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# TH3.2: Men's rural-to-urban migration in Burundi: effects on banana farming systems by wives of migrants

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# Outline



**Context & problem statement**



**Research strategies & methodology**



**Results**



**Conclusions**

# Context: Rural-to-urban migration in Burundi

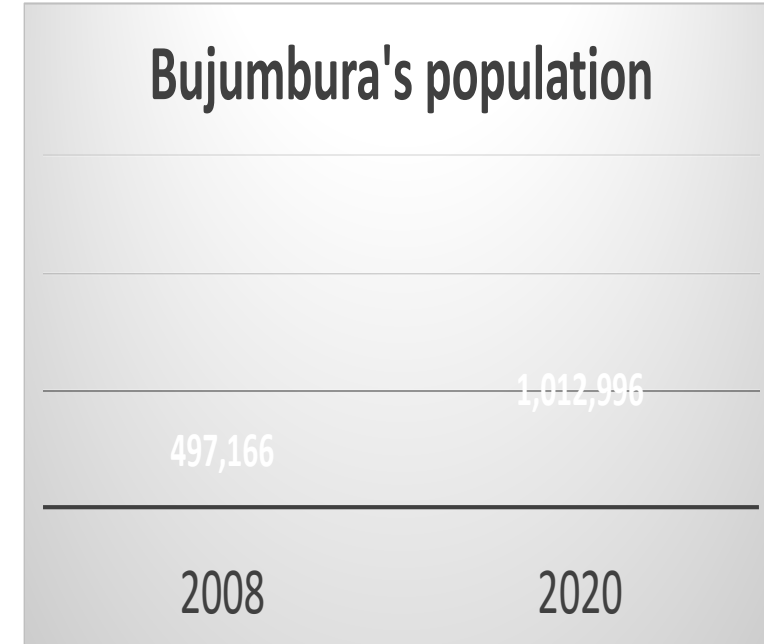
- Is a rapidly increasing phenomenon
- **11.5 %** are migrants based (UNFPA, 2011)
- Important in northern part of the country

## (Kirundo province)

- Has functioned as country's "breadbasket" until 1993
- However, with **the civil war**(1993) & **droughts** (from 2000),
  - Among the poorest provinces
  - High rate of malnutrition & decline of agri. Production
- **33% male** heads of hhs were reported to migrate in 2014 (Minani, 2014)



## Bujumbura



- **6.7 % growth**, highest in SSA
- **55 % men and 45 % women**



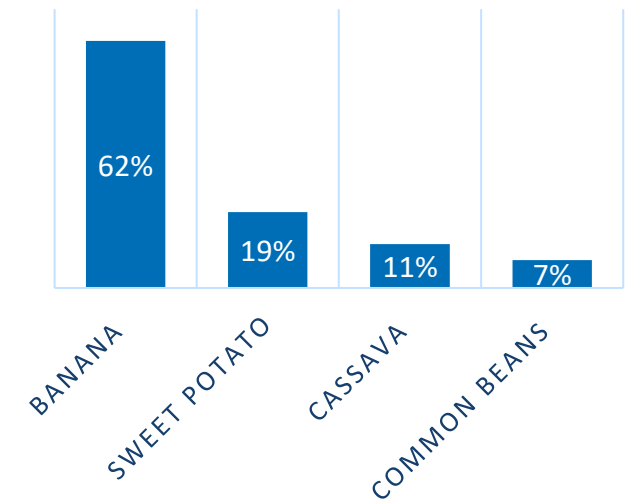
# Problem statement

Despite importance of movement, no evidence of its implication,

- on agriculture and,
  - decision-making by those staying in villages
- mainly for banana which is**
- the main cash and food crop (Ocimati et al.2013)
  - grown by 90 % of population (ISABU,2012)
  - Represent 62 % of production In Kirundo (minani , 2014)
  - **Known as men’s crop** (Iradukunda et al., 2019 & Okonya et al., 2019)

**Puzzle: What happens to the crop when its main “gatekeeper”, that is man, is absent?**

## ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION IN KIRUNDO PROVINCE



# Research strategies & methodology

- Multi-methods approach

## Research Objectives

1. Understanding differences in banana productivity between plots managed by FHHs and MHHS

2. Understanding effects of outmigration on the

- Labour
- Use of remittances

3. Understanding the Perceived power on control & decision-making by migrants and ‘stayers’ on banana ?

## Data collection instruments

Community profile (CP)

Semi-structured Interviews (SSI)

Household Survey (HS)

FGDS

Ladder of power and freedom (LPF)

