



ENERGIA



# Gender and Renewable Energy

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**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011**



When you hear “gender,”  
what comes to mind?

# Defining gender



- Sex: differences of a strictly biological nature between men and women.
- Gender: the set of social, cultural, political, legal and economic characteristics socially allocated as a function of sex from birth onwards.
- Implications?
  - 1) Gender-based, socially-ascribed characteristics determine the distribution of power within a society
  - 2) We can change them
  - 3) We cannot speak of women or men as universal beings

# Gender equality



- NOT only about women
- But: promoting gender equality often requires a particular focus on women in order to address historical and existing inequalities
- However, this does not preclude activities that address men's specific needs, where doing so will contribute to gender equality.

# Why do we care?



- Gender targeting makes programs cost-effective by directing resources to actual need & demand
- Women's active engagement in project management has been linked to better project and programme outcomes
- Investing in women and girls is considered a key breakthrough strategy for achieving the MDGs
- CIF Trust Fund Committees and Sub-committees are increasingly recognizing and demanding attention to gender issues within CIF investment plans and projects

# Renewable energy: what is the link with gender equality?

- Energy is essential for both development and gender equality
- Women and men often have different roles in society, with different corresponding energy needs
- Different types of energy may have different uses for and impacts on women and men
- Provision of certain types of energy (i.e. electricity) without attention to others (i.e. modern cooking fuels) may actually increase workloads



What are men and women's practical, productive, and strategic energy needs, and how can SREP investments help meet them?



# Energy Meets Women's Practical, Productive, and Strategic Needs: Selected Examples



Energy Form	Women's Needs and Issues		
	Practical Needs	Productive Needs	Strategic Issues
Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Pumping water supplies - reducing need to haul and carry</li> <li>•mills for grinding</li> <li>•lighting improves working conditions at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•increase possibility of activities during evening hours</li> <li>•provide refrigeration for food production and sale</li> <li>•power for specialised enterprises such as hairdressing and Internet cafes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•make streets safer allowing participation in other activities (e.g., evening classes and women's group meetings)</li> <li>•opening horizons through radio, TV, and Internet</li> </ul>
Improved biomass (supply and conversion technology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•improved health through better stoves</li> <li>•less time and effort in gathering and carrying firewood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•more time for productive activities</li> <li>•lower cost for process heat for income-generating activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•control of natural forests in community forestry management frameworks.</li> </ul>
Mechanical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•milling and grinding</li> <li>•transport and portering of water and crops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•increases variety of enterprises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•transport allowing access to commercial and social/political opportunities</li> </ul>

Source: Clancy, Skutsch, and Batchelor (2003).



# Access challenges



- Information on RETs should be disseminated in a way in which women and men would have access to it and would be able to understand it
- Information should address the needs/interest of both women and men
- Limited decision making and purchasing power at household level
- Limited access to credit or knowledge on micro-credit possibilities
- Distrust of new technologies or their impacts

# Challenges for RET dissemination

- Integrate gender analysis and gender considerations in their design and implementation
- Affordable, locally appropriate and environmentally sustainable sources of energy
- Provide support to community-owned and managed renewable energy projects where women and men are involved in all phases of development
- Vocational and technical training
- Subsidies: are they reaching the most needed or creating distortions?



# Disseminating renewable energy technologies



- Identify the different energy needs of women and men and distribute **appropriate** technologies
- Include both women and men in the process of design/choice of technologies
- Include women as energy entrepreneurs: recognize their value as producers, technicians, marketing agents
- Ensure that vocational trainings target both women and men by taking into account social and cultural conditions in their design and implementation
- Promote women entrepreneurial groups and facilitate start up credit for these groups

# Addressing the challenges: examples

- CDM Projects:
  - Bagepalli CDM Biogas Program, India
  - Biogas Support Programme, Nepal
  - Grameen Shakti Program in Bangladesh
- CDM Gold Standard

**There are methodologies available to project developers to design gender responsive energy projects**



What are some specific approaches and instruments for empowering women through potential SREP activities?



