

# Assessing the Gender Impacts and Contributions of CCAFS Climate-Smart Villages in Lao PDR

Working Paper No. 378

CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change,  
Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)

Dina Vivona  
Elizabeth Thippawong



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
**Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security**



Working Paper

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## **Abstract**

From July – September 2021, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was conducted to measure the impacts of the CSV gender strategy in regards to project participation, agricultural productivity, and overall socio-economic impacts at the village-cluster level. The GIA also aimed to provide insight on the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on project objectives, and more specifically, women’s coping strategies as they relate to Climate-Smart Villages. Primary data was collected from two villages in Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR, and included a total of 28 respondents (9 female, 19 male).

Although all respondents reported positive impacts to their livelihoods and improved resilience to climate change-related challenges, the CSV did not achieve gender-transformative outcomes. This is likely the result of a gender strategy which emphasized equal participation without improving knowledge on gender equality principles or fostering an enabling environment for social behaviour change. Also, since the CSV gender strategy did not include specific gender development targets, it could not be determined whether gender-specific outcomes were reached. This highlights the need for long-term systemic gender strategizing across sectors, programmes, and partnerships.

### **Keywords**

Gender; climate-smart agriculture; impact assessment.

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## Acronyms

CCAFS	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSV	Climate-Smart Villages Southeast Asia Initiative
GIA	Gender Impact Assessment
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
IS	Individual Survey
KII	Key Informant Interview
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic



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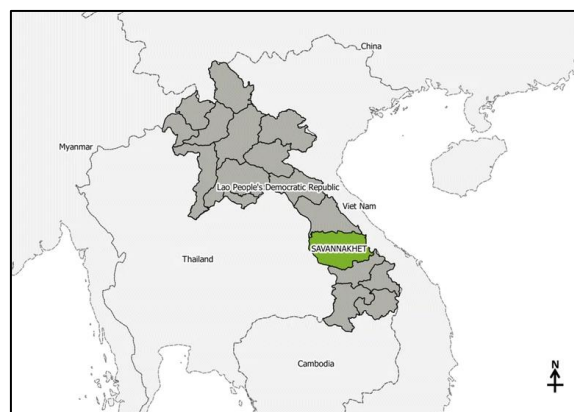
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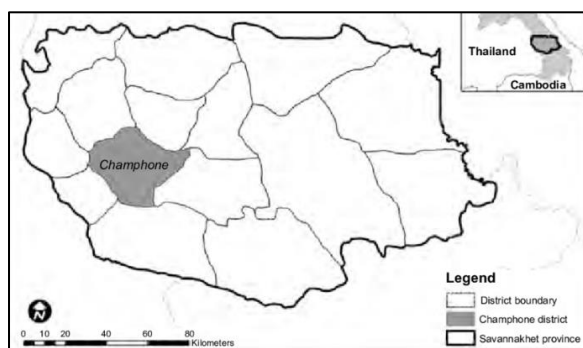
## Introduction

The CGIAR *Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security – Climate-Smart Villages Southeast Asia Initiative (CCAFS-CSV)* began implementation in late 2014. In Lao PDR, project implementation was led by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR); in collaboration with government partners the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), and Provincial and District Agriculture Offices (PAFO & DAFO).



**Figure 1: Location of Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. Source: Tun STT et al. 2017.**

With the goal of improving climate change resilience for smallholder farmers by providing climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices, the project was piloted in 7 villages in Champhone District, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. The project was designed with a gender dimension that emphasized equal participation, gender-balanced activities, and parity in decision-making processes. As the pilot phase of the initiative concludes, the efficacy of the CSV gender strategy must be evaluated to inform adaptations for future scale-up/scale-out.



**Figure 2: Location of Champhone District, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. Source: Barzen JA. et al. 2019.**



**Figure 3: Topographic map of Savannakhet Province with location of Phailom Village (red circle). Source: Yen BT. et al. 2015.**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was to qualitatively and quantitatively measure the impacts of the CSV gender strategy in regards to project participation, agricultural productivity, and overall socio-economic impacts at a village-cluster level, and provide valuable insight and recommendations to inform future implementation.

Additionally, the GIA aimed to provide insight on the impacts of the global Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on project objectives, and more specifically, women's coping strategies as they relate to Climate-Smart Villages.

### **Objectives:**

1. To assess the contributions and positive impacts of the CSV gender strategy in project sites, with an emphasis on women's participation, agricultural productivity, and improved livelihoods through socio-economic development.
2. To identify any significant changes in knowledge, attitude, and skills among farmer participants of the CSV initiative (sex-disaggregated), during and after the intervention.
3. To provide strategies and recommendations for systematizing effective gender inclusion frameworks in community-based projects.

## Contextual Overview: Gender in Lao PDR

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is characterized as one of the most economically poor countries in Southeast Asia, despite its abundance of natural resources and agriculture-based livelihoods. With a largely informal and agriculture-based economy, 68% of the population lives in rural and remote areas, and relies primarily on subsistence farming (UN Women-Asia Pacific, 2021). Lao PDR currently ranks 137 on the Human Development Index (out of 189 countries)<sup>1</sup>, and 110 on the Gender Inequality Index (out of 162 countries)<sup>2</sup> (UNDP, 2021). Lao PDR ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1981, however, its first State Report was not submitted until 2005.