4 Cells Approach

Participants: **258**  
**(127 M and 131 F)**

Key informants

Migrants & returned migrants

Wives of migrants

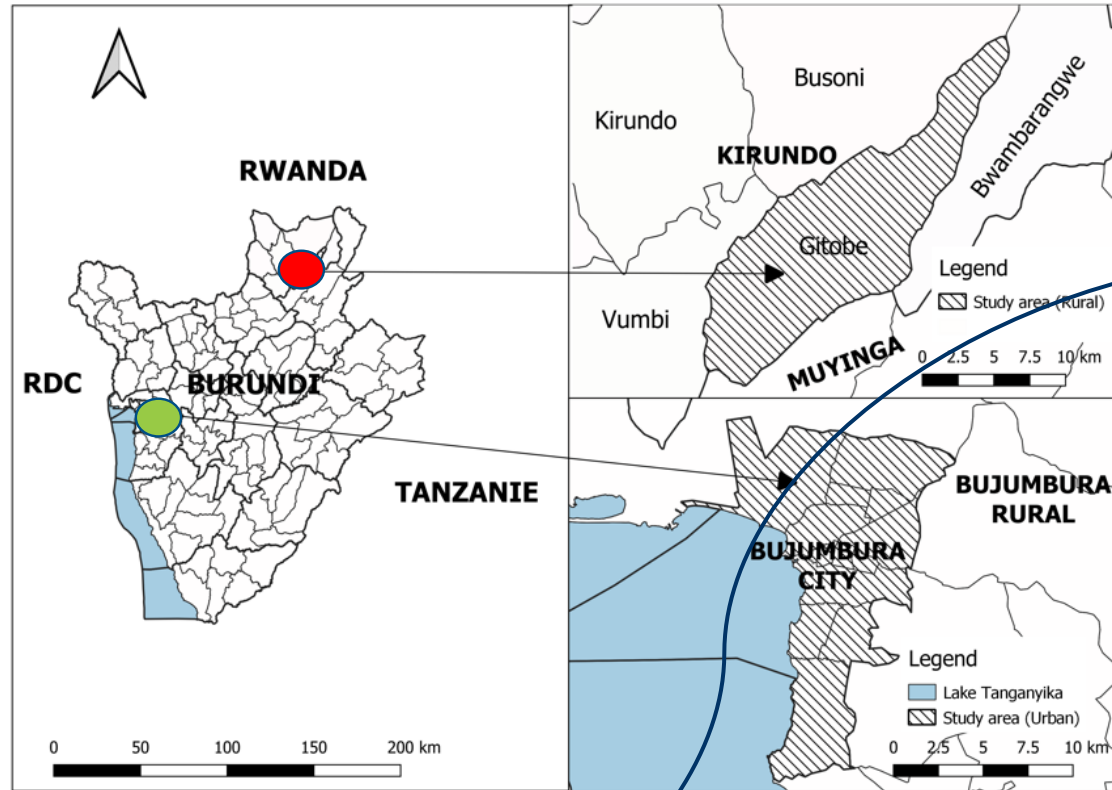
Female *de facto* HHs (widows

Male living with their wives

Women living with their husbands

# Study areas...

Origin



Kirundo province ( Rural)

