

Gender and rural entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa: identifying the frontier for aquaculture research

Globally women play an important role in the provisioning of food and particularly at the household level in resource poor settings. However, women do not always have the control of the resources, make the key decisions about food, food policy or food value chains. Research in agriculture, particularly in SSA, has often adopted a myopic view of a single actor (the male farmer) when a value chain approach is better suited to analyze the complexities of the agricultural sector. While linking farmers to markets through efficient and effective value chains has emerged as a key international development priority, women and their contributions in the agricultural food chains continue to be neglected. One such area that has hitherto been not well understood is aquaculture. Aquaculture is showing to be an engaging and profitable enterprise for many farmers in SSA. Not only can fish farming contribute to food security, increased household resilience and reduced vulnerability to natural hazards and economic uncertainty, it has also been shown to be complimentary to many farming practices. While aquaculture provides direct and indirect employment opportunities, in particular for women, there are needs for deeper understanding about opportunities and barriers to entry for women as well as at which stages in the value chain contributions result in the highest returns. Activities include a literature review and synthesis, deep dive case studies in both Tanzania and Nigeria, workshops in both countries to disseminate findings, information brief pamphlet and/or policy brief and a scientific review article.

Through a focus on Tanzania and Nigeria the project address the following questions:

- What are the dominant characteristics of value chains for aquaculture? What roles do women have in these?
- What are the opportunities and barriers to entry value chains for aquaculture for women?

Collaborating partners and institutes:

- University of Dar es Salaam Business School
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania
- Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute
- International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

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