

SEMINAR REPORT

**SOCIAL INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE
PROJECTS IN MALAWI**

By

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(2018-11-116)

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE

KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

VELLANIKKARA, THRISSUR- 680 656

2020

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the seminar report entitled “**Social inclusion of women in climate resilient agriculture projects in Malawi**” has been solely prepared by **JOSEPH TIMOTHY BEFORE (2018-11-116)**, under my guidance and has not been copied from seminar reports of any seniors, juniors or fellow students.

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DECLARATION

I, Joseph Timothy Before (2018-11-116) declare that the seminar entitled “**Social inclusion of women in climate resilient agriculture projects in Malawi**” has been prepared by me, after going through various references cited at the end and has not been copied from any of my fellow students.

Vellanikkara
24-01-2020

Joseph Timothy Before
(2018-11-116)

CERTIFICATE

Certified that the seminar report title entitled “**Social inclusion of women in climate resilient agriculture projects in Malawi**” is a record of seminar presented by **Joseph Timothy Before (2018-11-116)** on 05thDecember, 2019 and is submitted for the partial requirement of the courseEXTN 591.

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Social inclusion of women in climate resilient agriculture projects in Malawi

Introduction

Agriculture is the backbone for most countries in the world including Malawi. The sector is characterized by predominance of smallholder farmers with very few commercial farmers. Women are the main contributors of labor force in agriculture sector. FAO (2018) reported that women are the major contributors of labor force in Malawian agriculture. Many studies, for example, Ukpongson (2006), Olawoye (2007); Asodike (2009) and Anyaoha (2012) have observed that despite the fact that women make up over 75 per cent of agricultural workers and livestock keepers in developing countries and are responsible for their families food security, still women face huge challenges in accessing natural resources, securing proper ownership, knowledge, service, and markets which hinder their productive capacity.

Definition of social Inclusion

World Bank Group (2013) defined social inclusion as “a process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society-improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their dignity”

Martin *et al* (2008) defines it as a state of being included in a community and society as a whole; a condition in which individuals and groups can access the range of available opportunities, services and resources and contribute to planning and decision making.

Relevance of social inclusion

(a) Women role in climate resilient agriculture projects

The role of women in agricultural operations is very vital to the household, community and continent. Chandy (2012) reported that women contribute about three-fourth of the labour required for agricultural operations. Women play an extremely important role in agricultural development accounting for an estimated 60 – 70 per cent of the labor force thus playing a pivotal role in sustaining economy and this go a long way to reveal the very crucial role of women in the agricultural sector (Sen, 1998; Meyer, 2000)

Women in agriculture play significant roles like agricultural labor force for land preparation, ridging, planting, weeding, fertilizer application, irrigation, harvesting and winnowing. They also play in allied sector like goat management, fodder collection and milking and horticulture production from the backyard gardens around the household (Hyder and Behrman, 2014).

(b) Women and Climate-Impacts on women

Partey, *et al* (2018) observed that men have higher rate of using climate information services than women. Differences in gender roles, preferences, vulnerabilities to climate-related risks, access to farm resources land ownership, access to labor, access to information, and financial resources are often were the contributing factors to low adoption of agricultural innovations (Villamor et al.2014; Bernier *et al.*, 2015) since they impact behaviors and mindset towards carrying out new good agricultural practices

Huyer, *et al* (2015) noted that despite women and men have different priorities for technologies based on their different tasks and responsibilities: women do a lot of work as compared to men which ranges from household kitchen gardens and small livestock while men take authority of cash crops and large livestock

Gender and HIV and AIDS issues has increased gender disparities which has negatively impacted on agricultural productivity and food and nutrition security (GoM, 2011)

World Bank (2007) stated that even though men from excluded groups experience various barriers, women have never been established as independent and/or autonomous farmers in Nepal, even though they play a major role in agriculture. Any failure to recognize gender-, caste-, ethnic- or location-based roles, differences and inequalities thus pose a serious threat to the effectiveness of the agricultural development agenda.

