**Welcome and Introductions**

**In Attendance:**

Laura Zseleczky, Virginia Tech; Maria Elisa Christie, Virginia Tech; Altrena Mukuria, Counterpart International; Kristi Tabaj, TOPS; Melissa Samaras, TOPS; Claire Robertson, THP; John Coonrod, THP; Michelle Gamber, USAID; Bianca Morales-Egan, PCI Global; Elizabeth Arlotti-Parish, ACDI/VOCA; Julie Tanaka, Samaritan’s Purse; Kathryn Goldman, Peace Corps; Kathryn Reider, World Vision; Mary DeCoster, TOPS; Joan Jennings, TOPS; Melanie Thurber, USAID; Adriane Seibert, Save the Children; Carolyn Wetzel, Food for the Hungry; Melissa Antal; Patrick Coonan, TOPS; Sonya Kibler, Concern Worldwide US; Fatimata Ouilma M’Bara-Sinare, ACDI/VOCA, ViM

**Agenda Items**

***Quick overview of the Gender GLEE – May 22-24***

Information from presentations will be posted on the Agrilinks website. Some highlights from the sessions:

* Time was spent discussing the WEAI. The data is useful, but qualitative data is needed as well.
* Women earning income does not guarantee women having the decision-making power over the use of income- Bangladesh example.
* Best practices session. Is the best approach to sensitize stakeholders to gender issues or dig into key issues in ag/nutrition/etc and use a gender lens?
* Session on stories from the field (Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Honduras). An artist drew the story told by each country representative.
* A gallery walk had a variety of themes (gender and time/labor, youth, research). Participants could learn more about programs addressing these themes and leave thoughts.
* Breakout sessions: Value chains, youth, nutrition, decision making.
* Final thoughts from the two days: We’ve come a long way, but we have a long way to go.

Other thoughts:

John Coonrod – Mayra Buvinic’s talk on evidence around best practices: 34 studies and their findings.

***Request for examples of gender consultant SOWs and gender analysis templates***

Michelle Gamber from the Office of Food For Peace- We hope to have some guidance out in the next couple of months on conducting gender analyses. People are welcomed to submit sample SOWs or templates that have worked well. We would like to see more consistent content as well as standards (i.e. similar page standards). The average analysis has been 155 pages. We want to streamline efforts. Maybe see solid analyses down to 50 pages. We know not everyone reads them.

Also, FFP will be working with TOPS to solicit feedback for the upcoming RFA. Information we received will feed into the draft RFA and then of course people can comment again when the draft is released later this year.

***Endorsable tools***

We have already identified some contenders (ACDI/VOCA tool kit, InterAction’s gender audit). Please do send tools our way and we can share them on the FSN Network.

***Ration and gender bias question***

At the last meeting we posed a question about whether there is a negative bias towards women related to the ration given in Title II programs. We will postpone this topic until the next meeting, through the listserv, or perhaps in an online discussion.

***Men’s focus group***

A few months ago we conducted a men’s focus group with members of NGOs. This was the result of fearing that not enough men are engaged in the gender discussions. Back in November at the FSN Network Knowledge Sharing meeting in DC, men attended sessions, but they didn’t contribute much to the conversations. When a few were asked why, they stated that they didn’t know if what they had to contribute was useful, but also felt in some cases the conversation was very anti-male. The talk about female empowerment is important, but we need further engagement by men.

Key points from the session include providing more information about how to do gender integration (beyond the 50/50 split of activities and sex-disaggregated data). Also, what is written at the HQ level doesn’t necessarily take into account whether those who are implementing agree or know how to best implement female empowerment activities.

If we want to integrate gender, why do we continually pull it out of what we are doing? Suggestions included taking a subject and looking at it through a gender lens rather than just talking gender. We also need to speak about what men care about which is about caring for families.

We intend to do this same session with representatives from USAID (more specifically FFP and BFS), perhaps in July. They showed interest, but were unable to attend the NGO session.

One of the discussion points at the Gender GLEE was how income was spent and who had the power to spend it. Some believe women are best at spending money on household and family needs while men can spend it recklessly. Others believe men spend money on living expenses (such as housing) and reinvest their money in business (including farming). This topic will be further explored.

**Presentation by Altrena Mukuria from Counterpart International** on findings of a PATH study that looked at engaging elder women and men as influencers to improve nutritional outcomes for mothers and children. The full presentation can be found here: [FSN Network website](http://www.fsnnetwork.org/discussion-forum/nutrition/engaging-grandmothers-and-men-influencers).