

Education

Women have less access to education than men. Many factors contribute to this phenomenon including: entrenched culture of early marriages, pregnancies and lack of family financial support. The education level of the household head plays a key role in farming, especially in determining the adoption of agricultural Technologies, Innovations and Management Practices (TIMPs). Consequently, men are more likely to adopt apiculture TIMPs for increased productivity.



Women have less access to education than men

Decision making power

Women have fewer opportunities to participate in policy dialogues at the local and national levels where decisions pertaining to apiculture improvement TIMPs are discussed. Therefore, women are less likely to influence decisions on how their needs and concerns in the apiculture value chain are incorporated in policies, programmes, projects and activities.



Women have less access to decision making forums

Credit

Women have less access to credit due to lack of collateral. Adequate finances are vital in agricultural technology adoption. This is because availability of credit lessens cash constraints and can enable farmers to buy the required inputs (e.g., apiculture feeds, vaccines and drugs).



Women have less access to credit than men

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KALRO/NAVCDP BROCHURE No.208/2024



GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE APICULTURE VALUE CHAIN



Introduction

Access to resources such as land, credit, extension and voice in decision making are important elements to consider for improved adoption of Agricultural TIMPs by the various gender categories. This is for improved food and nutritional security as well as poverty reduction.

Although agricultural TIMPs might lead to increased production and income, there is no guarantee that more income will improve the poverty, food and nutrition security situation in the household. Who has access to what resources and who dominate what decisions at household, local and national levels in relation to the use of additional income are important when considering what degree food and nutrition security, and poverty will improve.

If we close this gender gap by improving power relations in the household and improving women's access to these resources, yields would increase by 20–30%. This would increase the outputs by 2.5–4%, thus reducing hunger by 12–17%.

Access by women, youth and marginalized groups to various productive resources in the apiculture value chain has the potential to bring about equity and improve the well-being of these groups.

Access to extension services

Women have less access to extension services than men. This is partly because extension agents tend to approach progressive farmers who are well endowed with resources such as land, labor and capital and who might have had a history of adopting agricultural TIMPs with the belief that the spillover effects will eventually reach the other farmers. Consequently, women who are generally less endowed compared with men are left out.



An extension officer training a farmer on honey harvesting

Land

Women and youths have less access to and control of land for apiculture farming than men. This is partly due to the patriarchal nature of the Kenyan society where women move into the men's households upon marriage. Consequently, most women can only access land through traditional authority if they are linked to a man through marriage or other family linkages.



Women have less access to land than men

Trainings

Women have less access to apiculture trainings than men. This is because women are constrained in attending training activities held far from home or held at times when they are involved in multiple roles such as taking care of children and the sick.



Women have less access to agricultural training