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# IMMINENT MEGATRENDS AFFECTING CGIAR GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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Photo: Saida Lewis (CSIS 2019)



**Since the launch of CGIAR's 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy in 2021, the world has experienced an increasing array and level of global shocks**

- **What megatrend dynamics have changed since the CGIAR Strategy was prepared?**
  - **How and if these megatrends affect the CGIAR Strategy and associated collective global targets?**
- Focus on **Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion**

# Rapidly Changing Global Landscape



**COVID-19 pandemic**



**New knowledge**



**War in Ukraine**



**Science, Technology, and  
Innovation**

**+ Reflect on the last few weeks...**



# Nine key megatrends affect CGIAR research and innovation portfolio



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# Nine interconnected anthropogenic Megatrends

Selected illustrations on the disproportionate impact of the confluence of these megatrends on women and youth

## Demographic trends

- Population growth, population aging, migration, and urbanization, employment options

## Changing consumption patterns

- Food price index increased by 50%, dietary transition, diet related disease

## Market concentration in the ag sector

- Increased concentration input and processing, scale of production

## Climate change

- Exceeded 1.5 deg C increase much sooner than expected

## Environmental degradation

- Increasing natural resource scarcity, land degradation, and biodiversity loss

## Shifting global health challenges

- Global poverty increased due to COVID, some related to consumption changes

## Geopolitical instability

- 70% of food-insecure live in conflict zones

## Inequalities

- Largest rise in income inequality in 3 decades

## Technology and innovation

- 50% gender gap in digital tech

# ISDC Megatrend Project overview



- To support System Council's deliberations on the 2025–2027 portfolio, we asked:
  - ✓ what megatrend dynamics have changed since the CGIAR Strategy was prepared (2019–21)?
  - ✓ how and if these megatrends affect the CGIAR Strategy through its Five Impact Areas and associated collective global targets?
    - Here we focus on the CGIAR **Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion** Impact Area, and associated two collective global targets:
      - (i) **Close the gender gap**
      - (ii) **Offer rewarding opportunities for youth**
- **Literature review**
  - **How do the 9 identified megatrends create research and innovation opportunities targeting Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion?**

# Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion Impact Area



Photo: Sala Lewis (CSIS 2019)

- Globally, **36 percent of working women** are employed by agrifood systems
- Women account for 43 percent of the total agrifood system labor force in low- and middle-income countries
  - **Working conditions** for men and women, and **returns** for their participation, are often not equal
- More than 1 billion of the world's 1.2 billion youth (age 15 to 24 years) live in low- and middle-income countries
  - Many youth face **limited employment opportunities** and **substandard working conditions**
- CGIAR recognizes that achieving **more resilient, equitable, and sustainable agrifood systems** requires gender equality, youth empowerment, and socioeconomic inclusion
  - CGIAR committed to **closing the gender gap** and **enhancing opportunities** for youth in food, land, and water systems

# Emerging implications

→ multidimensional and addressing **portfolio processes, components, and gaps**

1

Call for more in-depth and continuous **megatrend analyses** (through a user-friendly megatrend framework that incorporates **foresight and trade-off analyses**)

2

Address the absence of CGIAR's **global collective target(s) on social inclusion** (the third element of this Impact Area)

3

Improve **in-depth contextual understanding** of agrifood systems as a component of broader, multifunctional, and diverse landscapes (focus on vulnerable groups)

4

Investigate the **drivers of deep-rooted and widespread inequalities** (removing barriers that prevent women/youth from taking up interventions)

5

**Engage youth** in the design, development, implementation of work packages that specifically target the key challenges they are facing within agrifood systems

6

Scale up **technologies and innovations** (especially in regions with fastest growing youth population)

7

Ensure that CGIAR and partners possess adequate capacities and resources to integrate **digital AR4D**



# Next steps



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## Responding to Evolving Megatrends Interim Report: CGIAR Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion Impact Area

### Executive Summary

Since the launch of CGIAR's 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy (CGIAR Strategy) in 2021, the world has experienced an increasing array and level of global shocks.<sup>1,2</sup> These undermine CGIAR's vision of sustainable and resilient food, land, and water systems that deliver affordable healthy diets, improved livelihoods and greater social equality, within planetary and regional environmental boundaries. Re-examining the effect of these global shocks on megatrends is timely as CGIAR prepares its 2025-2027 research and innovation portfolio.

At the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of System Council (SC17), the Independent Science for Development Council (ISDC) presented its 2023 plan to deliver a megatrends analysis and provide science for development advice on what CGIAR should consider after the first three-year implementation cycle of the CGIAR Strategy.

Megatrend analysis examines large-scale observable phenomenon and asks the question: What is driving us toward a specific future? Megatrend analysis focuses on understanding drivers and their likely direct consequences (Barnett et al., 2021).

Informed by subsequent interactions with System Council (SC) and its Strategic Impact Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (2022-2023), ISDC honed the megatrend 2023 commissioned project to answer the following:

- What megatrend dynamics have changed since the CGIAR Strategy was prepared?<sup>3</sup>
- How and if these megatrends affect the CGIAR Strategy and associated collective global targets?
  - Specifically, how—if at all—should the targets and the five Impact Areas alter to meet the needs of the possible future(s) these megatrends may affect?

For its first advisory output to SC related to this ongoing commissioned study, ISDC prioritized analysis and recommendations related to *Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion*, to present initial findings to Council and during the ISDC Science Forum at the margins of 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of System Council (SC19) on the topic. This Interim Report (Note) on the megatrends 2023 commissioned project serves as a peek into the expected report conclusion slated for finalization by Q4 2023, with further communications to follow in Q1 2024.

We synthesized the literature and conducted qualitative interviews with diverse stakeholders. Preliminary results identify **three key megatrends**, with heightened interactions and feedback loops among them. Impacts of these interactions and feedback loops are increasingly exacerbated by an acute failure of good governance in many countries. A few examples highlight the disproportionate impact of the **confluence of these megatrends on women and youth** (age 15 to 24 years).

**Emerging implications** to support SC's early deliberations on the 2025-2027 research and innovation portfolio related to *Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion* conclude this Note. They are multidimensional and address **portfolio processes, components, and gaps**. As this commissioned study is finalized, ISDC will be incorporating the implications of this study into tools and rubrics used in ISDC moderated proposal reviews.

<sup>1</sup> At the time of its writing, the CGIAR 2030 Strategy was primarily based on analyses and data that pre-dated 2020. A revision of the trajectory of megatrends is timely prior to the evolution of CGIAR's portfolio.

<sup>2</sup> Elaborated from OECD (2011), UNSG (2023) and Vifia and Lui (2023), a global shock is defined as a sudden and largely unanticipated event that has widespread social, economic and/or environmental impact that can spillover to other systems and trigger a series of feedback loops.

<sup>3</sup> In general, 2019 is the latest year for which data were available to the architects of the 2030 CGIAR Strategy.

Discuss findings and emerging implications with stakeholders (SC19, 2023 Science Forum)

Release a report addressing the five CGIAR Impact Areas (expected by Q4 2023)

Diffuse the recommendations for the CGIAR portfolio (process & content) to targeted stakeholders

Incorporate the implications into tools and rubrics used in ISDC moderated proposal reviews

# Thank you



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