



GENDER
Platform

CGIAR GENDER Platform

Putting Gender Equality at the
Heart of Agricultural Research

Exploring the Banana & Cassava Seed Systems: A case study of Luwero district in Central Uganda

Discussant: Nicoline de Haan, Director Gender Platform

RTB Seed System Toolbox Course:

25, 27, 28 Oct 2021

Reflections on gender-based analysis in seed systems

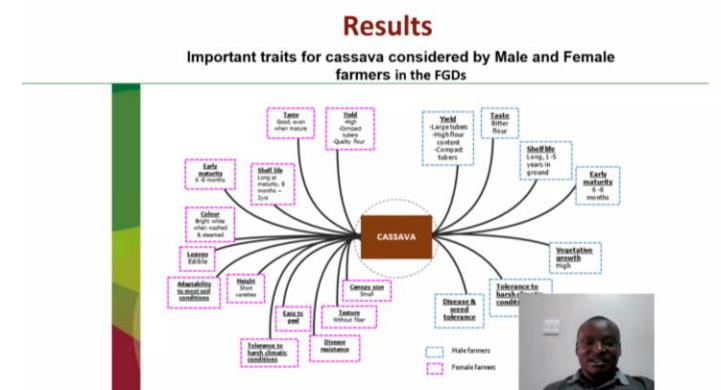
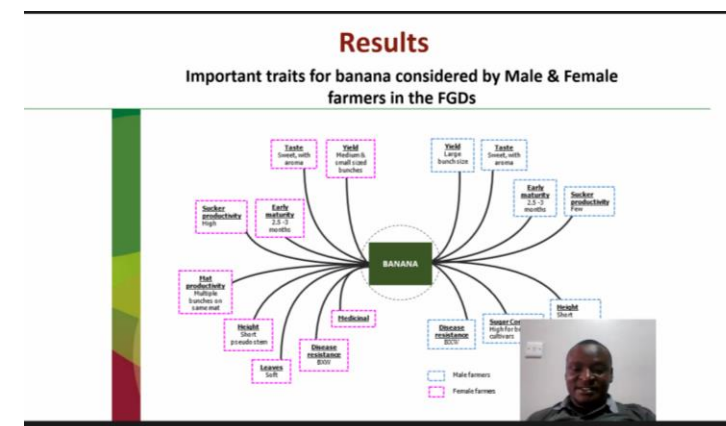
- **TWO Pathways on gender in seed systems**
 - Improve agriculture is done
 - Empower women through agriculture
 - **To improve households**
- Gender relations shape variety & seed **preferences**, access, use, and outcomes
- Gender and other socioeconomic factors mediate how farmers access seed sourced through local and formal market channels, with implications for varietal adoption and turnover therefore
 - **uptake of a technology**
 - **labour implications**
- Gender analysis is important for a comprehensive understanding of seed systems and **to design effective and inclusive interventions** that go beyond reaching women to **benefit and empower them**

Reflections on gender implications of findings

- Need for effective tools to support **gender-based analysis for seed systems** interventions – MEC and 4Sq
 - The Tools4SeedSystems toolbox: important contribution to understanding socio-economic and biophysical interactions in seed systems
 - Gender considerations have been mainstreamed into the tools: extend use in different crop x context cases, and add tools to for gender-based constraints analysis for seed enterprise development
 - Provide DATA and EVIDENCE to inform future plans

Reflections on gender implications of findings

- Study has shown women banana farmers **manage higher cultivar diversity**, and that relatively few households grew a range of cultivars (banana & cassava)
 - This reflects women's and men's different, sometimes **overlapping and multi-faceted objectives** – e.g.
 - banana: household consumption, cash, and cultural values
 - cassava: greater cultivar diversity reduces production, consumption & marketing risks
 - **How do we balance maintaining/increasing biodiversity** with breeding approaches that advocate for release of fewer products/varieties?



Reflections on gender implications of findings

- Differences in trait preferences reflect **different roles in seed systems**
 - E.g., why did women seek more suckers on banana plants and men fewer suckers – and what are the implications for breeders and agronomic management, and seed sources?
 - For cassava, men prefer to grow bitter (higher yielding) varieties for sale/processing, women prefer sweet varieties for fresh home consumption.
 - A specific question: there were a higher number of improved varieties. What is the proportion of bitter: sweet varieties, how are breeders & seed producers responding to this?

Reflections on gender implications of findings

- Next critical step – transforming findings into **better design of seed systems for equitable outcomes**, not only indicating differences in trait preferences for breeders, but also addressing
 - Strategic needs of different types of farmers to source/access seed of preferred varieties
 - Structural issues (e.g., land ownership), which have implications for women's ability to adopt improved varieties, and become seed entrepreneurs
 - New varieties and risk appetite – gendered?
 - 'Inclusion is always an intentional choice, if it isn't planned it will not happen'
 - How do we empower women in this – not confirm stereotypes?
 - More tools and evidence needed