According to UN Women-Asia Pacific, the primary challenges to gender equality are in enabling equal access for women and girls to opportunities and resources, particularly for rural and marginalized women. Illiteracy, poor reproductive and basic health, food insecurity and economic disenfranchisement rank high among development priorities for women (UN Women-Asia Pacific, 2021). Deeply-rooted patriarchal structures and gender norms assign women to mostly household tasks and reproductive roles. Gendered divisions of land, labour, decision-making power and other resources leave women susceptible to extreme poverty, homelessness, poor health, unemployment, exploitation, trafficking, early and forced marriage, adolescent pregnancy, and gender-based violence. Despite the efforts of the Lao Government to mainstream gender targets at all levels, limited access to political processes leaves women underrepresented in critical policy-discussions. As such, development programming is not always targeted effectively, localized appropriately, or ensures feedback mechanisms to accurately inform stakeholders. Marginalizing factors are exacerbated across intersectional groups, especially for ethnic minority women and girls, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities. Lao women and girls are also increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as systemic inequalities limit their capacity to

<sup>1</sup> HDI ranking relative to neighbouring countries: Cambodia = 144/189; China = 85/189; Myanmar = 147/189; Thailand = 79/189; Vietnam = 117/189

<sup>2</sup> GII ranking relative to neighbouring countries: Cambodia = 117/162; China = 39/162; Myanmar = 118/162; Thailand = 80/162; Vietnam = 65/162

manage and mitigate climate-related shocks to their livelihoods. Lastly, the global COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges across all sectors, and delayed Lao PDR’s graduation from Least Developed Country status from 2021 to 2024.

## Methodology

Applying an intersectional gender lens, the GIA foremost prioritized an inclusive, gender-responsive approach to both data collection and analysis. The study undertook a mixed methodology to collect both qualitative and quantitative primary data from project participants and key stakeholders. Data collection tools were comprised of an Individual Survey (IS) (see Appendix 1), and two sets of Key Informant Interviews (KII) – one for government partners/project practitioners (see **Appendix 2**), and another for project participants identified as playing key roles throughout implementation (see **Appendix 3**). The purpose of conducting separate KIIs was to ensure evidence was captured from the perspective of both the implementing agents and the implementing agencies. The data collection tools were finalized in consultation with the field enumerator, to support both contextual accuracy during translation, and ensure all relevant technical components of the project were included.

From 27-28 September 2021, primary data was collected from two sample sites – Kadane Village and Phailom Village, Champhone District. The use of local translators was not required as all study respondents spoke Lao language. The GIA was predominantly informed by primary data. The use of secondary data sources was only for the purposes of enhancing the general project narrative. Once the primary evidence was verified, all raw data was translated by the field enumerator and submitted to the consultants for synthesis and analysis. All data was Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated (SADD) where necessary. Below is an overview of the respondent groups:

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by tool.**

Data Collection Tool	# of Female Respondents	# of Male Respondents	Total # of Respondents
Individual Survey	6	14	20
KII – Farmer Group	2	3	5
KII – Gov. Parter/Project Practitioner	1	2	3

## Limitations

The most significant limitation to the GIA was imposed by COVID-19 lockdown measures, which have been in place in Lao PDR since April 2021. Savannakhet Province has been under some of the most restrictive lockdown measures, as it is situated as a ‘transit corridor’ for the region and is experiencing an increase in both imported and community transmitted cases. At the village-level, ‘travel certificates’ are required for all persons entering and exiting the community. As such, the field team was required to secure the necessary authorization before proceeding with the primary data collection. Virtual/remote data collection was not possible, as the sample sites have limited broadband connectivity and the vast majority of villagers do not have smartphones. The original sample size was reduced from seven villages to two. As such, Kadane and Phailom Villages were prioritized for both their close proximity to one another, and because they were among the original pilot villages. Additionally, the field team was not permitted to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGD) due to COVID-19 social-distancing protocols.

Another important limitation to note is the small sample of women respondents compared to men respondents, especially in regards to KIIs. Although the field team emphasized equal gender representation in the IS, and prioritized KIIs with women, they were unable to secure gender-balance. It is unclear if this resulted from a lack of willingness from villagers, safety concerns, or poor timing. However, based on the consistency across responses from women participants, it can be determined that the GIA is generally reflective of the views and experiences of all gender groups.

## Demographic Profile

The data below provides an abbreviated overview of the demographic information of all study respondents. For the full demographic profile, see **Appendix 4**.

**Table 2: Abbreviated overview of respondent demographic.**

Item	Value	No.	%
<b>Gender</b>	Female	9	32
	Male	19	68
	Other	0	0
<b>Age</b>	45 years and under	8	29
	46 – 50 years	6	21
	51 – 55 years	6	21
	56 – 60 years	3	11
	61 – 65 years	3	11
	66 years and over	2	7
<b># of Years Participating in CSV</b>	Less than 1 year	0	0
	1 year	5	18
	2 years	9	32
	3 years	11	39
	4 years	1	4
	5 years	2	7
	More than 5 years	0	0
<b>Role in CSV Project</b>	Farmer Member	20	71
	Head of Farmer Group	2	7
	Village Coordinator	1	4
	Village Chief	2	7
	Technical Staff	2	7
	Field Assistant	1	4

\* Respondents reported employment status according to the options provided but specified “Farmer in Own Field”

\*\* Respondents specified they are Construction Workers, but reported according to informal hiring practices

## Results of the Study

Below are the results of the study organized according to issue area and respondent group. All data is presented as sex-disaggregated, and all responses were paraphrased as necessary:

### Participation & Capacity-Development

#### Farmer Group:

While all farmer respondents considered women and men's participation to be equal, they also noted that the division of tasks is primarily determined on the basis of sex (perceived biological capabilities). As one female KII noted, "Every gender<sup>3</sup> has participated in this project. And everyone has a different task like men will get the heavy work such as constructing the seed bank, and women will be given light jobs such as cooking for men who construct (Toun, 2021)." Perceptions are that this division of tasks is fair and equal because 'it is agreed upon (mutual consent)' and 'it is how it has always been done'. When asked about barriers to participation, male KII respondents noted 'climate-related challenges' and 'budget', whereas all female KII respondents noted 'limitations on time' because activities 'interfered with childcare and household tasks', and the 'inability to participate in study tours' because 'they did not know how to drive a motorbike'. According to the IS, 90% of respondents felt the project improved their resilience to climate change-related challenges; the remaining 10% who report "No" were women participants. Participants did not provide additional information as to the reasoning of their response.

<sup>3</sup> It cannot be determined that 'every gender' participated in this project, as only 'women and men' groups were identified. This is also an indication that gender in Lao PDR is generally only identified as binary.



