

CLCA South-South Exchange: Gender and Youth Workshop Series

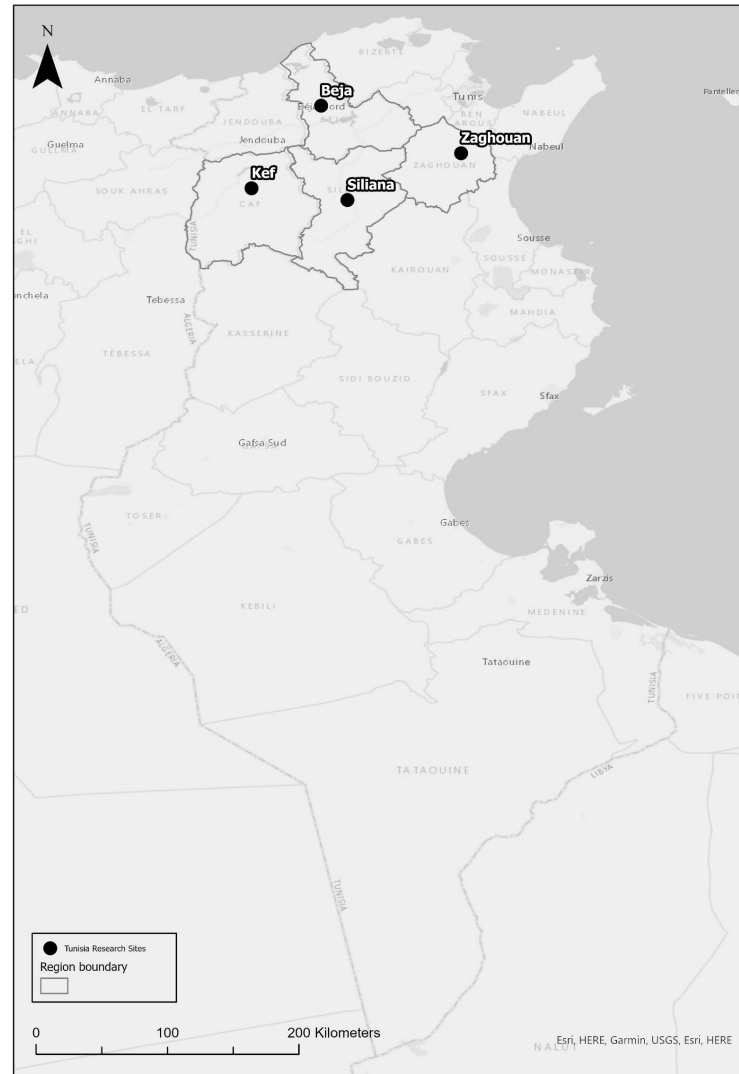
Experiences and Reflections from Integrating Gender into the Use of Conservation Agriculture in Crop-Livestock Systems (CLCA) Project in Tunisia, May 5, 2022

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✓ **Evaluation of CLCA Activities from Phase I in 2019**









✓ **4 regions** in Southern Tunisia of Kef, Beja, Siliana and Zeghouan

✓ **4 FGDs in Each region** (1 middle class men, 1 middle class women, 1 low income men, 1 **low income women**)





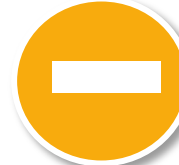



Region	Class	Average land size	Livestock number and type
Beja	Low-income	<20 ha	Fewer than 5 cows Fewer than 30 sheep
	Middle class	20 ha < < 25 ha	More than 5 cows 30-100 sheep
Kef	Low-income	<5 ha	Fewer than 5 cows Fewer than 20-50 sheep
	Middle class	5 ha < < 20 ha if not irrigated 5 ha < < 10 ha if irrigated	More than 5 cows 50-100 sheep

Positive impact of CA

-  Increase in number of newborns and better quality of fodder for milk and meat production 
-  Availability of fodder for livestock ensuring better income 
-  Grow legumes that provide fodder and fertilize the land 
-  No tillage reduces need for hired labour/work 

