**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.

**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?

In Siaya County, the enterprise selection process is guided by economic return on investment, location (environmental considerations and factors), gender consideration specifically on women and youth participation ( more than 30% women and youth participation in group enterprises). The criteria is documented in the National Agriculture Value Chain Development Plan…. financial systems that are meant to support the establishment of agricultural enterprises within the County. The viability and success of the enterprises are closely linked to the environmental, resource access (for example production inputs- seeds, fingerlings, chicks), and climatic variables. The county conducted agriculture crop suitability to maximize productivity.

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

The county engages the community through a structured approach guided by the National Agriculture Value Chain Development Plan.

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

Male dominated enterprises are capital intensive and cultural aspects continue to play a role in the selection of the enterprises.

**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 Poultry, Rice, Cotton and Fishing

Women Poultry, Africa Leafy Vegetables, Sweet potatoes, Ground Nuts

Youth Poultry, Tomatoes

Elderly Aquaculture

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

Poultry, Africa Leafy Vegetables, Sweet potatoes, Ground Nuts

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

* Easy entry as cultural systems support gender driven norms/roles on women based enterprises.
* Ease of participation as the women already belong to organised groups that support financial access. For example table banking.

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

* Land ownership. The men own the land and decide on the use of land.
* Social aspects specifically on family support on new enterprises. The man is charged with the role of deciding on when to change or bring in a new cock to the breed (in poultry enterprises.
* Permits/thresholds especially on licensing.
* Marriage systems: The women especially, youths have to join the husband family disrupting the enterprises that were being driven by them in their parental homes.
* In Poultry based enterprises, the men come in with an increase in the number of chicks and economic returns.

**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?

* The women take part at the trading stage and they control the income generation at this level.
* The men at the processing stage and the decision level regarding return on investment and large scale production.
* The youth

WHY: The men own land as a factor of production.

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

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

At the Trading stage (market systems)

**Climate Change and Emerging Enterprises**

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

Rice in West Ugenya Sub county came about as a result of floods upstream leading to the potential in rice enterprises. As part of climate change adaptation and mitigation, the county country constructed water pans to control water flows (floods), this led to the creation of a suitable environment for vegetable farming as irrigation has been made easier.

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?

Vegetables farming: The women make decisions at the trading level, the men at the processing level. The men own the lands under which the water pan was constructed.

Rice farming: Male dominated enterprise especially as experienced at West Ugenya Sub Country.

**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: Men have access to land, women and Youth have limited access to land.

b. Finance-the overall financial landscape for access including the informal such as community Savings and loans associations) Saccos banks, insurance services: The women has access to finance through the various women groups and banks (Kenya Women Trust Bank) and Table banking platforms. The men have access to finance by the virtue of owning land but fear of using the land as collateral as the risk of not being able to pay back the loan leads to confiscation of the land by financial institutions . The youth has limited access to finance majorly affected by credit worthiness and CRB.

The county has gone further in advising the residents to maintain active accounts with the banks to ease access to loans when need arises (credit worthiness).

c. Access to training and knowledge/extension :

Men have access to training at the higher levels approximated at 70% (this is related to access of information as it reaches men who are the heads of the households before it gets to the women) with women and youth at 30%. This is enterprise specific. Women have access to lower level training that takes place at the barazas and in the women groups already established.

d. Access to information as market, weather

This is enterprise specific: The fishing enterprise that is men dominated has access to weather information and has access to structured markets. The weather information is disseminated through sms, men's networks and local radio stations although the level of trust and use of the information is limited due to the fact that it touches on the source of livelihood.

Women and the youth also have access to information through the weekly communication channels on women's groups and table banking meetings. Information on diseases and adaptation measures for example vaccinations are shared in the groups.

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

The access is enterprise specific as there exist digital platforms that men, women and youth access and discuss issues related to a particular topic and enterprise, for example Market information, Feeding information, Disease outbreak awareness and adaptions measures. The youth also supports the men and women utilizing these platforms especially at home or in meetings where all the groups are participating.

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

* Access to data bundles and use of phones to access the e-platforms.

The youth support the women in using the e-platforms

**Economic Viability & Market analysis**

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

There is high demand for the birds (4M plus ) during the festive seasons namely April, and December.

There exists no structured market for poultry, Tea and coffee enterprises and also competition from the neighbouring counties for example Vihiga, Kisumu, Bugoma and Kakamega, this has led to the fluctuation of market prices and interference/instability in the entire value chain. Personal preferences also play a key role in the demand and supply especially in tomato driven enterprises, the residents prefer tomatoes from the neighbouring counties as they are perceived and considered of high quality and bigger in size.

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

The competition landscape is enterprise specific and depends on quality and size especially in Poultry and tomatoes and majorly between Siaya and the neighbouring countries who share the markets within and beyond the county. The women control the trading level of the products and therefore, women are envisaged to support in putting in place structured market systems.

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

The enterprises are a source of employment and income for the women. It was also noted that the profitability of the enterprises depends on the cost of production, quantity and quality of the product.

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

The male dominated enterprises are capital intensive, higher in profits due to large scale production example fish. The market structures are better structured than in women dominated enterprises. The women led enterprises are more sustainable than the men based enterprises in terms of enterprise continuity .

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

* Improved food security and nutrition.
* Enhanced/improved financial sustainability.
* Increase/enhance education levels and access to information
* Community Interest Groups models improved and linkages to financial institutions and Markets.
* Expanded household size.

**Replicability & Scalability**

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

* Financial factors: Access to finance through table banking and Banks
* Social factors: Cultural ownership
* Technological factors: Training supported by extension officers on various technologies available for use.
* Legal frameworks put in place by the country to support the creation and support of various enterprises.
* Environmental and weather factors. Rainfall and temperature patterns are optimal and adequate to support production.
* Structured market systems especially in Fishing, Cotton, Rice enterprises.

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

Yes, they can be replicated.

* The counties need regional integration and approach in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies specific to Agriculture.
* Optimum rainfall and temperature threshold (favourable climate conditions)
* Structured market systems.
* Family level support especially in the introduction of new enterprises.

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

**6. Data Availability & Policy Support**

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

No consolidated data sources exist however, the training data from the various women groups is available. The data from the training initiatives has no breakdown specific considerations of women in the production.

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

* On Youth: Siaya County Youth in Agriculture Strategy.
* Access to Government Procurement opportunities- 30% of the opportunities to be awarded to Women.

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

* Table banking
* Siaya County Widows Forum
* Siaya County technical welfare
* Kenya Women Finance Network
* Wings to fly-Equity Bank

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

No policy gaps.

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

Operationalization and implementation of the already existing policies

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

Financial policies that needs collateral

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

* The support by the county needs to be enterprise specific and not a black box
* Technical support from the RCMRD on use of AAAA for decision making.