**GENDER-SENSITIVE ENTERPRISE SELECTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION**

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.

**Group 1 Responses**

**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?

* Suitability in different agro –ecological zone
* No. of farmers involved including men ,women and youth
* Market availability with bias to export
* Possibility of value addition (raw material for cottage industries )
* Value in terms of income
* In line with Government policies in place

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

* Value chain analysis in community barazas
* Participatory Intergrated Community Development (PICD) process
* Common Interest Group formation

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

* Income levels influence the level of investment in agriculture
* Technologies and innovations involved
* Duration of taken by the enterprise to generate income or returns
* Market availability of the finished product
* Initial capital
* Inputs required
* Labour involved
* Risk level

**Identification of Agricultural Enterprises**

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

**Men**

* Green grams
* Sorghum
* Millet
* Dairy cow
* Meat Goats
* Beef cattle
* Apiary (beekeeping)

**Women**

* Green grams
* Cowpeas
* Pegionpeas
* Poultry
* Dairy cow

1. What traditional and non traditional agricultural enterprises are women currently involved in?

**Traditional**

* Arrowroots
* Sweet potaoes
* Cassava
* Millet
* Sorghum
* Indigenous vegetables

**Non traditional**

* Green grams
* Cowpeas
* Pegion peas
* Poultry
* Dairy cow

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

* Ease of entry-Resources required and labor involved
* Availability of technologies .e.g green gram Drough resistant varieties
* Cultural norms especially for poultry
* Ownership and control especially for poultry
* For food and nutrition security
* Income generation- quick turnover period

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

* Culture and perception
* Ownership and control of land
* Limited access to resources - no collateral for financial services access
* Low literacy levels
* Lack of political goodwill

**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?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enterprise** | **Men** | **Women** | **Youth** | **Reasons why** |
| * Green grams | Provision of land  Land preparation  Purchase of inputs  Planting  Spraying herbicides and pesticides  Baging  Transportation by use of bodaboda and oxen-drawn cart  Price negotiation  Selling  Decision-making on the use of income | Planting - seeding  Weeding  Harvesting  Drying and threshing  Cooking | Land preparation  Planting  Spraying herbicides and pesticides  Weeding  Harvesting  Threshing  Transportation  Market linkages | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Sorghum | Provision of land  Land preparation  Purchase of inputs  Planting  Bird scaring  Baging  Transportation by use of bodaboda and oxen-drawn cart  Price negotiation  Selling  Decision-making on the use of income | Planting - seeding  Weeding  Bird scaring  Harvesting  Drying and threshing  Value addition and cooking | Land preparation  Planting  Bird scaring  Weeding  Harvesting  Threshing  Transportation | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Millet | Provision of land  Land preparation  Purchase of inputs  Planting  Bird scaring  Baging  Transportation by use of bodaboda and oxen-drawn cart  Price negotiation  Selling  Decision-making on the use of income | Planting - seeding  Weeding  Harvesting  Drying and threshing  Value addition and Cooking | Land preparation  Planting  Bird scaring  Weeding  Harvesting  Threshing  Transportation | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Cowpeas | Provision of land  Land preparation  Purchase of inputs  Planting  Spraying herbicides and pesticides  Baging  Transportation by use of bodaboda and oxen-drawn cart  Price negotiation  Selling  Decision-making on the use of income | Seed selection  Planting - seeding  Weeding  Harvesting  Seed preservation  Drying and threshing  Cooking | Land preparation  Planting  Spraying herbicides and pesticides  Weeding  Harvesting  Threshing  Transportation | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Pegionpeas | Provision of land  Land preparation  Purchase of inputs  Planting  Spraying herbicides and pesticides  Baging - dry product  Transportation by use of bodaboda and oxen-drawn cart  Selling  Decision-making on the use of income | Seed selection  Planting - seeding  Weeding  Harvesting of vegetable pegion peas.  Seed preservation  Drying and threshing  Price negotiation- vegetable pegion peas  Cooking | Land preparation  Planting  Spraying herbicides and pesticides  Weeding  Harvesting  Threshing  Transportation  Market linkages | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Meat Goats | Provision of land  Purchase of breeding stock  Labour - herding by eldery  Construction of housing structures - goat pen  Spraying acaricides  Branding and identification  Selling  Control of income generated | Provide labour - herding, milking, watering  Cleaning the goat pen  Taking care of the kids  Transportation to market- hand-held | Provide labour- herding, milking, watering  Slaughtering  Transportation to market- bodaboda, hand-held  Branding | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Poultry | Construction of poultry housing structures  Scaring of predators  Control of income generated | Sourcing of breeding stock  Provide labour - feeding and watering  Cleaning the chicken house  Disease control  Slaughtering and value addition  Transportation to market  Selling  Donation/appreciation  Control of income generated | Purchase of breeding stock  Feeding  Slaughtering  Transportation to market- bodaboda, hand-held | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Apiary (beekeeping) | Provision of land  Agroforestry  Purchase of hives  Siting and hanging of hives  General maintenance of hives  Honey harvesting and refinery  Packaging  Selling  Control of income generated | Agroforestry  Market linkages | Agroforestry  Purchase of hives  Siting and hanging of hives  General maintenance of hives  Honey harvesting and refinery  Packaging  Selling | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Beef cattle | Provision of land  Purchase of breeding stock  Labour - herding by eldery  Construction of housing structures - cattle boma  Fodder harvesting and preservation  Spraying acaricides  Branding and identification  Transportation to the market- hand-held  Selling  Control of income generated | Provide labour - milking, watering  Cleaning the cattle boma  Taking care of the calves | Provide labour- herding, milking, watering  Fodder harvesting and preservation  Slaughtering  Transportation to market- hand-held  Branding | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
| * Dairy cow | Provision of land  Purchase of breeding stock  Labour  Construction of housing structures - dairy unit  Pasture and fodder harvesting and preservation  Spraying acaricides  Branding and identification  Selling  Control of income generated | Provide labour -milking, watering  Cleaning the dairy unit  Taking care of the calves  Selling milk | Provide labour- milking, watering  Pasture and fodder harvesting and preservation  Slaughtering  Branding  Selling milk | Men –ownership, labour intensive ,skills and experience required, control of income, cultural expectations.  Women – less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill.  Youth – quick money ,less time required |
|  |  |  |  |  |

