

# GENDER AND BEYOND: CREATING INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AMONG SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS IN AFRICA

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## INTRODUCTION

On February 15, 2024, the Advancing Climate Adaptation with Meso-Level Integration (ACAMI) project held a virtual convening ([link to recording](#)) entitled 'Gender and Beyond: Creating Innovative Strategies for Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) among small-scale producers in Africa'. The convening aimed to present gender-related findings from 2023 ACAMI in-country workshops, facilitate dialogue among gender experts from Meso-level Organizations (MLO)<sup>1</sup>, and stimulate active participation within the broader MLO community on gender and equity issues. The event attracted 62 participants from various organizations engaged in CCA projects focusing on agricultural small-scale producers in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Malawi. The panel discussions focused on three main questions: core concerns related to gender, other issues of inclusivity and equity that need attention in climate adaptation efforts, and how organizations address these issues through their CCA interventions.

## METHODOLOGY

The virtual convening was designed to be inclusive and engaging, addressing the interests and challenges of MLOs working in equity and CCA. The pre-convening phase involved identifying key gender-related issues from in-country workshops, with ACAMI's gender expert, Dr. Magreta, conducting online discussions with the ACAMI project team. Panelists were selected based on expertise and diversity of perspectives. The convening focused on panel discussions around three key questions, with panelists presenting their experiences and initiatives. The post-convening phase involved gathering feedback to evaluate the process and impact, resulting in a rich discussion on pivotal gender issues in CCA and actionable steps for future convenings.

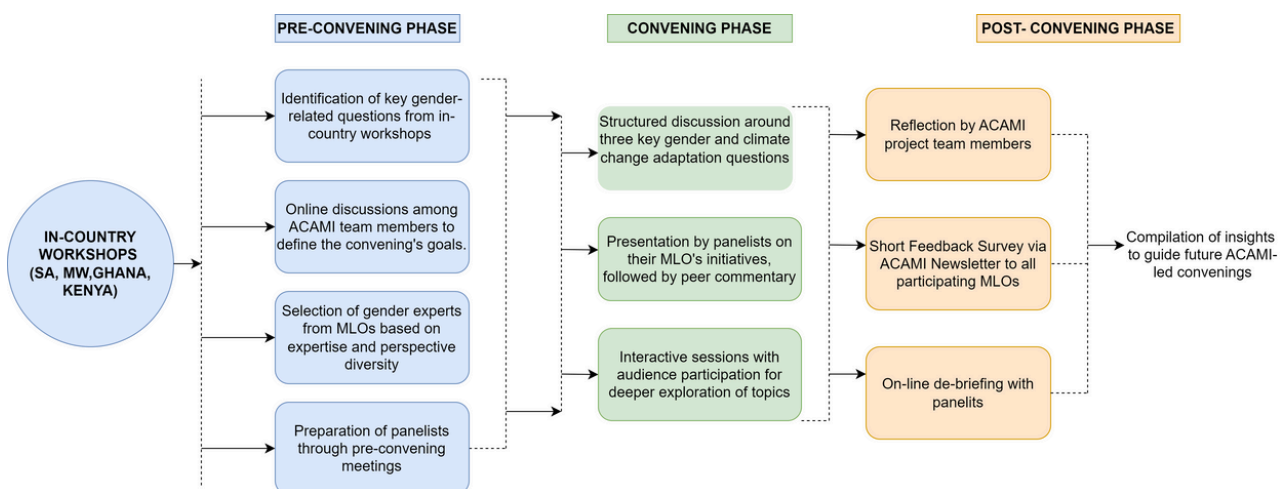


Figure: ACAMI Gender and Beyond Convening Process- Adapted from [https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/documents/home\\_page.pdf](https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/documents/home_page.pdf)

<sup>1</sup>ACAMI defines Meso-level organizations (MLOs) as public, private, and non-profit organizations involved in implementing climate change adaptation interventions intended to benefit agricultural small-scale producers in Africa. These organizations are critical intermediaries between small-scale producers and the policy, scientific, and finance communities.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PANEL DISCUSSION



### Supporting Female-Owned Initiatives:

Empowering women financially and supporting female-owned initiatives were highlighted as crucial for building resilience to climate change.



### Addressing Gender in the Context of Broader Inclusivity:

Equity for women means going beyond gender to include the role of youth, people



### Attending to Political and Cultural Context:

Enhancing gender equity requires going beyond specific project interventions to attend to the cultural and religious context of CCA, as well as structural issues such as land ownership and tenure, and access to supply chains.



### Tapping into Indigenous Knowledge (IK):

Both women and men contribute significantly to IK essential for informing CCA efforts in Africa. Women in particular, are recognised as vital sources of this IK, offering invaluable insights in informing CCA efforts in Africa.



### Empowering Youth as Problem Solvers:

Engaging youth as entrepreneurial problem solvers and science knowledge holders in climate adaptation helps ensure sustainable and effective strategies.



### Promoting Collaboration and Networking:

Facilitating collaboration, communication, and learning among organizations and project beneficiaries, especially women, enables scaling and sustainability of CCA solutions.

## CONCLUSION

The ACAMI convening underscored the need to move beyond traditional gender binaries, ensuring no group, especially youth and vulnerable, is excluded. This shift indicates a necessary evolution from current gender mainstreaming efforts, underlining the critical need for targeted, effective interventions that secure the well-being and development of all community members, regardless of their gender and social position. Second, the convening highlighted the importance of future-oriented planning. Climate change is a dynamic and evolving challenge, necessitating strategies that are not only responsive to current realities but are also adaptative to future uncertainties. This forward-looking mindset is crucial in equipping small-scale producers with the skills and resources needed to navigate the complexities of tomorrow's climate challenges. Third, the convening emphasized the need to extend geographical and cultural lenses beyond specific countries, incorporating a Pan-African perspective that values and integrates the diverse voices of Sub-Saharan Africa. This broader agenda calls for collaboration and learning across borders, enabling the sharing of innovative practices and lessons learned among countries facing similar climate challenges. It is imperative to pool collective intelligence that lies beyond gender, knowledges, administrative and geographies to chart a path towards a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for small-scale producers across Africa.



### **READ THE FULL REPORT SUMMARY HERE**

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