

SP10: Gender Order: Embedding gender in horticultural value chains to close or reduce the productivity gap

Project partners:

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I. Objectives

a. Overall aim and objectives

This crosscutting subproject intends to empirically understand the gender dynamics in the horticultural value chain. It will investigate the changes within gender arrangements, in the division of labour and in productivity (productivity gap), that take place when a shift from a subsistence economy to a more market and partly export oriented production system takes place.

Considering the important role of women in agriculture and horticulture with their overall contribution to food security, this project regards gender analysis and learning as important for understanding the complex interrelationship between food production, resources management and social relations. Drawing on the concept of social embeddedness (Granovetter 1985; Hinrichs 2000) we argue that social relations in general and gender relations in particular influence production processes and vice versa. Taking account of gender relations at local level involves considering the situation of disadvantaged women and men with regard to access to and control over resources, distribution of workload, income and decision-making power as well as knowledge generation. This kind of gender analysis will help to identify adequate strategies to close or reduce the productivity gap in the course of agrarian change in order to improve nutrition and food security as well as urban and rural livelihoods (FAO 2010).

b. Relevance of sub-project to the objectives of the project (main outputs)

Vegetables, especially indigenous vegetables are 'female plants' in the East African context, in the sense that they are predominantly cultivated, reaped, sold and prepared by women. Thus, women significantly contribute to vegetable production, marketing, and consumption. However, in the course of an accelerating commercialization of vegetable production there is the risk that women increasingly get marginalized. This is problematic insofar as women – besides their contribution to the vegetable value chains – are mainly responsible for the food security and care economy at the household and community level. Consequently, the question that emerges is how women's participation affects both value chain processes and local livelihoods. That means we need to integrate the aspect of social reproduction into the analysis of vegetable value chains in order to gain a deeper understanding of the factors that facilitate value chain processes as well as consumer and consumption patterns. From a gender perspective the productive and reproductive spheres are intertwined and important to sustain life.

Drawing on methodological concepts of gender analysis, we will investigate the gendered local knowledge and practices of horticultural producers and recommend innovative strategies to improve local livelihoods. All recommended strategies will undergo a social and technological assessment to be environmentally sound and reflecting greater gender equality and equity. By investigating the scope of action of socio-culturally sensitive options in closing/reducing the gender gap in different horticultural value chains we see an effective step towards improved food security. The generated knowledge will be disseminated amongst local and national policy makers to move towards a more equitable and socially sustainable value chain (Outputs 1-4). This will empower disadvantaged groups to actively participate in the value chain of their urban and rural livelihoods.

c. Research and / or technical goals of the sub-project

- Investigation and further development of participatory gender analysis tools in the field of vegetable production – especially for indigenous vegetables – with respect to

the production and (social) reproduction sphere.

- Providing information about the division of labour and local knowledge to build on to improve formal and informal production conditions (social reproduction) for subsistence and marketing strategies.
- Providing information about gender implications of production technologies and extension services. Discussing the engendered environmental and social challenges of innovations in vegetable production.
- Generating recommendations for closing or reducing the gender productivity gap of other sub-projects in order to improve the interdisciplinary work within the whole project.

Our gender approach is based on an intersectional understanding (with a special focus on age and ethnicity) and will focus on disadvantaged groups within the local communities and the poor population concerning food security and livelihood conditions.

II. State of knowledge

Since the pioneering work of Ester Boserup (1970) 'Women's Role in Economic Development' that was justified on her Centennial Tribute Conference in Vienna November 2010 we have to be aware that technological innovations in the field of agriculture and horticulture are not always in favour of the female part of the population. Changes in property rights and means of production have often marginalized women and broaden the productivity gap. This can cause the loss of women's status within their societies (Gooch 2012; Teherani-Krönner 2012) and is a risk to a balanced gender relation in the development of rural areas and peoples' livelihood.

Drawing on the concept of social embeddedness, we grasp agricultural markets as social institutions infused with gendered norms (Hinrichs 2000) that needs a sensitive research methodology (Lachenmann 2008). Gender relations and gendered social patterns in Africa show major differences in division of labour, access and control over production resources compared to the accruing benefits as well as decision-making on developmental matters and skills, particularly in science and technology areas (FAO 1997; 2004; 2010).

"In some countries, such as in Kenya, only 5 percent of women have land tenure rights." (UNICEF 2009) Women, particularly within rural communities and those engaged in agriculture and natural resource management, play a significant role in rural development (World Bank 1989; Schäfer 2012). It is now well understood that development may not happen without strategic promotion of equity between women and men, and that gender roles and relationships matter (IFAD 2000; Wahkungu/Watson 2008), in particular within the agricultural sector and in horticulture. The inequalities are reflected in basic human rights, resources and economic opportunities, among other factors which collectively are inextricably linked to poverty (Mason/King 2001).