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

* Limited resource access
* Inadequate knowledge and skills
* Inadequate appropriate gender friendly innovations and technology
* Lack of control and decision making especially concerning assets and income
* Cultural stereotypes and perceptions

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Value chain** | **Process** | **Why** |
| poultry | Sourcing of breeding stock  Provide labour - feeding and watering  Cleaning the chicken house  Disease control  Slaughtering and value addition  Transportation to market  Selling  Donation/appreciation  Control of income generated | Less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill. |
| Goats meat goat | Provide labour - herding, milking, watering  Cleaning the goat pen  Taking care of the kids  Transportation to market- hand-held | Less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill. |
| Dairy cow | Provide labour -milking, watering  Cleaning the dairy unit  Taking care of the calves  Selling milk | Less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill. |
| Green grams | Planting - seeding  Weeding  Harvesting  Drying and threshing  Cooking | Less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill. |
| Cowpeas | Seed selection  Planting - seeding  Weeding  Harvesting  Seed preservation  Drying and threshing  Cooking | Less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill. |
| Pegion peas | Seed selection  Planting - seeding  Weeding  Harvesting of vegetable pegion peas.  Seed preservation  Drying and threshing  Price negotiation- vegetable pegion peas  Cooking | Less skill and labour, cultural norms, precision and skill. |

**Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

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

* Influenced diversification to other crops and livestock
* Influenced adoption of climate smart technologies, innovations and practises
* Influenced emergence of other support value chains such as pasture and pasture seed production, tree nursery and agroforestry
* Influence enhancement of apiculture value chain

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?

