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

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 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.

**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?

How:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Enterprise** | **Criteria** |
| Dairy farming | Food security, demand, land and fodder(availability), Suitable breed, income, culture (dowry), climatic conditions, County Government support |
| Sugarcane | Food security, cash crop, suitable climatic conditions ,proximity to sugar factories ,suitable and available land ,market demand of the product |
| Maize& beans | Staple food, subsidized farm inputs, availability of land, suitable varieties and climatic conditions, high market demand, source of income |
| Sweet Potato | Staple food, subsidized farm inputs, availability of land, suitable varieties and climatic conditions, high market demand, source of income, proximity to sweet potato processing plant, suitable vitamin A variety |
| Horticulture | Improved varieties, early maturing, suitable soils and climatic conditions, available market, source of income ,food security |
| Aquaculture | Source of income, available market, early maturing, |
| Sorghum & finger millet | Culture, food and nutrition security ,drought resilient , |
| Poultry (Chicken) | Market availability ,certified sources(compliant firms e.g Kenchick ,Mzima chicken) ,feed availability ,pest and disease control, culture |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Enterprise** | **Involvement** |
| Women | Poultry, maize and beans, sorghum and finger millet | Active participation in building of the value chain, managerial aspects , |
| Men | Dairy, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, aquaculture | Active participation in building of the value chain, managerial aspects ,Selling of products |
| Youth | Aquaculture, poultry, sweet potato | Active participation in building of the value chain, managerial aspects , |
| Elderly | Maize and beans, poultry sorghum and finger millet | Active participation in building of the value chain, managerial aspects , |

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

* Labor intensive enterprises are preferred by men due to their physique and mechanized operations.
* High return enterprises are men dominated
* High investment enterprises are men dominated
* The youth tend to engage in fast returning enterprises
* Most women are participants in terms of providing labor however the returns (access and control) are handled by men

**Identification of Agricultural Enterprises**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Value chain /Enterprises** |
| Youth | Aquaculture, poultry, sweet potato |
| Women | Poultry, maize and beans, sorghum and finger millet |
| Men | Dairy, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, aquaculture |
| Elderly | Maize and beans, poultry sorghum and finger millet |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Value chain /Enterprises** |
| Women | Poultry, maize and beans, sorghum and finger millet |

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

* Ease of entry, low input requirements especially for sorghum and finger millet, easy post-harvest management
* cultural issues in terms of land ownership that is men dominated forces women to engage in short cycle crop production
* Affirmative action plan: involvement of women in agricultural enterprises Gender mainstreaming policy:
* Access rural finance: saccos, women associations, table banking village lending and savings

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

* Land ownership
* Cultural attributes especially the Kuria community, women are there to be seen and not to be heard
* Low literacy level
* Access to information communication and technology
* Financial barriers : women face lack of collateral to secure loans ,most women are not allowed to own ancestral land

**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?

**Crops enterprises**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **MEN** | **WOMEN** | **Youth** | **Elderly** | **Comments** |
| Input acquisition |  |  |  |  | Dependent on the purchasing power |
| Decision on Land Use |  |  |  |  | Men predominantly make decisions on land use, female and youth headed households can equally make decisions on the use of land |
| Land preparation |  |  |  |  | Most land is owned by men |
| Weeding |  |  |  |  | Weeding is mostly done by women and the youth depending on the enterprise (e.g. sugarcane is mostly done by men) |
| Harvesting |  |  |  |  | Enterprise specific(e.g. sorghum left for the youth and women ) |
| Decision making on harvested produce |  |  |  |  | Men dominated |
| Control of income |  |  |  |  | Men dominated |

Livestock value chain

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **MEN** | **WOMEN** | **Youth** | **Elderly** | **Comments** |
| Input acquisition |  |  |  |  | Dependent on the purchasing power |
| Decision on value chain |  |  |  |  | Based on technical advise from extension officers |
| Housing |  |  |  |  | Standard structure as per recommendations from competent authorities |
| Feeding |  |  |  |  | Enterprise specific ration across gender |
| Harvesting |  |  |  |  | Recommended periods |
| Decision making on harvested produce |  |  |  |  | Collaborative |
| Control of income |  |  |  |  | Collaborative (in most cases subsistence women dominated ,commercial ,men dominated ) |

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

* Land ownership
* Cultural attributes especially the Kuria community, women are there to be seen and not to be heard
* Low literacy level
* Access to information communication and technology
* Financial barriers: women have little access to collateral required to secure loans for instance women are not allowed to own ancestral land