In East Africa, there is a trend where women are being integrated into the export oriented horticultural production, despite being associated with the subsistence agriculture for household needs. If women are increasingly getting involved in horticultural production both for export, local and household levels, there is need to build on their existing knowledge around how these ventures can be economically, socially and environmentally viable. For instance, women's knowledge about the cultivation of indigenous plants, their use and their processing for everyday subsistence shall inform research on locally adapted plants for nutrition in order to minimize economic risks and ecological degradation (Abukutsa-Onyango 2010; Howard 2003). Furthermore, women's experiences in the uneven access to land and water and the unequal distribution of income from export production within the household are

to be reflected critically (Dilan 2001; Tallontire et al. 2005). Gender analysis and learning in combination with the ECOGEN approach will aim to understand the development of gender gaps as an effect of innovations in terms of distribution of workload, income and power; and the knowledge generated will help to reduce and/or close this gap (see FAO 2011a and b).

III. Detailed description of work plan

a) Detailed description of work plan

The investigations will start in different regions (rural and peri-urban areas) of Western Kenya from the first year onwards. After the second round of empirical research, a comparative analysis will be performed by the post-doc candidates over the next three to four years.

Further investigations will focus on two exemplary cases in the peri-urban region of Nairobi (according to the sub-project on urban agriculture). This will help to reveal the changes in the gender order that accompany the processes from subsistence production in the direction of market production and consumption within a rural-urban comparative relationship. Following the changes in the production as well as within consumption, the perspective of social reproduction and care economy (Elson 1995), will help to identify the scope of action for different groups of producers and consumers with various purchasing powers and behavior. The research process will be accompanied by expert consultancies and tentative assessments of the whole research process to combine gender analysis in horticultural value chains as a cross cutting issue. The qualitative approach with time intensive participant observation plus special methods of gender analysis and special techniques (SEAGA - Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis –FAO 2001) should be regarded as an important complement to the proposed quantitative research concept of household surveys. These research techniques need the expertise of specialists; therefore, consultancies are needed in the field of human ecology (from the Societies for Human Ecology) or an expert on ECOGEN-(Ecology-Community and Gender- e.g. UC Davis).

a) Planned milestones of the intervention

Activity	Milestone	Timeframe	Partner
G1: To develop adequate research methods for participatory gender analysis and value chain activities within the regional context, investigating new methods of qualitative data analysis (applying SEAGA and ECOGEN approaches) as well as performing exploratory field visits to Kenya	A framework allowing for participatory gender analysis has been elaborated	01.2014-01.2015	HUB, ACTS, associated partners: FAO, UC Davis
G2: To obtain knowledge about local horticultural value chains and division of labour from a gender perspective through field research and analysis	Knowledge about horticultural value chains within the local context from a gender perspective has been gained. In particular, identification of: productivity gaps, possible risks of innovations that might marginalize the poor populations, gendered division of labour in the formal and informal economy among vegetable producers and consumers.	01.2014-01.2017	HUB, ACTS, FAO e.g., UC Davis
G3: To effectively complete research analysis and synthesis and begin	Strategies to overcome the gender gaps have been developed and the following have been identified:	01.2017-12.2017	HUB, Local NGOs,

dissemination of generated strategies through the publication of articles	approaches to improve the access to resources, possibilities of women's participation in decision-making activities at household and community level. Risks of strategies that might marginalize the poor populations have been evaluated in collaboration with other sub-projects, as well as developing compensation strategies if overcoming the gap is not possible.		research Institutes, ACTS and KARI
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IV. Utilization of results

Embedding gender into the analysis of horticultural value chains – meaning, taking account of gender in social reproduction at household and community level – will help to capture the scope of action and freedom of choice that influences the gender arrangements and consumers' behavior. Research results will clarify opportunities and risks of horticultural innovations for different stakeholders and the rural and urban poor. As gender arrangements are deeply rooted in social and cultural customs and believe systems sensitive steps to close and reduce the gender gap will be formulated. This will include the production and reproduction sphere and the whole value chain. Adequate recommendations with respect to the socio-cultural setting will be formulated and passed to the dissemination group. Research findings will be shared with local and national policy makers as gender mainstreaming is an accepted aim in Kenya in accordance with the new constitution.

V. Cooperation with other sub-projects/cooperation with third parties

As gender is a cross-cutting issue, it is the challenge to engender the research process in cooperation with output group 1 and 6 through the entire research process in cooperation to VC 2 and VC 4 as well as within the subprojects of VC 5 and within the communities and stakeholders. The cooperation with ACTS has already started and will be continued throughout the whole research process. Gender Mainstreaming should be seen as a joint aim to reach the intended improvements of gender justice in the livelihood situation of rural and urban poor in selected East African countries, e.g. Kenya. From the very beginning, there will be a collaboration with NGOs involved in rural development, women's cooperatives and urban and peri-urban agriculture. Their assistance is needed and the results will be communicated to them and civil society agencies.