

Disability Inclusion in Climate-Smart Agriculture

Many people with disabilities live within rural communities which depend on farming for food, income, and daily life. Climate-smart agriculture helps people grow food while protecting the earth from climate change.

When people with disabilities are included in farming activities and asked what they need to participate, they can suggest ways to make farming more accessible for everyone.Including people with disabilities helps protect their rights, strengthen livelihoods, and build stronger communities which are climate resilient and inclusive.

Disability Inclusion Key Messages

- ✓ **Disability inclusion in agricultural programs does not require separate strategies** – it should be integrated into existing strategies and activities.

- ✓ **Work together** with people with disabilities and their representative organisations to identify barriers and suggest ways to overcome them.

- ✓ **Remember that there are different types of disabilities,** and people will need different kinds of support.

- ✓ Make information, activities, and services **accessible** to everyone.

- ✓ **Think about the different needs** of women, men, girls, boys, older people, and people from different communities.

- ✓ Remember: **People with disabilities are the experts on their own lives.**



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How to Include People with Disabilities

Listen and work together



- ✓ **Include people with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** in planning and decision-making. Ask for their ideas and feedback.
- ✓ Make meetings, training, and activities **accessible to everyone.**
- ✓ Support people with disabilities to have **leadership roles.**

Build Knowledge and Skills



- ✓ **Encourage and skill up people with disabilities** to work in agriculture programs.
- ✓ **Share learning materials** that are easy to understand.
- ✓ **Train staff and community members on disability inclusion** and ways to make farming activities more inclusive.

Use Helpful Tools



- ✓ **Use communication methods to help everyone access information (ask OPDs for advice).**
- ✓ **Provide assistive technology and adaptive farming tools** where needed.
- ✓ **Support accessible farming methods,** such as raised garden beds and keyhole gardens.

Prepare for Climate Change and Disasters



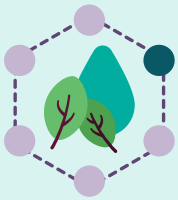
- ✓ Include people with disabilities in **climate change planning.**
- ✓ Include people with disabilities in **disaster preparedness activities.**
- ✓ Make shelters, evacuation routes, and **warning systems accessible.**
- ✓ Make sure emergency information is **available in accessible formats.**
- ✓ Include people with disabilities in **local risk and safety planning.**

Improve Access to Land, Resources, and Money



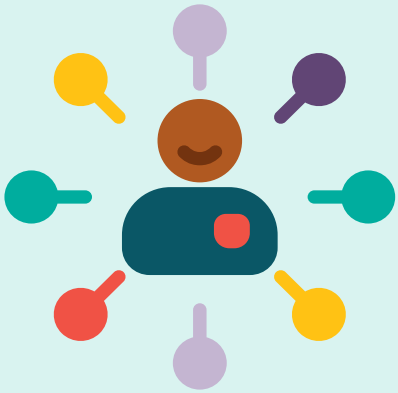
- ✓ Make sure people with disabilities **can access land and farming resources.**
- ✓ **Ensure loans, savings programs, and income activities and information are accessible.**
- ✓ **Remove barriers** that stop people from taking part in farming activities.

Support Jobs and Businesses



- ✓ **Include people with disabilities in agricultural value chains.**
- ✓ **Support small business** and income-generating opportunities.
- ✓ **Help create pathways** to employment and economic participation.

Create Welcoming Communities and Respect Rights



- ✓ **Raise awareness** about disability inclusion.
- ✓ **Share success stories** of successful disability-inclusive climate smart agriculture programs and encourage people with disabilities to share their experience.
- ✓ **Encourage community leaders** to promote inclusion.
- ✓ **Challenge stigma** and discrimination and respect the rights of people with disabilities.
- ✓ **Support learning** and research on accessible agriculture.
- ✓ **Track** whether people with disabilities are included and benefiting from activities.
- ✓ **Make monitoring and evaluation** activities accessible.
- ✓ **Use feedback** from people with disabilities to improve programs.

Key Message

Climate-smart agriculture works best when people with disabilities are included in planning, learning, farming activities, and decision-making.

Strong communities include everyone.



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