



Agricultural transformation in Rwanda: Commercialization, Marketing channels and Gender

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Outline

❖ Introduction

❖ The study

❖ Key findings

❖ Conclusion



Introduction...

- ❖ Initiatives to transform agriculture lead by Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).
- ❖ Includes shift from subsistence to market oriented farming (Self & Grabowski, 2007).
- ❖ Productivity and marketable surpluses, access to agricultural markets and conducive policy environment are key.
- ❖ But: high transaction costs, lack of markets and gender inequalities persist (Barrett et al., 2012; Mmbando et al. 2015; Quisumbing et al., 2015)

Rwanda context...

- ❖ Agriculture a major employer (82% and 63% of employed women and men respectively) and women supply most of labor (Hjelm et al, 2016; MINECOFIN,2014).
- ❖ Steps to market oriented agriculture started in 2000 with Rwanda vision 2020, and later with the country's involvement with CAADP in 2007
- ❖ Focus was on intensification of production systems, professionalization of producers, improvement of farmer's access to markets and development of institutional framework.
- ❖ Social equity in to increase participation and equality among women and men smallholders promoted (MINAGRI, 2010; Verhofstadt &Maertens, 2014).
- ❖ However, more women than men farmers still remain in subsistence production and their number has increased in the last decade(MINAGRI,2013).

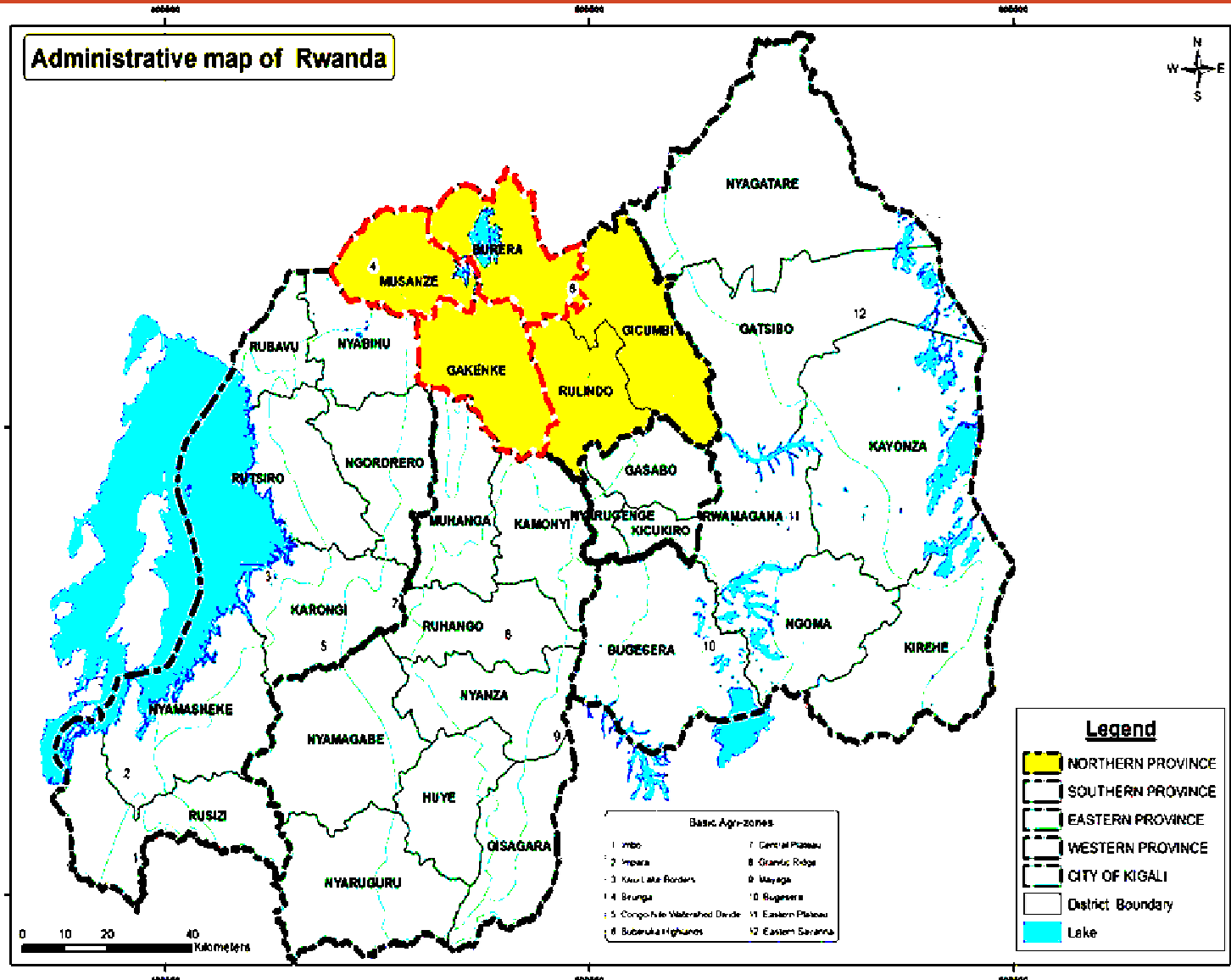
The study.