Destination

Bujumbura City



# On field...

Individual interviews



FGDs

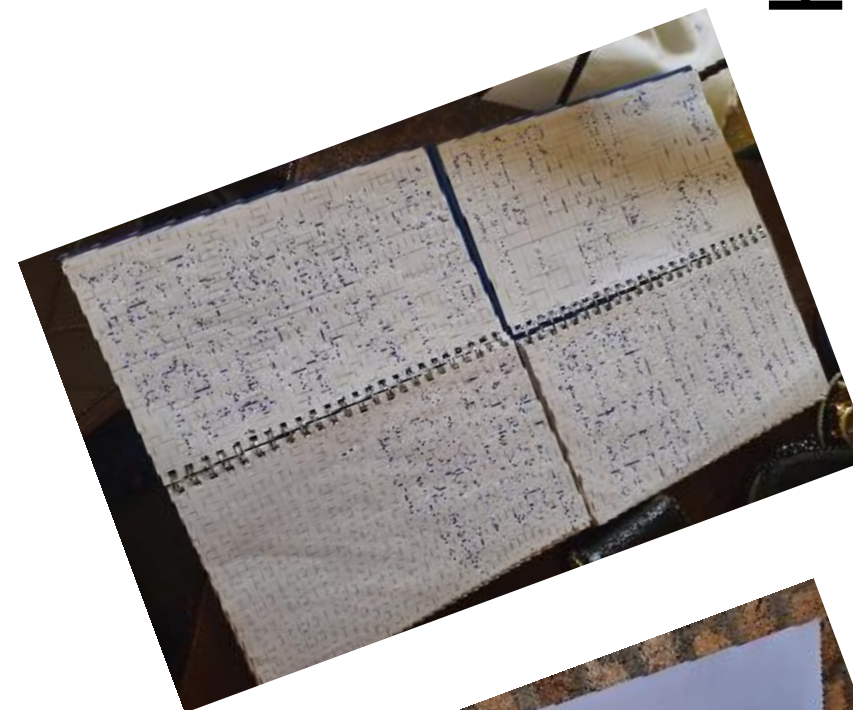


Field observations

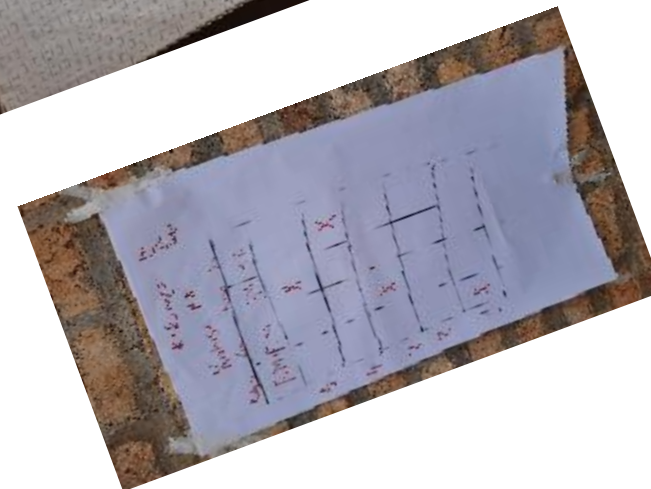
# Data backup...



