



Summary of Day 2: History of gender studies in the natural resource sector

Community of Practice: Advancing women in forestry in the context of climate change





Introduction

- 60 participants from 17 countries joined for DAY 2.
- Participants were from Benin, Botswana, Cameroun, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia, Uganda,, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, South Africa, Mali, Togo and Switzerland.
- The resource person Dr. Lawrence Brobbey took participants through the history of gender studies indicating how gender in the context of natural resources has evolved over the years.





Key concepts

- Ecofeminism: These studies assume an `inherent' or `natural' connection between women and the land, providing women with privileged knowledge of environmental change and privileged roles in addressing environmental destruction.
- Ecological feminism: Although women are connected to nature, this relationship was based on their material realities and not on some inherent, close connection to nature.
- Feminist Political Economy: Three key themes on gender and environment
 - Gendered knowledge, or the ways in which access to scientific and ecological knowledge is structured by gender.
 - Gendered environmental rights and responsibilities, including differential access by men and women to various legal and de facto claims to land and resources.
 - Gendered politics and grassroots activism, including an examination of women within and as leaders of environmental movements.
- Intersectionality analysis which promotes simultaneous evaluation of social differences like race, ethnicity, caste and gender, rather than unitary or mutually exclusive entities





Discussions

The moderator led participants through guided discussions on the following:

- How women connected to nature.
- How knowledge is gendered in various fields of natural resources
- How activities of practitioners could entrench vulnerabilities of actors.





Take-home points

- The need to highlight the contribution of women in environment and development
- Education on gender critical for men, women and youth
- Women to support each other through platforms and mentoring
- Consciously include men in the gender discourse especially on issues and challenges of women.
- We should begin to work as co-partners and support each other.





Take-home points

- We need to define the roles of women, rightly empower and equip them with needed knowledge and create opportunities and platforms for partnership and cooperation.
- We need to support each other to come out and take responsibilities and break the bias among women.
- We need to equip ourselves, continue to build our potentials, think out of the box to take up opportunities when they occur.
- We need to encourage and support women to take up responsibilities. Women should know that not all men are against the progress of women and hence needs to freely open up to help each other





Thank you

