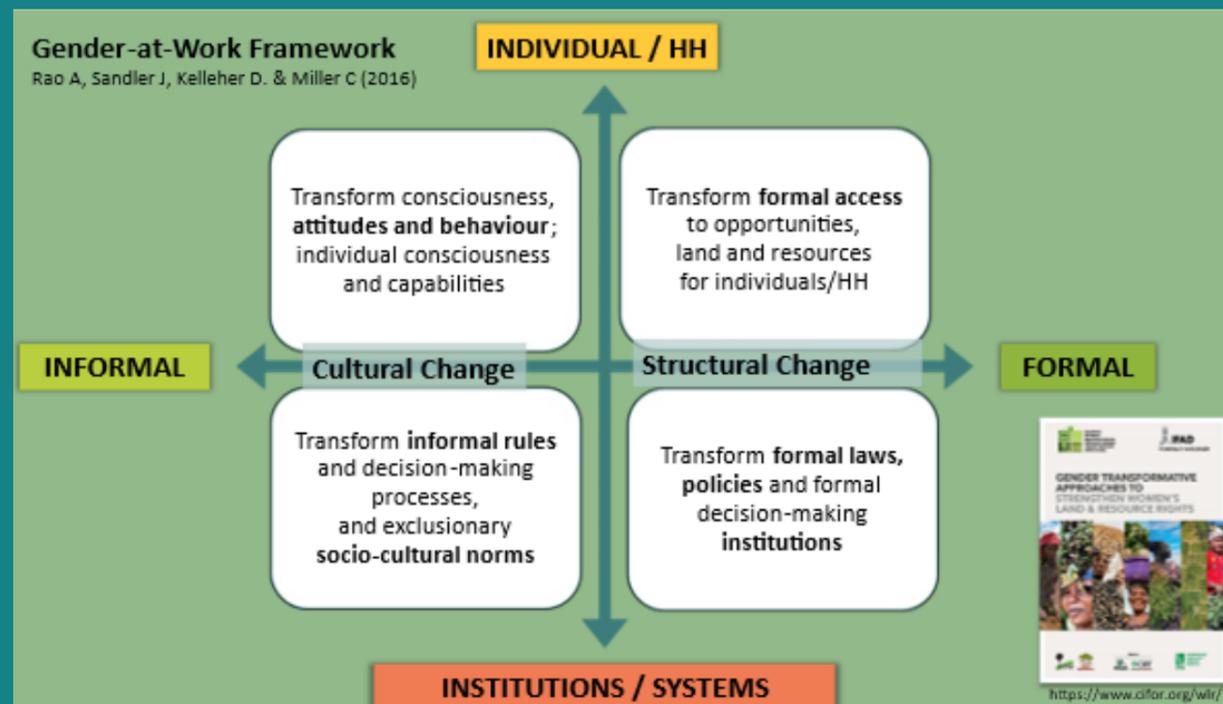
Alice Tibazalika, representing the Association of Ugandan Professional Women in Agriculture & Environment, provided insights into land tenure systems in areas designated for the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP).

- Types of land tenure systems in NOPP areas: Private titled (Mailo) land, Kabaka (Kingdom) land, Bibanja (tenants)
- Challenges in accessing land: land shortages, lack of capital, land conflicts, and distance to land offices.
- 
- Additional challenges for women: lack of inheritance rights, low literacy, informal marriages, and cultural norms
- Barriers faced by women in exercising land rights: increased cost of land, restrictive environment laws, and refusal by landowners.

Concepta Mukasa, also from the Association of Ugandan Professional Women in Agriculture & Environment, delved into the social, cultural, and economic impacts of the NOPP. Mukasa described the mixed outcomes stemming from the project, citing improvements in infrastructure, employment opportunities, and sustainable incomes as positive effects. However she underscored some of the land and resource transformations which have fundamentally changed livelihoods. Mukasa emphasized the disproportionate impact of these changes on women, who often find themselves marginalized in economic empowerment efforts and excluded from decision-making processes. Moreover, she discussed interventions like Alternative Livelihoods and Household Mentoring aimed at mitigating the adverse effects on vulnerable households, particularly women and youth.



The co-creation process extensively engaged participants in brainstorming sessions using the Gender-at-Work Framework, a valuable tool utilized during the GTA workshops.



This framework facilitated the categorization of interventions based on their target levels, ranging from individual/household to formal structures such as law and policy. The workshops revealed a predominant focus on individual and household-level interventions, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach to drive societal change effectively. The results of the workshops culminated in the identification of key recommendations for a GTA toolbox intended for piloting. These recommendations underscored the importance of scalability, gender transformation, and rural empowerment in ensuring the sustainability and inclusivity of GTA initiatives within the NOPP project.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GTA TOOLBOX



### SUSTAINABILITY

- Household level approaches are very effective, but costly and unsustainable over the long term
- Vulnerable households are benefitting, but low to middle income households have no pathway to participate
- **Need scalable and inclusive approach**



### GENDER TRANSFORMATION

- Women (and men) have benefitted as oil palm smallholders, from alternative livelihoods, and through GALS
- GTAs have disrupted gender norms through economic empowerment of women
- Men's participation has not been sustained
- **Need to rebalance gender transformative approach**



### RURAL TRANSFORMATION

- Household visioning journeys (aspirations) must align with district oil palm development strategies
- Knowledge of the estate farms and smallholder schemes, and opportunities for social inclusion remain low
- **Need legal literacy training to effectively participate**

## PANELISTS



**Stella Rose Akutui**  
LANDnet Uganda

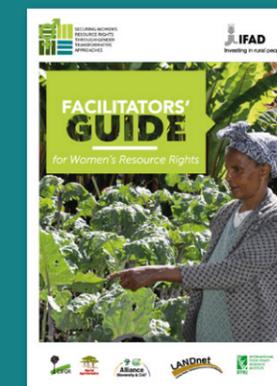


**Dr. Augustin Kimonyo**  
Equimondo Fellow  
CIFOR-ICRAF Consultant

The panel on Co-Creation and Testing of Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) Tools offered a comprehensive overview of the collaborative process involved in developing and assessing these tools, tailored to local contexts.

