



C:AVA:
G&D update and preliminary a
findings on impact



Review of C:AVA's G&D commitment

- Commitment to mainstreaming social inclusion to help ensure that the impacts of the project are equitable, that opportunities are promoted for different groups and that adjustments are made to encourage participation at all points along the value chain.
 - Studies were conducted to inform project targets and activities, and were a starting point for the broader research question of how staple crop development can bring benefits to women and men.
1. Situation analysis: G&D issues as they relate to cassava production / processing at village, household and individual levels.
 2. Audits: how partners think and act in terms of G&D.

G&D Update

- G&D situational analysis and audits were conducted across all five countries
- Recommendations were made for individual service providers and country teams both in the form of formal reports and action research
- Studies were also conducted in GLCI countries (DRC, Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi, and C:AVA countries Uganda and Tanzania)

<http://dgroups.org/>



Next steps

- Data analysis and monitoring
- G&D website – linking with GLCI work
- Publication of research

Results

- Country teams and partners have largely been supportive of G&D activities
- Some evidence of 'gender fatigue' but welcoming of new concepts and increasing positive livelihood impacts
- Good reporting of gender disaggregated data
- In the new phase, it's important we look at monitoring results for different groups, promoting equity and continuing to challenge our assumptions



Case study: Nigeria

- **Service providers:** collecting gender-disaggregated data; hiring more female outreach staff (C:AVA office, JDPM and FECA); redeeming for travel expenses; holding training on non-market days; targets established
- **Communities:** changes in perceptions of women's work; decrease in time weeding with herbicides; encouragement of migrants to participate; increasing group membership; greater access to credit; introduction of smoke and heat reduced stoves

Case study: Nigeria

Challenges:

- Increased male involvement in processing, mainly in operating equipment – possible threat to women's benefit?
- Lack of gender-awareness of staff on C:AVA project and few female extension agents
- Lower participation of women in leadership positions
- Lack of funds and credit is a major constraint for groups in making production and processing investments.
- Women less likely to use herbicides
- Ensuring women receive multiplication materials

Research question - impact

What is the impact of staple crop commercialisation (through value chain development) on the livelihoods of small – scale farmers?

- understand its impact on household members in terms of livelihood assets and wellbeing, and
- identify impacts on gender equality and food security at the individual and household level.

Methods

- Key informant interviews
- Group discussions with men and women cassava producers/processors in C:AVA
- Individual household surveys of C:AVA participating and non-participating individuals and households x 2
- Possible case studies of individuals, households and communities
- Nigeria and Malawi
- Before/after comparison, participants/non-participants, quantitative and qualitative

Qualitative exploration of impacts: Malawi

- Six focus groups were held in three communities (4 in South and 2 in North)
- 1 male and 1 female discussion group in each community

Livelihoods & commercialisation

- Compared to ten years ago, agricultural commercialisation had increased, higher productivity and greater range of crops and products making agricultural a viable livelihood strategy
- Men, for the most part, felt their livelihoods and food security had improved e.g. in Mulanje the reduction in casual labour
- Women reported that they felt less positive with their market participation, mainly related to the low selling price of cassava and unreliability of its buyers; that they felt more pressure to provide crops /products for the home and market, and needed greater access to cash in the context of increasing cost of living

Household strategies

- Livelihood agricultural strategies was to provide household food security and income - not mutually exclusive
- Crops used for cash and subsistence, strategy is about balancing the amount of produce for the home and that which is sold.
- Priority was how to maintain food in the home and sufficient stock for selling throughout the seasons/periods of scarcity. Crops are selected based on their storage capacity and length of maturation.
- Greater range of food from new purchases from increased income
- There were differences in women and men's access to the same quality and quantity of food
- Some groups stated that if there was a high price for a crop they would sell all there stock and need to buy it back
- Women would sell stocks for the home due to unexpected costs "conflict between having food to eat and selling it for cash"

Qualitative exploration of impacts - Nigeria

- Facilitation of 12 discussion groups with male and female farmers (separately), six in Ogun and six in Ondo, including groups of farmers who:
- C:AVA are not supporting but who are supplying the C:AVA value chain with wet cake
- C:AVA are supporting but who are supplying other cassava value chains
- C:AVA are supporting and are supplying the C:AVA value chain (with instant fufu – rental of flash drier - Egbe Oba Lagbe Fufu Association, Awowo, Ogun)

Findings

Increases in yield and other benefits from improved varieties

- A number of farmer groups visited who had harvested at the time of interview (three) all reported an increase in yields due to the new variety of cassava distributed. This was also reported by C:AVA service providers. This has also led to an increase in the amount of gari and fufu processed. This is why some of the participants have reported that their income has increased.
- Shagari Village, Fagsbeloa, Ananomi Adofure farmers groups reported an increase in production and an increase in income from improved varieties. They also reported that it matures faster, from years to eight months and therefore improves access to regular income.

Increased demand for cassava products in C:AVA communities

- Awow fufu processors have had increased profits due to an increase in customers because they are known to have better hygienic practices. Ilaro Owolowo fufu processors also reported their customers increased from the improved quality of their product.
- A signpost established on the side of a major road stating that the processing site was supported by FECA and C:AVA has helped to increase customers for women's processing groups, as stated by the processors from Ogooluwa Garri Industry.
- Because the processors felt that they were already producing at capacity it has not contributed to increasing their income directly but it has encouraged other women to join the group and benefit from increased demand.

Reduction in drudgery

- The labour requirement for weeding had reduced due to the application of herbicides. As this is a task largely done by women, it may contribute to a slight reduction in workload for women (AMREC). However, this could be increased as there was indication from female farmers that they were less likely to use herbicides because they lacked the money to purchase them.

Preference for HQCF for processing

- Some of the processors trained in HQCF processing reported that they preferred HQCF processing over traditional products such as garri or fufu because it only takes one day to process, whereas garri takes one week and fufu takes three days. Fufu processors said that processing HQCF was “less stressful”. Importantly, HQCF processing doesn’t expose processors to the heat and smoke involved in garri processing Awow.

Increases in farmer /processor group size

THANK YOU!