- ❖ This study, sought to explain this phenomenon of persistent traditional farming.
- ❖ Specifically: (1) examines the degree of farmers' market participation with a gender perspective
- (2) Explores gender related issues limiting the participation of women farmers in agricultural commercialization.



Methodology

- ❖ Qualitative and quantitative data used.
- ❖ Survey of 129 and 219 potato and beans farmers, respectively.
- ❖ 7 Focus group discussions involving men and women separately.
- ❖ Descriptive and Thematic analysis.

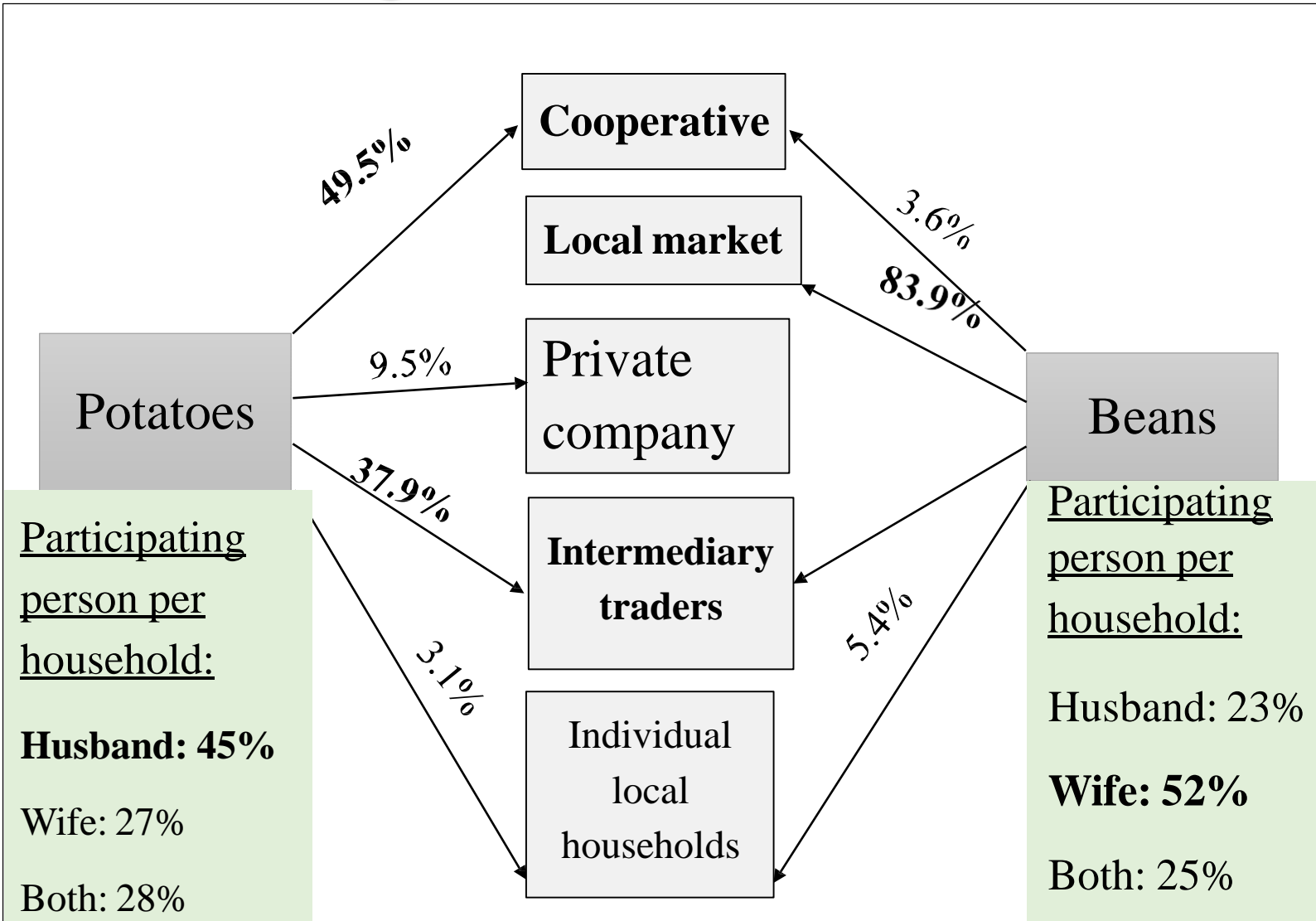


Findings:

1. Commercialization, Marketing channels and Gender

❖ 73% of Potato farmers participate in output markets, 77% of them selling more than a half of their harvests.

❖ Only 26% of bean farmers participated in market and 57% sold more than a half of their harvests.



Findings:

1. Commercialization, Marketing channels and Gender

❖ Men's crops, women's crops?



❖ Women's crop: lower level of commercialization

"Yes, she can sell a proportion of the beans and reserves others, as they are purposively to feed the family, but she can sell some beans in order to buy like salt". FGD, Burera



"There are villages, near the forest where it is known and indisputable that potato crop are men's property, and beans are for women. When a woman has planted beans, a man won't ask about it and for potato, the wife will not ask the husband"
FGD Burera

Findings:

2. Gender and limitations to commercialization

❖ Participation to input markets:

-Potato: In 58% of HH, bought inputs are purchased by Men, 20% involved wives and in 22%, both were involved.

-Beans: In 46% of HH, the inputs are bought by Men, 32% involved wives and 22% both.

❖ Family labour supply

“We usually work together on farm: planting potatoes, beans, yams, almost everything. But in the evening, you see yourself that I have just taken a bath, I’m now heading to Murambo for a bottle. After spending a whole day helping my wife on farms, she can’t argue when I leave home in the evening..”. FGD, Men (Gakenke)



