Gender-Sensitive Enterprise Selection and Climate Adaptation

We are undertaking a consultative process to better understand how agricultural enterprise selection in 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 in agricultural value chains, particularly in the face of climate change. The identification and tracking of such gender-responsive enterprises are key to generating knowledge products under the AAAA framework.

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

**criteria used for food security- farmers can not be convinced to do commercial agriculture if there is not enough food in the household, leading to selection of crops like maize, cowpeas, sorghum and green grams.**

**cultural practices- in kwale county maize is the staple food, that means it is the main choice of food crop in every household**

**climatic conditions**

**farm size,**

1. In what ways were community members—including women, youth, and elders—engaged in the enterprise selection process? **sensitization is there through barazas, extension staff, administrations (chiefs, administrators)**

*meeting, barazas and discussions , the value chains already had strategies in place ,*

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

**women tend to choose small enterprises eg sweet potatoes, green grams, cowpeas and indigenous chicken -do not own land, enterprises require less capital**

**men tend to go for the major enterprise - men are decision makers**

**elderly go for the less labour intensive enterprises such as weaving baskets and makuti.**

**youth shift to small enterprises that have quick return but in most cases they are not involved in agriculture - they seek employment**

**2. Identification of Agricultural Enterprises**

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

|  | Enterprise |
| --- | --- |
| Men | maize, tomatoes, citrus, mango, coconut, cashew nuts, beef and dairy cattle, fishing |
| Women | casava, cowpeas, greengrams, sweetpotatoes, chicken |
| Youth | tomatoes, passion fruit |
| Elderly | baskets and makuti weaving |

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

**Women - casava, cowpeas, greengrams, sweetpotatoes, chicken**

**Weaving is a traditional practice**

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

**they do not own land,**

**enterprises require less initial capital,**

**are not labour intensive**

**resource access and control - who can access what resource but who controls income.**

**enterprises near their homes - easy to control as they engage in other household activities**

*small portion of lands, non control of land, cultural norms- some got the parents , those with less value are given to women*

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

**religion -**

**culture - cultural norms where the women are still inferior to the men therefore decision making is left to the men**

**land accessibility is limited**

**financial barriers- accessing loans is difficult since they lack collateral**

**3. 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?

| **Activity** | **men** | **women** | **youth** | **elderly** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Input acquisition |  | mostly by women&youth | mostly by women&youth |  | Culture, ownership  Different genders acquire inputs based on the preferred enterprise |
| Decision on LAND USE | mostly by men |  |  |  | They own and control the land |
| Land preparation | Shared by men, women, youth | Shared by men, women, youth | Shared by men, women, youth |  | Labour intensive |
| Weeding |  | mostly by women&youth | mostly by women&youth |  | Culture – weeding is perceived as an inferior activity |
| Harvesting |  | mostly by women&youth | mostly by women&youth |  | Culture – harvesting is perceived as an inferior activity |
| Marketing | Dominated by men |  |  |  | Men own and control the resources |
| Control of income | Dominated by men |  |  |  | Men own and control the resources |

* Elderly engage in activities less labour intensive like offering advice, supervision in the farmlands and offering daycare services when mothers attend to the field
* Mat weaving, basket and makuti making

**Livestock**

| **Activity** | **men** | **women** | **youth** | **elderly** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Input acquisition | Dominated by men & youth |  | Dominated by men & youth |  | Men are the decision makers |
| Decision on LAND USE | Mostly by men |  |  |  | They own and control the land |
| Grazing | shared by men,women & youth | shared by men,women & youth | shared by men,women & youth |  | If large herd of animals its is done by men  Goats and sheep- women |
| Watering | shared by men,women & youth | shared by men,women & youth | shared by men,women & youth |  | Those grazing |
| Milking | Dominated by men & youth |  | Dominated by men & youth |  | Milking done by men because they want to control the milk (produce) |
| Pest and disease control | Mostly by men |  |  |  | Perceived as a men activity |
| Marketing of livestock | Mostly by men |  |  |  | Done by men because they want to control the income |
| Control of income | Mostly by men |  |  |  | Men own and control the resources |

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

**refer to abov**e

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

**women are mostly involved in input acquisition, land preparation, planting, weeding and harvesting but marketing and income control, they have no say.**

**4. Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

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

**zoning - AEZs in the county have enabled the county to identify suitable zones with likelihood of success for specific enterprises. procurement of inputs (seeds and seedlings) are according to the zone-specific**

**extension messages are tailored according to zones**

1. 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?

