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Cost of Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity

**Intersessional expert meeting on sustainable
development goals, gender and women's rights
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Natural Resource Management

- Natural resources: (Land and soils, forests, fisheries, water and biomass fuels) are the principal sources of development for many men and women: they provide income, social protection and employment creation.
- Development, management and governance of natural resources require an integrated approach which includes men, women and marginalized communities.
- Need for understanding the role that each social group plays.

UN Environment and Gender

UN Environment's work on Gender

- Promote gender equality and women's empowerment in conservation and sustainable development.
- Policy: We promote women's and men's participation in environmental conservation and sustainable development;
- Programmes/Projects: We ensure that all of UN Environment projects and policies-both internal and external-reflect the different needs of women and men.

Area of Gender work in Africa

- AWEEF: Africa Women Entrepreneurs on Energy Framework
- Poverty Environment Initiative
- Africa Network of Women Ministers and Leaders on Environment
- Switch Africa Green Project

Upcoming Projects

- Reducing Climate Change Vulnerability of Local Communities through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Forest & Wetland Ecosystems in Uganda.
- Environmental Restoration of Dadaab Refugee Complex- Kenya (Very strong gender and youth lens)
- Strengthening the capacity of government and communities in South Sudan to adapt to climate change.

Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity

- Agriculture - 14.3 percent of GDP, with agricultural exports valued at more than US\$20 billion per year. Majority of the rural population depend on subsistence farming
- productivity-driven **agricultural output** growth has a strong causal impact on **poverty reduction**: for every 1% of growth in agricultural output, poverty is reduced by 0.9% --> agricultural growth caused reductions in poverty of 4%
- However, agricultural productivity has been negatively affected by **unsustainable practices and gender inequalities** which creates high losses for local economies and governments as a whole
- While women comprise 30-80 % of the active farming population, their productivity has often been less compared to men.
- Limited data on the gap and factors behind it



Table 1. The gender gap in agricultural productivity and the benefits of closing the gap

Country	Agricultural productivity gap	Increase in crop production	Increase in agricultural GDP/annually	Increase in total GDP	People lifted out of poverty
Malawi	28%	7.3%	\$90 million (annually)	\$100 million	238,000
Tanzania	16%	2%	\$85 million (annually)	\$105 million	80,000
Uganda	13%	2.8%	\$58 million (annually)	\$67 million	119,000
Ethiopia	12%	1.39%	\$229 million (one off)	\$256.6 million	1,323,886
Rwanda	11.7 %	NA.	\$418.6 million (one off)	NA.	2,100,000

Factors Contributing to this Gap

- **Gender-based differences in access to productive inputs and resources** (land, sustainable fertilizers and pesticides)
- **Lack of labour** (male labour) for own-plot production and agricultural productivity
- Agricultural productivity is challenged by **effects of climate change** (this affect the productivity of men and women):
 - Water resource management**: high dependency on rainfall for household use as well as agricultural purposes.
 - soil fertility and soil erosion** : deforestation, using of harmful chemical fertilizers
- Gender gaps affect how women and men access, participate, adopt and benefit from CSA
- **Unpaid care and domestic work** limits women's flexibility in their choices by reducing labour availability for on-farm and off-farm work which has an impact on the cash and non-cash resources that women are able to generate.
- **Gender-based violence** also reduces agricultural productivity
- The impact of **limited cash incomes** on agricultural productivity