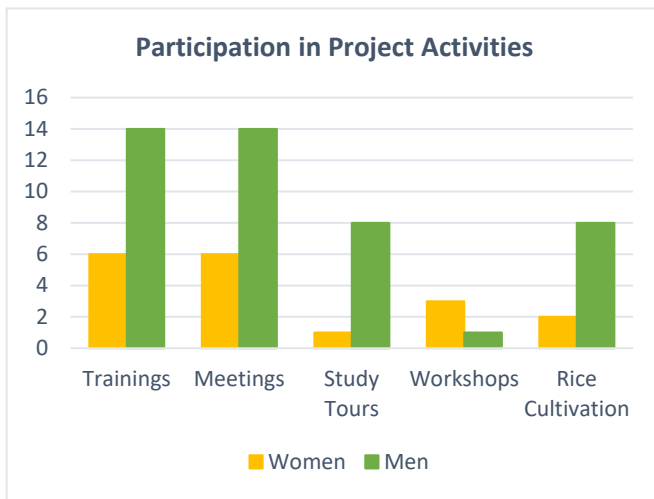


Figure 4: Participation in project activities (sex-disaggregated).

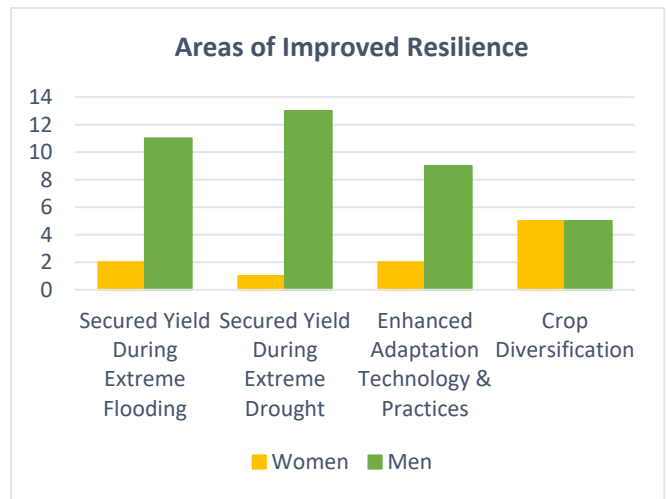


Figure 5: Areas of improved resilience (sex-disaggregated).

#### Government Partners/Project Practitioner:

Despite efforts to encourage equal participation in all activities, the project was unable to successfully achieve gender parity. All respondents noted that the primary factor which prevented broader women’s participation, was the restriction on their time from household tasks and family responsibilities. Additionally, all activities which required travel outside of the village (e.g.: study tours), also inherently restricted participation of women farmers. This is a result of both concern for the safety of women travelling unaccompanied and domestic responsibilities. Gendered roles and division of tasks were reflected in the activities women and men participants undertook. For example, men are typically responsible for tilling or applying the Dry Direct Seeding method which is more labour intensive and requires the use of machinery; whereas, women are responsible for transplanting, nutrition, and taking care of the field. This is reflected in **Table 4** above, where “resilience through enhanced adaptation technology and practices” was improved significantly greater for men, and “crop diversification” was the greatest area of improved resilience for women. Respondents considered both the benefits and challenges throughout the project were experienced equally between male and female participants because the overarching goal of the project was to improve knowledge and technical capacity, which all participants gained on some level.

## Impact of Livelihoods

### Farmer Group:

According to the results of the IS, 100% of respondents stated their overall livelihood improved as a result of the project. One KII respondent reported a 70% improvement in his livelihood, and another noted that their average rice yield increased from 70 bags to 100 bags. All respondents indicated that every community member has access to the seed bank, although the Village Authority oversees it. This question was in reference to who held control over assets that resulted from the project. Lastly, 95% of IS participants reported that they felt project activities took into account their specific needs; the remaining 5% reporting “No” was from a woman participant. No additional information from this participant was provided as to why or how they felt their specific needs were not taken into account.

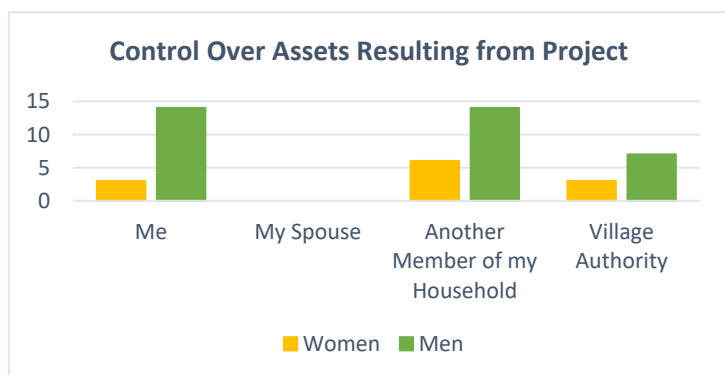


Figure 6: Areas of livelihood improvement (sex-disaggregated).

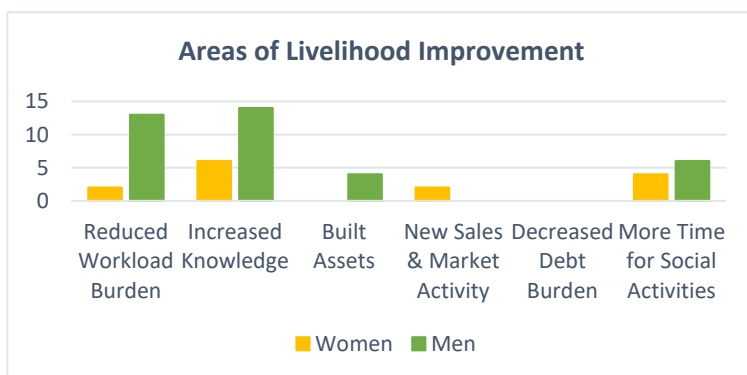


Figure 7: Control over assets resulting from project (sex-disaggregated).