Inclusion of women in climate resilient projects in Malawi

Agriculture is the principal source of livelihood in Malawi. Around 84 per cent of Malawians earn their livelihood directly from agriculture, which also accounts for over 90 per cent of the country's export earnings, about 39 per cent of the country's GDP and 85 per cent of total employment (Kamchacha, 2012).

Mudege *et al.* (2015) observed that in Malawi most lead farmers are men, and this put women at a disadvantage from getting extension services and resulting to gender inequalities where men are considered as bread winners and the ones with knowledge and women their helpers

Ragasa and Nui (2017) concluded that access to some agricultural advices has increased in Malawi (51per cent for households and 39 per cent for individual respondents in the 2015/2016 cropping season), they observed more men accessing and getting agricultural advice than women (71 per cent men and 56 per cent women) resulting to discriminating or denying women access to agricultural technology and information

Malawi socioeconomic and agro climatic features

According to GoM (2017) out of all households in Malawi 57 per cent are headed by females and are poorer than male headed households. The economy of Malawi and majority of households are more vulnerable to social and economic conditions. Climate change which has resulted in weather pattern has brought changes to 80 per cent of Malawian population which relies on agriculture for both incomes and food provision.

Before *et al.*(2018) on their study founded that more women were taking part in irrigation activities 58.6 per cent than men 41.4 per cent which signify that women play an important role are economic growth of any society.

It has been also observed that countries with higher levels of equal participation result to have higher than average income levels, and evidence shows that economic growth increases when women and men participate at more equal rates in the economy (Oxfam, 2017)

Economically it is estimated that the gender gap amounts to \$100 million in Malawi, \$105 million in Tanzania, and \$67 million in Uganda per year (UN Women, UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank Group, 2015).

FAO (2019) reported that agriculture sector in Malawi employed 72.1 per cent of the population in 2017 and out of these 76.9 per cent employed were women signifying that large part of the agriculture activities are done by women than men.

Table 1. Employment percentage of women in agriculture in Malawi

Characteristic	1997	2007	2017
Employment in agriculture (%)	75.3	74.5	72.1
Employment in agriculture, female (%)	80.1	79.2	76.9

Source: FAO Statistics, 2019

OXFAM (2017) agreed with Huyer, *et al.* (2015) that if women are economically empowered it will result in having equal access to and control over economic resources and opportunities hence it will empower them to make their own decisions in all areas of their lives thereby increasing participation.

Factors affecting social inclusion of women in climate resilient projects

Gondwe (2018) reported that in Malawi gender inequalities according to National Statistical Office 2014 in terms of labour force participation rates was also carried over to employment rates. It was estimated that employment rate for men was at 86 per cent higher than 74 per cent for women.

According to Mudege *et al* (2015) reported that some of the reasons putting women at disadvantage of being recruited in agricultural activities by agriculture extension workers was because they do not meet the higher education demands (illiterate).

Huyer, *et al* (2015) in their study “Smallholder women’s empowerment through farmer-participatory design and user-led innovation of labour saving agricultural tools in Malawi” recommends that recognizing women’s participation in value chains and ensuring that the private sector incorporates gender concerns into market access and climate change insurance initiatives will foster climate resilience to disaster shocks and be able to adapt effectively

GoM (2011) observed that women are on disadvantaged compared to men in every sphere of activity as they are poorly secured by cultural and legal norms, typically less well educated, and are less numerate and literate than their male contemporaries. In the broader agricultural context, gender is widespread. Female headed households are more likely to be food insecure than male headed ones.

Factors affecting agricultural production and productivity

A study conducted by Ofuoku (2017) proved that group level social inclusion has positive relationship with agricultural output of the female farmers ($r = 0.682$) as seen in the table below. This illustration imply that agricultural output is influenced by their level of inclusion in activities of their various group.

