

## **Gender Analysis Brings Out Cross-Sectoral Concerns During Project Design**

*The Story of Decentralized Agricultural and Forestry Extension Project in Republic of Indonesia*

Gender Analysis (GA) carried out during the preparation of the Agricultural Extension Project. The main objectives of the project were to assist the Borrower in enhancing farmers' capacity to participate in extension activities and strengthen the capacity of the district-level integrated agricultural and forestry extension system.

Specifically, GA contributed to (i) identifying the target population to recognize their diversity in ethnicity, culture and socio-economic status; (ii) integrating their needs into project preparation; and (iii) developing the participatory framework for managing, monitoring and evaluating the project activities.

GA, initiated by the Bank was carried by two female international consultants. The necessary funds were sourced from the French Trust Fund and from the BB. The total cost of the study was approximately USD 20,000 and the duration of the study including the finalization of the report was three months.

Among the various issues covered under GA, organization, management and human resource development within the agricultural extension unit, institutional linkages, role of women in agriculture, and major constraints faced by women agriculturists and extension workers were some of the most relevant ones.

Sample population for GA was selected with the help of extension and NGO groups, fully recognizing that such a group will not be representative of different categories of target population. This provided ample opportunity for the GA team to verify on the type of farmers reached through extension services and to detect factors of efficiency and social biases.

*GA contributed to the existing knowledge and established a rationale for action in specific areas during project implementation. Major findings of GA include the following:*

- role of women in agriculture and it varies from location to location within the same country;
- presence of top-down approach and lack of social skills within the government extension service;
- government extension programs lag behind farmers specifically among female farmers due to varied reasons;
- government extensionists concentrate only in areas with access to good roads; and
- NGOs play a minimal role in agricultural extension have established successful models of participatory programs in other sectors.

The most useful part of the GA was the recognition of women's major role in agriculture, the need to increase gender equity in extension services and thus addressing the constraint faced by women extensionists. ***Mobility being identified as the most critical in developing an efficient extension system, the project allocated 50 percent of the total procured motor cycles under the project to women extensionists. The recommendation from GA to improve mobility of women extensionists was thus operationalized during project implementation.***