Voice recording



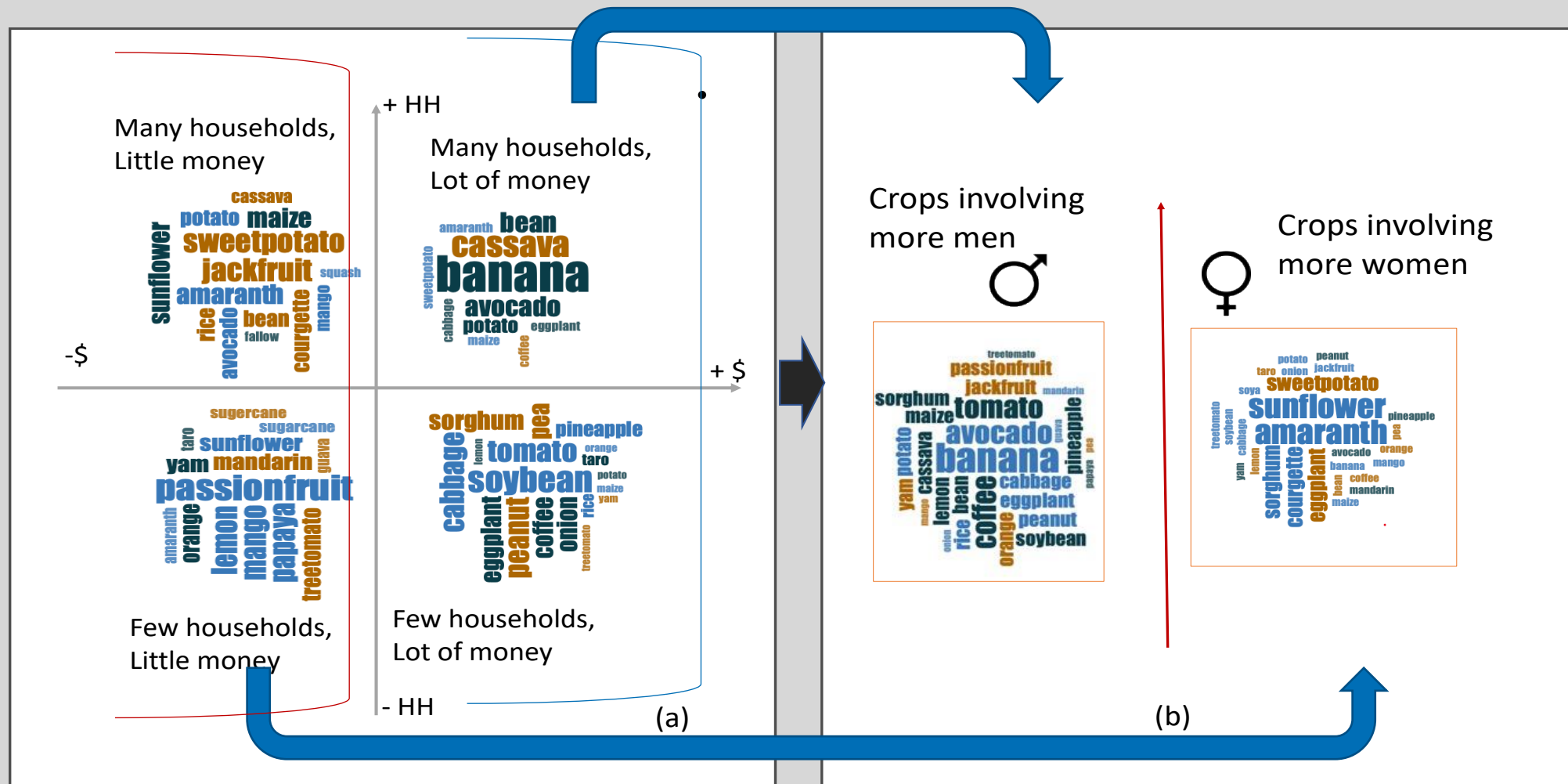
Field notes



Digital tool



# Gender-differentiated cropping using 4 Cell Approach





## Chi-Square test

Chi-Square test shows Significant differences ( in favour men) in :

- In total banana production and
- Banana production factors (land and labour).
- Use of fertilizer

	Male-headed HH (A) (N=93)	Female-headed HH (B) (N=66)	Difference (A-B)	Significance (P-value)
<b>Banana production factors</b>				
Land (ha)	0.419	0.291	0.128	0.02*
Internal Labour (#persons/moth)	2.1	1.3	0.74	0.002**
External labour (#persons/month)	12.6	6.8	5.78	0.01*
Use of organic fertilizer? (Yes)	95%	81%	14 %	-
Use of mineral fertilizer? (Yes)	4%	3%	1%	-
<b>Banana Production<sup>†</sup> differences: Mean Weight (Kg/month in high production season)</b>				
Total banana production (all types)	780.8	394.8	385.9	0.0005**
Total beer banana types	598.8	239.4	449.6	0.0001**
Total cooking banana types	154.3	103.6	50.6	0.0618
Total dessert banana types	27.6	51.7	-24.1	0.9149

# Discriminatory norms and negatives stereotypes

## Norms

women feel excluded by prevailing social norms marginalizing women taking over tasks that are reserved for men, **particularly when men are at home**

*“I grew up seeing my father planting the banana, but I have never seen my mother planting banana. So, I said myself that a woman couldn't plant banana” (women in Individual interview)*

*The Burundian says “ Inkokokazi ntibika isake ihari” [a hen could not sing when a rooster is there]*

## Stereotypes

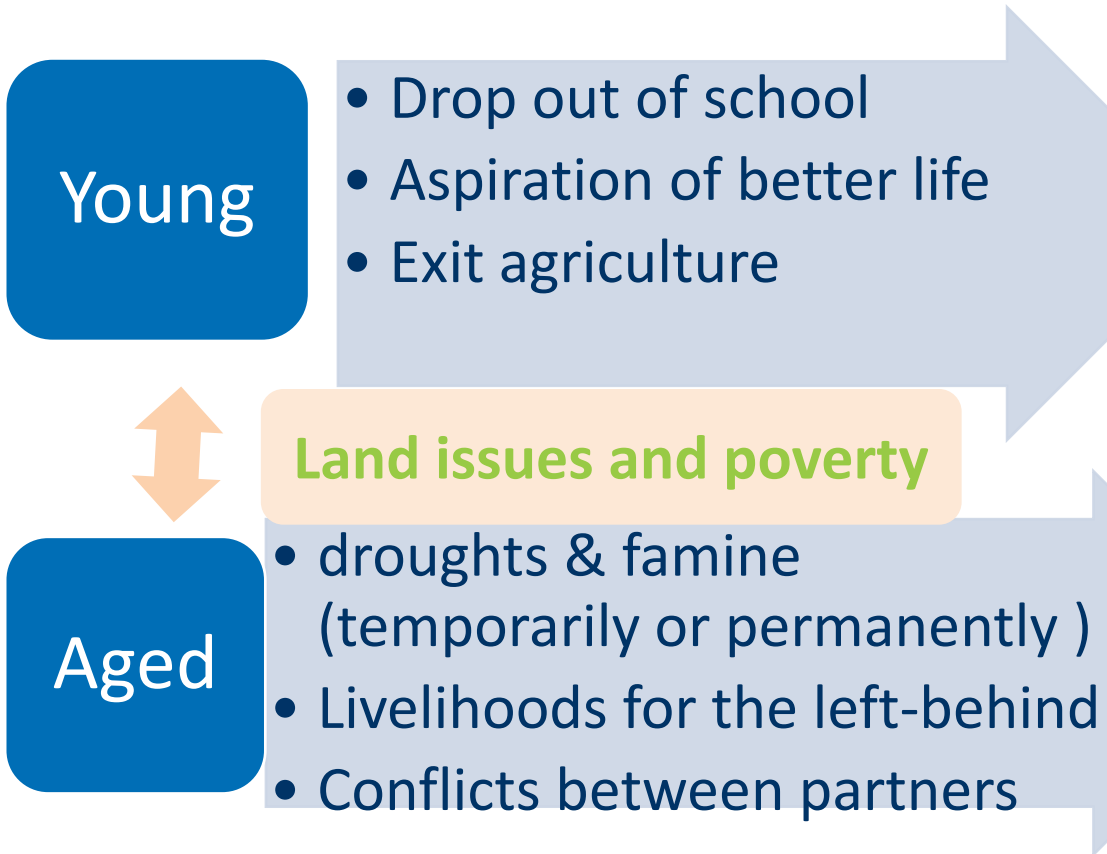
From the views of the male respondents there is a lot of **stereotypes** and **unconscious biases** that could reinforce existing gender inequality in banana farming

