



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



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To What Extent Have Gender and Equity Issues been addressed in Agricultural Programmes?

Overview

Gender refers to the socially constructed, differentiated roles and responsibilities assigned to men and women in a given culture and location. A **Gender Issue** is a social indicator of inequality between males and females arising from discrimination and/or marginalization. **Equity** refers to fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits, rights and responsibilities in society. **Addressing gender and equity (G&E) issues** entails ensuring that women and men and all marginalized groups are accessing and benefitting from Government programs.

Gender and equity planning and budgeting is a constitutional requirement. Article 32 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda calls for affirmative action for groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability of any other reason. The Public Finance Management Act 2015 seeks for compliance of Budget Framework Papers (BFPs), Ministerial Policy Statements (MPSO and sector programs with gender and equity requirements in order to equalize opportunities for men, women, persons with disability (PWDs) and other marginalized groups.

This briefing paper analyses the extent to which agriculture plans and programs are gender and equity responsive. Analysis is based on primary and secondary data collected by the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU) for a three-year period (FY 2016/17 – FY 2018/19).

Key Issues

Gender and Equity Issues were partially addressed with performance rated at 76.4% in FY 2018/19.

There is inadequate access to agricultural inputs and services for women, youth, PWDs and the Northern and Eastern regions due to: low awareness about sector programmes; lack of land and capital; long distances to input distribution centres; illiteracy; high cost; difficult terrain; and low outreach.

There is limited awareness of gender and equity related laws, policies and guidelines and how to mainstream G&E in planning and budgeting by sector institutions.

INTRODUCTION

The key gender and equity (G&E) issue in the agriculture sector that policy makers seek to address are:

- Inequitable distribution of and access to agricultural inputs, technologies, extension services, training, employment, credit and processing equipment by women, youth, PWDs, Eastern and Northern Uganda

Have G&E concerns been addressed in sector plans?

The responsiveness of agricultural sector plans with the G&E issues over the past three years is low but steadily improved from 48.7% in FY 2016/17 to 61.9% in FY 2019/20 (Table 1).

Table 1: Level of compliance of Agriculture Ministerial Policy Statements to Gender and Equity requirements (%)

	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20
CDO*	62.00	60.00	55.70	-
DDA	40.00	55.00	57.70	53.20
MAAIF	49.00	70.00	79.30	75.00
NAADS	50.00	62.00	61.00	72.00
NAGRC	44.00	61.00	55.70	53.80
NARO	44.00	50.00	56.70	54.00
UCDA	52.00	23.00	54.70	63.30
Average	48.71	54.43	60.11	61.88

CDO – Cotton Development Organization;
DDA – Dairy Development Authority;
NAGRC– National Animal Genetic Resource Centre and Data Bank;
NARO – National Agricultural Research Organization;
UCDA – Uganda Coffee Development Authority
Source: EOC, 2019.

Gender and equity (G&E) responsiveness in sector programmes

FY 2018/19 marked the first year when MFPED assessed the physical gender and equity responsiveness of agriculture sector programmes. The overall gender and equity performance of the agricultural sector was good rated at 76.4%. The trends in G&E responsiveness of selected programmes is presented below.

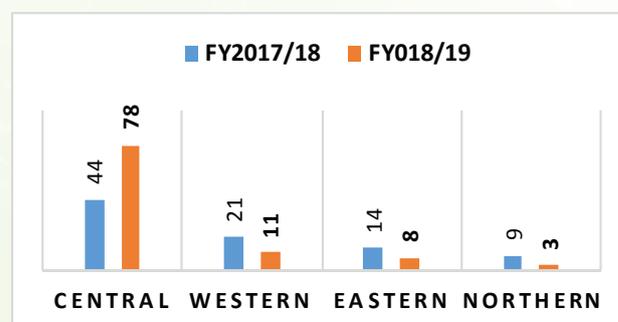
Agriculture Credit Facility (ACF)

The ACF is a Government of Uganda (GoU) loaning scheme that commenced in 2009 to facilitate provision of subsidized credit to farmers. As part of affirmative action to increase access to small holder farmers, including women and youth, the Government introduced block allocations for a group of 20 farmers.

