

# Framework for Gender in Feeds and Forages Research

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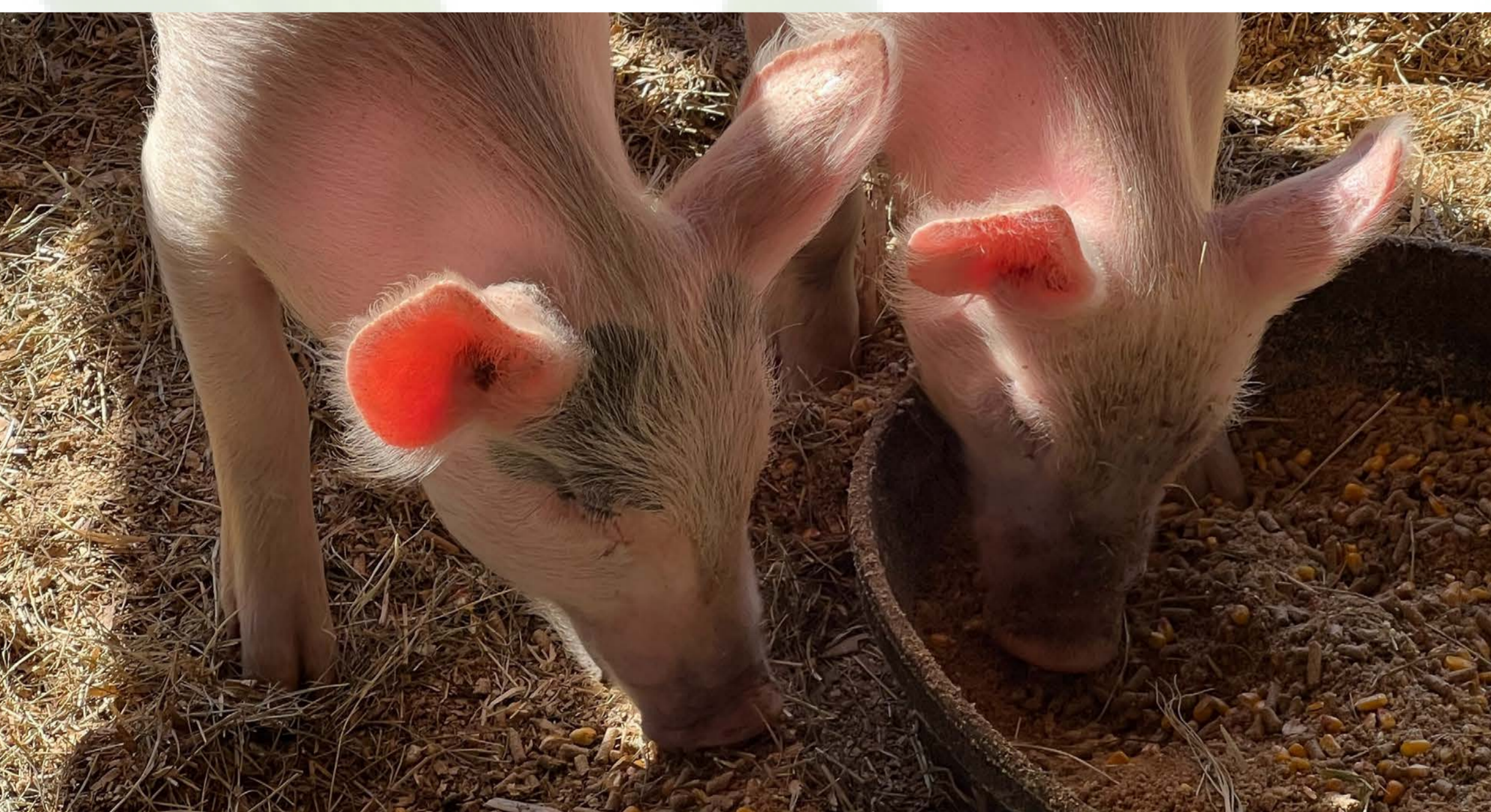


## Introduction:

Low livestock productivity often observed in developing countries is partly attributed to unimproved genetic stocks and inadequate animal health services, but the scarcity of high quality and sufficient feeds is the critical constraining factor. Feed availability on small scale farms is also impacted by climate change factors that lead to seasonal droughts during which feed resources are scarce, pastures dry up, distance to scavenge for feeds increases and market-based alternatives become expensive. Community social norms (informal rules and regulations) lead to women, youth and men experiencing the feeds challenge in different ways in different locations. This gender and feeds conceptual framework is designed to help unpack the gender considerations to focus on in the feeds value chains in diverse livestock production systems in the Low- and Medium-Income Countries (LMIC).

## Methodology:

- **Literature review** of existing livestock/gender frameworks
- **Consultations** with livestock nutrition specialists
- **Drafting the framework** and socializing it with the gender and feeds/forages specialists



## THE RESEARCH PROCESS/FORAGE CLUSTERS MATRIX

Feed types	Prioritizing/targeting feed options (breeding, selection, adoption, traits and preferences)	Improving pre- harvest/post-harvest feed management options (harvesting, storage, use, processing methods, conservation, quality improvements, ration formulation)	Market systems for delivery of inputs / outputs	Evaluation of feed/forage intervention livelihood outcomes
Cultivated forages and pastures	AI	All	All	D
Crop residues	BI	BII	BIII	
Concentrates and novel feeds	CI	CII	CIII	

## Gender issues in Feeds/Forages:

Contextual issues will guide the gender research questions critical for investigation at the intersection of the type of feeds and three steps in feed research process.

- AI** = Gendered access to knowledge about forages/pastures; adoption preferences between men and women.
- BII** = technologies appropriate for use by men or women in crop residues access, processing and utilization.
- CIII** = gender responsive scaling of concentrates and novel feeds.
- D** = Gendered livelihood impact

The diversity of the products under 'feeds' means that we may not have a standard process for the research area that represents all products. Gender issues considered at the point of intersection

## Conclusion

This framework has identified 'broad gender research questions' that teams can focus on to be responsive in the feed development process. It is a basis for initiating a conversation about how livestock feed/forages technologies/innovations contribute to responding the needs of women and men in ways that respond to their diverse needs and foster the highest levels of adoption and utilization. It is also a basis for ensuring that evidence is gathered for indicators that show progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the feeds/forages sub-sector of livestock development.

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