* Poultry which has seen introduction of improved kienyeji chicken which has multipurpose use - mostly for women and youth
* Pasture and pasture seed production, tree nursery and agroforestry establishment - for men and male youth
* Kitchen garden farming - for women
* Beekeeping and hive making enterprises - for men and male youth

**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,

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Resource | Gender | ACCESS |
| Land | Men | High |
|  | Women | Low |
|  | Youth | Low |
| Finance | Men | High |
|  | Women | Medium (Informal services) |
|  | Youth | Low |
| Training/Knowledge/Extension services | Men | Enterprise based |
|  | Women | Enterprise based |
|  | Youth | Enterprise based |
| Information on market and weather | Men | High |
|  | Women | Medium |
|  | Youth | High |
| Technology and digital gadgets | Men | Medium |
|  | Women | Medium |
|  | Youth | High |

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

c. Access to training and knowledge/extension

d. Access to information as market, weather

e. Access to technology eg 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** | **Coping Mechanisms** |
| Limited capacity on utilization of gadgets. | Seek assistance from the youth. |
| High cost of internet data connectivity | Use data when very necessary |
| Lack of electric power in some areas of the county. | Use of solar energy source |
| High cost of digital gadgets. | Credit financing-(M-KOPA) |

**Group 2 Responses**

**Economic Viability & Market analysis**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Enterprise | Market Demand | Competition | Profitability | Income and Sustainability | Socio-Economic benefits |
| Green gram | High | Low | High | * Male dominated with low income to women. * Sustainable enterprise | * Improved access to education * Improved housing * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing * Improved access to health care services |
| Cow peas | Medium | Low | Medium | * Low income * Sustainable enterprise | * Improved access to education * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing |
| Sorghum | High | Low | High | * Male dominated with low income to women. * It is a sustainable enterprise | * Improved access to education * Improved housing * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing * Improved access to health care services |
| Pigeon peas | High | Medium | High | * High income * Sustainable enterprise | * Improved access to education * Improved housing * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing * Improved access to health care services |
| Meat Goat | High | Medium - Competition from other neighboring ASAL Counties | Medium | * Male dominated with low income to women. * Sustainable enterprise | * Improved access to education * Improved housing * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing * Improved access to health care services |
| Poultry | High | Medium - Competition from other producing Counties | Medium | * High income * Sustainable enterprise | * Improved nutrition |
| Bees | High | Low | High | * Male dominated * Sustainable enterprise | * Improved access to education * Improved housing * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing * Improved access to health care services |
| Beef | Hi | High - Competition from other producing Counties | Medium | * Male dominated * Sustainable enterprise | * Improved access to education * Improved housing * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing   Improved access to health care services |
| Dairy cattle-Milk | Low | Low | High | * High income * Not sustainable enterprise | * Improved food & nutrition security * Improved clothing |

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

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

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

The male dominated enterprises generate more income as compared to female dominated enterprises.

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

* Improved access to education
* Improved housing
* Improved nutrition and health
* Improved clothing
* Improved access to health facilities.

**Replicability & Scalability**

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

* Availability of land
* Availability of capital
* Availability of skilled and unskilled labor
* Technical knowhow
* Access to market
* Water, pasture, fodder and foliage

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

**Conditions necessary**

* Suitable climatic conditions for the growing of crops and raising of livestock based enterprises
* Availability factors of production (land, Capital, labor and technical knowhow)

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

* Upscaling value addition
* Adoption of digital marketing technology
* Market survey and linkages
* Product aggregation
* Produce branding and advertisement
* Grow more food campaigns for the specified enterprises
* Improvement of infrastructure (e.g. Roads, electricity, communication networks etc.)

**6. Data Availability & Policy Support**

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

* County ministry of agriculture and livestock progress reports,
* Farmer cooperatives,
* Development partners,
* Other County Ministries e.g. Culture, Gender, Youth, ICT, Sports & Social Services, Trade, Industry, MSMEs, Innovations & Cooperatives, and
* Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).

2. Qualitatively capture the policy frameworks supporting the women -led V.Cs

* Kitui County Gender policy, and
* Kitui Sorghum Act 2015.

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

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

* Value chain policy
* Financial policy
* Farmer SACCO policy

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

* Affordable and flexible credit access to women,
* Tailor made credit access to women led enterprises,
* Establishment of revolving fund for women enterprises,
* Continuous capacity building of women groups,
* Formation and strengthening of women organizations, and
* Establishment of cottage industries for value addition,
* Introduction of subsidies on agricultural inputs, and
* Zero rating of raw materials for agricultural production

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

* High taxation regime leading to high cost of inputs,
* Uncontrolled importation of certain commodities which are locally produced like eggs and milk,
* High interest rates on agricultural related credit facilities,
* Unattractive terms of credit

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

* Linkage to affordable financial and insurance services,
* Capacity building on modern production technologies, and
* Provision of agricultural inputs to women,