### Government Partners/Project Practitioner:

Respondents noted the greatest short-term impacts on the livelihoods of farmer participants as: learning appropriate methods for seed storage, modernization of agricultural practices to secure higher yields and reduce labour output, and being provided with seed varieties more conducive to the particularities of their land. Similarly, the greatest long-term impacts were recognized as: the ability to extend the lifespan of seeds over the next few years, continuing to develop skills by applying the knowledge gained, and the potential for knowledge sharing both within household/community and to neighbouring communities. More specifically, the interventions recognized as contributing to these positive changes were: adjusting to Dry

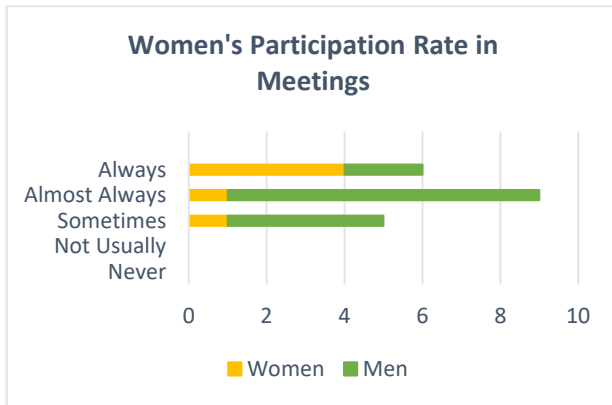
Direct/Wet Direct seeding methods to season, the transition to mechanical threshing, and the ability to produce rice varieties according to market demands. All respondents perceived these positive impacts to be experienced equally by women/girls and men/boys, because 'whatever benefits the family as a whole also benefits each member individually'.

## **Participation in Decision-Making**

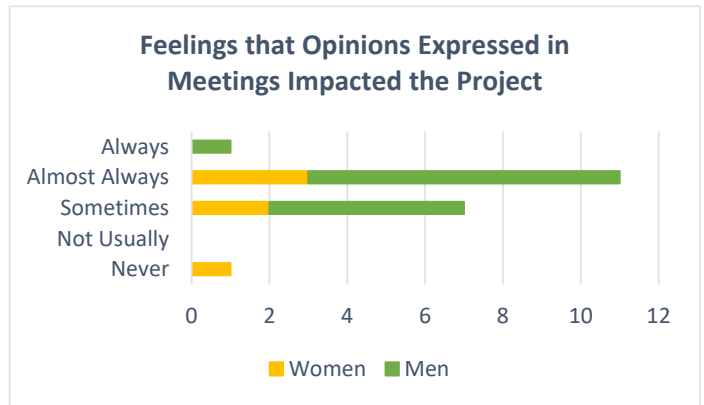
### **Farmer Group:**

Although the women respondents of the KII reside in the same village, their responses indicated very different experiences of inclusion in decision-making processes and influencing capacity. One respondent reported "no change" to how decisions are made at the household and community-levels, nor that the project changed the way women/girls were included in decision-making; whereas the other reported improved agency in decision-making in her household since "the CV has made her more educated", and that the community takes her opinions into greater consideration when making decisions centrally. Furthermore, she felt that the perceptions around women's inclusion in decision-making had changed and that overall women are becoming more involved in activities.

Responses from the men's interviews were very similar. All respondents stated that although decisions in their household were discussed as a family, that they felt more confident making certain decisions because of the knowledge they gained from the project. All respondents also noted that while the project did not directly change the way women/girls are included in decision-making, that seeing their involvement and willingness to actively participate positively changed the way their inclusion was perceived and valued. According to the responses of the IS, 85% of respondents stated their role in decision-making processes in their household had improved as a result of the CSV, and 90% responded the same in regards to their role in the community. Notably, the remaining 15% and 10% respondents who stated there was "no change" were women participants.



**Figure 8: Women's participation rate in meetings (sex-disaggregated).**



**Figure 9: Feelings that opinions expressed in meetings impacted the project (sex-disaggregated).**

**Government Partners/Project Practitioner:**

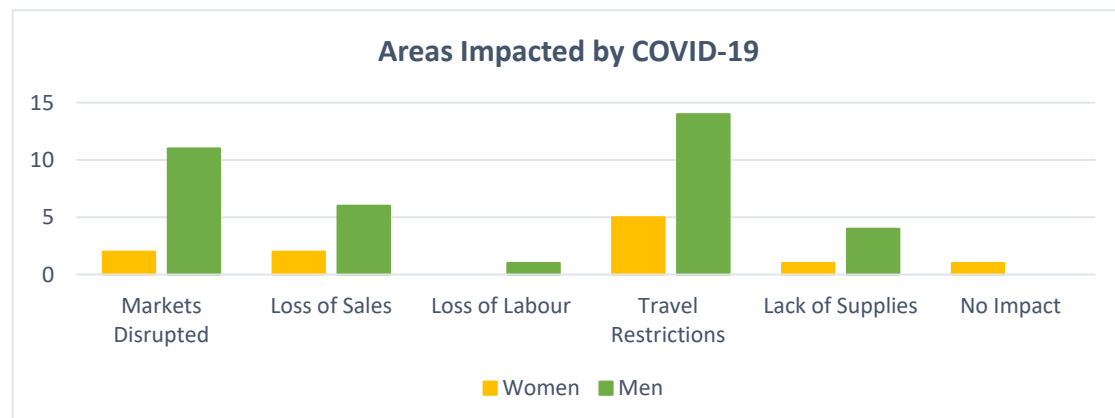
According to respondents, although participation in numbers was not equal, all participants were engaged in meetings and activities equally. Women actively shared their opinions, raised concerns, and participated in decision-making processes. While all opinions were considered, they may not have all been acted on. As one respondent said, “we are looking at the meaning of their speak, not the person speaking (Nelakhom, 2021)”. All respondents stated the group which could have been engaged more meaningfully was ‘youth’. While this is an ongoing challenge with the increase of young people migrating to neighbouring provinces or Thailand after secondary school to for work, their value was recognized; especially in their openness to new ways of doing things and their ability to learn faster. In regards to decision-making processes, one government stakeholder noted ‘elders should have been engaged more, as their opinions hold greater value and influencing capacity in Lao culture’. When asked to reflect on whether they would do anything differently to ensure participants were more meaningfully engaged, the most notable responses were as follows:

- Assess the community organizational structure to ensure it supports equal participation, and make sure the Village Chief agrees to 50/50 representation.
- Require that women participants be present in meetings and put more effort into making sure they are vocal in decision-making processes.
- Show a video highlighting women's success, to motivate and empower female participants.
- Include gender training as an activity so the Village Chief and the men participants understand why it is important for women to be included equally too.

