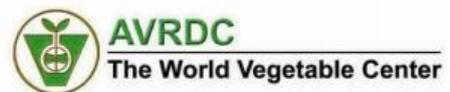


“Diversifying Food Systems: Horticultural Innovations and Learning for Improved Nutrition and Livelihood in East Africa”
(HORTINLEA)

JOINT INTERIM REPORT
(SP10)

01/01/2014 – 31/12/2014
FORMAL REPORT



Description of activities/milestones
<p>SP10: Gender Order: Embedding gender in horticultural value chains to close or reduce the productivity gap</p>
<p>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</p> <p>Progress under this activity is on track. The methodological concept note with a framework for a gender analysis of AIV value chains has been developed. The first draft of the concept note has been delivered in 12/2014 and is currently in the process of being revised. The final draft of the concept note will be ready before the first phase of data analysis that starts in Spring 2015. SEAGA and ECOGEN approaches have been introduced in a workshop in Kenya in September 2014.</p>
<p>G2: To obtain knowledge about local horticultural value chains and division of labour from a gender perspective through field research and analysis</p> <p>Progress under this activity is on track. Some preliminary knowledge about the gender division of labour and power relations along AIV value chains has been obtained through the explorative research in September/October 2014 and the field research in November/December 2014 in the urban and peri-urban areas. Field research is going to be continued particularly in the rural areas in the first quarter of 2015. The first phase of data analysis is schedule for spring 2015.</p>
<p>G3: To effectively complete research analysis and synthesis and begin dissemination of generated strategies through the publication of articles</p> <p>This milestone is scheduled for the second phase of HORTINLEA. No delays from the anticipated time frame is expected (see above).</p>

The objective of the subproject is twofold: Firstly, the subproject intends to map gender roles and gender relations along the African indigenous vegetables (AIV) value chain. Secondly, it aims at investigating changes in local gender arrangements in the course of value chain modernization and the repercussions of such changes on AIV value chain processes. The development of a methodological concept note has commenced for the gender analysis of AIV value chains (**Activity G1 “Develop adequate research methods”**). Subproject work started with an extensive literature review on the gender dimensions of horticultural value chain development, with a specific focus on AIV value chains. The aim of the literature review was to develop first hypotheses on facilitating and impeding factors for women’s participation along AIV value chains (**Activity G2 “Knowledge about gender division of labour”**). Studies that analyse AIV value chains from a gender perspective are rather scarce. While few studies on AIV value chains emphasize women’s important role in producing leafy vegetables in Sub Saharan Africa, there is no scientific knowledge about the gender division of labour and women’s participation in post-harvest handling, marketing and consumption. However, the broader literature on gender and horticultural value chains (studies mostly focus at products like tomatoes, onions and flowers) provides important insights about gendered power asymmetries along value chains: (1) Due to gender division of labour and gender norms, women and men take on different task at different nodes of the value chain. Women predominantly take on tasks as producers. However, as women are predominantly responsible for household food security they concentrate on subsistence production and, thus, are not able to intensify cash crops production. (2) There is evidence that women as producers are mostly at the bottom of the value chain. Women do not have the same access to capital, technology, inputs, transport facilities and market information as their male counterparts. This impedes equal participation and integration of women into the value chain as they face, for instance, problems in complying with standards set by supermarkets. (3) Due to time-consuming tasks of social reproduction (i.e. unpaid care work and maintenance of household

food security) as well as gender asymmetries in access to and control over resources women are not able to perform more profitable roles as buyers, sellers or processors. (4) There is evidence that women are price takers in markets due to lack in bargaining power. The results of the literature review have been used to develop the research design for SP 10; the tools for the field research have been developed in September 2014.

An explorative research was carried out in Nairobi (urban) and Kiambu (peri-urban) between September and October. Interviews as well as group discussions have been carried out with producers, traders, supermarkets, support services and extension workers in order to gather data on the gender division of labour along AIV value chains and the gender dynamics in AIV marketing (Activity G2 “Knowledge about gender division of labour”). After the explorative phase, further field visits were carried out in Nairobi and Kiambu in November and December. The preliminary results of the field research are: (1) Motivation to produce AIVs: The producers (female and male) that were interviewed started producing AIVs following the sensitization on the profitability and nutrition value of the AIVs organized by grassroots organizations and market development agencies such as Farm Concern International. Female farmers also use the production of AIV to improve the livelihood of the whole family. Over the years, the demand and price of AIVs has been consistently increasing and this has resulted in continuous growth in income as compared to other exotic vegetables. This has motivated the farmers to increase the area of production as well as develop planting calendar/cycle to ensure continuous production of AIVs. (2) Gender division of labour: There are gender specific tasks; men are preferred in ploughing activities whereas women are involved in planting, weeding and harvesting. For women, the reproductive duties at home reduce the time available to produce AIVs, hence they opt to hire labour which increases the costs of production. Women do not own land, which affects the production of AIVs. Men make decisions on allocation of plots or farms to women and which crops to grow. (3) Market access: Generally, access to transportation facilities remains a challenge affecting the effectiveness of female farmers to participate in marketing. Men mainly dominate the transportation of AIVs to the markets. Research on open markets has revealed that particularly young women are confronted with harassments which considerably reduce their inclination to sell their produce in open markets. Power dynamics in markets further raise a challenge since trade in AIVs is largely informal and controlled by cartels who charge a fee to allow producers access to the market. That means, even if female producers pay the city council fee they do not get the permission to sell in the market as they are not able to additionally pay the cartel fees. The cartel is feared and has more power than the government county officials. Research on high-end supermarket chains (i.e. Zucchini’s) reveal, that these supermarket chains prefer to buy from female producers due to their reliability. Interestingly though, the supermarket chain Zucchini’s has a specific purchasing strategy: it was indicated that they explicitly do not purchase AIVs from cooperatives due to difficulties in price negotiations. This differs from the strategy of supermarkets at the lower end concerning prices (i.e. Uchumi), who also source from organized small farmers. Moreover, preliminary analysis of field results reveals that mixed farmers groups (male and female) perform better in the market than women-only groups. This is associated with bargaining power of the male members. This calls for further field research in order to understand the gender power dynamics associated with mixed groups in relation to distribution of benefits among other aspects. (4) Gendered effects of value chain upgrading: Grading, sorting and bunching are the main elements of upgrading taking place at the farm level. These activities are mainly done by women. Particularly male interviewees associated this with the fact that women are relatively better in these activities and tend to give attention to details resulting in quality products. Such responses show, that traditional gender norms determine the gender division of labour.

Moreover, the study shows that upgrading has contributed to increased incomes especially when farmers sell the AIVs to formal markets. Upgrading and greater benefits accruing from the production and sale of AIVs has attracted more men into the AIVs production business. This calls for further research to establish to what extent this change of roles has impacted women's share of AIVs production and related benefits.