

Training Report

SMART Cotton: Training on “Gender Mainstreaming and Social Safeguard in Cotton Value Chain”

The training on “Gender Mainstreaming and Social Safeguard in Cotton Value Chain” has been conducted for the staff under SMART Cotton. The training details are mentioned in the table below;

Sr. No	Date	Participants	Venue	No of participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1	12 /05/2022 & 13/05/2022	Graders, TAO, Agri assistant	VANAMATI Nagpur	53	06	59
2	02/06/2022 & 03/06/2022	TAO, Agri Assistant	RAMETI Pune	27	01	28
3	01/08/2022 & 02/08/2022	Cotton value chain expert, TAO, Agri Assit, BTM	RAMETI Pune	39	02	41
4	02/02/2023 & 03/02/2023	DIU, Nodal Officers, RIU Supply &Value Chain experts, cotton value chain experts, Social Development Experts, Environment Experts	VANAMATI Nagpur	38	08	46

Objective of the Training:

1. To bring clarity among staff under SMART Cotton regarding gender and social issues in Cotton Value Chain
2. To introduce the concept of gender analysis and various tools for gender analysis in cotton value chain
3. To help the participants to gain more information, develop skills and to understand the right approach to mainstream gender in cotton value chain.
4. To enhance the knowledge of participants on mitigation of social risks in cotton value chain

The sessions conducted in the training are briefed as below;

Session 1 – Concept of Sex and Gender

The session was started with brainstorming on what comes in the mind first when we listen the word “men” and “women”. The opinions from the participants collected and discussion was held on each word related with men and women. Further it is explained that the words associated with men and women are not only words but these are the expectations from men and women. Socialization plays crucial role in upbringing the child and relating them with masculine and feminine characteristics. The various institutions like family, school, media etc. plays the vital role in the socialization. . In the session sex and gender has been differentiated by quoting number of examples. She explained that Sex is a biological/ physiological characteristics whereas gender is a social construct and is the expectations/ roles and responsibilities assigned to male and female by society, culture and traditions.

Sex is natural and by birth and cannot be changed whereas gender varies from time to time, place to place and religion to religion and it can be changed. Further, she elaborated with number of examples how men and women both are victims of gender system and gender box does not allow them to come out of gender norms. Then she read 2-3 sentences and asked participants whether the statement is related to sex or gender.

At the end of the session the below mentioned video clips were displayed.

1. Start with Boys
2. Raymond-The complete Man
3. Comfort after wash-A small step can make a big difference!
4. Gentleman kise kehte hai

Session 2 - Some Important Concepts

The session started with one of the energizers. She initiated brainstorming of the participants and further linked it to the concept of gender discrimination, gender roles i.e. productive, reproductive and community managed roles. How the gender roles leads into the triple role of women. Further she explained, gender needs (practical and strategic), gender equity and gender equality, original and derived powers and gender mainstreaming etc. further, she gave number of examples while explaining all the concepts and also conducted group work, simulation exercises etc. Later, she finally concluded the session with importance of gender lenses for both men and women in the society to achieve proper gender equity and equality.

Session 3 – Power and Privilege:

- i. **General**
- ii. **Cotton**

The power walk exercise conducted to bring awareness on the current status of women, SC and ST in general and in cotton value chain. The participants contributed interestingly in the exercise and performed their tasks. At the end of the exercise the resource person de-briefed about the session and explained the message of exercise that though women contribute in labour work in cotton value chain, their participation in decision making is negligible due to gender stereotypes and lack of knowledge and exposure. Hence in SMART Cotton, women's practical and strategic needs are essentially to be addressed and their participation is essential in farmer groups, as a LRP, in a training, demonstration, exposure etc.

Session 4. Gender Analysis: Concept and Tools

The concept of gender analysis was explained by using PPT which covered concept and need of gender analysis in gender inclusive planning. Further, the various tools of gender analysis were explained.

Later, the participants were grouped into 4 groups for the group exercise on tools of gender analysis. The topics for group discussion were as below;

- Gender division of labour on one acre of land in cotton
- Accesses and control over resources
- Daily calendar/ 24 hours' clock
- Decision making at household level and farm level

The groups were allotted 30 minutes time for discussion and preparation of presentation. Each group was provided 10 minutes for presentation. The resource person added valuable inputs during presentations of the groups. The observation and discussion of the group presentations are as below;

1. Women majorly contribute in sowing, fertilizer application, weeding, harvesting and storage at household level in cotton value chain and therefore if they trained scientifically on these aspects, the quality and productivity of cotton may enhance.
2. Women are already overburdened under Triple role, hence their participation in training and exposures is not enhancing. So gender sensitive planning is essential.
3. Women do have limited access to agricultural resources like land, inputs, trainings, credit, Govt. schemes but have negligible control on these resources and hence project efforts are essential to increase the women's access and control over resources through their participation in SMART Cotton
4. Women need to be emerge as Lead Resource Person in SMART Cotton

Session 5. Gender Inclusive planning of SMART Cotton

District wise groups formed and asked them to prepare the gender inclusive planning of SMART Cotton program and then each district presented the plan with respect to involvement of women in SMART Cotton groups, trainings, exposures, demonstrations etc.

Session 6. Social Safeguard in Cotton value chain

Session on Social issues in Cotton Value Chain like prevention of child labour, bonded labour, Labour health and safety, equal wages for male and female for same work, environment protection, Sexual harassment of women at Workplace Act 2013 etc. was conducted and it is discussed that farmers need to be trained on these aspects in the trainings.

All trainings were facilitated by Dr. Sangita Shete, Social Development Specialist, PCMU SMART.





