The role of collective action in women empowerment: The case of bean production in Uganda

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$

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Presentation Outline

Introduction

Methodology

Results and discussion

Policy recommendations

Acknowledgements





Introduction

- Collective action through farmer groups can be an important strategy for smallholders to strengthen the political power, gain skills, access inputs, form enterprises (Penunia, 2011)
- Men & women farmers embraced collective action with variations in the degree of participation; Women membership 30-50% but have a weak representation in leadership (Ampaire *et al.*, 2013)
- Group members hold farmers' meetings, there are more women cooking for the farmer participants than women participating in the discussions





Introduction cont'd

- Results into dramatic disproportion between rural women's voice & decision making role not to be significantly felt by women farmers
- Weak leadership & influence of women in the community indicators of women's political disempowerment (IFPRI WEAI)
- > Research questions:
- (a) Does women participation in farmer group boost women confidence to speak in public and compete for leadership posts?
- (b) If yes, which group factors facilitate/constrain women empowerment as an outcome

Key terms

Farmers' groups -independent membership-based rural organizations of smallholder farmers with an element of collective action on any agricultural activity along the value chain. Can be singular or mixed

□ Collective action - voluntary action taken by a group of individuals, who invest time and energy to pursue shared objectives (Markelova *et al.*, 2009)

□ Empowerment - Involvement of people in the process, discuss and exchange, control authority and contain answerable organizations through which their lives get affected (Narayan, 2005)



Methodology

- Data Sources
 - Survey of farmers' groups done by NaCRRI and CEDO under the Precooked bean project
- Sampling (two stage sampling technique)

 1st-purposive sampling of groups in CEDO areas of operation; 2nd random selection of farmer groups from the list generated
- Sample size 65 farmer groups
- Data collection: Direct interview with key informants





Methodology Cont'd

- ➤ Data analysis:
- Descriptives such as percentages for the leadership posts, activities
- Bivariate analysis (group management skills and age category)
- Ordinary Least square regression was used to determine factors that influence proportion of women in group leadership





Results and Discussion

Socio-Demographic characteristics

| Variable | Mean | SD | Min | Max |
|------------------------|------|-------|-----|-----|
| Years of existence | 10 | 10.15 | 1 | 61 |
| Group size | 37 | 36.55 | 10 | 289 |
| Number of males | 16 | 25.06 | 0 | 195 |
| Number of females | 21 | 15.09 | 5 | 94 |
| Number of youth | 8 | 8.17 | 0 | 34 |
| Households represented | 31 | 31.67 | 5 | 250 |
| leadership posts | 5.48 | 1.17 | 3 | 9 |



Woman leader discussing key group issues





Results and Discussion Cont'd

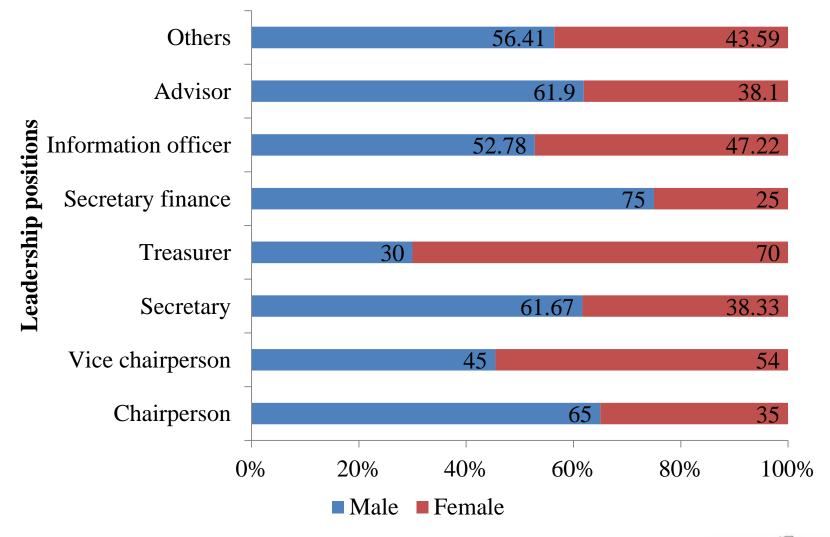
Some group factors that influence the process of empowerment;

- Decision making
 General consensus of members -73%
- Election of members to leadership Vote by secret ballot – 63.49%
- Nature of support offered through networking Trainings 93.65%





Distribution of leadership positions by gender







Factors affecting proportion of women in group leadership (OLS)

| Explanatory variables | Coefficient | Standard Error |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| Number of Households represented | -10.349** | 4.153 |
| Years the group has been in existence | 0.590 | 2.789 |
| Proportion of women | 0.981*** | 0.126 |
| Number of times group was trained in 2014 | -0.462 | 1.075 |
| Record keeping | 34.504* | 18.109 |
| Proportion of youth | -0.164 | 0.131 |
| Groups with more than one economic activity | 19.051** | 7.326 |
| Selling beans on both contract and freelance | -15.764 | 10.579 |
| Constant | -23.403 | 23.573 |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.6056 | |
| F value | 11.17*** | |





Policy recommendations

- Establish quotas for participation of women in leadership structures of the farmers' groups
- Establish women-only committees
- Conduct capacity building and training programs that put women farmers at the center
- Further research; study effect of household & demographic factors on women in leadership positions to give insights on the influence of family support on empowerment





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Thank

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