**GENDER-SENSITIVE ENTERPRISE SELECTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION (Vihiga 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.

**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?**

CIDP, Agriculture Stakeholder Platform, Community engagement processes through public barazas, (ward-based enterprises suitable are listed, prioritised according to suitability, profitability and ability to involve different genders and then finally ranked) Focused groups discussions on gender involvement.

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

Refer to question 1

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

* Women and youth prefer short-term enterprises,
* Low production volumes are associated with women
* Higher volumes(commercialisation) are associated with men,
* Women's preferred enterprises are poultry and ALVs
* Men are directly involved with dairy.
* Women are involved in all enterprises in terms of labour.

**Identification of Agricultural Enterprises**

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

| **Gender** | **Predominant Enterprise** |
| --- | --- |
| Women | ALVs, Chicken, Value addition |
| Men | Dairy, Tea, Banana, Avocado |
| Youth | ALVs, Chicken, Mushroom |
| Elderly | ALVs, Chicken, Dairy, Bee keeping |

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

| **Traditional** | **Non-Traditional** |
| --- | --- |
| * ALVs, * Local chicken(Kienyeji), * Banana, * Non cultivated Mushroom | * Improved Chicken, * Dairy, * Cultivated Mushroom |

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

* Ease of entry and cultural norms for ALVs and chicken
* High returns for dairy
* Policy incentives for dairy and banana
* Interventions by NGOs i.e. capacity building
* Women empowerment

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

* Cultural norms
* Limited access to factors of production(land, capital)

**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?**

DATA SHARED - By Joseph Alunga Livestock Production Officer Vihiga County - VIA WHATSAPP GROUP

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

* Cultural norms
* Limited access to factors of production(land, capital)

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

**DATA SHARED - By Joseph Alunga**, Livestock Production Officer

**Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

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

* The county is adopting climate smart agricultural practices e.g. irrigation
* Agro-ecology(production and utilization of local seeds)
* High performing dairy cows to eliminate the need for numerous animals in the quest to reduce Green House Gas emission
* Enterprise diversification
* Organic resource utilization

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

* Black Soldier Fly - production to reduce chicken feeding cost and aid in biodegradation of waste, currently preferred by youths.

**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**,

* Preserved for men

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

* Community Savings and loan associations - majorly women
* Sacco loans - Men
* Mobile loans - Youth

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

* Women and Youth

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

* Youth

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

* Youth

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

* Limited access to digital infrastructure and capacity

**Economic Viability & Market analysis**

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

High demand for ALVs internally and externally

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

Vihiga ALVs still faces competition locally from Nandi county due to low production levels, nevertheless there exists opportunities for women value addition and aggregation

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

* Posters shared by Joseph Alunga via whatsapp

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

Women-led enterprises(ALVs) may have moderate income but high sustainability while male-led enterprises may be relatively high but not as sustainable as women-led.

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

* Improved household welfare
* Community development
* Reduced dependency ratio
* Creation of employment

**Replicability & Scalability**

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

* Availability of the market
* Access to factors of production
* Policy support

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

* YES

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

* Promote aggregation and collective marketing
* Embrace value addition

**6. Data Availability & Policy Support**

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

* Projects within the department e.g. NAVCDP M&E
* Stakeholder platforms e.g. Cereal Growers Association
* KNBS
* Ministry of Agriculture (National Government)
* County Department of Agriculture and GIS

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

* Vihiga County Agro-ecology Policy (2025)
* National Agriculture Policy (2017)

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

* Common Interest Groups promoting ALVs
* Value addition and marketing e.g. Jitahidi Women Group

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

* M & E to evaluate implementation
* Limited financing to implement the policy
* Fragmented data sets that need harmonization

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

* Embrace participatory M & E
* Financing to implement the policy
* Harmonizing data sets

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

* Enabling policy - Vihiga Agro-ecology Policy, National Agriculture Policy, Seeds and Plants Varieties Act CAP 326, 2022

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

* Enhancing access to factors of production(land and finance)
* Training and capacity building