# Impacts of COVID-19

## Farmer Group:

All KII respondents noted experiencing similar impacts to COVID-19, regardless of their gender. The primary impact reported was economic – both in regards to the ‘increased cost of supplies’ and the ‘need to save as much money as possible’. As the majority of IS respondents are subsistence farmers, only one respondent reported that they had to stop working because of the pandemic. None of the respondents noted receiving financial support from the government or having access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for farming/community interaction. All KII respondents stated the only strategy for overcoming these challenges was for the government intervention in stabilizing the cost of supplies. No additional coping mechanisms were shared.



**Figure 10: Areas impacted by COVID-19 (sex-disaggregated).**

## Government Partners/Project Practitioner:

The two greatest challenges that all respondents noted were ‘travel restrictions’ and ‘communication barriers’. During lockdown, the project team was not permitted to travel to the villages. As such, some activities were delayed or canceled altogether. Without access to broadband connectivity or smartphones, the project team could not communicate directly with farmer participants. The project team contacted the Village Heads regularly, to remain updated on the situation and offer support if needed. However, the project inevitably still faced delays. Individually, the respondents were able to mitigate significant impacts to their work by adapting to “work-from-home” and various remote/virtual platforms. The project

team did their best to preserve the remainder of the project as much as possible, but the only long-term solutions identified were to ensure mass immunization and improve Information & Communication Technology (ICT) capacities in rural areas.

## Project Implementation & Support

### Farmer Group:

No notable differences in the responses between the women and men KII respondents in this area. The most effective skills/tools gained from the project included: rice seed cultivation, weather forecasting, pest/disease control, increased farming efficiency, community seed bank, grass grinder machine, and being provided rice seed varieties. The least effective skill/tools gained were: gardening (only for drought affected farms), and insufficient equipment. Several interviewers reported that no aspect of the project could be considered 'least effective' because they were all useful. Responses regarding needs for additional support/resources are reflected in the 'Recommendations' section of this report.

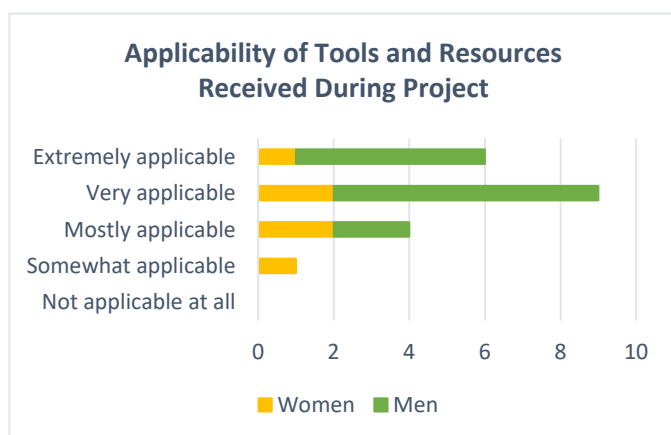
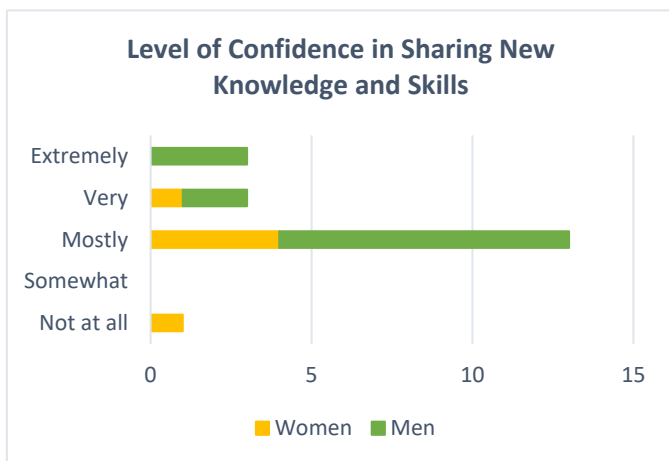


Figure 11: Applicability of tools and resources received during project (sex-disaggregated).



Figure 12: Effectiveness of training (sex-disaggregated).



**Figure 13: Level of confidence in sharing new knowledge and skills (sex-disaggregated).**



**Figure 14: Satisfaction with level of support received in trainings & workshops (sex-disaggregated).**

**Government Partners/Project Practitioner:**

All respondents agreed that the project took into account the specific needs of the participants. This was attributed to effective consultation processes and Needs Assessments conducted before implementation began. Although some participants required additional support (rice seeds, fertilizer, various equipment etc.), there was no correlation to specific gender groups. Factors that contributed to successful project outcomes were identified as follows: the project effectively met the needs of the participants, budget allocations were accurate, willingness of participants, mostly favourable climate conditions, and good management/coordination overall. Factors identified as preventing successful project outcomes were: pests/disease and climate (delayed rainy season followed by flooding etc.).

## Recommendations

The following recommendations were paraphrased and ranked according to frequency of responses. All remaining feedback is listed in no particular order, and was paraphrased where necessary.

