



Summary of Day 5: Gender Mainstreaming in African Forest Forum's Programmes

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





Introduction

- 30 participants joined for Day 5.
- Participants were from Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cameroun, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, South Africa, Mali, Togo, La Cote d'Ivoire,.
- The Resource person was Doris Mutta: Senior Programme Officer - AFF





How Climate Change is impacting on the youth

Presentation by Patience

- The session started with a recap of day 4 which focused on impacts of Climate Change on women.
- The youth had an opportunity to present their perspective on impact of climate change on the youth.
- Patience Agyekum of SYND indicated these impacts to include:
 - Reduction in availability of fish due to extreme temperatures (affecting livelihood in coastal communities).
 - Drought affecting farming communities.
 - Food insecurity.
 - School drop-out especially girls to support their mothers in trading.
 - Rural urban migration with associated increase in social vices (eg. armed robbery), gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and drug abuse.





How to address this challenge?

- Education on climate change adaptation
- Advocacy
- Training and promoting the youth in entrepreneurship (especially Green businesses)
- Development of position papers to draw attention to the climate challenge.





Presentation on AFF and Gender Mainstreaming

The presentation by Dr. Doris Mutta covered:

- Overview of AFF
- Why AFF focuses on gender
- How AFF is mainstreaming gender at the organizational level, in their programmes and membership.





Discussion: How gender is mainstreamed at personal and institutional levels

Participants shared their experiences to include:

- Conscious efforts to balance gender at the work place through recruitment
- Educational programmes for women in rural areas in relation to climate change adaptation processes.
- Gender responsive support for nursing mothers to participate in meetings and conferences (by allowing these mothers travel with babies and nannies to meetings with the cost taken by the organizers)
- Implementing a landmark project (cocoa pod waste) for women
- Incorporation of gender in all work-related activities
- Insist female colleagues are included in any call for assignment in my organisation
- Gender is included in data collection in forest reserves
- Good inter-personal relationship with all men and women
- There is equity with regards to gender representation when it comes to school enrolment, employment
- Train more young girls and empower them.





What role can you play in climate change mitigation?

- Advocate and highlight the effect of climate change where ever we find ourselves as natural resource and climate change experts.
- Practically educate the youth on adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change.
- Promote and impart good ethics, responsibility and innovation in the youth.
- Advocate for government adoption of policy and interventions made at the international level.
- Use available opportunities to discuss gender, climate change and natural resource management.
- Team work with people in the natural resource and climate change sector.
- We should be agents of change by practicing what we know.





Thank you

