

# Gender analysis of varietal and trait preferences of men and women bean value chain actors in Uganda: Implications for breeding

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## Background

Studies have shown that crop variety and traits preferences are not uniform. They vary in relation to agronomic, physical and organoleptic characteristics across gender within a socio-cultural context (Smale et al. 2001). These differential trait preferences follow gender division of labour and market access; and varies by age, ethnicity and education (Christinck et al. 2017). For example in Uganda, most women produce and process beans while men sell the beans at regional and international markets (Nakazi et al. 2017). Implying that trait differences could exist between men and women stakeholder due to the different roles they play in the bean value chain

Thus by implication breeding programmes need to consider gendered trait and varietal preferences of all bean clients at different stages in the value chain

## Methods

A mixed method approach was employed in collecting data for over 3 months in 2019/20.

- Data was collected through Open Data Kit (ODK) Software from 236 respondents in 5 districts (Consumers - 147, processors -21, traders - 64 and 4 breeders
- Key informant Interviews were carried out with two breeders (1 male and 1 female) in Kampala
- Four focus group discussions took place in Wakiso and Kamuli disaggregated by sex



Figure 1: Digital data collection in Nakasongola

## Objective

The objective of this study is to diagnose gender differentiated preferences around bean varieties and traits with intend to develop a gender responsive breeding programme

Involving men and women common bean value chain actors at earlier selection stages, will enable breeders meet the gendered varietal and trait preferences of these clients

## References

Christinck, A., E. Weltzien, F. Rattunde, and J. Ashby. 2017. Gender differentiation of farmer preferences for varietal traits in crop improvement: Evidence and Issues. Working Paper No. 2. CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network; CGIAR System Management Office and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Cali, Colombia. 38p.

Nakazi, F., Njuki, J., Ugen, M.A. et al. Is bean really a women’s crop? Men and women’s participation in bean production in Uganda. Agric & Food Secur 6, 22 (2017) doi:10.1186/s40066-017-0102-z

Smale, M., M. Bellon, and J. Gomez. 2001. Maize diversity, variety attributes and farmers’ choices in South-eastern Guanajuato, Mexico. Economic Development and Cultural Change 50(1): 201-225.



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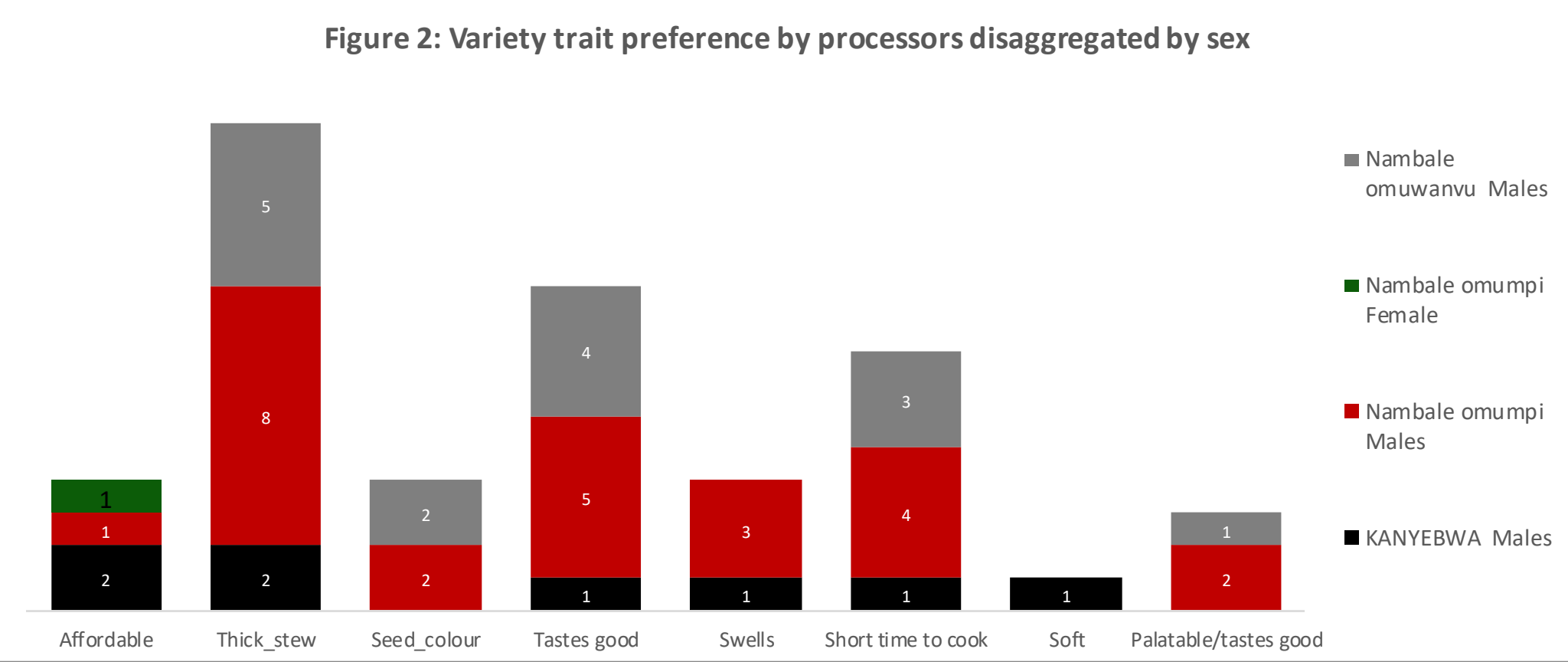


