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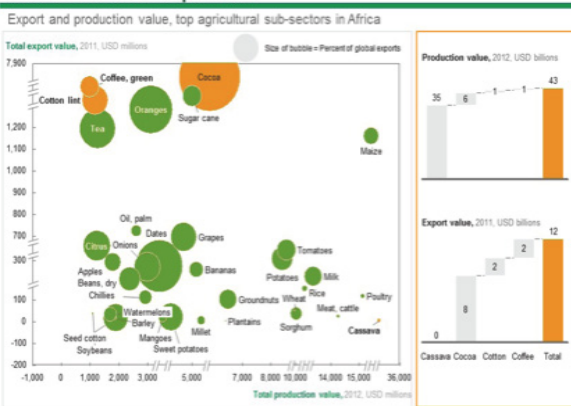
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AFDB'S REPORT ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF AFRICAN WOMEN THROUGH EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS

Published by	African Development Bank	Originality	A gender-aware value chain analysis across the continent's most economically significant crops.
Adopted On	May 2015	Main findings	Africa's increased integration into agricultural regional and global value chains is crucial for its continued transformation. Addressing the barriers that restrict women's participation in production, commercial and higher value-add activities in agriculture could help to empower women economically, increase food security, improve incomes and livelihoods and contribute to Africa's broader economic growth.
Motto	«One of the key things we must do is to ensure that African women are central to the economic growth success story» D ^r Donald Kaberuka.	Web link to the document	https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/Economic_Empowerment_of_African_Women_through_Equitable_Participation_in_Agricultural_Value_Chains.pdf
Scope	Africa's largest producers of cocoa, coffee, cotton and cassava: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo.		
Target	Actors involved in the selected sub-sectors, industry-specific bodies, AfDB and its partners.		
Vision	Identify areas that the African Development Bank (AfDB) and its partners could target to empower women economically in agriculture. Identify potential interventions that will give Africa a bigger share of global value chains.		

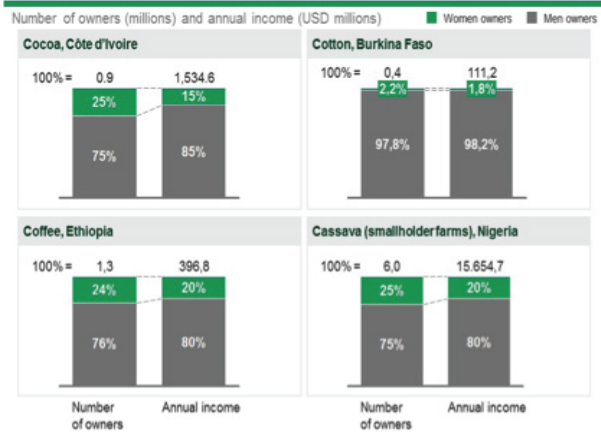
A STUDY DISCLOSING GENDER-RELATED DISCREPANCIES ACROSS FOUR ESSENTIAL AGRICULTURAL SUB-SECTORS IN AFRICA

The 4 sub-sectors account for USD 43 billion in production value and USD 12 billion in export value



SOURCE: FAOSTAT

Income for women farmers is proportionally lower than for male counterparts



SOURCE: FAOSTAT, NBS, Africa Business Review, Mars, Fair Labour Institute, TechnoServe, expert interviews

THE ROLE OF AFRICAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

LARGELY EMPLOYED IN THIS SECTOR:

Women's presence in the agricultural labour force is significant (50%) in Sub-Saharan Africa, and they produce 80% of Africa's food.

→ 62% of economically active women in Africa work in agriculture. In Rwanda, Malawi and Burkina Faso, more than 90% of economically active women are involved in agriculture.

→ In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), women account for more than 50% of the workforce in planting, maintaining and harvesting cassava.

SUBJECT TO REMUNERATION DISCREPANCIES:

Women work primarily in small-holder production where they receive a significantly lower share of income than men in the same sector

→ Women work largely on family-owned land, with little or no remuneration. Depending on the country, the rural wage gap between men and women in Africa is estimated to a range of 15-60%.

→ In Burkina Faso, women make up approximately 50% of cotton production labour, but receive less than 2% of the income, as they do not control crop revenues. Women who work on household cotton fields and who are not members of the Groupements de Producteurs de Coton usually do not receive income.

LIMITED PARTICIPATION TO LATER STAGES OF THE VALUE CHAIN:

Despite their high level of involvement, women are largely limited to unskilled production jobs.

