

Women have fewer opportunities to participate in policy dialogues at the local, national and international levels where decisions pertaining to dairy improvement TIMPs are discussed. Therefore, women are less likely to influence decisions on how their needs and concerns in the dairy 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 enable farmers to buy the required inputs (e.g., dairy feeds, vaccines and drugs).



Women have less access to credit than men

Recommendations

- There is need for involvement of all gender in Dairy Value chain activities
- Social inclusion of youth, women and Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWD), Vulnerable and Marginalized Group (VMGs) and other social groups should remain a priority for successful dairy enterprises.

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GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE DAIRY VALUE CHAIN



Introduction

Access to resources such as land, credit, extension and a voice in decision making are important elements to consider for improved adoption of Agricultural Technologies, Innovations and Management Practices (TIMPs) by the various gender categories for improved food, 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, security 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 considerations towards what degree food, nutrition security and poverty will improve.

Most activities on smallholder dairy farms such as feeding and milking are carried out by women, yet gender power relations hinder access to productive resources and decision making.

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 dairy 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 technologies, innovations and management practices 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 of these extension endeavors.



An extension officer with farmers

Land

Women and youths have less access to and control of land for dairy 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 family linkages.



Women have less access to land

Trainings

Women have less access to agricultural trainings than men. This is because of women's time, poverty that constrains their mobility in attending training activities held far from home or held at times when they are juggling multiple roles such as taking care of children and the sick.



Women have less access to agricultural training

Education

Women have less access to education than men. Many factor contributes 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 the dairy TIMPs for increased productivity.



Women have less access to education than men

Decision making power