Table 2. Relationship between agricultural output and group level social inclusion

	Agricultural output	Group level social inclusion
Agricultural output	1	0.682
Group level social inclusion	0.682	1

Source: (Ofuoku, 2017 data results)

A study conducted in Central Region of Malawi (Shah *et al.*, 2002) found that a quite number of households were suffering from chronic illness and incapable of providing labour force needed for agricultural production. The use of money to pay medical bills instead of purchasing of farm inputs continuously affecting productivity thereby resulting to lower levels of household income and nutrition. The increase in food insecurity results also in increase in malnutrition levels. Little harvest also forces farming families affected by chronic disease to rely on borrowing. Households affected by chronic illness also depends much more on *ganyu* labour (off-farm casual work), which reduced further productivity on their own farms resulting to oversupply of casual labour hence low wages.

Climate resilient agricultural development projects in Malawi funded by International Development Agencies and Government.

In Malawi a number of climate resilient agricultural projects are being implemented either funded by government or International Development Agencies. The following list below are the projects being implemented in Malawi.

(a) Government projects

- Disaster Risk Management for Resilience (DRM4R) project 2019-2023
- KULIMA-Promoting farming in Malawi project 2017-2023

- Let them develop to their full potential (AFIKEPO) project 2017-2022
- Agriculture Sector Wide Approach Program-Support Project (ASWAp-sp I) 2008-2015
- Programme for Rural Irrigation Development (PRIDE) Project.2018-2023
- Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Programme (SAPP)

(b) International Development Agencies projects

- Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change (BRACC) Project 2019-2023
- Promoting Sustainable Partnership in building Resilience(PROSPER) project 2019-2023
- Strengthening community resilience to climate change in Blantyre, Zomba, Neno and Phalombe project by FAO 2016-2019

Table 3: Comparison of components of Government and International Development Agencies Projects

SI. No	Component	Government	International Development Agencies
1	Provision of inputs	Fertilizer, hybrid maize seed, pulses	Hybrid, maize seed
2	Training programmes	land resources, manure making, gully reclamation, crops production, food processing, goat production	conservation agriculture, ridge alignment, manure making
3	Cash transfer/food relief	50 kgs maize, beans	30kgs maize, 1.1kgs cooking oil, 6kgs pulses
4	Advocacy on climate change	Early warning systems	Early warning systems
5	Livelihoods enhancement	Irrigation, backyard gardening	Irrigation, Village Savings and Loans (VSL), Backyard gardening

Institutional support for social inclusion of women

To enhance support to social inclusion of women in projects and programmes Government of Malawi and its partners have introduced several policies, strategies, projects and programmes that aimed at facilitating equity in its implementation. GOM (2011) reported that main problem has been lacking coordination and weak linkages with strategic sector objectives.

GoM (2015) approved a National Gender Policy with the purpose of strengthen gender mainstreaming and women empowerment at all levels in order to facilitate attainment of gender equality and equity in Malawi.

It observed that encouraging women involvement and participation can result in lowering levels of poverty but bemoans that women's participation was at 23 per cent. In order to ensure there is institutional support towards women inclusion Government of Malawi through Ministry of Gender established a structure to foster implementation of gender equality. The structure comprised of the media and Civil Societies; the Development Assistance Group on Gender (DAGG); Gender, Culture, HIV and AIDS and Human Rights Technical Working Group; Gender Based Violence Technical Working Group (GoM, 2015).

GoM (2017) reported government of Malawi directed that all its ministries, departments and agencies must inclusively mainstream gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for it to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

Government programmes for social inclusion implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development

(a) Agriculture Sector Wide Approach-Support Programme (ASWAp-sp I)

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development through its department of Agriculture Extension Services, Gender, HIV and AIDS was mainstreamed at work place and in agricultural programs involving communities. Gender equity in ASWAp targeted at least 50 per cent women farmers in all interventions whereas gender inequalities at workplace ensured that all staff trained at different levels 30 per cent were women (GoM, 2011).

