



What is the purpose of the Gender Strategy?

Women in Pakistan make up 39 percent of the labour force in agriculture but compared to men, women have lower wages and health status and lower rates of labour force participation, literacy, political participation, and household headship. The Australian and Pakistani governments have committed to improve the situation of rural women. The strategy articulates this commitment through the aim:

Rural poor, particularly women, living in the Punjab and Sindh, significantly and equitably benefit from improvements in strategic value chains.



“Gender equality is about equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities for women and men, girls and boys.” “Gender equality serves the national interests of Australia and its partner countries.”

- ACIAR’s Gender Equity Policy and Strategy 2017-2021: “Developing an understanding of gender and power relations is integral to the production of relevant, robust research. ACIAR will work with commissioned organisations and partners to influence and effect change in order to ensure that research is undertaken in a manner that advances gender equity and empowers women.”



Why Aik Saath is expected to have a strategy?

- DFAT 2016 Gender equality and women’s empowerment strategy:

Who is expected to use it?

Project leaders and gender experts will manage implementation but all project staff will be a part of the mainstreaming





effort as gender will be integrated into all aspects of project work.

Outcomes of the gender strategy

1. Research Institutions are collaborating to implement multi, interdisciplinary and gender inclusive research on value chains.
2. Some smallholder families (and especially women members) have adopted improved value chain practices



Gender mainstreaming means

(1) ...mainstreamed into each stage of the project life cycle , and linked to Aik Saath project objectives	(2) ...mainstreamed in all project activities for each team and individual's role and tasks	(3) ...mainstreamed into the activities, processes and systems of implementing partners
(4) ... enabled through a coordinated program of strategic oversight, review, capacity support, lesson learning, monitoring, external partner liaison and engagement with internal and external specialists		

Iterative process

