

Innovation and Development through transformation of gender norms in Agriculture

Mayanja S, Mudege N; Prain G and Pettesch P

Marketing & Utilization CoP

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Background



- A Global, comparative research study by **13 CRPs** and the Consortium Gender Network. About **70 case studies in 2014 (4 for RTB)** sharing a standardized qualitative methodology
- The study sought to understand the interactions between opportunity, structure, agency and innovation and how they impact on empowerment and development outcomes
- The Uganda study specifically sought to determine how gender norms and agency affect the capacity to adopt an innovation like OFSP across a diverse set of contexts.

Main study questions

1. How do gender norms and agency advance or impede ag/NRM innovation?
2. Under what conditions can innovations do harm to women?
3. How are gender norms and men's and women's agency changing?

Study design

- RTB part of the core design and oversight team
- **7 tools** (Adapted from World Bank tools)
- **Six FGDs** with men, women and male and female youths
- **8 Individual Interviews** with equal numbers of men and women
- **70 participants (39F, 31M) in Ntove Uganda**

Data collection activities

Literature Review

Community profile (Local leaders)

2 Focus groups: Ladder of Life (Poorer villagers)

2 Focus groups: Capacities for innovation (Middle class villagers)

2 Focus groups: Aspirations of youth (Youth)

4 Semi-structured interviews: Innovation pathways (Local innovators with agriculture or NRM)

4 Semi-structured interviews: Individual life stories. (Household features typical local poverty dynamics and agric. practices)

Results from Ntove: Uganda



Important innovations

- Aside from OFSP, the groups display little agreement on the other leading agricultural advances in their community

Focus group	#1 ranked	#2 ranked	#3 ranked
Poor men, Ladder of Life	Herbicides	Fertilizer	OFSP
Middle class men, Capacities for Innovation	OFSP	Clonal coffee	Improved maize
Young men, Aspirations of youth	OFSP	Sugarcane	Fertilizer
Poor women, Ladder of Life	OFSP	Improved bean	n/a
Middle class women, Capacities for Innovation	OFSP	Pigs	Bananas
Young women, Aspirations of youth	OFSP	Pesticide	Organic manure

Drivers of adoption of OFSP production & marketing

- Training was a main driver: (agronomic practices, nutrition and marketing) and increased ability to grow, market & control income from OFSP
- Women with livestock easily adopted OFSP since they could use the litter and manure to increase yields and sales
- Market identification by promoters. Vines were collectively marketed while roots sold to plantation workers



Drivers of adoption



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- Lack of assets and capital were major barriers for both men and women, though more pronounced for women
- **Time, low literacy, limited social networks** & restricted physical mobility affected ♀
- Young women were likely to earn less from OFSP than male youth and could even be barred to sell
- Poor women wanted to grow OFSP on a bigger scale, but they didn't own land and their plots are small, *“and it's the authority of the men to give us land. That is why we are concentrating on keeping pigs to provide for our children.”*

Innovations' effects

- **Women contribute cash** from their earnings to pay household expenses
- Women are **directly participating in selling** the produce from marketable crops (though men may try to prevent this)
- **Greater bargaining power:** *“When you get some money you can also buy meat and when you do that the **husband cannot refuse you to go for meetings and trainings,**”* noted a woman Innovation Pathways interview.

- Women's earnings, were frequently reported to go to school fees and other household needs that were traditionally covered by men, leaving women with little to re-invest in their own productive activities.

Innovations' effects

- **Lack of support from husbands**

- *“My husband does not support me to grow OFSP because he thinks I will get money and will get ‘horns’ and become impossible to rule.” (Young women FGD)*

- **Men are reducing their contributions to household expenses (e.g. school fees)**

“We are doing all the work we used to do 10 years ago but we have added in new jobs... We are feeling sad about it. We have nothing to do except to work harder to provide for the family.” (Women FGD)

- *‘women also strive to get an income from their own means. And husbands get mad and beat them. But [women] would rather be beaten but make sure they have own money so that if they have a need, they can meet it. If they desire to eat fish, they can also easily buy it. If they want to go a salon and the husband refuses to give them money, they can also pay for the cost’ (Young women FGD)*

Innovations' effects

- Gender roles are in great flux and a source of stress on household gender relations.

“The girls are trained to produce food – to make sure that the crops they grow in the future will be productive. So the food from their plots are eaten to check how they yielded. This is because in the future, she will be expected to provide food for her home.”

(Young women FGD)



Change and continuity: Gender norms and Agency



- **Ability of women to decide how to invest proceeds from OFSP is constrained**

“...the men are not keen about women buying land. And the land is right near the house. So the man may be envious about it” (Woman, Capacities for Innovation).