## Research Questions

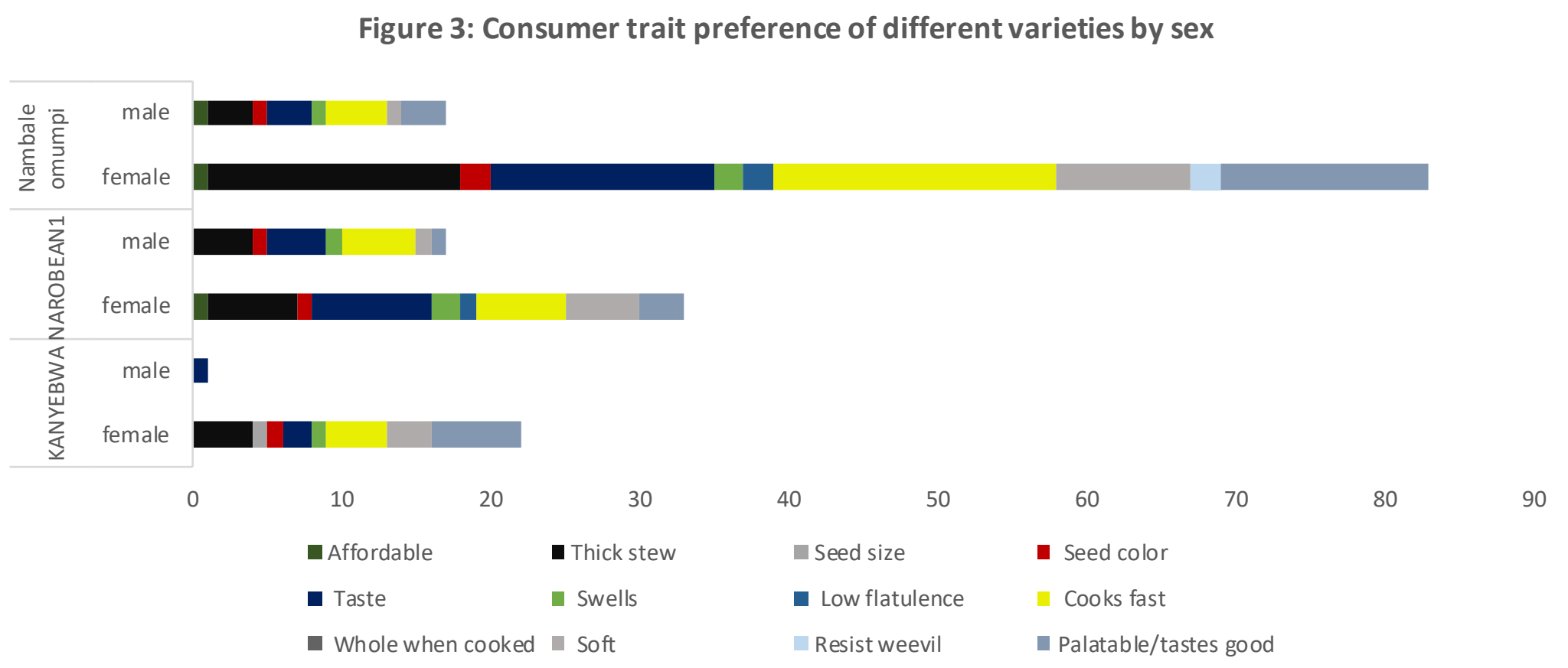
- To examine how breeders, involve and address the needs of men and women consumers, traders and processors in bean varietal development
- To identify what gender considerations breeders take into account when designing the common bean breeding programme?
- To examine the varietal and trait preferences for common beans among men and women consumers, traders and processors?

## Results and Discussions

- Men and women processors prefer same bean varieties (Nambale Omumpi) but look for different traits like thick stew and affordability respectively



- Consumers and processors prefer same bean varieties (Nambale Omumpi and Kanye bwa), with different traits. Consumers prefer short cooking time and processors a thick stew.



- Men and women consumers have the same trait preferences (Short cooking time and taste) due to high cost and scarcity of fuel. Schools also preferred beans that cooks fast.
- 79% of women participated in Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS). Few men participated in PVS because it did not generate income and was labour intensive.

## Conclusion – Implication for breeding

- Involve men and women value chain actors earlier in the selection process in the breeding cycle
- Partner with other stakeholders that have a gender specific and other expertise for evaluation
- Creates opportunities to breed other traits like short cooking time especially with advances in phenotyping



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