Managing Water in the Americas : Science and Gender


## What is the problem?



## Why is this a problem? 1950



## $1995$



## $2025$



# What is the problem? 

66\% Agriculture

20\% Industry

10\% Household

4\% Evaporates

# What is the problem in the Americas? 

$30 \%$ of the water with $6 \%$ of the population
water is not well distributed
water is being contaminated

Climate change

What are the clues? Complexity

## Heterogeneous

Many Length Scales

## What are the clues?

## Better Management

## Scientific Discovery

## What is the problem?



## Regional Averages

## Regional Averages



## Brazilian Academy of Sciences



## Question of time?



## Men and women participation



## Men and women participation



## Advantages on Gender Balance



## What are the clues?

A World Bank evaluation of 122 water projects found that the effectiveness of a project was six to seven times higher where women were involved than where they were not." - WSSCC

Including women in water management planning often makes for fewer oversights in technical planning, improved resource and financial management, and greater transparency.

Women are empowered in the community through demonstrating their technical and management qualifications.

## What are the clues?

## Management

Science

## What are the solutions?



## What are the solutions?



## What are the solutions?



GenderInSITE Parallel Workshop on Applying a Gender and Science Lens to Water Issues TWAS Science Diplomacy Workshop 30 Nov - 4 Dec 2015

## What is the solution?

Women should be involved at the highest level of priority setting and funding decisions

Women rank/ prioritize topics differently, and ask different questions

Problem definition and Question Formation should involve women,

Women are socialized to appreciate complexity and networks, and to conceptualize ideas differently

Gendered aspects of research are not always obvious or considered important

Research Leads

Donors/ Funders
Researchers and Funders need training on integrating gender in design and evaluation of research

## What is the solution?

Need to consider women's perspective as users of technologies

Women are 50\% of users (more in some regions/types of use)

Program and project designers and executors

Need to find appropriate ways to engage women

Women may not feel comfortable speaking up under the same circumstances as men (i.e. large community meetings)

Program and project designers and executors

## What is the solution?

Financial tools should be equally accessible to men and women

Women and men are equally well suited to natural and social sciences

Financial tools are the key to action, women need to be engaged

All societies still have deeply instilled ideas about appropriate interests \& careers for men and women

Tendency for progress \& equality in some areas (i.e. basic education) to mask stillexisting inequalities

Banks, Funders/ Aid agencies

Educators, Parents

Educators, Communities
disenfranchised and discriminated against

What is the solution?