**Table 3: List of recommendations and feedback by stakeholder group.**

Respondent Group	Recommendation	Other Feedback
<b>Farmer Participant</b>	<p>Provide new rice seed varieties (e.g.: TDK8, TSN7, TSN11 etc.) to support higher yield/productivity, and vegetable varieties.</p> <p>Increase knowledge and training on agriculture/crop techniques, rice cultivation, and disease and pest control.</p> <p>Provide tools and equipment for agriculture production and rice cultivation.</p> <p>Support the establishment of a Village Fund for e.g.: rice varieties/seed banks, loans, compost, fertilizer, and insecticide<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Extend the project timeline and allow more time for activities, workshops, and trainings.</p> <p>Provide more and different animal breeds.</p> <p>Increase support for livestock raising/animal husbandry.</p>	<p>TSN11 is very suitable for my farm.</p> <p>The project was good because it provided me with new knowledge.</p> <p>In the past, some response from the project team is delayed.</p> <p>Fear of strangers makes me reluctant to speak in training (female respondent).</p> <p>The project was good because it supported us with good rice varieties.</p> <p>I am glad that the project selected our village, especially to support the seed bank and provide knowledge on rice.</p> <p>I would like more diverse activities.</p> <p>The activities were good but some methods cannot be followed because I don't have the budget.</p> <p>We require a new community speaker to announce the news.</p>
<b>Government Partners/Project Practitioner</b>	<p>Diversify project activities to include livestock raising, gardening, weather mapping etc.</p> <p>a) Include training on entrepreneurship and accessing markets to support higher yields translating to income generation.</p>	<p>Road access to the community is limited and requires a van for safer transportation. This was possible for Y1, but once government focal points changed, we no longer had access to van rentals. This made travel very difficult.</p>

<sup>4</sup> The CCAFS-CSV project did not include nor encourage the use of insecticides. This response may indicate a needs area for knowledge raising/capacity development in natural alternatives for pest control.



	<p>b) Consider involving other government departments like industry and trade to support linking farmers to markets.</p> <p>c) Establish a partnership with DONRE.</p> <p>Support the establishment of a Village Fund and consider a partial grant system for farmers requiring additional support.</p> <p>Establish an official production group with positions assigned to each person (manager, financier etc.) to strengthen coordination for after the project ends.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>Extend the duration of the project by 2-3 seasons.</p>	<p>Farmers must embrace new technologies for own benefit, including access to smartphones in a post-COVID reality.</p> <p>This project was good because all participants had equal access to tools and opportunities for skills development.</p> <p>This project has too many restrictions such as limiting the number of participants and the area. It should be open to anyone with an interest to join, without any restrictions.</p>
<b>Respondent Group</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Other Feedback</b>
<b>Gender Consultants</b>	<p>Implement a localized gender strategy that emphasizes a transformative approach.</p> <p>Ensure gender training is included in various stages of the project to address specific issue areas (women’s role in climate change adaptation, women’s economic empowerment, gender division of labour, women’s participation in decision-making etc.).</p> <p>Adapt project activities, especially study tours, to support inclusion of women.</p> <p>Foster partnerships with local Lao Women’s Union representatives as focal points and to support implementation.</p>	

<sup>5</sup> This was included in the 2020 project activity plan. It is unclear if this recommendation was provided because it was effective and should be reflected in future project sites, or if the activity was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

## Conclusion

Although the project endeavoured to achieve gender-balance throughout, encouraging participation without strengthening community understanding of gender equality principles, did not result in gender-transformative interventions. Project activities did not consider the time constraints and restrictions on mobility that women experience. This inevitably prevented them from experiencing the full



Image 1. CSV farmer participant in Champhone District.

Source: Cuso International 2018

benefit of the learning opportunities the project had to offer, especially in attending study tours and the equal participation of women in meetings and activities. Even though women participants were present in number, many expressed the challenges they faced in fully implementing the skills they acquired, simply because they were not conducive to the demands of their daily life which required prioritizing household tasks and childcare responsibilities. This highlights the need for long-term systemic gender strategizing across sectors, programmes, and partnerships.

Results on the impacts of women's role in decision-making, both at the household and community-levels, were varied. While some participants did not feel the project had resulted in any significant changes to their level of inclusion or influencing capacity, others noted some improvement and expressed feelings of empowerment. Male participants expressed that their overall perceptions of women's contributions to project activities had shifted, and that they noticed a change in the willingness of female community members to not only participate in the CSV, but in other community activities as well. The project successfully achieved its anticipated outcomes so far as respondents reporting positive impacts to their livelihoods and improved resilience to climate change-related challenges. However, as specific gender targets were not set in the initial project design, it cannot be determined whether gender-specific outcomes were achieved.

All respondents provided useful feedback to inform future implementation strategies. Key recommendations focused on increasing available resources (seed varieties, harvest equipment, cultivation materials etc.), establishing a Village Seed Fund, and including entrepreneurship training to better link farmers to markets. However, it should be noted that neither the recommendations from women or men respondents recognized areas for improvement within a gender dimension. While this could indicate parity in project implementation, it could also be reflective of a broader need for comprehensive gender mainstreaming in the project, from the outset. As such, it is recommended that a clear gender strategy be designed and mainstreamed into all future CSV projects, not only to establish targets for measuring outcomes, but also to ensure the full impact potential of the initiative can be achieved.



Image 2. A woman farmer and CSV project participant in Champhone District. Source: Cuso International 2018

# Appendix 1: Data Collection Tool - Individual Survey

## CCAFS-CSV Gender Impact Assessment Tool: INDIVIDUAL SURVEY

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Respondent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Village Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Interview:  Virtual/Remote Call  In Person  Completed on my own

### INFORMED CONSENT

Sabaidee and thank you for your time. The purpose of this study is to assess the different impacts of the CCAFS-CSV Project on participants based on their gender. The questions below will focus on 5 areas (Participation & Capacity Development, Impact on Livelihoods, Participation in Decision-Making, Impacts of COVID-19, Project Implementation & Support) and includes a section for you to add any comments or recommendations. Your responses will be used to assess the project design and implementation, and support the project team in making changes to ensure the effectiveness of implementation in other communities. Your participation in this study is voluntary and should take no more than **30 minutes** to complete. Your responses will be kept confidential and be used only as it relates to the CSV initiative.

