



## **Making Innovations in Agriculture Work for Women Smallholder Farmers in Africa**

**Deliverable No.:** 1.3 Gender report

**Lead partner:** NMBU

**Prepared by:** NIBIO & NMBU

**Other partners involved:** KENAFF, SFHC, IAKIB, SUA, ARC

**Objective:** To assess factors at household level and beyond that enhance or hinder agricultural innovations to have a positive impact on women smallholder farmers in Africa for sustainable production, and food and nutrition security.

### **Key results**

The main finding is that in spite of decades of efforts towards promoting gender equality, there are still several factors that hinder innovations in agriculture to work for women smallholders. However, situation varied among the six countries included in the study. In Malawi, Rwanda and South Africa women farmers appear to have a slightly stronger say than their husbands in many household level decisions making for agricultural production, income and participation in certain organizational activities. While this is not the situation in Ethiopia and Tanzania, where husbands play major roles in agriculture related resources allocation and decisions making. The following results can be highlighted:

- Gender equality might be established in policies and laws, but implementation of policies and reinforcements of legislation are lacking in some of the countries
- Cultural values and discrimination work against women in agriculture
- Women farmers do not have adequate access to production resources and agricultural services such as land, inputs, credit and extension
- Women farmers in all six countries were found with heavy workloads and there is a need for a more just division of labour between men and women as well as the introduction of labour saving technologies in agriculture.

*Reducing the gender gap in these case countries would have an important impact on increased production, productivity, income as well as improved food and nutrition security.*

The report (Haug et al., 2018) recommends both specific gender equality measures to be realized at country level as well as a general framework for measures to be implemented by different actors at national level.

### **Recommendations for action at country level**

Ethiopia	- Improve women smallholders access to and utilization of resources including land - Change cultural values against women
Kenya	- Improve women smallholders access to and utilization of resources - Change norms and customary law that prevent women from owning property
Malawi	- More women with leadership position - Reform land ownership in patrilineal societies
Rwanda	- Improve women's access to credit - Better target women in extension
South Africa	- Empowerment of women is needed (main responsibility of Department of Women) - Activities should better target women smallholders as a measure to reduce hunger
Tanzania	- Improve women's access to resources such as land, inputs and credits - Target extension and training for women

## Key recommendations for action by different actors

Individual women level	Household (HH) level	Community level - informal institutions	Formal institutions & organizations	Policy and legislation	Research and innovation: InnovAfrica
Empowerment of women	Target men in awareness on gender equality and workload	Change culture, customary law and norms that discriminate against women	Implement gender equality policy	Gender equality in policy & legislation – focus on implementation of policy	Gender equality in objectives of research and innovation activities
Women stand up for their rights	Raise awareness regarding access to resources and assets	Implement changes to ensure equal access to land and other resources	Implement enabling environment for women smallholders	Create enabling environment for women smallholders	Implement objectives regarding women smallholders (not only paper tigers).
Intra household negotiation to improve women's influence in decisions	Involvement of women in production and income decision-making	Recognize that women farmers can hold leadership position in agriculture	Employ women in public extension and advisory services	Employ women in leadership positions in agriculture	Gender equality in staffing at all levels. Gender equality in targeting of smallholder farmers
Be willing to take part in village groups, organizations, extension and training activities	Encourage women HH members to take part in village groups, organizations, extension, etc.	Involve women farmers in community groups and willing to be represented by women farmers	Target women smallholders in extension and training activities, field days, etc.	Make strategies that promotes gender equality in organizations, extension and training	Gender equality in collaboration with partners such as researchers, extension officers and other service providers
Possible collective action to organize child care to free women's time for agriculture	Domestic chores should not hinder mobility of women (e.g. access to inputs and markets)	Change traditional gender roles to reduce the work burden on women. Run child care facilities	Implement technologies and activities that can reduce the work burden on women. Run child care facilities	Allocate resources towards labour saving technologies. Establish child care facilities	Gender equality in monitoring and evaluation of progress in relation to impact – pay special attention to the workload of women
		Mainstream gender in customary laws (e.g. land) and do away with cultural norms that discriminate against women in agriculture	Implement gender equality in all activities not only in special programs oriented towards women in agriculture	Integrate gender equality in agricultural sector policy and not only in special women ministries	Mainstreaming gender in all work packages and not only in task 1.3 e.g. in in the work on value chains (WP4)

## REFERENCES

Haug et al., 2018: Gender report - Making innovations in agriculture work for women smallholder farmers in Africa (D1.3) [www.innovafrika.eu](http://www.innovafrika.eu)



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