*“...when there is no food, it is a man who suffers to search for money [to buy food], **while women are playing with their kids at home**” (Men's FGD).*

What happens in the context of male outmigration?

# Migration's push and pull factors

## Push factors at the origin...



## Pull factors at the destination..

### Bujumbura

Hosts public & private services → off-farm employment

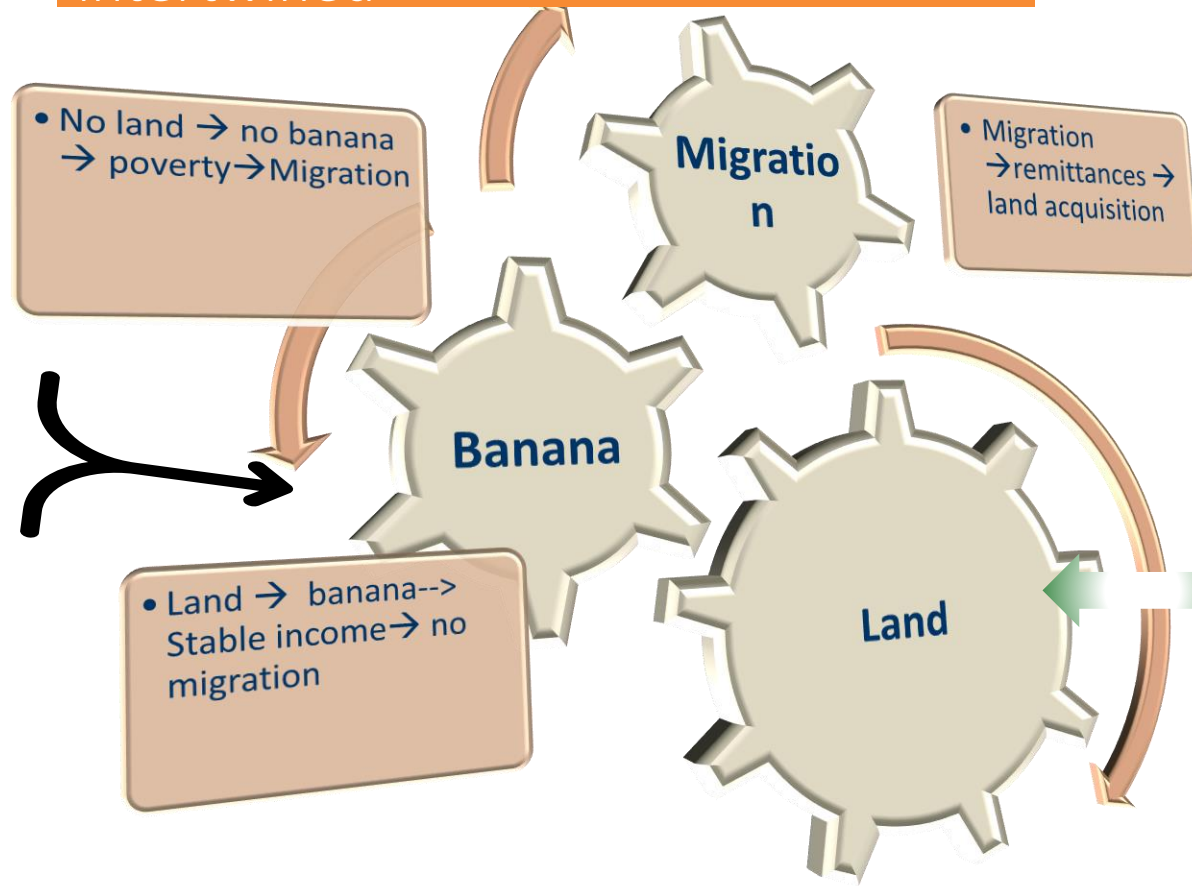
### Tanzania

Needs of Agricultural labour (Kagera Sugar LTD )