Do you consent to participate in this study?  Yes  No

### SURVEY

Questions		Answers
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE</b>		
Gender	Please Specify	
Age	Please Specify	
Ethnicity	Please Specify	

Do you identify as having a disability?	Circle One	Yes / No
Marital Status	Circle One	Single / Married / Divorced / Widow(ed)
Lives In	Circle One	Village / 5km or more away / less than 5km away
Employment	Circle One	Unemployed / Seasonal Worker / Casual or Daily Worker / Paid Employment / Unpaid Work / Other (please specify): _____
Highest Formal Education Level	Circle One	None / Primary School / Secondary School / Vocational Training / University
Number of Years Participating in CSV Project	Please Specify	
Role in CSV Project (ex: farmer, government, etc)	Please Specify	
<b>PARTICIPATION &amp; CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>		
1. Which activities did you attend?	Circle all that apply	Trainings / Meetings / Study Tours / Workshops / Other (please specify):_____
2. Do both women and men/girls and boys participate in the CSV project?	Circle One	Yes / No / Sometimes
3. Do both women and men/girls and boys have different tasks?	Circle One	Yes / No / Sometimes
4. Do you feel that this project has improved your resilience to climate change-related challenges?	Circle One	Yes / No / Somewhat
a. If yes/somewhat, in what areas has your resilience improved?	Circle all that apply	secured yield during extreme flooding / secured yield during drought / enhanced adaptation technology and practices / crop diversification
<b>IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS</b>		
5. Did the skills/tools gained from this project help to:	Circle all that apply	Reduce Workload Burden / Increase Knowledge / Build Assets / New Sales & Market Activity / Decrease Debt Burden / Give more time for social activities / Other (please specify): _____
6. Did your participation in this project improve your overall livelihood?	Circle One	Yes / No / I don't know
7. Who has control over the assets that resulted from this project?	Circle all that apply	Me / My Spouse / Another member of my household / Village Authority /

		Other (please specify): _____
8. Do you feel the project activities took into account your specific needs?	Circle One	Yes / No / I don't know
<b>PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING</b>		
9. Do women participate in the meetings?	Rank 1-5 1=low, 5=high	
10. Do you feel like your opinions in the meetings have an impact on the project?	Rank 1-5 1=low, 5=high	
11. Has your role in decision-making processes in your <b>household</b> changed as a result of the CSV project?	Circle One	Yes, it is improved / No, it has not improved / It has not changed / It is worse than before
12. Has your role in decision-making processes in your <b>community</b> changed as a result of the CSV project?	Circle One	Yes, it is improved / No, it has not improved / It has not changed / It is worse than before
<b>IMPACTS OF COVID-19</b>		
13. Did COVID-19 restrictions impact your ability to farm?	Circle all that apply	Markets Disrupted / Loss of Sales / Loss of Labour / Travel Restrictions / Lack of Supplies
14. Did you have to stop working because of COVID-19?	Circle One	Yes / No
15. Did you receive government financial support?	Circle One	Yes / No
16. Do you have access to PPE for farming or in the market?	Circle One	Yes / No
<b>PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION &amp; SUPPORT</b>		
17. How applicable were the tools and resources you received during the project to your work?	Rank 1-5 1=low, 5=high	
18. How effective was the training you received?	Rank 1-5 1=low, 5=high	
19. Do you feel confident to share the knowledge and skills from this project?	Rank 1-5 1=low, 5=high	
20. Did you receive enough support in the trainings and workshops to understand the tools and skills necessary?	Rank 1-5 1=low, 5=high	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
21. Any comments, feedback or recommendations?		

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## Appendix 2: Data Collection Tool - KII Project

### Practitioner/Government Partner

#### **CCAFS-CSV Gender Impact Assessment Tool:**

#### **KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW – PROJECT PRACTITIONER/GOVERNMENT PARTNER**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Respondent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Village Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Interview:  Virtual/Remote Call  In Person  Completed on my own

#### **INFORMED CONSENT**

*Sabaidee and thank you for your time. The purpose of this study is to assess the different impacts of the CCAFS-CSV Project on participants based on their gender. The questions below will focus on 5 areas (Participation & Capacity Development, Impact on Livelihoods, Participation in Decision-Making, Impacts of COVID-19, Project Implementation & Support) and includes a section for you to add any comments or recommendations. Your responses will be used to assess the project design and implementation, and support the project team in making changes to ensure the effectiveness of implementation in other communities. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and should take approximately **45 minutes** to complete. Your responses will be kept confidential and be used only as it relates to the CSV initiative.*

Do you consent to participate in this study?  Yes  No

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Gender	Please Specify	
Age	Please Specify	
Ethnicity	Please Specify	

Do you identify as having a disability?	Circle One	Yes / No
Marital Status	Circle One	Single / Married / Divorced / Widow(ed)
Lives In	Circle One	Village / 5km or more away / less than 5km away
Employment	Circle One	Unemployed / Seasonal Worker / Casual or Daily Worker / Paid Employment / Unpaid Work / Other (please specify): _____
Highest Formal Education Level	Circle One	None / Primary School / Secondary School / Vocational Training / University
Number of Years Participating in CSV Project	Please Specify	
Role in CSV Project (ex: farmer, government, etc)	Please Specify	

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Question	Response
<p>1. <i>Project Implementation</i></p> <p>1.1. Did project activities take into account the specific needs of participants?</p> <p>1.2. Were there any participants that required additional resources or support?</p> <p>1.3. What factors contributed to successful project outcomes?</p> <p>1.4. What factors prevent successful project outcomes?</p>	
<p>2. <i>Participation &amp; Capacity Development</i></p> <p>2.1. Do you feel women/girls and men/boys participated equally in the CSV project?</p> <p>2.2. Do you feel women/girls and men/boys benefited equally from the CSV project?</p>	



<p>2.3. Were challenges throughout the project experienced differently by women/girl and men/boy participants?</p>	
<p>3. <i>Impact on Livelihoods</i></p> <p>3.1. What are the short-term and long-term impacts of this project on participants' livelihoods?</p> <p>3.2. Are these impacts experienced differently by women/girl and men/boy participants?</p> <p>3.3. What social protection measures and agricultural interventions/technologies contribute to this positive change?</p> <p>3.4. How did COVID-19 impact your ability to conduct project activities?</p> <p>3.5. What strategies did you use to overcome these challenges?</p>	
<p>4. <i>Participation in Decision-Making</i></p> <p>4.1. Did women and men participate in meetings equally?</p> <p>4.2. Do you feel the views and concerns of all project participants were considered when making decisions?</p> <p>4.3. Were there any groups that you feel could have been engaged more meaningfully in decision-making processes?</p> <p>4.4. Is there anything you would do differently to ensure all participants were fully engaged in meetings and decision-making processes?</p>	