→ Women are less involved in higher value-added activities as they tend to be more predominant in labour roles across the production process than higher-skilled and management activities in trade, transport and secondary processing.

→ In Ethiopia, women make up 75% of the country's 3 million labourers in smallholder coffee production, but are much less heavily represented in trade (7%) and export (40%). Only six of the 110 export businesses in the country's coffee exporters association are run by women.

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

LACK OF ACCESS TO ASSETS:

Customary land tenure practices limit the involvement of women in agriculture

→ Land ownership rates are lower among women than men. Across three of the four sub-sectors women own around a quarter of the farms.

→ In Burkina Faso, limited land tenure means that women are under-represented in producer organisations, as membership criteria are based on ownership and status as head of household. Women have limited access to the inputs and extension services provided by the cotton companies.

→ While policies at a national or even regional level exist to ensure equal access rights to land in most countries, there are often cultural barriers to women owning land. An estimated 12% of women in Ethiopia own land, but often their only chance of obtaining land is through marriage.

LACK OF ACCESS TO FINANCING:

Formal financial institutions consider women "high-risk" applicants because they often do not have financial or material security to put down as collateral.

→ Access to financial services, including bank loans, is limited for women because most are unable to meet the lending criteria established by banks, such as a title to a house or production of a profitable cash crop. Some banks also require married women to secure loans by their husband's approval.

→ In Ethiopia, women do not have access to large loans from banks and are more likely to be micro-finance borrowers: 64% of micro-finance loans in 2011 were made to women.

LIMITED TRAINING:

Gender differences in education and training are significant and this extends to training in agriculture and extension services.

→ With their under-representation in producers organisations, women are not well informed about training opportunities available in their sub-sector and often lack the core business skills that can help improve their productivity and income.

→ Only 11% of women owners or labourers in Ivorian cocoa production participate in agricultural training programmes.

GENDER-NEUTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES:

Most sub-sector policies are gender-neutral and agricultural policies that supports women have not always been effectively implemented.

→ Policymakers should place high importance on the intersection of their domestic policies, regulatory frameworks and the demands women face in trying to participate equitably in regional and global agricultural value chains.

TIME CONSTRAINTS:

Women are often burdened with a disproportionate share of unremunerated care and domestic work

→ Time constraints due to domestic and care work mean that women have little capacity to attend training and amass the knowledge critical to improving their productivity.

→ As a result of these constraints as well as limited access to inputs, crop yields for women are 20-40% lower than for men in the four focus countries. In Côte d'Ivoire, women-owned cocoa farms are roughly 40% less productive than those that are owned by men.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN LARGE-SCALE AGRIBUSINESSES:

Providing access to financing and training would improve women productivity and regional and global market links.

→ The promotion of women's community savings-and-loan entities, may encourage women's management of resources and economic decision-making.

→ The training should be a tailored offering that covers the technical requirements of the most relevant portions of the value chain (e.g., farming, processing, marketing, packaging and trading) and basic financial management and business skills, as appropriate.

→ Training women as local agronomic experts to provide advisory services to other farmers in their area would allow them to leverage their knowledge in order to liaise with exporters and act as information sources, as seen in Mars' Sustainable Cocoa Initiative.

→ The AfDB can provide technical assistance to farmers through the Technical Assistance Trust Fund and partner with agricultural development finance institutions to improve their lending practices to women.

ENSURE WOMEN ARE REMUNERATED BY ESTABLISHING THEM AS CO-OWNERS:

Extending cooperative membership would increase women's access to technical and financial services.

→ Women must be allowed to take a greater role in cooperatives and family farm management to increase their visibility and voice. In Ghana, the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative has set quotas on the minimum number of women leaders at each level and initiated a non-collateral loan programme to encourage women's involvement and success.

→ In Ethiopia, an ongoing coffee programme requires both husbands and wives to be present when obtaining payment for harvest. This allows for greater inclusion and economic power for women.

INCREASE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO NICHE MARKETS BY PRODUCING AND MARKETING WOMEN-ONLY PRODUCTS:

Establishing market links through the private sector is most relevant for developing products branded as coming from women-led value chains.

→ The handful of women-run artisanal chocolate-making operations in Côte d'Ivoire presents an opportunity to expand by creating chocolate and cocoa products branded as coming from women-led value chains. Women would need training and, most importantly, links to global markets that would be willing to pay a premium for their chocolate.

→ In Ethiopia, lack of traceability to original producers prevents coffee grown by women to achieve the higher price that specialty markets are willing to pay. Women-only groups within cooperatives could market women's coffee separately to be sold directly to international buyers.