# Gender Mainstreaming

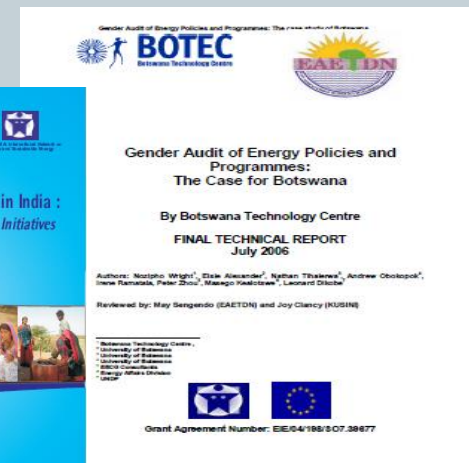
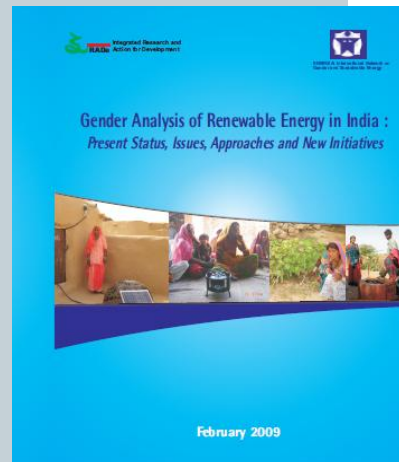


- Means attention is paid to the needs & interests of both women and men in all stages of project and program development
  - Stakeholder dialogue, communication and social mobilization
  - Situation analysis
  - Setting up and enhancing institutions
  - Advising policies and regulations
  - Project strategizing, implementation and management
  - Trainings
  - Monitoring and evaluation and codifying lessons

# Addressing the challenges: policy tools



- Gender audits: Botswana, Senegal, Kenya
- Gender budgeting –India
- Uganda National Gender Policy had as a result the gender responsive Uganda Photovoltaic Pilot Project
- Microfinance



# Some key questions



- Does the project include specific, measurable actions and deliverables related to gender mainstreaming, gender equality and women's empowerment?
- Has the project/programme assessed potential for contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment through planned activities?
- Has sex-disaggregated baseline data been collected?
- Has the project/programme assessed the potential for contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment through planned activities?
- Have gender specialists or representatives from women's stakeholders groups participated in all steps of the programme or project cycle?
- Have all possible steps been taken to ensure gender equity in the recruitment of project staff and consultants?



# Lessons learned



- Gender tools are not isolated entities, they are part of a process
- They are FLEXIBLE, and build on, and strengthen existing local knowledge, structures and institutions
- Should be integrated from the beginning
- (Political) will is essential to ensure gender mainstreaming in policies and projects
- Research and gender disaggregated data help better inform policies and projects
- Investing in technical skills of women and men is essential
- Involving qualified gender expertise throughout all stages of the project/program design is critical
- Must allocated financial resources
- Including gender-specific outcomes and indicators helps track progress

