

Give Better Evidence, Gain Better Decisions.

Gender as a Quality Standard in Evaluation

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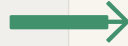
"Give to Gain: Advancing Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Evaluation"

What the field
usually asks:

*"How do we make evaluation
more gender-responsive?"*

*"How do we include
women's voices?"*

*"How do we disaggregate
our indicators?"*



"What does our evidence
get **wrong** when we
exclude gender?"

Not a question of ethics.

Not a question of inclusion.

A question of methodological validity.

This is where today's discussion begins.

We teach this in research methodology.

Why don't we apply it consistently in evaluation?

▲ Triangulation

We teach that single sources create validity threats. One gender perspective in food systems data isn't methodology - it's a sampling failure.

→ Causal Attribution

In agriculture, women manage household food allocation even when men control income. Excluding them doesn't just miss their voice - it breaks your causal model.

© Paradigm Awareness

Different epistemic positions give access to different realities. Women in rural systems hold knowledge that male respondents literally cannot report on.

Gender exclusion is not an equity oversight.

It is a methodological failure.

An evaluation that excludes half the actors in a food system is not a gender-blind evaluation.

It is a methodologically compromised one.

THREE CONSEQUENCES

01

Missed causal pathways

You misattribute what drives outcomes in food, agriculture, and rural livelihoods.

02

Wrong recommendations

Recommendations based on incomplete evidence don't hold in practice - regardless of methodology.

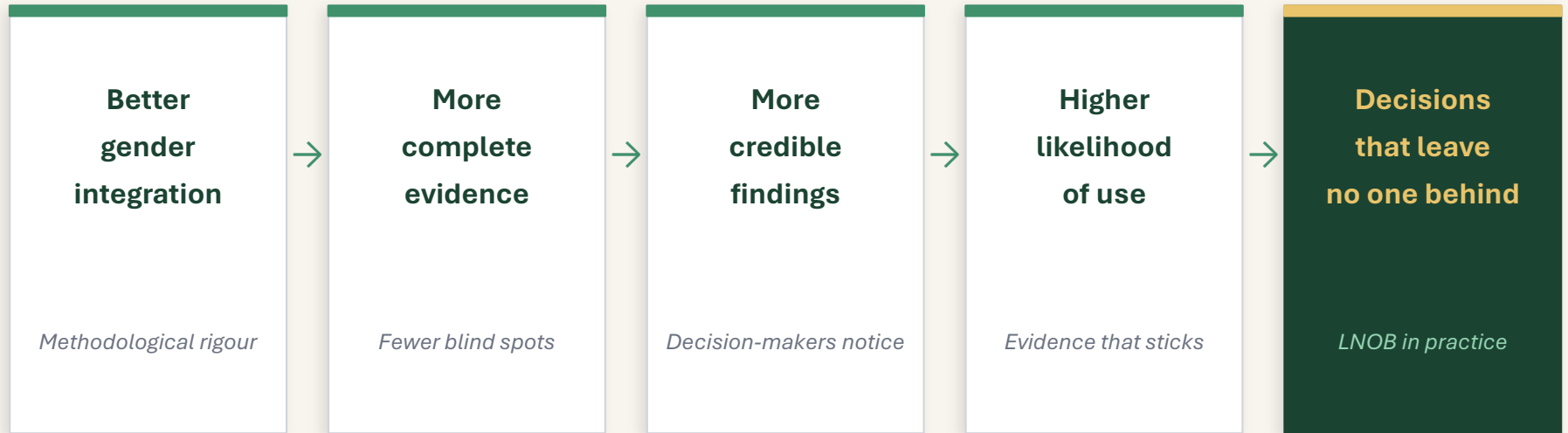
03

Findings that don't get used

Decision-makers sense incomplete evidence, even when they can't name it. Partial evidence is easier to set aside.

The underutilization of gender findings is not only a structural problem.

It is often a quality problem in disguise.



From compliance to quality standard

1

Ask the invisibility question at inception

Whose experiences are structurally absent and what do we get methodologically wrong if they stay absent? Not "who should we include" but "what do we miss".

2

Treat gender integration as a validity check

Not a separate section. A lens applied across your entire causal logic: does this hold for all actors in the system? If not, your theory of change has a gap.

3

Frame gender findings as completeness of evidence

To commissioners and decision-makers: not "this matters for equity" but "without this dimension, the evidence is incomplete - and incomplete evidence produces decisions that don't hold."

Give better evidence. Gain better decisions.

Because that shift from compliance to quality - is what makes gender evidence impossible to ignore.