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Enterprise | Process/value chain | Decision making | Comments(why) |
| Dairy farming | Milking | Milking time, Quantity to sell & consume | Their availability in period of activities |
| Sugarcane | Harvesting, planting, weeding | All operation level decision | In women led households, women decide all through the value chain |
| Maize& beans | Planting, weeding | Time of operations | Crops mainly subsistence |
| Sweet Potato | Planting, weeding, harvesting | Time to plant, weed and harvest | Mainly at subsistence level. |
| Horticulture | Planting, weeding, harvesting | All operation level decision | Both kitchen garden and commercial arms |
| Aquaculture | Feeding, sales | All operation level decision | If female headed household |
| Sorghum & finger millet | Planting, weeding, harvesting | Time to plant, weed and harvest | Labour intensive |
| Poultry (Chicken) | Rearing, selling | Decides on all operations | Mainly women enterprise |

**Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

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

**Crop Based enterprises**

* Varietal selection (tolerant varieties, resistant varieties)
* Method of land preparation (sunken beds or raised beds)
* Dry planting or onset of rains
* Weeding (manual, chemical or mechanical)
* Crop protection: mechanical, chemical or manual
* Harvesting: mechanical and manual
* Type of crop to be planted: cereals or tuberous

**Livestock based enterprises**

* Type of breed (either tolerant breeds or high yielding)
* Type of animal:
* Availability of fodder and feeds in conserved form
* Early warning system: sensitization on climate risk

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?

* The introduction of Galla Goats for breeding purposes to youth and women.
* Purchase of fodder seeds to all men, women and youth
* Fodder reserves/feed banks
* Grafted seedlings to youths and women
* Tolerant varieties for youths and women
* Emerging crops for example Moringa, Amaranthus, Mushroom: Rongo, Awendo, Kuria East/West
* Promotion of Africa Leafy vegetables across the county: Women groups

**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: Owned by men

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

* Women access funds through the already established women groups, table banking, ROSCAS (Rotational Savings and Credit associations)
* Men can access funds through banks and other micro finance institutions because they have collateral

c. Access to training and knowledge/extension

* All have access; however, group training have made it possible for more women to be trained.

d. Access to information as market, weather

* Youth have more access due to high literacy level on ICT and possession of smart digital tools

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

* Youth have more access due to high literacy level on ICT and possession of smart digital tools

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

* Low Literacy levels and limited access to digital tools
* High Cost of digital tools
* Cyber insecurity issues

**Economic Viability & Market analysis**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| VC | Demand |
| Dairy farming | High |
| Sugarcane | High |
| Maize& beans | High |
| Sweet Potato | High |
| Horticulture | High |
| Aquaculture | high |
| Sorghum & finger millet | High |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| VC | Competition Landscape description | Opportunities |
| Dairy farming | High demand, low production, small scale milk producers, semi intensive Areas around Nyatike | Promote milk production in Nyatike with its suitable vast land for Large scale dairy production. Agro-processing for example Yogurt, cheese |
| Sugarcane | High | Sugarcane juice |
| Maize& beans | High demand and exports from neighboring counties | Maize flour, fortified maize flour |
| Sweet Potato | High | Crisps, flour, puree |
| Horticulture | High | Dry vegetables, canned fruits |
| Aquaculture | high | Dried fish, semi-canned, |
| Sorghum & finger millet | High | Flour, fortified flour |

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

* Self-reliance
* Increased gross margin
* Increased Household income
* Economic empowerment of women
* Increased food and nutrition security.

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

* Income are lower as compared to male dominated enterprises
* Low sustainability as compared to male dominated enterprises

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

* Increased profit
* Increased Household income
* Economic empowerment of women
* Increased food and nutrition security.
* Social dignity/respect
* Decision making improved

**Replicability & Scalability**

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

* Trainings
* Access to credits
* Conducive policies environment
* Favorable climatic conditions/similarly of climatic conditions
* Political goodwill
* Collaboration/partnership with the stakeholders

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

* Yes, Under the above conditions.

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

* Market linkages
* Financial access
* Cooperative movements
* Value addition.
* Product Certification.
* Structured market

**6. Data Availability & Policy Support**

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

* Monthly reports from the stakeholders and government agencies
* Financial institutions
* Women based groups

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

* Affirmative action plan: involvement of women in agricultural enterprises
* Gender mainstreaming policy

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

* Kenya Women Trust Fund
* Women Saccos.

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

* Yes, the national polices should be customized to county level.

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

* Implementation of the existing policies.
* Formulate more policy intervention at the County level.

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

Enabling:

* Affirmative action plan: involvement of women in agricultural enterprises
* Gender mainstreaming policy

Hindering:

* Land rights

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

* Training on AAAA
* Financial support
* Infrastructure development.
* Relief on some taxes for example farm levies
* Access to extension services
* Land reforms on ownership rights
* Gender policies in Agriculture.