# Effects on agriculture & banana farming system?

Land, banana & migration, are intertwined

Changing in gender roles



Male Migrant



Transfers money



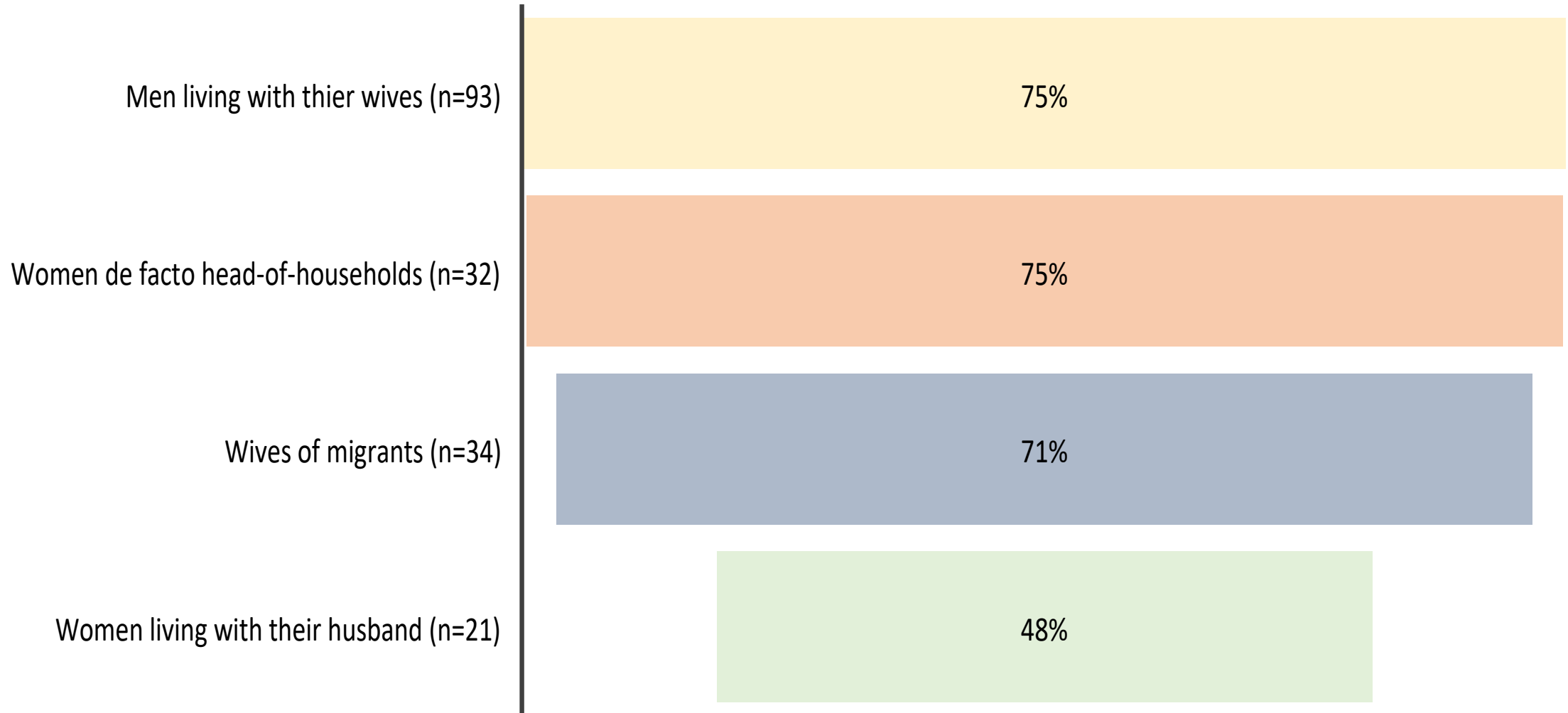
Wife of migrant



- Convince thier husbands
- Search and pay the land,
- Use external workers to plant banana

- **However**, it depends on Individual and HH characteristics. For some, the transfer is not enough to be invested in production...