**In dry areas there is water harvesting activities where irrigation is established for crop such as tomatoes, capsicum, brinjals, cabbages, watermelons, spinach, okra, using the waterpoints**

**re-introduction of long abandoned enterprises such as cotton, sunflower, sorghum, castor**

**new technologies like shade nets, Azolla for chicken**

**5.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
   1. land,
   2. Finance-the overall financial landscape for access including the informal such as community Savings and loans associations) Saccos banks, insurance services
   3. Access to training and knowledge/extension
   4. Access to information as market, weather
   5. Access to technology eg ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy

| Resource | Men | Women | Youth | Elderly |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Land | Normally own the land | Mostly through the permission of the men | Some lease, access through permissive or as inheritance | Elderly men own the land until they die. Elderly women are the custodians of the land after the death of their husbands |
| Finance | Men easily access loans from the banks and cooperatives. They own most of the resources so they can sell | Women are active and have access to VSLA (Village savings and loan association). | Male youth access loans from the digital platforms. Some access finance from youth groups. Provision of labour in various construction sites and county governments. Betting is another source of finances for the youth | Some are in elderly schemes. Mostly sale their assets. They are assisted by their children. |
| Access to training and knowledge/extension | Highly. Mostly men have free time to attend meetings | Women do not have as much time but considerable number of women attend trainings | Youths do not mostly attend physical but online meetings. They have digital access to this information | Elderly attend meetings. Elderly have capacity and can implement the extension knowledge |
| Access to information as market, weather | High. Majority men have phones as compared to women | Low. A few have smart phones | High | Very low |
| Access to technology eg ICT, digital gadgets, internet, digital literacy | High. Majority men have phones as compared to women | Low. A few have smart phones | High | Very low |

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

Challenges: Low literacy levels. **They normally do not have access to digital apps such as smartphones. Elderly men and some women may possess some smart phones but they have limited understanding of most of the features and functionalities. Lack of sensitization on the importance of features.**

Solution: **They learnt or do as the other family members or neighbours such as they see what others are doing. They get information from other sources such as vernacular radio stations**

**6.Economic Viability & Market analysis**

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

***There is high market for the beef cattle/meat goats as export markets are available. There is also high market and demand for the perennial and cash crops such as cashewnuts(production is low) and coconuts***

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

**Most value addition of cashewnuts, cassava etc are done by women. if women are to be equipped with disheller machine , cassava chipper machine, packaging materials etc they can stand a better chance to improve their livelihoods**

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

***The value chains predominated by women are used for improving dietary requirements for the family. They are small income generation to address household needs, and support small business, savings in the VSLA.***

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

**The ones for women are not as high income generating as those for men. They are not as sustainable since they are highly dependent on climatic conditions and may easily be affected by erratic rains or droughts.**

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

**Cash from these value chains are used to pay school fees, transport, build family houses etc**

**7. Replicability & Scalability**

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

**Demand for these value chains is high. Them being able to access credit. Willingness and empowerment. Support by the county government that includes shellers, subsidies. Agricultural projects that prioritise women participation. Gender inclusivity requirement by the county or the projects.**

1. Can these enterprises be replicated in other countries/regions? What conditions are necessary?

**Yes. For example the shellers machinery support spread to kilifi. County support on ploughing can easily be replicated elsewhere**

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

***organizing the farmers in groups for ease of extension services. Structured market to minimize influence by brokers. Value addition. Capacity building on the value chain actors***

**8. Data Availability & Policy Support**

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

**The department of social services have the track record of the VSLA. Having gendered disaggregated data of the beneficiaries of the projects**

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

***There is a national gender policy which has not been customized to Kwale county.***

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

**Self help groups such as VSLA are available to the village level. VSLAs have started upgrading into companies and doing tendering with the government**

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

***There is youth fund. There is a gap to create women development fund. Mostly policy are general and non intentionally is directly specifically to women and their value chains***

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

***Certain value chain nodes should be specifically preserved for women e.g selling can be declared as women activity***

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

***FloCCA, Climate change adaptation plan haven’t left out women but they are general. Sensitization of what existing policy contain need to be undertaken***

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

**Provision of low interest financing specifically for women and marginalized groups.**

**There is a need to improve or come up with new policies to support women in women led value chains to be lucrative. There should be continuous capacity building of VMG (Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups) in every node of the value chain.**