Negative impact of CA

-  More effort (grazing far away) 
-  Prevents grazing, which makes it difficult to feed cattle and increase spending on fodder 
-  Large size of direct seeder and non-availability 

Women's recommendations related to CA

- Support with the purchase of livestock
- Support with free fodder
- Support with training sessions
- Grants and loans
- Supporting the marketing of agricultural products
- Integrate the cultivation of fodder crops
- Provide farmers with a mechanized seeder

Men's recommendations related to CA

- Support with the purchase of livestock
- Integrate the cultivation of fodder crops
- Support with herbicides for weeding
- Adopt crop rotation to eliminate disease and enrich the soil
- Provide farmers with a mechanized seeder

Women's recommendation related to livestock

- Supporting farmers with forage crop and fodder supply
- Supporting farmers with breeding projects (cattle)
- Supporting farmers in poultry and rabbit farming
- Solve labor shortage problem
- **Training farmers on animal health and feed**
- Improve access to water
- **Marketing**
- Supporting farmers by financing and accessing credit
- **Creation of a center for women and providing them with equipment for processing milk.**
- Provide farmers with medication for livestock

Men's recommendation related to livestock

- Supporting farmers with breeding projects (cattle)
- Supporting farmers with forage crop and fodder supply
- Supporting farmers in beekeeping, poultry and rabbit farming
- Training farmers on above
- Improve access to water
- Supporting farmers by financing and accessing credit
- **Operate directly with the farmer or through cooperatives and adopt monitoring and supervision for project sustainability**

1- Improving women's **access to information and technologies**,

- by involving them in training, in field days,
- by giving them phones so that they can receive informative and educative SMS,



2- by strengthening women's **leadership** within the communities,

- through supporting women's associations and involving women in existing groups
- as well as by women hosting CLCA trials



3- by improving **reducing** women's **workloads**: the introduction of small-scale machines such as manual seeders.



Handheld seeder



Feed grinder



Seed Cleaner

Digital extension Design due to COVID 19

- A **blended** digital extension approach was used to compensate for **high illiteracy levels** among men and especially women.
- Removal of sexist language and using **sharing prompts** “A basket is carried by two, share the SMS information with your spouse so the benefits accrue for two”
- Survey carried with 40 farmers **to identify topics of interest to farmers** that fall under the mandate of the project



	Gender		Total
	Men	Women	
Education level			
Illiterate	9 (7.5%)	34 (28.6%)	43 (18%)
Primary only	54 (45.0%)	39 (32.8%)	93 (38.9%)
More than primary	57 (47.5%)	46 (38.7%)	103 (43.1%)

Participant Category	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of Survey Respondents
Category 1 : Men (not prompted to share)	116	41
Category 2 : Men (prompted to share with their spouses)	118	40
Category 3 : Women (prompted to share with other household members)	132	41
Category 4 : Husbands and wives both targeted	129 women and 129 men	80 (40 men and 40 women)
Women mobile phone recipients (included in Categories 3 or 4)	150	40 (20 from Category 3 and 20 from Category 4)
Total	624 (363 men and 261 women)	242 (121 men and 121 women)

<p>Organizations 49 SMS and 13 radio on professional agricultural organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different types of professional organizations and associated activities and objectives • The roles and different ways of functioning of various rural organizations • Rights and duties of members and management
<p>Animal health 58 SMS and 13 radio on animal health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of disease and bacterial infections, symptoms, risks for contamination, with a focus on prevention and treatment • Reminders about a disease during its peak period
<p>Conservation agriculture 46 SMS and 9 radio on conservation agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural, economic, and environmental benefits of CA • CA farming techniques, e.g., farming to reduce erosion, maintain soil fertility, and reduce the effects of climate change
<p>Animal feeding 50 SMS and 13 radio on animal feeding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of a balanced diet / Importance of fodder, diversification, and intensification of fodder crops • Benefits of using a mechanical chopper • Introduction and use of new feeding technologies
<p>Sharing information</p>	<p>Participant Categories 2 and 3 were sent additional sharing prompts each time an SMS was sent reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A basket is carried by two, share the SMS information with your spouse so the benefits accrue for two”

Women who received cell phones: Total number of **150 women**

40 women were interviewed

57.5% of women used the phones for agricultural activities, livestock related responsibilities, ordering feed from suppliers, contacting the veterinarian, and contacting drivers from the milk complex, contacting workers in the agricultural sector or contacting the cooperative and livestock breeding office.

