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

We are undertaking a consultative process to better understand how agricultural enterprise selection at your county incorporate 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 chain, critical barriers, opportunities, and policy gaps that affect the inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized gr...

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?**

Key Value Chains in Kakamega County

* Dairy, Poultry, Pig Production , Bee keeping , Sheep and Goat
* Maize, African Leafy Vegetables, Sugarcane, Tea, Beans, Bananas, Sweet Potatoes

Criteria:

* Farmers Preference
* Profitability of the value chains
* Marketability of the value chains

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

* Participatory rural appraisal
* Community Engagement (e.g Barazas, )
* Focused group discussions
* Stakeholders initiatives
* Government policies

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

* Women tend to like small stock, local vegetables,
* Youth prefer high-value and short-season enterprises
* Men Prefer long-term enterprises (because of access to resources like land)

1. **Identification of Agricultural Enterprises**

**1. What agricultural enterprises (both livestock and crops) are predominantly led by women, men, youth and elderly in each county?**

* Poultry - Women and Youth
* Dairy - Men
* Piggery - Men, Women
* African Indeginous Vegetables - Elderly Women, Youth
* Maize - Men
* Sugarcane - Men
* Tea/Coffee - Men
* Sweet Potatoes - Women
* Beans - Women
* Bananas - Women

**2. What traditional and non-traditional agricultural enterprises are women currently involved in?**

| **Traditional** | **Non-Traditional** |
| --- | --- |
| * African Indeginous Vegetables * Local Poultry * Sweet Potatoes * Groundnuts * Cassava | * Kales * Tomatoes * Pigs * Sheep and Goats |

**3. What factors contribute to women’s dominance in these enterprises? (e.g., ease of entry, cultural norms, policy incentives)**

* Low initial capital requirement
* Women empowerment
* Policies and Incentives
* Access to Land
* Emerging economic burdens
* Access to credit (Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), MERRY GO ROUNDS )

**4. What social or institutional barriers have you seen affecting women’s leadership or decision-making in enterprise development?**

* Land Inheritance rights
* Cultural norms
* Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
* Mismanagement of farmer-based organisations (cooperatives, groups)
* Inadequate implementation of relevant policies
* Marketing bottleneck/inefficiencies affecting women
* High Cost of farm inputs
* Limited access to technical information
* Risk averseness

1. **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 elderly or shared?( for each enterprise selected probe for the gender roles across the value chain and reasons why?**

* crop based enterprises

| **Activities** | **Men** | **Women** | **Youth** | **Elderly** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Land Preparation | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Planting |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Weeding |  | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Predominantly Women |
| Pest and Disease Control | ✔ |  | Yes/No |  | Health Hazard to Women of Reproductive Age |
| Harvesting |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Marketing | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Some enterprises are engendered |

* Livestock based enterprises

| **Activities** | **Men** | **Women** | **Youth** | **Elderly** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Selection and Breeding | ✔ |  |  | ✔ |  |
| Feeding |  | ✔ | ✔ |  | Establishment of pastures done by men |
| Construction of Structures | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Cleaning of structures |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Milking |  | ✔ | ✔ |  |  |
| Pest and Disease Control | ✔ |  | ✔ |  |  |
| Marketing & Selling of proceeds | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |  |
| Culling | ✔ |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

* Land Inheritance rights
* Cultural norms
* Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
* Mismanagement of farmer-based organisations (cooperatives, groups)
* Inadequate implementation of relevant policies
* Marketing bottleneck/inefficiencies affecting women
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**3. At which process/ value chain for each enterprise do women control decision-making and income and why?**

| **Activities** | **Enterprise** | **Reason** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Selling Products | Poultry | Low Income from the sales |
| Milking | Dairy | It is engendered/cultural |
| Selling Produce | Vegetables | Low Income from the sales |
| Storage | Maize | Food security |

1. **Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

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

* The reintroduction of indigenous food security crops (cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum, finger millet)
* Introduction of irrigation schemes and green-house technology for production of high values horticulture crops
* The reintroduction of small Stock (improved goats) due to pasture scarcity
* Upscaling of bee-keeping activities

**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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Green-House Farming | Youth | High Value crops |
| Small Scale irrigation | Men |  |
| Small Stock | Women |  |
| Bee-Keeping | Men |  |
| BSF (Black Soldier Fly)/ Azola/ Mushroom | Youth | High Value |
| Indigenous Crops(Sweet Potatoes,Cassava) | Women |  |

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,**

* Most Men Own Land Due to the Cultural Influences(Inheritance and bias)
* Men have direct access to land and control land Practices
* Men can control enterprises practised on the land
* Women Have access to land but have limited control over land
* Youth do not have access/control over land
* The elderly control land but rarely put it to productive use

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

* Men can easily access credit/capital because they have collateral (e.g Title deeds)
* Men can have an option of selling land and other household assets
* Women have limited access to formal credit (Banking institutions and other lenders)
* Women hugely control VSLAs, unfortunately the levels of credit are low
* Youth are the most disadvantaged in accessing finance
* Youth tend to be high risk clients
* Youth are migratory in nature
* The elderly are sceptical about taking loans