- **Women have problems accessing the market and OFSP transportation is complicated**

“husbands or parents refuse them (women/girls) to sell the OFSP,” (Young men)

‘a woman buying land could lead to “a high chance of divorce, as the women can say I can divorce my husband and work on my land, if they are not happy.’ (Male Youth)

Household distribution on the 'Ladder of life'

Men's FGD

	Distribution today	Distribution 10 years ago
Steps		
5	2	1
4	3	3
3	7	5
2	6	6
1	2	5
Total	20	20

Women's FGD

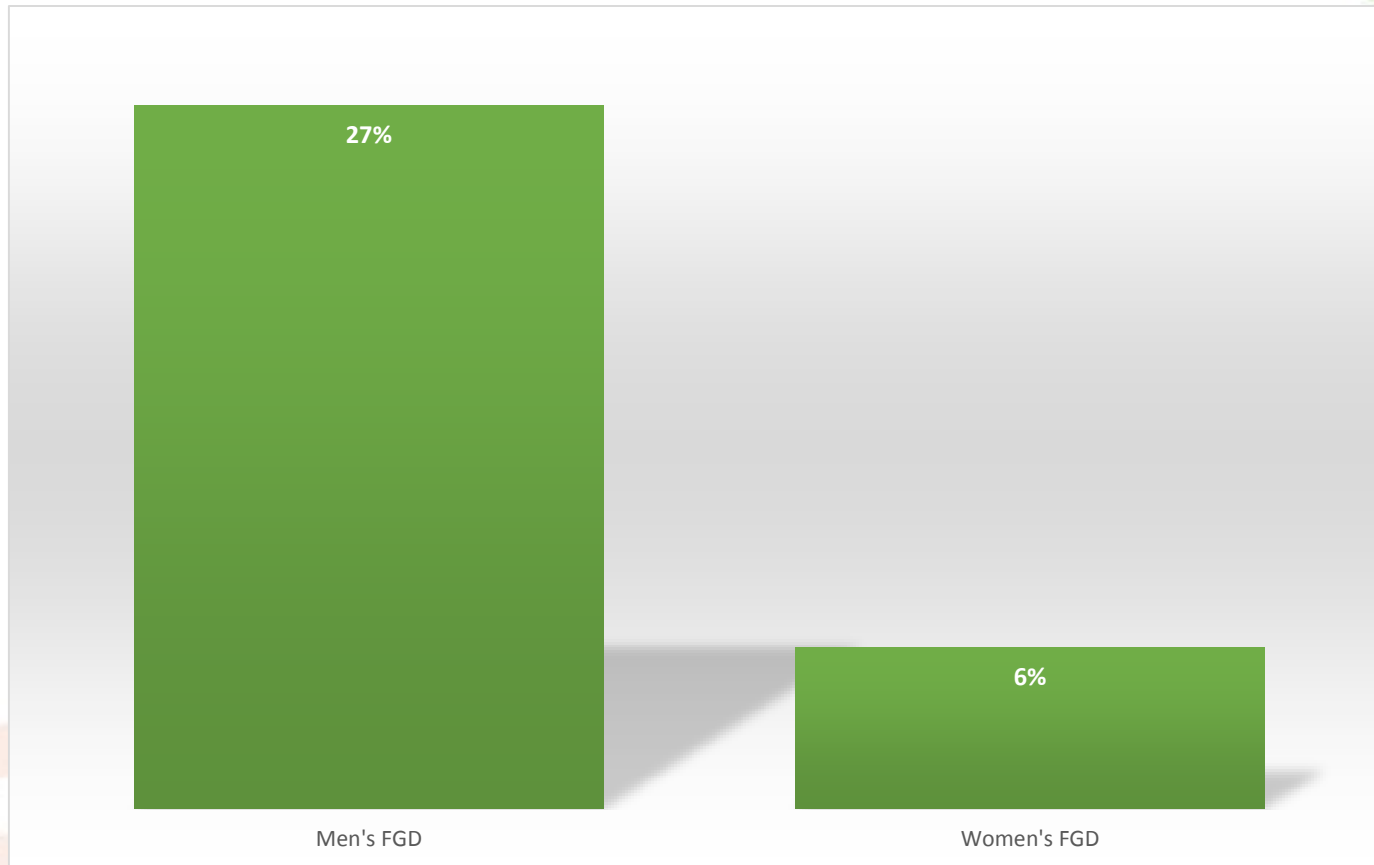
	Distribution today	Distribution 10 years ago
Steps		
5	2	1
4	3	3
3	9	5
2	5	10
1	1	1
Total	20	20

Community poverty line in red: (step 3 for men, step 4 for women)

Movement out of poverty



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$$\text{MOP} = (\text{Initial poor} - \text{current poor}) / \text{initial poor}$$

Changes in gender norms and agency



- o **Women are becoming more assertive** and some hinted that in the future they could make major investments such as buying land and large livestock.

One woman bought land in secret

- o Other **women expressed pride** in their new knowledge, friendships, and travel to new locations through the farmers group and drama group:

"... when we perform drama, you get happy even when you are going through a hard time," (woman in Innovation Pathways interview).

- o While women's economic status is changing **norms are changing slowly** limiting women's ability to benefit

Conclusions

- While income may increase rapidly **norms are slow to change** and need to be understood if we are to design interventions that will be able to benefit women and men
- Need also to **address the issue of control of income not just increase in income** (being able to make decisions about how to use the income is directly linked to the ability to benefit)
- **Social benefits and not just economic benefits** need to be emphasized
- Impact of **interventions on men also need to be understood** to come up with mitigation strategies