(b) Programme for Rural Irrigation Development (PRIDE) project

IFAD (2019) supervision report on the project key preparatory activities was including Gender Sensitive PRA's and Gender, HIV/AIDS training at various levels. The breakdown for the 4,277 beneficiaries identified showed: 1,905 males and 2,372 females; of whom 2,625 are youth (18 to 35 years) and 59 are persons living with disability. This simply shows that PRIDE project has included more women than men.

(c) Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Programme (SAPP)

IFAD and GoM (2014) reported that a great number of women were participating in SAPP activities and the data collection and reporting system disaggregates the information by gender. But still women participation in management positions was limited especially to committee membership

Despite mainstreaming gender in SAPP implementation still less inclusion of women in project could be per table below which shows more male were targeted than female lead farmers as reported by IFAD and GoM (2014) supervision report of November 2014 for financial year 2014-2015

Table 4. Lead farmer identification

Activity	Indicator	Unit	Target
Identify lead farmers	Number of lead farmers identified	Male	2,602
		Female	650

Source: IFAD and GoM, 2014

(d) “Malawi Government 50-50 Campaign”

Despite the ‘50-50 campaign’ programme that the Government of Malawi and the civil society have been implementing prior to the 2009 parliamentary elections in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development to date which recommends that “*State Parties shall endeavor that by 2015 at least 50 per cent of decision making positions in the public and private sectors are held by women, ...*” still the campaign is not

progressing the way it was expected by the country as seen in the political sector (GoM, 2012).

MEC (2019) results of Tripartite Elections showed that 44 females were elected as members of parliament in the 193-member parliament representing a 22.9 per cent which is still far from the 50-50 campaign be advocated.

Regarding the participation of women in politics and electoral processes, in Malawi the playing field between women and men continues to be uneven. Some of the reasons include women's assertiveness to compete with men is on lower side and the traditional belief and culture that women cannot be leaders.

Constraints in social inclusion of women in agriculture

The major constraints in social inclusion of women in agriculture include the following:

- (a) **Failure to recognize gender-based differences:** Most climate resilient project interventions fails to recognize the differences in gender-based or seek to understand the implications of such differences for project outcomes (Fordham *et al.*, 2011).
- (b) **Social exclusion and climate vulnerability:** The norms and cultural beliefs in societies restricts women from undertaking certain roles which in the end increase inequalities in terms of workloads, employment and income, and restrict many women across the world from accessing and securing livelihoods and achieving control over their lives.
- (c) **Gender blind interventions:** If project fails to recognize the gender differences in its interventions it results in more women are left out as they don't have power in a society as men.
- (d) **Lack of coordination and weak linkages with strategic sector objectives:** If organizations implementing climate resilient projects lacks coordination and linkage with strategic sector objectives it means less improvement in inclusion of women in climate resilient projects.

Prospects-ways of improvement

The mentioned constraints as restricting progress in inclusion of women in climate resilient agriculture projects can be improved by:

- (a) Recognizing the gender-based differences between men and women by giving equal treatment when targeting beneficiaries of the projects
- (b) Bearing in mind that social norms and cultural beliefs exist in every society authority both from project coordination office and local leaders should give priority to women headed households who are vulnerable to climate shocks than male headed households.
- (c) Ensuring that projects do not have blind interventions on gender as this will foster equal participation hence increasing resilient among men and women.
- (d) Government should put a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism from ministries to community levels which will ensure there is coordination and linkage with strategies and objectives of the implementing organization.

Policy suggestions

To increase women inclusion in climate resilience agriculture projects and other developmental programmes the study suggests that there is need for;

- (a) Promoting measures that reduce gender inequalities and provide resources and services to address both men's and women's needs to enhance climate resilient.
- (b) The government of Malawi should put a deliberate targeting percentage in all projects and programmes ministries, departments and agencies are implementing.
- (c) The government should introduce programmes and projects specifically targeting women as a way of inclusive programming to achieve the 50-50 campaign it is advocating.
- (d) Government should also made it as a mandate that in every climate resilient project committee's leadership position should be 50-50 in the national gender policy.
- (e) Female headed households who are vulnerable to climate change shocks are priority in agriculture related projects.
- (f) It should ensure that in planning and implementing climate resilient agriculture projects women are involved in every stage of decision making.

