Government Working Group

Recommendations

To ensure investments which are inclusive and gender equitable
African governments have leverage:

– negotiate from a position of strength
– can choose desirable investments
– say ‘no’ to practices that do not engender equitable development
– Remain in the driving seat

Establish enabling policy framework

• prevent corruption
• enact and enforce laws
• prioritize gender sensitive investments
  – Mainstream gender in all plans of government
• Empower non-executive arms of government and other stakeholders to play their role
• Remove hindrances (e.g. discrimination) to all stakeholders playing their role
• Access to justice:
  – institutions functioning
  – Participation and inclusion to discourage corruption and increase transparency
  – hard talk among ourselves about the actual desirability on these investments and their impacts
Mainstream Gender Considerations

- Focus on practical interventions to ensure gender mainstreaming?
  - Be specific – make it ‘doable’ e.g.
    - Programmes and plans should be gender sensitive
    - Empowering women economically in order to secure their land rights
    - Improve gender dynamics at household levels through community work
- Address capacity constraints
- Creating conducive fora (how to sustain these? What resources – need balance between donor resources and domestic allocations)
- Inter-ministerial coordination key – Departments of Gender have critical role in ensuring / advocating for mainstreaming

Empower citizens

- Enhance capacity for economic policy at all levels including communities
- Change school curricula to raise awareness
- Place smallholders at the centre of rural development
- Increase downward accountability of central government to citizens
  - Recognize and empower the oversight role of parliaments
  - Coherence between policies of government versus those of political parties

Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Agricultural Investment, Gender and Land, 5-7 March 2014
Link to Regional and Global Frameworks

• Domesticate international standards
  – FAO Voluntary Guidelines
  – AU Framework and Guidelines etc.
• Align national policies with regional protocols

Role of Other Actors

Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Agricultural Investment, Gender and Land, 5-7 March 2014
Role of CSO

Government should create space for CSO (or support their establishment where necessary) to provide the following:

- alternative view
- Build capacity of communities, farmers associations etc. - on their rights, content of laws etc.
- Facilitate gvt relations with private sector
- Can provide role of intermediary between government and communities – channel communication
- Provide evidence of impact which can be used to inform policy
- Keep governments in check
- Play service delivery role, provide technical support and provide funding for development initiatives
- BUT – how to keep CSO from behaving like opposition

Role of Private Sector

- Provide finance for investment
- Provide **fair** compensation for land and or other resources lost by communities in the interests of the investment (e.g. pastures; forests; water)
- Honor agreements entered
- Technology transfer
- Provide for gender related initiatives
- Provide social amenities as **part of CSR not compensation for land**
- Technical advise and inputs to farmers
- Employment opportunities
- Foreign exchange; taxes
- Infrastructure development
Role of Farmer Associations

Farmer Unions (organized labour) – should be active players in the process
• Mobilize farmers
• Pioneer the interests of farmers
• Negotiate on behalf of farmers
• Be accountable to their membership
• Facilitate access to markets
• Service provision to farmers
• Be gender sensitive
  – establish threshold levels for women in their leadership
  – Educate farmers on gender issues

Importance of Implementation

• Is there political will?
  – A key issue
  – Determines balance between political agendas and implementation of policies
• Is the capacity there?
Resources

• Government has the responsibility to ensure availability
• The more limited the resources are, the more pronounced the agendas
• Gender responsive budgets at the level of Finance Ministries
• Budgets are dependent on existing plans – so gender analysis during planning is key