



RESEARCH
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Livestock and Fish

More meat, milk and fish by and for the poor

Exploring gender perceptions of resource ownership and their implications for food security among rural livestock owners in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua

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Exploring the concept of ownership: The why

- Importance of productive resources to the livelihoods of rural households
- Ownership believed to increase women's household decision making power and empowerment
- Widespread use of the term 'resource ownership' without robust understanding of local meaning
 - e.g. in surveys
- The term is complex and ambiguous

Study objectives

- To generate an understanding of how women and men in different contexts might understand, perceive, or define the term “resource ownership,” with a focus on livestock.
- To establish the relationship between the meanings attached to resource ownership and food security for the respondents in the three countries.

Why we need to understand the concept of 'ownership'

- Affects asset distribution in the household
 - Effect on adoption of technologies
 - Impact of interventions on women's asset ownership
- Understand the arrangement of resource ownership
- Foster new arrangements of resources
 - Transformation of gender constraining norms
- Enhancement of women's welfare, equity and empowerment

Methodology

- Research conducted between December 2013 and March 2014 in 3 VC countries
 - the smallholder dairy value chain in Tanzania,
 - the small ruminant value chain in Ethiopia,
 - the dual-purpose cattle value chain in Nicaragua
- Conducted in-depth interviews with 138 respondents (57 women and 51 men in Tanzania, 8 women and 10 men in Ethiopia, and 6 women and 6 men in Nicaragua)
- Data analyzed using QSR NVivo 10

Study areas and sample

Country	Districts	No of men	No. of women
Tanzania	Kongwa, Mvomero and Lushoto	51	57
Ethiopia	Yabello, Atsbi	8	10
Nicaragua	Boaco, Matagalpa	6	6

Results

Resources important to successfully raise livestock

Tanzania	Ethiopia	Nicaragua
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeds• Water• Markets• Vaccines• Good breeds• Information• Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feed• Water• Markets• Veterinary services• Credit• Land• Labor• Barns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land• Water• Improved pastures• Credit• Infrastructure• Technical assistance• Technology (cattle breeds, artificial insemination services, and farm mechanical equipment)

Results

Cross country case study identified seven different domains of ownership:

1. Benefiting from the livestock (T, E)
2. How livestock was sourced (T,E,N)
3. Decision-making (T,E,N)
4. Taking care of animals (T,E,N)
5. Knowledge of resources (E,N)
6. Having full authority over the livestock (T)
7. Carrying the responsibility (N)

Ownership and food security

- Money earned from resources investment in food expenditures
- High value livestock such as cattle and camels increased food security
- Independent decision making by women over larger livestock and income could foster HH food security
- Gender norms that govern distribution and control of resources affect food security

Conclusion

- Irrespective of the various understandings and systems of ownership, resource arrangements favored men.
- These arrangements in turn, had significant implications on intra-household roles, decision-making and ultimately food security.
- Rather than assessing “who owns what resources” researchers need to ask more specific questions about resource management and benefit sharing

Citation

- Galiè¹, A., Mulema, A., Mora, M. A. B., Onzere, S. N and Colverson, K. E. 2015. Exploring gender perceptions of resource ownership and their implications for food security among rural livestock owners in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Nicaragua. *Agriculture & Food Security*, 4:2.