CONCLUSION

The countries including Malawi could realize its dream of equal participation among the gender categories in decision making and enhanced access to resources by introducing projects that specifically target women-headed households.

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DISCUSSIONS

1. Tomson (Department of Agricultural Economics)

Question: Who is affected much by HIV/AIDS as a result of climate change?

Answer: Women and girls are more affected by HIV/AIDS due to climate change since when the disaster strike men move to neighbouring country Mozambique to search for food leaving behind women without food in the house hence women engage in prostitution which in the end contracting the virus. For girls in order to support their needs they ended up sleeping with older men whom they don't know their status thereby contracting the disease.

2. Liz Kappen (Department of Agronomy)

Question: Why do women don't have access to land when divorced?

Answer: Because culturally in matrilineal marriage of system uncle of the women is regarded the head of the clan hence the uncle is the one deciding who to take the land which was used by the women who has been divorced.

Question: Why is that more women do not participate in climate resilient projects?

Answer: It is because most climate resilient projects when targeting they don't specifically target women as they give preference to households which are male headed household hence in order to increase participation there is need to deliberate introduce projects solely targeting women headed households as the case in India who have projects only targeting women.

KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE, VELLANIKKARA

Department of Agricultural Extension

EXTN 591: Master's Seminar

Name : Joseph Timothy Before **Venue** : Seminar Hall

Admission No : 2018-11-116 **Date** : 05-12-2019

Major Advisor : Dr. Jiju P. Alex **Time** : 11:30am

Social inclusion of women in climate resilient agriculture projects in Malawi

Abstract

Agriculture is the principal source of livelihood of the people of Malawi. Around 84 per cent of Malawians earn their livelihood directly from agriculture, which also accounts for over 90 per cent of the country's export earnings, about 39 per cent of the country's GDP and 85 per cent of total employment (Kamchacha, 2012). Agricultural sector in Malawi is characterized by predominance of smallholder farmers. Moreover, women are the major contributors of labor force in Malawian agriculture (FAO, 2018).

In Malawi, women are involved in land preparation, ridging, planting, weeding, fertilizer application, irrigation, harvesting and winnowing. They are also involved in allied sectors like goat management, fodder collection, milking animals and horticulture production (Hyder and Behrman, 2014). Gender differences in work participation show that women are involved more in labor intensive activities (Gondwe, 2018). It is observed that greater participation of women in agriculture has direct implications on the changing agricultural scenario of Malawi, which is severely affected by climate change. Climate change is observed to have further increased socio-economic disparity, illiteracy, gender discrimination, malnutrition and even HIV/AIDS among the poorer sections of the society (Mudege *et al.*, 2015).

This has necessitated enhanced participation of women in the climate resilience development projects that are implemented in Malawi. However, reports of the Government and various funding agencies show that women are not involved much in development projects.

Out of the 15 climate resilience development projects implemented in Malawi, six are implemented by the Government and nine are implemented by International Funding Agencies. A comparison of the project components showed that Government sponsored programmes have fewer components like provision of inputs and training programmes, whereas programmes by funding agencies have components like training programmes, cash transfer/food relief, distribution of inputs, advocacy on climate change and livelihood enhancement.

For resolving and managing the problems that women face due to climate change, there is a need to recognize the gender differences in work participation, educate the rural women, avoid gender bias while targeting interventions, and strengthen the monitoring system. There should also be good co-ordination amongst implementers, as well as introduction of new climate resilience projects solely targeting women. In order to show its support to women inclusion, Malawi Government (GoM, 2015) has enacted the National Gender Policy with the purpose of strengthening gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. This policy is a major step towards attainment of gender equality and equity in Malawi.

The countries including Malawi could realize its dream of equal participation among the gender categories in decision making and enhanced access to resources by introducing projects that specifically target women-headed households.

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