# Willingness to invest in banana cropping activities according to respondent's marital status



# Perceived power and freedom to decide over banana crop (activities & finances)

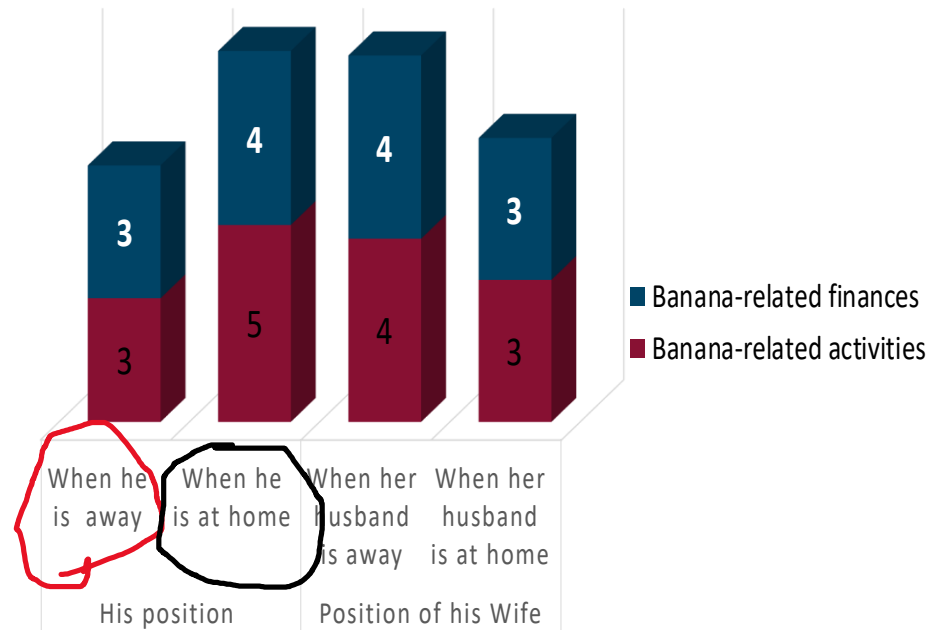
- Wife of migrant's perceived agency

Perceived positions on the LPF(1-5) according to the wife of migrant



- Migrant's perceived agency

Perceived positions on LPF (1-5) according to migrant

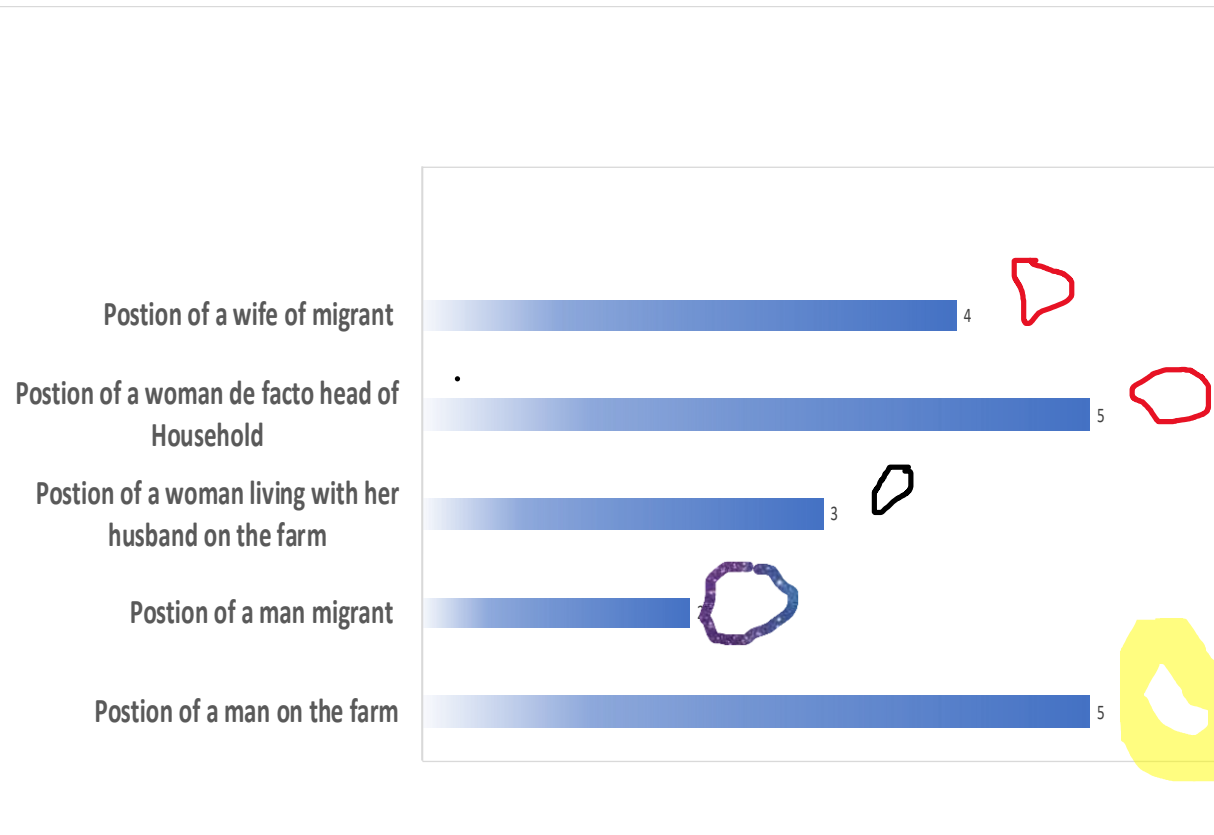


- Wives of migrants feel to have all power and freedom to decide when husbands are away... (step5)

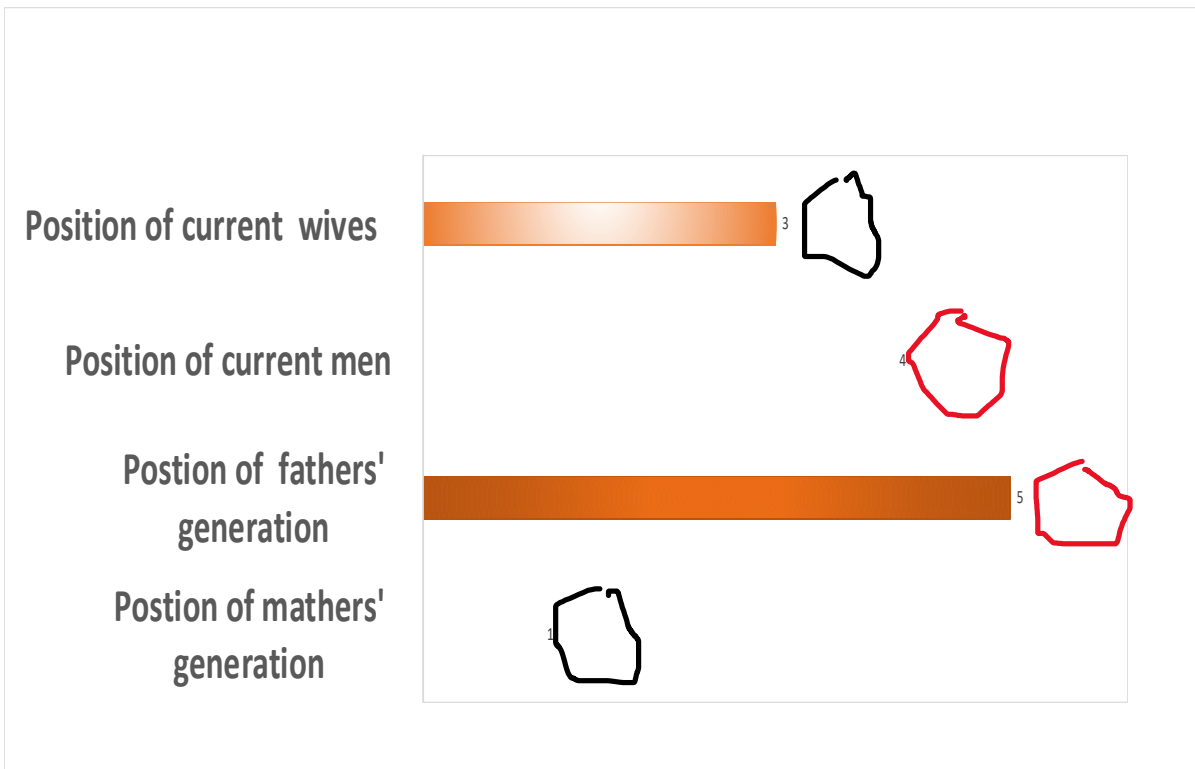
- Migrants accept having lost the power...but still claiming the headship of HHs even though they are absent (step3)

# Perceived power and freedom to decide over banana crop (activities & finances)

## Categories' comparison



## Generational comparison





# Conclusions

- Existing narratives that consider banana as men's crop, mainly focus on the men's and women's roles in married households.
- However, the shifting roles and practices in the absence of male in the household demonstrate otherwise:
  - woman becomes the primary decision maker and has as much interest as a man over the banana crop
  - Break the gender norms and get involved into "male domain"

Since it has been proven possible to have women engaged in banana,

- **Gender Transformative approaches**

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# Thank you!

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