87.5% of women also reported using their phones for personal use: communicating with their husband, family, and relatives,

17.5% reported listening to the radio on their phone

75% reported receiving agricultural extension + communicating with service providers as major benefits of phone ownership.

Having a phone allowed women to access services without having to travel, break the isolation that women feel in remote rural areas where there is no transportation, and reduce the gender gap in women's access to extension.

- **Women** were **more likely to learn** about and find useful **the animal feeding* and animal health** components.
- Those who listen to the **radio** were **more likely to learn* and find information useful***.
- Consistently **women** found information **more useful** than men did.
- Those with **more education** were more likely to learn about **cooperatives and conservation agriculture**.
- Learning for **knowledge-intensive topics** such as CA was **higher among husband and wife** pairs, as well as men and women **prompted to share the extension information with their spouses**.

Learning about 4 fields				
	Professional agricultural organizations	Animal health	Conservation agriculture	Animal feeding
Male	14,0%	66,9%	22,3%	48,8%
Female	12,4%	71,1%	23,1%	62,0%
Finding information useful				
	Professional agricultural organizations	Animal health	Conservation agriculture	Animal feeding
Male	9,1%	55,4%	19,0%	40,5%
Female	14,0%	66,1%	20,7%	58,7%

01

Men only (N=41):

44% Adoption of new practices
0.73 average of practices adopted per individual

02

Men to share with wives (N=40):

10% Increase in sharing of information
45% Adoption of new practices
0.68 average of practices adopted per individual

03





Women to share with their families(N=61):

9% Increase in sharing of information
56% Adoption of new practices
1.18 average of practices adopted per individual

04

Husbands and wives (40 husbands and 60 wives):

Husbands vs. wives	
55%	68%
1.41	Adoption of new practices average of practices adopted per individual

- Practices related to **livestock feeding**: e.g. mixing feed for livestock, providing fodder in specified quantities using a scale. 
- Practices related to **grazing**: e.g. began grazing their animal later in the day to avoid pests, who began feeding livestock with *qaret* (green straw) in the morning after grazing in the fields and taking out the sheep to graze in the evening. 
- Practices relating to **animal health**: e.g. livestock vaccination, monitoring animal health closely and giving appropriate medication. 
- Practices related to the **cultivation of fodder crops**: e.g. adopted timely applications of fertilizer, began using pesticides to remove parasitic weeds. 

- We recommend strengthening **phone access for women**, targeting **information** (including through non-written ways) to **both husbands and wives**, using **sharing prompts**, and more **rigorous** extension for **knowledge-intensive topics** such as conservation agriculture and rural collectives.
- It is noteworthy that the gender-responsive extension program was useful insofar as its contribution **toward improving women's participation in decision making**.
 - Overall, 61.2% of women (73 out of 121) reported **improved confidence in agricultural decision making** as a result of receiving the digital extension services.
- Seems there has been a **change in norms** (structural barriers to women's ability to benefit equitably from project interventions)
 - Which norms have changes (mobility, phone ownership, income generation) , what can be learned, aka how did these norms change through the project
 - How to measure this change
- Importance of introducing **interventions** in tandem (holistic approach) for **addressing women's practical and strategic needs**
 - **Role models** (leadership) facilitate others' access to information, technology (otherwise may not be possible)
 - Providing additional support to ensure that women's **labor burden** does **not** become **overwhelming**
- More practical implications
 - Machine wearing
 - SMS cards

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