



Roles of Catalysts and Patrons of the Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP)

15 April 2013

1. GAP Catalysts

The Catalysts are a group of committed individuals from across the spectrum of organizations already engaged in GAP, whose main objective is to drive the mobilization of GAP among the many institutions involved.

Since GAP is a collective movement, which demands an open and inclusive structure, welcoming of all. At the same time, there is a need for processes by which GAP can be championed, decisions reached and actions taken, whether at local, national, regional or international scales, including on the generation, allocation and sharing of available resources. The role of GAP Catalyst is designed to provide a light, flexible, innovative mechanism whereby Catalysts act as *energetic drivers* to:

Promote and mobilize change in their own institutions and sectors and inspire change and action across the many institutions already involved and those to come – catalysts for the quiet revolution in attitudes and actions required to overcome underlying cultural norms and social barriers to gender equity and women's empowerment.

GAP Catalysts may opt to work at different levels:

a) Global level:

A global group of 'GAP Catalysts' is required, to inspire change and foster collective actions among different institutions and sectors, primarily at global level but also reaching out to regional, national and local levels, as appropriate. They may in turn set up a series of (time-bound) Working Groups for specific activities (e.g. gender-agriculture-nutrition, capacity development-training, ICTs and youth, aligning the CGIAR CRPs with the UN Women & Rome-based Agencies' Joint Programme on Women's Economic Empowerment).

Global-level GAP Actions focus on:

- (i) sharing knowledge and catalyzing involvement of GAP partners into joint programmes/activities that bring synergies and value-addition,
- (ii) Promoting multi-country programmes to pilot, demonstrate and share gender-based changes,
- (iii) Advocacy, especially at global and regional levels, and
- (iv) Mentoring women professional and leaders, especially the young.

b) Regional level:

Some Catalysts may be ready to help set up and manage Regional hubs, linked with national and global actions of GAP to catalyze and help support region-specific gender in agriculture actions.

Since India has already volunteered to run and resource a hub to mobilize GAP-related activities in India and actions in support of gender equitable systems into wider South Asia and **FARA** has also indicated its readiness to set up a hub for Africa, some of these initial Catalysts may come from these regional organizations as well as institutions and programmes working across a region. Such hubs *may* also wish to set up their own (time-bound) thematic working groups and knowledge platforms, with their own regional/national Catalysts.

c) Country/local level:

Worldwide, gender roles are culturally defined in all aspects of farming, from control of resources to production and marketing. These definitions constrain and marginalize women and yet can be the hardest to change in practice as they are defined by wider societal norms and behaviors. Gender is a social construct and our work in GAP requires local awareness and engagement in each different context. GAP catalysts at local level have vital roles to play in engendering agricultural systems, changing attitudes, developing capacities and finding ways by which women's roles can be better recognized and valued within rural communities.

The global group and its working groups, the regional hubs, and national/local GAP networks will be mutually interlinked as one network. Catalysts may also chose to focus at only one level, or work at more than one level. Next steps include developing time-bound action plans for Catalyst actions in particular national or regional contexts.

Catalysts as drivers of GAP

The GAP Catalysts will be responsible for determining actions of the GAP, through their mutual commitments and programmes of action, developed in line with the GAP vision and mission and agreed through regular e-meetings of the Catalysts. In this they will be supported by the GFAR Secretariat and by such regional hubs as are in place. They will be advised by the GAP Patrons.