



cultural practice, LLC



WHAT WORKS FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: ISSUES, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES

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Catalysing Actionable Knowledge to Make Next-Generation
ACP Agriculture Work for Women
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Critical Issues

To better understand:

- Diversity of women's involvement in agriculture
- Different needs at different points in the value chain, e.g.,
 - Producers
 - Processors
 - Traders
 - Input and transport suppliers
- How to improve women's performance to upgrade their position in the chain
- How to measure women's economic empowerment, its objective and subjective dimensions
- Gender dimensions of agriculture policies
- What we mean by empowerment: the ability to make strategic life decisions and to act on them



Maimouna Coulibaly at her seed company in Mali

Challenges

Gender-Based Constraint	Producers	Processors	Small-Scale Traders/ Retailers	Wage Workers	Service Providers	Large Entrepreneurs
Access to land	XX	Varies	Varies		Varies	X (for collateral)
Access to water	XX	X	X			X
Access to labor	X	XX		X		XX
Access to capital	X	X	XX		X	XXX
Access to technology (including digital)	Varies	XX	X		X	XX
Access to information (including via ICT)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Access to transport	X	X	XX	X	XX	
Food & nutrition security	XX	X	X	XX	X	
Climate-smart ag	XX		X		X	XX

Opportunities

General Problem Specific Solutions

- Design for gender equality outcomes from the start, in research and practice
 - Melinda Gates (2014): Intentional development for gender equality
- Move beyond production to support women at all node of the agricultural value chain
- Identify off-farm entrepreneurial and wage work agricultural options for young women especially early school leavers and young married women
- Provide “bundled services” for agri-entrepreneurs – e.g., access to credit, business development training, and transport services
- Provide women with access to phones, digital apps, and digital financial services to build connections to e.g., agricultural extension information (e.g., varieties, diseases, sowing schedule, weather conditions), market information, and mobile money



Building transport and market linkages

DLEC LOOP program in Bangladesh

- Uses extension system to ease market constraints for smallholders, including many women.
- The project works with village-based extensionists who serve as aggregators to bulk produce (primarily vegetables) and secure transport to market, manage the sales, and provide payment to the producers.
- Operations are managed using a mobile app to manage information on crop quantities, prices, and sales.
- Participants save time and money transporting their produce to the nearest market using Loop services. Participants report higher earnings when using the services.
- Similar programs could be developed to provide other crops and livestock services to ease other constraints of access and infrastructure.



Improving access to production technologies

HelloTractor (Nigeria)

- Uses an *Uber*TM model to help smallholder farmers in Nigeria overcome the cost and loan fees for tractor hire and purchase. It has raised \$3 million in seed funding from USAID and other sources and sold over 1,000 tractors to farmers in Nigeria.
- A mobile app, connects **tractor owners – many of whom will be women** -- with nearby farmers who request tractor service via SMS text messaging.
- Hello Tractor also **coordinates low-cost financing** to help facilitate the tractor purchase.
- **Has increased income** -- Owners are paid are paid \$75/hectare and clear \$25/hectare after expenses. Producers pay 1/3 previous rates.
- **Has improved productivity** – tests in 2014 showed yield increases of 200 percent using a machine much faster than manual labor.

Jehiel Oliver (CEO) hopes the model will change negative gender stereotypes: “When [the women] arrive with that tractor, you’re going to still want that service. This was our way of circumventing the negative gender stereotypes that exist in Nigeria



Opportunities

- Build targeted gender assessments into project design & include ways to address digital service opportunities
- Improve measurement of development interventions impact on women
 - Women's empowerment in agriculture index (WEAI) and its adaptations at the project level (pro-WEAI) and in value chains (WEAI4VC)
- Expand index insurance programs and women's access to them
- Strengthen the enabling environment
 - End discriminatory legislation (land rights, inheritance, family law)
 - Address gender-based violence in agribusiness
 - Improve government procurement policies
- Work with the private sector to strengthen voluntary sustainability standards



Objective	Objective	Objective
<p>Increase and enhance participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include women as well as men in program activities • to increase the kind and quality of their participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase women’s well-being (e.g., food security, income, health) • To increase women’s performance in the chain 	<p>To strengthen women’s ability to make strategic life choices and put those choices into action</p>
Tactics	Tactics	Tactics
<p>Recognize women as farmers, processors, and traders, enabling their participation in farmer fields school, lead farmer programs, agricultural associations</p>	<p>Intentionally design programming to strengthen women’s benefits from market integration by analyzing and reducing gender-based constraints in access to productive resources and services</p>	<p>“Bundle” services that strengthen access to women’s assets with business development training and behavior change communication activities to shift household dynamics between men and women</p>

Adapted from Johnson, N. et al. 2017.

Selected Resources

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