Multiple Use Water Services: Overcoming gender stereotypes and sectoral boundaries

World Water Forum 4
Gender and water in the past
Productive sector

1970s:
“No gender issue in irrigation because women are housewives and the irrigation sector has no mandate for domestic water services”.

1980-90s:
* Women are farmers!
* Women’s inclusion in irrigation schemes improve food and income for themselves and their dependents, and improve scheme performance!
Gender and water in the past
Domestic sector

“Improved drinking water supplies, which is women’s responsibility as housewives, improve family’s health”.

1980-90s:
* Improved domestic water supplies (also for cooking and other domestic chores) also alleviate women’s and girls’ burdens!
* Women’s inclusion in domestic schemes improves scheme performance!

“Domestic water sector has no mandate for productive water uses”. 
Multiple-use water services:

Take poor women’s and men’s multiple water needs as the starting point.

Overcome compartmentalized, single-use planning within the water sector itself, bridging the gap between ‘productive’ and ‘domestic’.

Prioritize water services through inclusive community-based planning and design
Gender equity in multiple-use water services - 1

Both women and men and both sectors are responsible for domestic supplies, with top-priority!
Both women and men need water for productive uses, including homestead production!
Thank You