“...after spending the whole day together in the field, the time use differs between wife and husband. From the field, women go at home to fulfill other responsibilities. Women work many hours than men”. FGD, Men (Burera)

Findings:

2. Gender and limitations to commercialization

❖ Limited access to output markets

“...we work together, I can't go to harvest alone we go together, even with workers who carry the potatoes to the selling point, ... after selling, she comes and help me to pay workers. she must come to help me, she is actually more responsible”. FGD, Men (Burera)

❖ Inequalities in outcomes sharing

“..there are times when money from the harvest is given, the husband takes it and does not even give his wife a single coin, and forgets that she is the one who struggled hard with the land. That is an impediment” FGD, Women (Burera)



Findings:

2. Gender and limitations to commercialization

❖ Inequalities in outcomes sharing

“A husband is the one who determines what to plant in the garden, and when they grow, he is the one still who determines what to give you may be thanking you for what you did in the garden, where he gives you money to go and buy clothes for yourself or what you want”.

FGD, Women (Gakenke)



“...not all women have access to the production which they sweated for. after harvest, men take on and push women aside. some women look as if they are just there as employees while they should enjoy all the profits of the land as spouses. this mentality of men degrades women, and it is an impediment to household development” FGD, Women (Burera)



Conclusion

- ❖ Efforts aimed at the transformation risks increasing gender inequalities in households
- ❖ In the transition:
 1. Bean crop, mostly grown for home consumption with low level of commercialization remained under the management of women.
 2. Potato grown for market with well structured marketing channel is a men's crop.
 3. Women, though highly participating in farming activities have limited linkages to input and output markets. This can have negative impact on production.
 4. Both women and men supply labour but the agricultural income is not equally shared. Women consider this as an impediment to agricultural development.

THANK YOU!