

A socio-economic study on the role of gender in smallscale crop-livestock farming in Turiani division, Morogoro.

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in three selected villages of Turiani in order to investigate gender role under small holders in newly introduced crop-livestock farming systems. The data was collected through group discussions between farmers and researchers, discussions with key informants and use of record cards. Discussions with specific group of men and women were also used as sources of information.

The results revealed that members in the households except for domestic work share most of the activities equally, which are done exclusively by women. Children are participating mostly in bird scaring. Socio-economic results revealed that resource ownership and household heading is by men. No clear differences in education level were observed between male and female children. Men mostly attended meetings concerning technology development. Results revealed that the introduction of innovative integrated HIT - Zero grazing system had a positive effect on the gender issue as women often kept the income from the sale of milk and played a significant role in crop-livestock interaction through their active participation in farm yard manure handling and utilisation as well as feeding of crop residues to livestock.

Key words: *Gender; crop-livestock farming systems.*

INTRODUCTION

The Foundation for Sustainable Rural Development (SURUDE) has been involved in promoting various innovative technologies and practices in Turiani Division in Morogoro rural District. A total new system with improved dairy cattle in a Heifer-in-Trust scheme and Zero-grazing system has been introduced. DanChurch Aid, -a Danish NGO, financially supports this and other activities. Collaboration between SURUDE and the DANIDA funded SUA-MU ENRECA project has been initiated with the aim of establishing farming systems research (FSR) with focus on ruminants production by small-scale farmers. A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was carried out in order to

collect basic farming system information of some villages of Turiani Division (FSR-team, 1998). Part of the PRA concerned the role played by gender in the crop-livestock activities.

Different genders in the household have different roles and objectives. For example many women may fail to attend extension meetings or farm demonstration if the objectives of the meeting tend to emphasise on male farmers' crops or livestock. Gender tasks, needs, interests and responsibilities in agriculture, usually differ by sex and from one household to another. Furthermore, gender participation in agricultural activities may be influenced by variation in seasonal demands for labour and family life style.

On the basis of this background, there is a huge need for socio-economic research aiming at exposing the relations and interactions between the different genders when new innovations as mentioned above are introduced. All aspects of action research from problem selection to methodology, to testing, to dissemination/extension have social implications and research should focus on the needs and interests of a specific group; men, women, same social class group in order to increase both equity and efficiency.

By specifying research by user groups, we make explicit the actual biases inherent in technology requirements and application. The application of gender analysis will help the researchers to explore such biases. Basically, many households in the developing countries, Tanzania included, have different income streams with different sources and different destinations within the same households. Furthermore, technological innovations have tended to disadvantage women relative to men.

The objective of the present study is to examine the influence of the newly introduced innovations on the gender issues in the Turiani crop-livestock farming systems activities as a base for future interventions.

METHODOLOGY

The villages in the study area are located in Mtibwa ward, Turiani Division about 130 km away from Morogoro municipality along Kilosa-Handeni road. The major activity has traditionally been crop production with sugarcane as a major cash crop and rice and maize as both cash and food crops.

The introduction of the Heifer-in –Trust (HIT)-Zero-grazing scheme has for part of the farmers changed the farming system to a mixed intensive crop-livestock set-up with a high demand for quantity and quality feed supply. Sunflower has been introduced as a new cash crop with the supplementary role of supplying oil cakes to the dairy cows.

Seventeen SURUDE farmers were involved; i.e. 9 farmers from Lungo village, 5 farmers from Kidudwe and 3 farmers were from Kunkhe village. The data were collected using a variety of means including informal discussion with key informants; groups of women and men were interviewed separately. Group interviews/discussions and the use of record cards were performed.

RESULTS

Division of labour at the household level

Most crop activities are shared equally between the mother and the father in the family. Children participate more in bird scaring activities. Tractors supplemented with some cases of hand hoeing mostly do ploughing. Planting, weeding, and harvesting activities are performed manually with full participation of the whole family and hired labour to some extent. The father mainly does selling of the farm products.

The livestock farmer has on average 2 heads of crossbred cattle and normally also one sheep and 4-5 goats of local breeds. The dairy cattle are zero grazed while sheep and goats are grazed in free-range manner and tethered during the peak period of crop activities.

The survey showed that all activities related to livestock are equally shared by men and women except milking, which is done mainly by women (Table 1). Mainly male children rear sheep and goats.

Table 1: Division of labour at household level (FSR-team, 1998).

| Activity | Men | Women | Children | Labourer |
|--|-----|-------|----------|----------|
| Land prep. | ** | ** | ** | ** |
| Ploughing | ** | ** | * | ** |
| Planting | ** | ** | ** | * |
| Weeding | ** | ** | ** | * |
| Harvesting | ** | ** | * | - |
| Selling and expending | *** | * | - | - |
| Water fetching | * | *** | ** | - |
| Firewood | * | *** | ** | - |
| Livestock health and feeding | ** | ** | * | - |
| Milking and selling Milk + milk products | ** | *** | - | - |

* Less involved; ** Moderately involved; *** Actively involved; - not involved

Results indicate that a good proportion of households apply manure in their horticulture fields (i.e. tomato, cabbage and onion gardens). Results also revealed that women play a significant role in crop- livestock interaction through their active participation in use of

farm yard manure (Table 2) and feeding cattle with crop residues (Table 3). In almost two thirds of the farms manure is used and women own the half of these.

