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

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

- **Africa Women Energy Entrepreneurs Framework (AWEEF)**: 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**: 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 upholds 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 agriculture.
- 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://unpei.org/sites/default/files/publications/costing_gender_final_eng_0.pdf)

Gender and Energy
• [http://aweef.theargeo.org/](http://aweef.theargeo.org/)
THANK YOU!

Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (DANIDA)

European Union

German Cooperation

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

UK Aid