## TWO GTAS CO-DESIGNED WITH NOPP STAKEHOLDERS:

We had Florence Kabanda from Local Government provide the testimony from **Buvuma District.**



### LEGAL EMPOWERMENT CLINICS

Stella Rose Akutui, from LANDnet Uganda, underscored the pivotal role of Legal Empowerment Clinics in advancing women's land rights within the NOPP project. These clinics, she explained, serve as platforms for raising awareness and promoting equitable access to land and natural resources. Akutui outlined the modular curriculum of the clinics, covering topics such as human rights, land and resource rights, land tenure systems, natural resource management, sustainable land use and management, and dispute resolution. The feedback from communities, particularly from Buvuma District, highlighted the urgent need for legal literacy and empowerment initiatives, given widespread ignorance of land rights among men and women.



### MASCULINITIES TRAINING

Dr. Augustin Kimonyo, an Equimondo Fellow and CIFOR-ICRAF Consultant, delved into the Masculinities Training programme aimed at engaging men in promoting gender equality. He elucidated the rationale behind the training, based on findings from gender analyses, emphasizing the importance of addressing resistance from men in supporting gender empowerment initiatives. Kimonyo highlighted key tools used in the training, including discussions on positive masculinities and exploring paternal legacies. Boaz Mulindwa, Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Trust, provided feedback from Kalangala District, which showcased the transformative impact of masculinities training, fostering greater male involvement in household decision-making processes.

In the Q&A session, participants delved into issues of scalability and sustainability of GTA tools, alongside strategies to address resistance from traditional norms. Speakers emphasized the need for holistic approaches, encompassing both attitudinal shifts and systemic changes. They highlighted the importance of continuous community engagement and multisectoral partnerships in driving systemic transformation towards gender equality. Additionally, the discussion underscored the importance of integrating legal empowerment initiatives with gender transformative interventions to effect policy changes and systemic shifts.

# Panel on National to Global Learning Exchanges

## SPEAKERS



**Dr. Doreen Kobusingye**

National Land Coalition (NLC)



**Nivatiti Nandujja**

International Land Coalition (ILC)



**Emily Gallagher**

CIFOR-ICRAF

## NATIONAL EXCHANGE

Dr. Doreen Kobusingye, representing the National Land Coalition (NLC), emphasized the crucial role of national learning exchanges in advancing women's land rights advocacy and policy reform. The exchange in Kampala facilitated valuable knowledge sharing between the NLC and the Women's Resource Rights (WRR) initiative. The NLC, comprising over 40 organizations, focuses on inclusive land governance aligned with Uganda Vision 2040. Dr. Kobusingye highlighted the importance of thematic groups, particularly in addressing issues concerning women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Through initiatives like the "Stand for Her Land" campaign, the NLC aims to bridge the gap between policy and practice regarding women's land rights in Uganda, stressing the need to engage men in gender empowerment efforts.

## GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Nivatiti Nandujja, from the International Land Coalition (ILC), emphasized the transformative impact of global learning exchanges in advancing women's land rights worldwide. She highlighted the significance of partnerships and a multisectoral approach in designing initiatives tailored to local contexts. Nandujja stressed the importance of the "Stand for Land" campaign in amplifying women's voices and advocating for policy reform across regions. She underscored the need to document women's experiences in different initiatives worldwide to track progress effectively. The tool developed through these exchanges has been appreciated by stakeholders, including government ministries, for its role in advancing women's land rights. Nandujja emphasized the gradual nature of these processes, stressing the importance of continuous awareness-raising efforts.



▲ The panel on Co-Creation and Testing of Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) Tools offered a comprehensive overview of the collaborative process involved in developing and assessing tools tailored to local contexts.





## INITIATIVE CONSORTIUM



The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) envision a more equitable world where trees in all landscapes, from drylands to the humid tropics, enhance the environment and well-being for all. CIFOR and ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers.



Climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and malnutrition. These four interconnected global crises have put at stake the wellbeing of our planet for years. Fueled by COVID-19, their impact on agriculture, landscapes, biodiversity, and humans is now stronger than ever. Reversing this negative trend is a challenge, but also an opportunity for bold choices and integrated solutions. Established in 2019, the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) was created to address these four crises, maximizing impact for change at key points in the food system.



The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. Established in 1975, IFPRI currently has more than 600 employees working in over 50 countries. It is a research center of CGIAR, a worldwide partnership engaged in agricultural research for development.

## INITIATIVE CONTACTS



**Anne M. Larson,**  
Theme lead for Governance,  
Equity and Wellbeing

[a.larson@cifor-icraf.org](mailto:a.larson@cifor-icraf.org)



**Marlene Elias,**  
Gender Lead

[marlene.elias@cgiar.org](mailto:marlene.elias@cgiar.org)



Investing in rural people

**Tshering Choden,**  
Technical Specialist  
for Gender and Social  
Inclusion, Gender Team

[t.choden@ifad.org](mailto:t.choden@ifad.org)

**Rikke Grand Olivera,**  
Lead Technical Specialist,  
Tenure Team

[r.olivera@ifad.org](mailto:r.olivera@ifad.org)

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