Table 2: Use of farmyard manure as related to livestock ownership (FSR-team, 1998).

| Livestock ownership | Use (%) | Not use (%) | Row total (%) |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------|
| By women | 31.8 | 11.4 | 43.2 |
| By men | 11.4 | 9.1 | 20.5 |
| By both husband and wife | 15.9 | 15.9 | 31.8 |
| By whole family | 4.5 | 0 | 4.5 |
| Total(%) | 63.6 | 36.4 | 100 |

Table 3: Use of crop residues for feeding as related to livestock ownership (FSR-team, 1998).

| LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP | USE % | NOT USE % | ROW TOTAL |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| By women | 22.7 | 18.2 | 40.9 |
| By men | 13.6 | 6.8 | 20.5 |
| By both husband and wife | 20.5 | 13.6 | 34.1 |
| By whole family | 0 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| Total(%) | 56.8 | 43.2 | 100 |

56.8 % of the livestock keepers, including 22.7% women owners (40% of all users), use crop residues for feeding (Table 3).

The results, furthermore, showed that activities related to domestic matters such as cooking, fetching water and firewood. are performed by women and female children. However, the members of the household equally share fetching water and firewood for brick making (Table 1).

Social welfare at household level

The survey showed that men head most households. Households in which no adult male(s) are present (due to divorce, separation, migration, widowhood, non marriage) or households in which men, although present, play a subservient role in decision making (maybe due to no contribution to income) are lacking stability. In this case the farming households are the poorest and have few resources and severe labour constraints.

Most of resources especially farms belong to the fathers (Table 4).

Table 4: Property ownership at household level (FSR-team, 1998).

| Property | Men | Women | Children |
|-----------|-----|-------|----------|
| Land | *** | ** | - |
| House | *** | - | - |
| Crop | *** | ** | |
| Livestock | *** | ** | * |
| Bicycle | *** | * | - |
| Radios | *** | - | - |
| Cars | *** | - | - |

* Less involved; ** Moderately involved; *** Actively involved; Not involved

In most cases, the father owns and sells the cash products. However, there are few households where the mother has own crop fields and cash obtained is kept by her, as it is the case with milk income.

The study revealed that in terms of wealth ranking men score the highest, followed by women and Children in second and third position respectively. Most of items in the household belong to the man.

The rate of educational attendance is more or less similar for the two sexes (Table 5) and there seems to be no clear differences in pupil capabilities. However, sometimes females are married at a very young age and thereby forced to leave the school before completing standard seven.

Table 5: Number of pupils selected to join form I from three primary schools (FSR-team, 1998)

| Village | 1995 | | 1996 | | 1997 | |
|---------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Lungo | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Kidudwe | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Kunkhe | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

More than 80% of farmers participating in meetings are men and the discussion is highly dominated by men.

DISCUSSION

The study has shown that women are participating more or less equally in activities related to crop livestock interaction with exception of selling the farm products and keeping their income that is mainly performed by men except for selling of milk.

The tendency of men to regard women as weak and not potential has led to instability of female-headed households. Men with exception of a few households own resources in the household where women own their crop fields. Ranking of a household by wealth, men lead, followed by women and children rank last. Men attend most innovation meetings and the discussions dominated by men as well. This might be attributed to the fact that men dominate most households.

Female children are overworked for domestic activities after school. This tended to disadvantage female children in terms of opportunities for self-advancement. Women are actively participating in activities related to crop-livestock interaction by using the farm yard manure in their fields and use of crop residues to feed their dairy cattle. This indicates that women have a better appreciation of the importance of these activities in the household economy or is simply a gender-biased division of labour. The HIT scheme therefore, had a positive effect on gender equity by empowering the women through sharing the household wealth. It is important whenever a new innovation is being introduced to look at the effect on gender equity with the aim of redressing the imbalance.

Recommendations

There is a need for improving intra-household relations with regard to access to and control of various household resources. This can be achieved through encouraging the group approach in all innovations as a first step towards involving both men and women in decision making. Continuous dialogue through group education, training and exposure to other cultures will gradually bring about improvements in intra-household gender relations. The initial process has started through formation of women groups and credit groups with the study area.

REFERENCES

FSR Team. 1998. Participatory rural appraisal in Lungo, Kidudwe and Kunkhe villages, Turiani Division, Morogoro. Farming systems research team, SUA-MU ENRECA project. 38 pp.

DISCUSSION

Que: Mgeni, D.

Attendance of the meeting made for technology innovation was found to be gender imbalance 20% women v 80% men. What was the possible reasons.

Ans: I do not have any clear answer by the time being but with a very low experience I have most of women said that they are forbidden by their husbands.

Que: De Wolff

What is the Surude policy on introduction of heifers only to women, or do the family decides it?

Ans: The project leaves this to the committee and the family who should own the cattle

Que: Muhikambebe, V.R.M

1. 1. The presenter reported that most of the property and resources house, land, livestock, bicycles, radios etc are owned by men. Did the study notice any complaints or the society is just happy ?.
2. 2. It has also been reported that as far as academic performance is concerned there is no difference between male and female children. I am interested to know how this was actually assessed.

Ans: 1. The complaints from very few household were observed but most of them are comfortable.
2. The assessment was done by comparing the number of pupils entering form one each year

Que: Dr. Martin Shem

With introduction of livestock and the resulting income, there results a power imbalance, which may result into social conflicts between husbands and wives. As a result, the divorce rates increase. Did the research find to be a problem in Tanzania?

Ans: There is no any problem in relation of introduction of livestock in Tanzania.