**GENDER-SENSITIVE ENTERPRISE SELECTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION (Bungoma County)**

We are undertaking a consultative process to better understand how agricultural enterprise selection at your county incorporates gender considerations, climate-smart practices and support for women-led enterprises. This interview aims to identify how enterprise selection has been conducted at the county level. How gender norms shape gender roles across the various agricultural value chains, critical barriers, opportunities, and policy gaps that affect the inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized groups.

This exercise is intended to support counties in documenting enterprise performance, community preferences, and contributions to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) strategies. Your insights will help us navigate these specific objectives, inform investment priorities, and shape inclusive policies. We welcome your guidance and local context as we align our efforts with the evolving needs of your county. Your responses will be used solely to inform evidence-based programming and policy recommendations.

1. **Enterprise Selection and Community Involvement**

**1.** How was the selection of agricultural and livestock enterprises conducted in your county, and what criteria guided this process?

Criteria:

1. Climatic conditions (e.g. fish close to the lake, aquaparks, fish cages), environmental stability of the area
2. Cultural and religious beliefs/ backgrounds
3. Public participation (CDP, farmers asked questions, )
4. Market survey (guiding questions, consumption, )
5. Supply and market demand
6. Resource availability (land etc)
7. Knowledge and skills related to setting up a particular enterprise
8. Enterprise feasibility

How:

1. Community participation (barazas, questions, ranking of the enterprises)
2. Political influence (e.g. introduction of dairy cattle which end up failing due to lack of resources to sustain ),
3. National government/regional strategies (BETA)
4. Historical information
5. Stakeholder Imposed value chains (women select the ones they can sustainably manage, sell/ consume)

2. In what ways were community members—including women, youth, and elders—engaged in the enterprise selection process?

1. Youths go for short period maturity enterprises, friendly enterprises, e.g. they may go for value addition, transport, marketing (social media, IT)
2. Formation of common interest groups (CIGs), producer groups, marketing groups, processors, supplier groups,
3. (PRA) Participatory Rural Appraisal

3. What patterns have you observed in enterprise preferences across different community groups (e.g., by gender, age)?

1. Youths go for short period maturity enterprises, friendly enterprises, e.g. they may go for value addition, transport, marketing (social media, IT)
2. Men go for high value capital intensive value chains like dairy/sugarcane/coffee/cotton productions
3. Women do short-term crops/subsistence crops like ground nuts, vegetables, african leafy vegetables, finger millet, orphaned crops (cow peas, green grams, sorghum, sweet potatoes, cassava)
4. people tend to shy away from capital intensive enterprises
5. Geography-lakeside dwellers fish,
6. Traditional value chains are preferred to the conventional ones
7. **Gender Roles in Agricultural Enterprises ( for each of the enterprise selected, ask the following questions**

**1. What specific tasks/ roles in these enterprises are performed by women, men, youth and the elderly or shared? ( for each enterprise selected, what are the gender roles across the value chain and why?)**

* crop-based enterprises

| **Activities** | **Men** | **Women** | **Youth** | **Elderly** | **Remarks/why** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Land Preparation | ✔ |  | ✔ |  | Labor intensive |
| Planting | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Weeding |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Harvesting |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Transportation | ✔ |  | ✔ |  |  |
| Storage |  | ✔ |  |  |  |
| Shelling, Grading and threshing |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Selling | ✔ |  | ✔ |  | High value crops are sold by men |

* Livestock-based enterprises

| **Activities** | **Men** | **Women** | **Youth** | **Elderly** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Breeding | ✔ |  | ✔ |  |  |
| Grazing/feeding | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Disease Control | ✔ |  | ✔ |  |  |
| Milking |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Selling | ✔ | ✔ |  |  | Men sell the livestock  Women sell the products |

**2. What barriers ( social, cultural, economic) prevent women from expanding their roles in these enterprises?**

* Lack of access to land ownership
* Limited access to credit
* Lack of Structured markets

**3. At which process/ value chain for each enterprise do women control decision-making and income, and why?**

| **Activities** | **Enterprise** | **Reason** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sale (milk) | Dairy | Quick income for household use |
| Sale (Eggs, Chicken) | Chicken | Quick income for household use |
| Cultivation | Vegetables | Make a decision on the type of seed to plant and what is consumed in the household |

1. **Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

**1. How have changing climatic conditions influenced the types of enterprises being prioritized in your county?**

* Shift from cassava to maize (increase in pests and diseases)
* Shift from beans to Soya and Sweet Potatoes (unpredictable rainfall patterns)

**2. What are some examples of new enterprises that have emerged as a direct response to climate challenges, and how are they distributed across different gender or age groups?**

| **Enterprise** | **Gender** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Maize | All Gender |  |
| Sweet Potatoes | Women |  |
| Soya | Women | For income and Adaptability |

