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PANEL TITLE: GENDER, COMMONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: REFLECTIONS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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ABSTRACT

In the last few decades, one witnessed a large body of literature on common property resources - the resources that are shared and used by group/s or communities like forest, land, pastures, water etc. Most of these studies on CPR tend to discuss issues either in gender neutral terms or are largely focused on men, who tend to have disproportionate rights, ownership, or access with regards to resources. While SDG-5 underlines gender equality in all forms, due to influence of patriarchy and other social divisions, women have unequal access to different types of property regimes including commons. Women are not only dependent on common resources for their livelihoods, but they also play an effective role in resource governance. In fact, gender disaggregated data about land and other resources have revealed the importance of women in the governance of such resources. The gradual decline of common resources in recent years, due to numerous factors including the role of the state and market, has impacted women in various ways. Empirical evidence shows that while in some instances declining commons have impacted women negatively, in others it has also forced them to come together to bring about change. This panel invites paper based on field insights from diverse settings from Global South to understand the dynamics of common natural resources from a gendered perspective. How intersectionality of gender, class, caste, religion etc. impacts access and control of resources. It also intends to understand how women are impacted disproportionately by climate change, land appropriation, deforestation among others, particularly with reference to common resources.

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