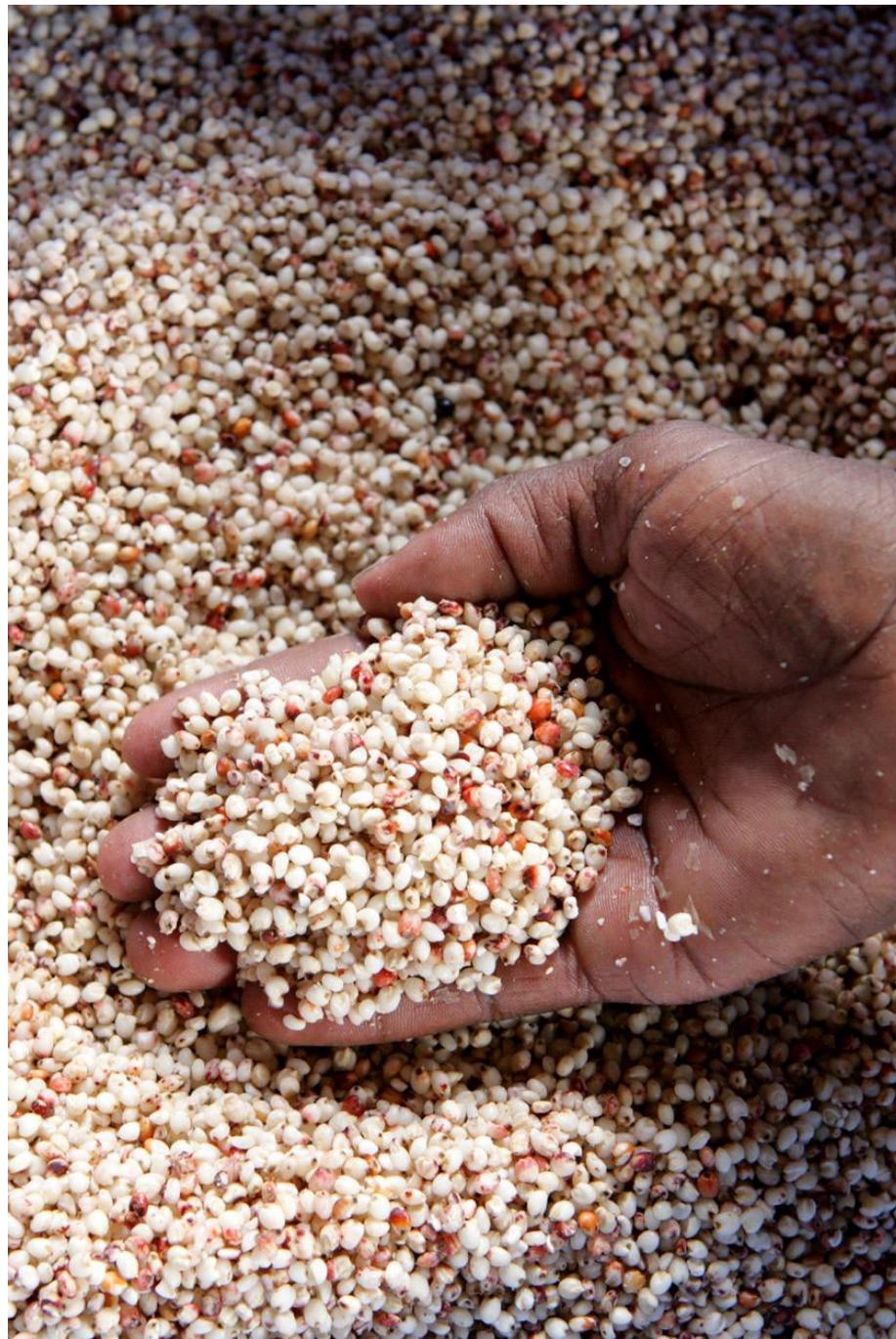
What needs to be done

- **Confronting gender social norms** in agricultural sector including –
 - Policy interventions that target women's engagement in the agriculture sector
 - Involving women in policy formulation and implementation,
 - empowering women through knowledge skills, **building capacities** of women on financial management, **engaging men as partners.**
- Improve women farmers' access to **climate smart labor saving technologies** for agricultural production and for household use (save labour in unpaid care and domestic work, such as improved access to water and improved access to energy)
- Gender-responsive **climate-smart agricultural extension services**
 - Capacity building on gender sensitive CSA approaches

In Malawi, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security have included a strong focus on women farmers in its recently adopted National Agricultural Policy (2016) informed **by the findings and with technical inputs from UN Women and the Poverty-Environment Initiative**

Cont...

- Women's **access to and control over land and other resources** (improved seed, fertilizer, finance etc)
- The need for more **gender desegregated data** as well as Revisions to statistical instruments.
 - Data generation should be Interdisciplinary and collaborative - government, stakeholders, with special emphasis on targeted marginalized groups (Women).



Other PEI and UN Environment Programmatic Interventions

Regional

- **Women's Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Energy (WESE)** a joint UN Women and UN Environment project that provides approaches to engender market transformation and policy efforts for universal sustainable energy access. It optimizes the use of public resources to catalyze private investment. The Programme directly contributes to achievement of the Sustainable Development
- **Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF)** is a vehicle and platform to enable African women play a role as a change agent and main stakeholders across the energy value chain, address the challenges and barriers that hinder women economic empowerment and implement the “innovative environmental solutions”.

Country

- Capacity-building programme for women unions on **alternative sources of energy** e.g in Burkina Faso PEI is supporting women to generating income from processing non-timber products like cashew nuts. The targeted women became more aware of the negative effects of cutting the forest.
- Tanzania: **a reforestation campaign** and more efficient and **environmentally friendly cooking options e.g** installation of biogas plants and modern cook stoves has brought significant changes.

Gender, agriculture, human rights and SDGs

Women's limited/constrained participation in the agriculture sector uphold the social and economic rights of women. Women have a right to equally and equitably engage in agricultural and other socio-economic activities and overall contributes to attaining SDGs.

- Goal 1 : end poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- Goal 2 : end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable
- Goal 5 : achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.
- Goal 4: education (enabling women's farmers to access to the skills, tools, inputs and knowledge they need to thrive)
- Goal 6: water use
- Goal 7: energy use
- Goal 8: economic growth and employment entrepreneurship across the rural and food sectors can generate employment and growth.
- Goal 12: sustainable consumption and production
- Goal 13: climate change
- Goal 15: ecosystem management

Links To Reports And Initiatives

Cost of Gender Gap Studies

- http://unpei.org/sites/default/files/publications/costing_gender_final_eng_0.pdf
- <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/05/equally-productive>

Gender and Energy

- <http://www.unpei.org/sites/default/files/dmdocuments/Gender%20C%20Energy%20and%20Policy-%20A%20Review%20of%20Energy%20Policies%20in%20East%20and%20Southern%20Africa-%20Web-%20HR.pdf>
- http://www.un-expo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FPI_Brief_Womens_entrepreneurship_for_sustainable_energy.pdf
- <http://aweef.theargeo.org/>

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