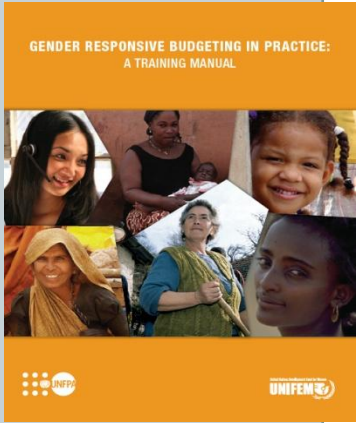
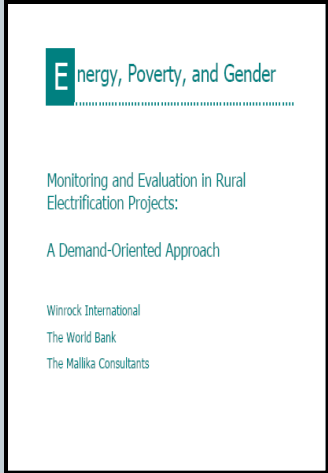
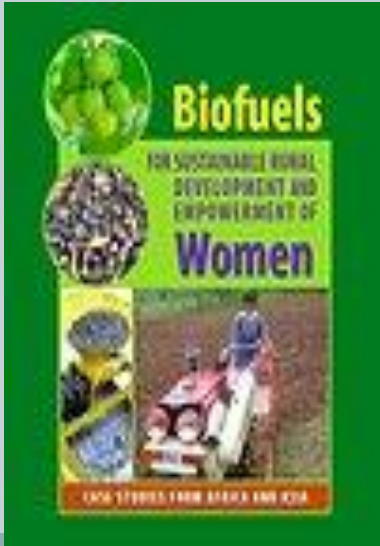
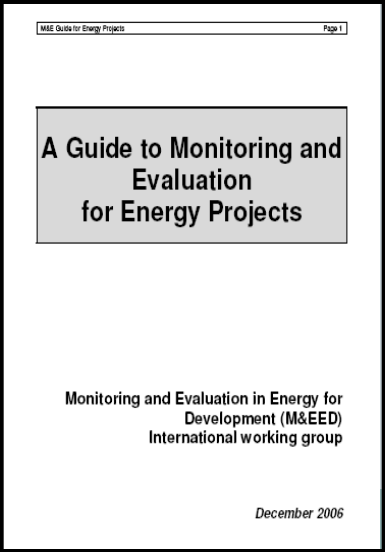
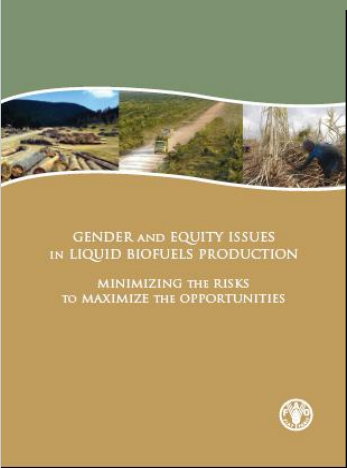
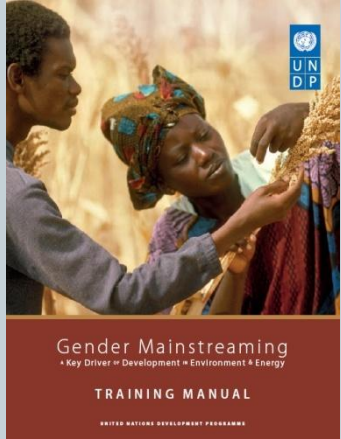
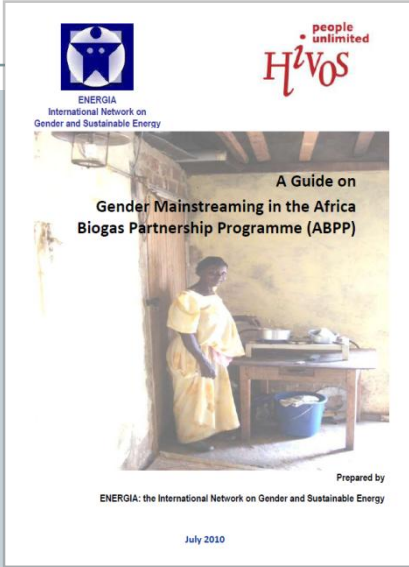
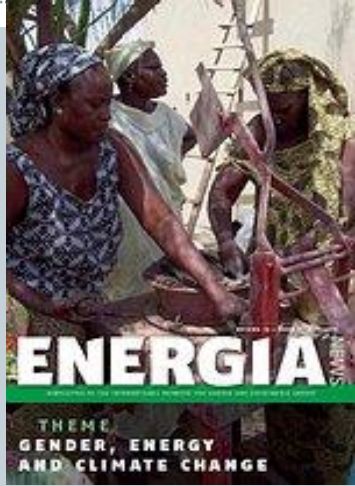
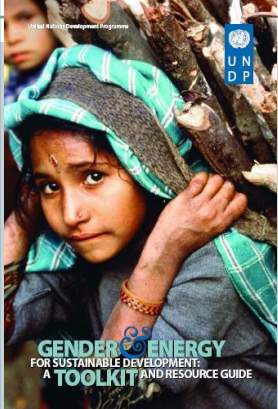
# Things to consider when designing SREP programs



- Political will is essential : Seek high-level buy-in
- Joint missions, stakeholder consultations and program staff are critical: include gender expertise
- Ensure that technical trainings target both women and men
- Collect sex-disaggregated data



# Resources & tools on gender and energy available on line at: [www.energia.org](http://www.energia.org)



# Thank you!



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