



UPS 11: How does gender influence participation in food securing upgrading strategies

TATU-MAUREEN MNIMBO, JOYCE LYIMO-MACHA AND HENRY MAHOO

FVC COMPONENTS AND KEY CONSTRAINTS ADDRESSED:

Rural Participation in value chains and upgrading strategies; gender equality in access to, ownership of, and control of resources.

DESCRIPTION

A gendered approach to upgrading value chains must systematically describe existing gender relations in the study environment, ranging from within households or firms to a larger scale of communities, ethnic groups, or the nation. The food security of many households in Tanzania is vulnerable to repeated climatic and economic shocks, as well as sustained low crop production. This has led to food insecurity at both the household and national levels (FAO, 2011). Agriculture and food security are characterized by gendered dimensions in that women play a key role in agricultural production, food processing, and marketing. Women play a decisive role in dietary diversity and are responsible for nutrition in the home. In addition, women are involved in the production and domestication of plants and animals; are knowledgeable in seed selection and vegetative propagation.

Men also play a crucial role in food production; they, however, face fewer constraints than women. Men are more likely to have access to productive resources such as land, credit, and extension services. In case of crop failure due to harsh climatic conditions, cultural traditions often make it easier for men to leave their farms in search of employment elsewhere, leaving women behind to struggle to feed their families and make ends meet. In many cases, women have diminished and hidden assets and resources that can help them plan for and potentially avert the next crisis.



With commercialization of agriculture, crop processing traditionally done by women is increasingly done by men.





PROVEN SUCCESS IN TZ AND BEYOND

Studies of natural resources, production and water use in Tanzania indicated unequal gender relations. Women and men have unequal access to assets and productive resources. Women generally have smaller landholdings and less security of tenure than men. Women are also more heavily dependent on natural resources such as fuelwood and water. Women especially need access to sufficient, safe, and clean water for farming and domestic use. Men and women must be represented in local community structures so that they can make decisions about management of water and irrigation schemes, thus ensuring that women farmers receive what they need (FAO, 2011).

The success of gender inclusion has deepened the understanding of the position of women in value chains and promoted women empowerment. Therefore, it is necessary to remain attentive to the local context, including the diverse notions of masculinity that might both challenge and support gender empowerment (Wyrod, 2008; Parpart, et al. 2002).

Furthermore, gender consideration helps resolve intra-household conflicts over labor and income by linking broader cultural and societal processes. Understanding women's position in a value chain and how changes in a value chain might affect gender inequality is crucial. In order to achieve greater participation, gender must be placed in the context of intra-household bargaining and of broader social processes dimensions (Wyrod, 2008; Parpart et al., 2002; Laven et al., 2009).

Upgrading strategies with a gendered perspective, are essential for identifying the possibilities for men and women to "move up the value chain," by shifting to more rewarding positions in the chain (Riisgard, 2008).



TRANS-SEC FINDINGS

In the study areas, it was observed that with the increasing commercialization of agriculture, the dominant position of men is changing. When observing gender roles, for example, traditionally women were responsible for winnowing and crop processing, but after the implementation of processing machines in the study area, men are taking over.

The traditional ownership of rural poultry is shared among family members but is predominantly the responsibility of women and youth. Decision-making regarding selling, consumption, and gifts to guests in rural poultry reflects plurality, in the sense that women dominate the access and control of food as well as gifts to guests, while men dominate the cash and cultural benefits arising from poultry. When it comes to traditional cooking within the village, cooking takes place with biomass on open fires and rudimentary stoves therefore women are used to walking long distances for fuel wood. Due to the concerns regarding biomass use and its effect on both the local environment and individual health, the project thought about the associated social impacts and introduced the improved cooking stove. Similar results on the improved cooking stove, as presented by Clough (2012), shows that in the developing world nearly 3 billion people rely on traditional cooking methods to prepare their meals. Women are mostly responsible, using open fires or basic cook stoves that are usually fueled by wood, charcoal, crop residues, or animal dung.

The project aims at improving nutritional status. Therefore, household kitchen gardens were introduced, attracting the interest of men, women, and youth. Men and women work hand-in-hand when making kitchen garden pockets (e.g. by putting in pebbles, sand and manure), but the daily work, consisting of watering, harvesting the vegetables, and cooking, is done by women (Mitchell and Hanstad 2004). Kitchen gardens offer more than just nutritional advantages: for men it is a reduction in expenditure (as they no longer provide money for vegetables), while women benefit from a reduction of collection tasks (easily obtained near the homestead), reduced household conflicts with husbands, increased financial independence, and enhanced food security.





Table 1 shows the gender domains used in Production, Processing and Storage, and Marketing.

Gender domains	Production	Processing and Storage	Marketing
Asset and Resources	Ownership of or access to: land, farm inputs, information technology (radios, cell phones), and credits	Ownership of or access to: land, technology, processing materials	Ownership and access to: Markets and market information, transport, loans.
Decision making	Intra-household communication, and negotiation on production, crops to grow, savings and expenditures, roles, and use of production inputs.	Decision making on processing roles, decision on what storage strategy to use.	Intra-household decision making on marketing roles, what amount to sell and negotiations and price setting.
Participation	Agriculture priorities on which crops to grow (e.g. food vs. cash crops), different gender roles/responsibilities within family, community different incentives or thresholds of benefits for participation.	Access to information and skill-building opportunities (via mass media, training, etc.).	Mobility: Norms restricting travel to markets, lack of finances for transport and safety concerns



TYPE OF FOOD CROPS APPLICABLE: all types of food crops

TECHNICAL SPECIFICS, DIMENSIONS

Methods for analyzing gender relevance include key informants interview, focus group discussions, gender analysis matrix, and the Harvard analytical framework. The Harvard Framework was used to demonstrate the economic case for allocating resources to both women and men. The framework helped design more efficient projects and improve overall productivity. It does this by mapping the work and resources of both men and women in a community and highlighting the main differences: access and control, activity profile, influencing factors, and project cycle.

The gender analysis matrix (GAM) is an analytical tool that uses the participatory methodology to facilitate the definition and analysis of gender issues by the communities affected by them.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSTRAINTS

Women find difficulties in adapting to some technically – related UPS because they are difficult to operate, requiring mechanical knowledge.

LINKAGE TO OTHER FVC COMPONENTS

Gender is a cross-cutting issue across all FVC components so it is linked to all UPS.



CONSIDERATIONS & CRITERIA FOR UPS OUTSCALING

New technologies should be viewed with a gender lens, for example the difficulties associated with machine operations for women.

There should be a gender focused consideration of men's and women's access to resources such as finance, training, credit, labor, and supporting technology.

In order to consider the specific needs of men and women, there should be sex-disaggregated data/information collection, keeping in mind socio-norms and responsibilities in order to avoid perpetuating traditional power imbalances.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

To achieve placement of gender equality in the value chain or UPS, it is important that not only “woman's problems” are taken into considerations, as this will bring very few changes. When men are encouraged to champion gender equality, things can change much more quickly and effectively.

Empowering women and youth is not only necessary for their well-being, but also for enhancing broader agricultural development and food security, as well as being economically sound.

It is important to make sure that women have same opportunities as men because studies show that if women farmers are given the same access to resources (such as land, finance and technology) as men, their agricultural yields could increase by 20 to 30 percent.

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