Gender Integration Checklist

BIOMASS ENERGY STRATEGY

PLANNING

1. Discuss the following topics during the scoping mission in order to build awareness of potential gender issues and their implications for biomass energy strategies among partners:
   - Overall gender inequality in society affects women’s ability to benefit from (biomass) energy programmes (women’s illiteracy and lack of exposure, information and training; poverty; lack of resources including land rights, especially among women-headed households).
   - Women’s predominant role in collection, processing and use of biomass fuels for cooking/heating.
   - Women’s heavy reliance on biomass fuels in operating small and micro-scale industries.

2. Involve governmental agencies/ministries/local persons who work on gender issues from the start (during scoping mission discussions). Highlight gender commitments/objectives made by the government.

3. The BEST Steering Committee should include women and/or women’s representatives. This should be mentioned explicitly in the ToR, both the partner and the consultant should be aware and agree from the start of the project.

4. Highlight the gender and/or poverty dimension in the Governing Board Note.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Activity ToR for BEST should incorporate:
   - Through literature study, socio economic research and interaction with organisations/experts working in the area, assess
     (a) What specific roles do women play in the biomass supply system presently and how can these be further strengthened. Special attention should be paid to women’s roles in the management of forest resources in planned community forestry activities.
     (b) What features do women, as primary users, value in cooking fuels and technologies? Technologies and fuels promoted as part of the BEST should be aligned with the local needs, affordability and cooking practices.
   - Support and promote productive use of modern biomass energy in sectors where women are active, such as grinding and milling, food processing, baking, brewing beer, and making soap and shea butter products, drying of fruits, vegetables and fish, restaurants etc.
   - Promote women in new biomass energy businesses such as producing clay liners for efficient cookstoves, selling and installing stoves, managing decentralised biomass power systems, constructing biogas digesters, producing biodiesel fuels from locally grown crops.

2. The profile of the consultant should include experience with gender integration. Give criteria the proper weighting in the evaluation grid.

3. The Steering Committee should explicitly acknowledge the role and position of women in the supply chain. Improvements for women should be included in the BEST vision formulated by the Steering Committee.

4. Analysis: For each proposed activity/measure in the Strategy and Action Plan, an analysis should be made to ensure that it does not adversely affect (and strengthen if possible) women’s access to land as a source of food, fodder and fuel. This analysis should be included in the final report and discussed in the Steering Committee meetings and stakeholder workshops to improve understanding of the gender dimension among all stakeholders.

5. All consultations and workshops should discuss gender issues, encourage gender balance in participation and include the participation of women’s representatives.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Final report: Review final report for integration of poverty and gender dimensions (assessment of gender implications of proposed actions; identification of concrete measures to address these issues; inclusion of gender sensitive indicators in M&E system).

2. EoLR: Report on assessment of outcomes and actions planned on gender dimensions of biomass use.

3. 6 Months Follow-Up: Report on specific outcomes and follow up actions on gender.

4. External Evaluation:
   - Ensure that gender dimensions are covered (issues identified, actions planned and implemented and results achieved) via questionnaire templates and the quick-reference table.
   - Include experience on gender in the profile of the expert/evaluator.