<p>5. <i>Recommendations</i></p> <p>5.1. What were the <b>most</b> effective aspects of the project? (design, planning, and implementation)</p> <p>5.2. What were the <b>least</b> effective aspects of the project? (design, planning, and implementation)</p> <p>5.3. Are there any groups that could have been involved more meaningfully in the project as a whole?</p> <p>5.4. What are some ways the project can continue to produce impact for its participants?</p> <p>5.5. Other comments, feedback, suggestions?</p>	
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## Appendix 3: Data Collection Tool - KII

### Farmer/Community Member

#### **CCAFS-CSV Gender Impact Assessment Tool:**

#### **KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW: FARMER/COMMUNITY-MEMBER**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Respondent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Village Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Interviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Interview:  Virtual/Remote Call  In Person  Completed on my own

#### **INFORMED CONSENT**

*Sabaidee and thank you for your time. The purpose of this study is to assess the different impacts of the CCAFS-CSV Project on participants based on their gender. The questions below will focus on 5 areas (Participation & Capacity Development, Impact on Livelihoods, Participation in Decision-Making, Impacts of COVID-19, Project Implementation & Support) and includes a section for you to add any comments or recommendations. Your responses will be used to assess the project design and implementation, and support the project team in making changes to ensure the effectiveness of implementation in other communities. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and should take approximately **45 minutes** to complete. Your responses will be kept confidential and be used only as it relates to the CSV initiative.*

**Do you consent to participate in this study?**  Yes  No

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

Gender	Please Specify	
Age	Please Specify	
Ethnicity	Please Specify	
Do you identify as having a disability?	Circle One	Yes / No

Marital Status	Circle One	Single / Married / Divorced / Widow(ed)
Lives In	Circle One	Village / 5km or more away / less than 5km away
Employment	Circle One	Unemployed / Seasonal Worker / Casual or Daily Worker / Paid Employment / Unpaid Work / Other (please specify): _____
Highest Formal Education Level	Circle One	None / Primary School / Secondary School / Vocational Training / University
Number of Years Participating in CSV Project	Please Specify	
Role in CSV Project (ex: farmer, government, etc)	Please Specify	

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Question	Response
<p>1. <i>Project Implementation</i></p> <p>1.1. What are the <b>most</b> effective skills/tools that you gained from this project?</p> <p>1.2. What are the <b>least</b> effective skills/tools that you gained from this project?</p> <p>1.3. Were the specific needs of women/girls and men/boys taken into account in project activities?</p> <p>1.4. Did you require any additional resources or support that the project did not take into account?</p>	
<p>2. <i>Participation &amp; Capacity Development</i></p> <p>2.1. Do both women and men/girls and boys participate in the CSV project?</p> <p>2.1.1. If yes, do they have the same or different tasks/roles?</p>	

<p>2.1.2. Do you feel this division of tasks/activities is fair?</p> <p>2.2. Did you face any barriers/challenges to participating in project activities?</p> <p>2.2.1. If yes, why/how?</p> <p>2.3. What are the factors/conditions that were most important to you for achieving successful project outcomes?</p>	
<p>3. <i>Impact on Livelihoods</i></p> <p>3.1. How has the CSV project impacted your livelihood?</p> <p>3.2. What long-term impacts to your livelihood do you foresee as a result of your participation in the CSV project?</p> <p>3.3. Who has access to/control over the assets that resulted from this project?</p> <p>3.3.1. Do you feel this is fair? How/why?</p> <p>3.4. How did COVID-19 impact your farm?</p> <p>3.5. What strategies or mechanisms did you use to help cope with these impacts?</p> <p>3.6. What can development partners do to support your recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	
<p>4. <i>Participation in Decision-Making</i></p> <p>4.1. How are decisions made in your <b>household</b>?</p> <p>4.2. How are decisions made in your <b>community</b>?</p>	

<p>4.3. Since participating in the CSV project, has your role in decision-making processes in your <b>household</b> changed?</p> <p>4.3.1. If yes, how/why?</p> <p>4.4. Since participating in the CSV project, has your role in decision-making processes in your <b>community</b> changed?</p> <p>4.4.1. If yes, how/why?</p> <p>4.5. Has the CSV project changed the way women/girls are included in decision-making processes?</p>	
<p>5. <i>Recommendations</i></p> <p>5.1. Do you have any other comments, feedback, suggestions?</p>	

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## Appendix 4: Full Demographic Profile

Item	Value	No.	%
<b>Gender</b>	Female	9	32
	Male	19	68
	Other	0	0
<b>Age</b>	45 years and under	8	29
	46 – 50 years	6	21
	51 – 55 years	6	21
	56 – 60 years	3	11
	61 – 65 years	3	11
	66 years and over	2	7
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Lao	28	100
	Other	0	0
<b>Disability</b>	Yes	1	4
	No	27	96
<b>Marital Status</b>	Single	1	4
	Married	27	96
	Divorced	0	0
	Widowed	0	0
<b>Education</b>	None	0	0
	Primary School	9	32
	Secondary School	16	57
	Vocational Training	0	0
	University	3	11
<b>Employment</b>	Unemployed*	7	25
	Seasonal Worker**	4	4
	Casual/Daily Worker**	6	21
	Paid Employment	3	11
	Unpaid Worker*	8	29
<b># of Years Participating in CSV</b>	Less than 1 year	0	0
	1 year	5	18
	2 years	9	32
	3 years	11	39
	4 years	1	4
	5 years	2	7
	More than 5 years	0	0
<b>Role in CSV Project</b>	Farmer Member	20	71
	Head of Farmer Group	2	7
	Village Coordinator	1	4
	Village Chief	2	7

	Technical Staff	2	7
	Field Assistant	1	4



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