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

* Men tend to access training and knowledge more easily
* Men rarely put to use the knowledge acquired
* Youth tend to access trainings through the digital platforms and mass media
* Women access to knowledge is limited
* Women access to knowledge through community groups and farmer to farmer extension
* Women tend to utilise the information better than the other genders
* Knowledge & extension services are inadequate in the County
* Knowledge & extension services should target more women as they easily apply what they learn

**d. Access to information such as market, weather**

* Men & Youth use social Platforms and mass media mainly
* Women rarely access digital information
* Women tend to use mass media and social interactions
* Weather information is increasingly being accessed
* Middlemen are key actors to the market information
* Indigenous knowledge is critical to weather information

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

* Men are advantaged and tend to access digital gadgets more easily than women
* Youth have higher digital literacy
* Women and the elderly tend to be averse to digital literacy
* The cost of digital gadgets and data tends to limit access to digital platforms
* Data integrity(i.e consitency,reliabity, validity and timeliness) is limiting in utilisation of ICT

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

* Low access to digital platforms/ICT
* Low digital literacy levels
* High cost of ICT tools
* Gender roles hinder access to ICT tools

1. **Economic Viability & Market analysis**

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

*Key Value Chains in Kakamega County:*

1. *Livestock Enterprises*
   * Dairy(Cow milk) - High demand than supply
   * Poultry - High demand for indigenous chicken
   * Eggs - High demand (importing eggs from Uganda)
   * Pig Production - High demand than supply
   * Beekeeping - Demand for honey is high
   * Sheep and Goat - High demand
   * Fish - High demand
2. *Crop Enterprises*
   * Maize - High demand
   * African Leafy Vegetables - Very High demand
   * Sugarcane - High demand
   * Tea - Low demand
   * Beans/Soy beans - High demand
   * Bananas - High demand
   * Sweet Potatoes - High demand
   * Arrow roots - High demand
   * Kales - High demand

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

*Livestock Enterprises*

* Value addition for milk to products like Mala & Yoghurt offers an opportunity to women
* Value addition for poultry eggs and meat (portioning/piecing, roasting)
* Value addition in processing of honey, wax, candles, propolis, cosmetics,
* Fish dressing, frying, portioning, drying and smoking

*Crop Enterprises*

* ALVs Drying, sorting, grading vegetables utilisation
* Soy beans value added products (beverages, crankies, milk, flour)
* Bananas ripening and flour making, banana wine
* Sweet Potatoes value added products (crisps, flour, chips)

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

* Source of income, employment, improved nutrition,women empowerment
* The most profitable enterprises for women in the county are: ALvs, Poultry, Milk Products, Soy beans, Bananas

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

* The income levels are generally lower than the men dominated enterprises
* The sustainability potential is very high

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

* Improved Household status
* Reduced GBVs
* Improved literacy levels
* Improved nutrition and health

1. **Replicability & Scalability**

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

* Favourable climatic conditions
* Ready market
* The enterprises require small land acreages
* Availability of appropriate Technologies e.g climate Smart technologies
* Improved levels of extension services/ Knowledge
* Women are better adopters of new technologies

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

* Most of these enterprises cut across most of the subcounties and wards
* Suitable agroecological zones across the counties
* Suitable technological options (e.g organic farming, suitable varieties and breeds)

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

* Organised marketing
* Improved extension services
* Strengthening farmer-based organisations/cooperatives
* Improved access to credit sources
* Agricultural insurance
* Improved Institutional Governance Systems
* Improved Infrastructure (Roads, communication)

1. **Data Availability & Policy Support**

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

* A functional M&E in the county
* Continuous Farmer Profiling
* National Population census
* Periodic departmental and stakeholder reports

**2. Qualitatively capture the policy frameworks supporting the women -led Value Chains**

* Draft land lease regulations (County Assembly stage)
* Kakamega County Agroecology policy and strategy
* Horticulture policy and strategy
* County Agrinutrition Implementation Strategy
* Kakamega County Youth and women empowerment service

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

* Shibuye Community Health Workers CBO
* VSLAs
* Women Selfhelp Groups
* Cooperatives societies

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

* Lack of county agricultural marketing policy
* Lack of women in agribusiness strategy
* Land lease guidelines

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

* Harmonization of policy initiatives
* Development of relevant policies
* Integration of the policies and strategies in the CIDPs and other development plans
* Lobbying for resources from stakeholders to finance women led enterprises

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

Enabling:

* Kakamega County Youth and Women Empowerment Service
* Kakamega County Investment Act
* Kakamega County Micro-Finance Act
* Kakamega County Dairy Development Act

Limiting:

* Multiple licenses
* Certification requirements
* Standardization Requirement by Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

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

* Access to credit
* Access to Land
* Access to Markets
* Access to knowledge & skills
* Policy domestication