**Laikipia 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 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?  
   **The selection process involved participatory planning, where stakeholders including local leaders, extension officers, and community members analyzed community value chain datasets and referred to local development plans. The criteria used included market demand, climate suitability, gender inclusivity, and feasibility based on available resources.**
2. In what ways were community members—including women, youth, and elders—engaged in the enterprise selection process?  
   **Community engagement was achieved through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in each ward. These discussions included representatives from women, youth, and elders to ensure diverse input and collective decision-making.**
3. What patterns have you observed in enterprise preferences across different community groups (e.g., by gender, age)?  
   **Women prefer enterprises like poultry farming and kitchen gardens, which require minimal land and capital. Men lean towards high-value crops and livestock such as dairy farming. Youth are increasingly drawn to support roles such as transport, while elders maintain traditional crops like tea and pyrethrum.**

Identification of Agricultural Enterprises

1. What agricultural enterprises are predominantly led by women, men, youth, and elderly in your county?
   * **Women: Poultry farming, kitchen gardens**
   * **Men: Dairy cattle, horticulture (vegetables/fruits)**
   * **Youth: Transportation and logistics within agricultural value chains**
   * **Elderly: Traditional cash crops like tea and pyrethrum**
2. What traditional and non-traditional agricultural enterprises are women currently involved in?  
   **Traditional enterprises include poultry and kitchen gardens, while non-traditional ones involve dairy goat rearing and sunflower processing, which are gaining traction among women seeking diversification.**
3. What factors contribute to women’s dominance in these enterprises?  
   **Women dominate these enterprises due to low entry barriers, such as small capital requirements, availability of household space, and the ability to integrate activities with household responsibilities.**
4. What social or institutional barriers have you seen affecting women’s leadership or decision-making in enterprise development?  
   **Cultural norms often restrict women from leadership roles. Time constraints due to domestic duties and exclusion from formal meetings also hinder their active participation and decision-making.**

Gender Roles in Agricultural Enterprises

1. What specific tasks/roles in these enterprises are performed by women, men, youth and elderly or shared?
   * **Women and youth are mostly involved in production tasks such as planting and feeding animals.**
   * **Men and youth take charge of marketing and transportation, which are more mobile and capital-intensive activities.**
2. What barriers prevent women from expanding their roles in these enterprises?  
   **Key barriers include lack of access to land, limited capital, insufficient time due to unpaid care work, and minimal control over household and enterprise resources.**
3. At which process/value chain for each enterprise do women control decision-making and income and why?  
   **Women have decision-making power in milk selling, manure application, and other small-scale production tasks. These tasks are within their immediate reach, both physically and in terms of responsibility, allowing them greater control.**

Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises

1. How have changing climatic conditions influenced the types of enterprises being prioritized in your county?  
   **With increasing climate variability, farmers are prioritizing short-duration crops like beans and maize, which are more resilient and have quicker returns. This shift is a direct adaptation to unpredictable rainfall and longer dry seasons.**
2. What are examples of new enterprises that have emerged due to climate change and how are they distributed across gender/age?

**Enterprises like fast-maturing maize and bean varieties have emerged. However, men tend to dominate these due to better access to land and inputs, with women and youth underrepresented due to structural inequalities.**

Access to Resources and Digital Tools

1. How do men and women differ in accessing land, finance, training, information, and technology?  
   **Men generally have more direct and legal access to resources, including land titles and credit facilities. Women often rely on informal systems such as borrowing from family or joining savings groups.**
2. What challenges do women face in using digital platforms for enterprise development?  
   **Women face challenges such as limited access to smartphones or internet, fear or lack of digital literacy, and cultural norms discouraging technology use.**
3. How is the market demand for the product (specific value chain)?  
   **Market demand remains high for products like tea, dairy, maize, and poultry. However, products like potatoes and wheat face volatile markets, making them riskier investments.**
4. What is the competition landscape and opportunity for women?  
   **While competition exists, women can carve a niche in value addition for dairy, poultry, and potato products, thereby increasing profitability.**
5. What are the economic benefits and profitability levels of these enterprises for women?  
   **Women earn moderate income from dairy, poultry, maize, and potato ventures, which supports household needs and reinvestment in enterprises.**
6. How do women-led enterprises compare to male-dominated ones in income and sustainability?  
   **Women-led enterprises often generate lower income due to smaller scale and less capital but are more sustainable, especially when supported by VSLAs and community networks.**
7. What socio-economic benefits do these enterprises bring?  
   **These enterprises enhance household income, improve nutrition, support children’s education, and promote rural development by fostering local economies.**

Replicability & Scalability

1. What factors contribute to the success of these enterprises?  
   **Success is driven by climate suitability, access to inputs, market availability, availability of labor, and local capacity through extension services and training.**
2. Can these enterprises be replicated elsewhere?  
   **Yes, especially in areas with similar ecological, cultural, and economic conditions. Success requires community buy-in and supportive infrastructure.**
3. How can value chains and market access be improved?  
   **Improvements can be made through better road networks, increased access to quality inputs, cold storage facilities, and market information systems.**

Data Availability & Policy Support

1. What data sources exist to track women-led enterprises?  
   **Existing data sources include county development plans, National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) reports, and cooperative society records.**
2. What policy frameworks support women-led value chains?  
   **Relevant policies include the Crop Regulation of 2019, the County Gender Policy, and public procurement rules that prioritize women and youth-led enterprises**.
3. What cooperatives enhance women’s voices?  
   **Potato and dairy cooperatives/unions are active in Laikipia and provide women with collective bargaining power, extension services, and access to markets.**
4. Are there any policy gaps to address for women?  
   **Gaps remain in access to credit and technical support for smallholder women farmers, particularly those in informal or subsistence enterprises.**
5. What policy interventions and investments can strengthen women enterprises?  
   **Key interventions include funding VSLAs, investing in value addition infrastructure, and supporting digital literacy and access for women.**
6. What policies hinder or enable women’s climate-resilient enterprises?  
   **While some policies provide funds for climate-smart agriculture, limited technical capacity and low funding levels hinder effective implementation for women.**
7. What support is needed for women and marginalized groups to thrive?  
   **Comprehensive support including financial access, digital tools, training, and favorable policy environments is essential. Programs like NAVCDP and targeted enterprise funds can drive inclusive development.**