There was inequitable access to the ACF by women and small holder farmers as well as Eastern and Northern Uganda (Figure 1). In FY 2018/19, a total of 26 blocks of farmers benefitted from ACF amounting to Ug shs 424.500 million. Nine (35%) of the leaders of these blocks were females, the rest (65%) being males. Out of 95 beneficiary farms, 79 (83.2%) were headed by males; 9 (9.5%) were headed by females; and 7 (7.4%) were jointly owned (male and female).

Inequitable access to credit by females was attributed to low access to information, lack of land, low engagement in commercial agriculture, low literacy and long distances to banking facilities.

Figure 1: Location of ACF beneficiaries by region in FY 2017/18 and FY 2018/19 (%)



Source: Author's analysis of Bank of Uganda data.

Farm Based Bee Reserve Establishment

The intervention focuses on distribution of bee hives, honey collection equipment and protective gear to apiary farmers. There was inequitable access to the apiary project as all the 24 benefiting districts were located in Central and Eastern Uganda; Northern and Western Uganda districts that are suitable for apiary production did not benefit. In four sampled districts, majority of the beneficiaries were male (85.3%); youth and PWDs did not benefit from the intervention – **Table 2**.

Table 2: Access to MAAIF bee keeping equipment by farmers in selected districts by 30th June 2019

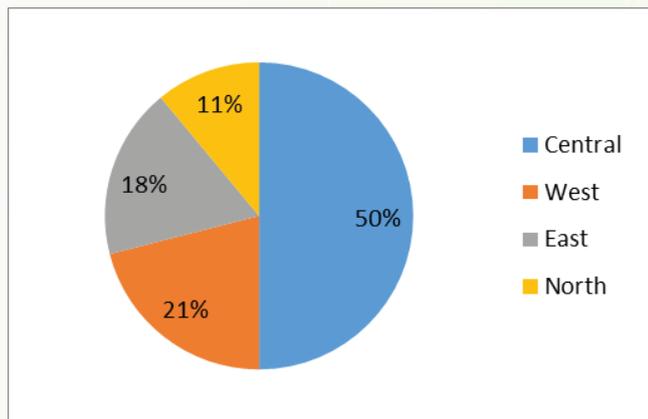
District	Male	Female	Youth	Total
Lwengo	39	6	0	45
Iganga	8	3	0	11
Mpigi	4	0	0	4
Gomba	7	1	0	8
Total	58	10	0	68
% of total	85.29	14.70	0	100%

Lack of capital and labour, gender blind farmer selection processes and denial of women to participate in bee keeping by their spouses constrained access to the project by females and PWDs.

Improving Access and Use of Agricultural Equipment and Mechanization

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) project aims to enhance agriculture production and productivity through excavation of water for production facilities, bush clearing and opening of farm roads. There was gender and regional inequality (Figure 2) in access to and use of the project equipment by the beneficiaries.

Figure 2: Access to MAAIF earth moving equipment by region by 30th June, 2017



Source: Field findings

Out of the 111 project beneficiaries in FY2016/17, 87 (78.4%) were male, 8 (7.2%) were female and 16 (14.4%) were institutions. There was regional inequality in access to the machinery (Figure 2). In FY 2018/19, of the 77 farmers in 24 monitored districts that were trained under this project, 65 (84.4%) were male, 12 (15.6%) were female, 4 (5.2%) were youth and 2 (2.6%) were PWDs. Low access to the machines by women, youth, PWDs and Northern Uganda was due to lack of land for commercial investments, capital to lease machines, and limited awareness about the program.