1. **Access to Resources and Digital Tools**

**1. In your experience, how do men and women, youth and elderly differ in accessing critical resources such as**

**a. land,**

* Men - have easier access to land
* Women/Youth - Limited access to land

**b. Finance-the overall financial landscape for access including the informal such as community savings and loans associations Saccos banks, insurance services,**

* Men - have limited access to community/local savings, e.g VSLA
* Men - have easy access to banks because of collateral, e.g land
* Women - have easy access to community/local savings but limited access to bank loans
* Youths- have access to digital lending platforms, e.g branch, Tala hustler funds

**c. Access to training and knowledge/extension**

* Women - have access to training and knowledge/extension

**d. Access to information as market (KAMIS), weather**

\*Weekly weather updates are available to all extension officers

* Market and weather information is equally accessible to all gender.
* Women have limited access because of limited digital platforms

**e. Access to technology eg ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy**

* Women have limited access to ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy
* Men are less limited to ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy
* Youth have more access to ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy

**2. What challenges do women face in using digital platforms or ICT tools for enterprise development, and how are they navigating these barriers?**

Challenges faced:

* Women have limited access to ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy due to high cost
* Lack of digital literacy

Navigating:

* Use of bulk sms
* Training on utilisation of digital platforms

1. **Economic Viability & Market analysis**

**1. How is the market demand for the product (specific value chain)**

* **High Demand for:**

*Crop*

* ALVs
* Banana

Livestock

* Cow milk
* Eggs

**2. What is the competition landscape for this product, and any opportunity where women can tap more on through value addition, etc**

* Competition from neighbouring counties for dairy milk (Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Trans-Nzoia)
* Low milk production due to low milk-yielding breeds
* Opportunities for setting up collection points for milk,
* Competition from imported eggs from Uganda, due to low cost of production

**3. What are the economic benefits and profitability levels of these enterprises for women?**

* Opportunities for setting up collection points for milk will promote sale of locally produced milk
* Increased income for the households
* Better nutrition/ improved nutrition

**4. How do these enterprises compare to male-dominated ones in terms of income and sustainability?**

* Women-led enterprises are generally highly sustainable, short-term term and have moderate income compared to male-dominated enterprises

**5. What socio-economic benefits (e.g., improved household welfare, community development) do these enterprises bring?**

* Increased income for the households
* Better nutrition/ improved nutrition/health
* Food security improved

1. **Replicability & Scalability**

**1. What factors contribute to the success of these enterprises?**

* High demand for ALVs
* High demand for eggs and milk
* Easy to manage
* Availability of inputs

**2. Can these enterprises be replicated in other wards/subregions? What conditions are necessary?**

* Yes, for instance ALVs can thrive most areas of the county due to similar agroecological conditions
* Eggs and Cow Milk, easy to manage and availability of inputs
* Knowledge and information on management of such enterprises

**3. How can value chains and market access be improved to enhance their viability?**

* Supporting policies and regulations for example limiting imports of locally available products
* Aggregation centres for milk and eggs to attract buyers/ setting up relevant cooperatives
* Enforcement of standards of measure
* Economies of scale to promote market access

1. **Data Availability & Policy Support**

**1. What data sources exist to track the success and impact of these gender-led enterprises (e.g women- led enterprises) ?**

* Gender department (to follow up with gender director)

**2. Qualitatively capture the policy frameworks supporting the gender-led (e.g women-led) Value Chains**

Policies exist that captures gender mainstreaming-

* Bungoma county agriculture sector policy
* Youth agribusiness strategy

To follow up with gender director on more policies

**3. Map the landscape for women’s collectives or cooperatives that would enhance their collective voices for a favourable enabling environment**

* Civil societies
* Women self help groups
* CBOs

**4. Are there any policy gaps that need to be addressed to further support gender (e.g women) in these enterprises?**

* Supporting policies and regulations for example limiting imports of locally available products
* Access to credit
* Land lease regulations to empower youth and women to access land for agriculture

**5. What recommendations can be made to strengthen these enterprises through policy interventions and investments?**

* similar to no.4

**6. From your perspective, what policies are currently enabling or hindering women’s participation in climate-resilient enterprises?**

**Enabling:** Bungoma County Climate Change Policy

Bungoma County Climate Change Fund Act

Bungoma County Climate Change Action Plan

Enables women and youth to access the fund to implement climate change actions

**Hindering:** National lands policy- too broad and not gender sensitive, needs review

They may exist other policies but they may not be gender sensitive

**7. What kinds of support (e.g., financial, technical, policy) would make it easier for women and marginalised groups to thrive in enterprise development?**

* Access to credit
* Training/knowledge and information
* Enabling policies and legal frameworks