Cotton Development Organization (CDO)

The CDO monitors the production, processing and marketing of high value cotton and its by-products. In FY 2017/18, there was gender equity in access to employment opportunities in the spinners' factories. Out of 1,130 workers employed by Fine Spinner (U) Ltd, 565 (50%) were male and 565 (50%) were female. Nine (0.8%) were Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

In FY 2018/19 the CDO promoted cotton growing as an income generating enterprise among 267 women and 158 youth groups in Busoga, Bukedi, Bugisu, Teso, Lango, Acholi, West Nile, Mid-West, Central and Kazinga Channel Regions. These groups accessed 35 Metric Tones of planting seed, 30,000 one-acre units of pesticides, 1,450 bags of fertilizers and 620 spray pumps; 94 acres of land were ploughed.



CDO supported demonstration garden for Ms Anna Ajok in Railways Quarter A Lira Municipality

However, there was inequitable access by female farmers to the demonstration materials: out of 81 farmers who accessed agronomy demonstration inputs, 64 (79%) were male and 17 (21%) were female. Out of 73 farmers who benefitted from fertilizer demonstration inputs, 63 (86.3%) were male and 10 (13.7%) were female. There was gender imbalance in employment by CDO in the sampled districts: Out of 338 extension workers, 313 (92.6%) were male, 25 (7.4%) female, 42 (12.4%) youth and there were no PWDs.

The low numbers of females and PWDs among the extension workers were attributed to: the hilly terrain, long distances to the farmers, inadequate provision of transport, cultural beliefs and harsh climate conditions.

National Agricultural Advisory Services/Operation Wealth Creation (NAADS/OWC)

The NAADS/OWC provides strategic commodities and inputs to increase food and nutrition security and household incomes. Out of a sample of 26,925 farmers who received inputs in 20 districts in FY 2018/19, 17,144 (63.7%) were male, 9,781 (36.3%) were female; 1,885 (7%) were youth and 375 (1.4%) were PWDs. Strategic enterprises for food security where most women sought access, such as maize, beans and bananas were provided in smaller volumes than planned. Lower access to inputs by females, youth and PWDs compared to males was due to; lack of transport means to the distant sub-counties to collect the inputs; lack of information about input delivery dates; inadequate supplies of commodities demanded by vulnerable groups; and poor mobilization of the disadvantaged groups.

National Agricultural Genetic Resource Centre and Data Bank (NAGRC&DB)

The NAGRC&DB was established to conserve and ensure continuous supply of animal genetic resources and breeding materials in the country. In FY2016/17, there was gender inequality in number of workers at the NAGRC&DB ranches. For example, at Sanga Field Station in Mbarara district, only one out of the 10 workers was a female; At Ruhengyere Field Station in Kiruhura district, only four (5.8%) out of the 69 staff were female. All the 26 staff (100%) at Maruzi Ranch in Apac district were male. During FY 2018/19, there was only one female manager in all the eleven (11) ranches, the others being manned by males. The main disincentives to women employment at ranches were the long distance (13kms to 20kms) travelled herding animals in bushes and the lack of protection against wild animals; lack of basic infrastructure for baby care; delayed payment of salaries and allowances that are needed to meet daily needs.

Conclusion

The agricultural sector programmes have partially addressed the gender and equity concerns with performance rated at 76.4% in FY 2018/19. Over the past three years, there was inadequate access to agricultural inputs and services by women, youth, PWDs and the Northern and Eastern regions due to: low awareness about sector programmes; lack of land and capital; long distances to input distribution centres; illiteracy; high cost; and low outreach.

There was limited awareness and capacity within sector institutions with regard to gender and equity related laws, policies and guidelines; and how to mainstream G&E in planning and budgeting.

Recommendations

- i) The MAAIF, agencies and LGs should improve targeting and reaching out to women, youth, PWDs and Northern and Eastern Uganda when providing inputs, tractor hire services, training and extension services.
- ii) The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in collaboration with the MFPED and Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) should disseminate policies, laws and guidelines for enhancing institutional gender responsiveness and build capacity of the sector staff to address the concerns.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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