



Climate Change, Gender and Resilience Issues Emerging from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit

Experience from a Nigeria Case Study

Dr. Ifeoma Quinette Anugwa
Lecturer/Gender Specialist
University of Nigeria Nsukka

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Key Highlights from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit

- ▶ The UN Food Systems Summit, among other things, focuses on ensuring food system resilience in the face of increasing climate change and gender inequalities.
- ▶ Food systems should be transformed to be more resilient to extreme weather conditions and other stressors induced by climate change.
- ▶ The role of women as important actors and contributors to food system transformation should not be overlooked and underestimated.
- ▶ Particular emphasis was made on addressing gender inequalities and power imbalances since it undermines the ability of food systems to deliver sustainable and equitable livelihood.

Context

- ▶ On the global scene, CC has heightened the frequency and intensity of adverse weather conditions
- ▶ This has resulted to adverse effects on agriculture
- ▶ The sensitivity of agriculture to CC risks has intensified the food insecurity status of smallholder farmers
- ▶ Thus, CC is the key force behind the rise in global food insecurity (FAO et al, 2018)

Climate Change Scenario in West Africa



- ▶ The region is vulnerable to shocks associated with climate change
- ▶ Increased frequency of flooding and other extreme events like...
 - ❖ Rising temperature
 - ❖ Sea level rise and
 - ❖ Increased drought (Arid and semi-arid regions)
- ▶ Rural populace are primarily dependent on rain-fed agriculture
- ▶ Inability of farmers to predict the onset and duration of rainfall
- ▶ Rising food insecurity
 - ❖ Reduced crop and livestock production
 - ❖ High food costs, affecting poor rural households who primarily depend on agricultural production for their livelihood

Climate Change and Gender

- ▶ Vulnerability to climate change is not uniform....affects men and women *differently*
- ▶ Men and women have different roles and responsibilities in different societies
- ▶ *Local gender dynamics shapes the contours of vulnerability*
- ▶ Men and women respond differently to CC induced stresses
- ▶ They have different capacities to cope with CC induced shocks

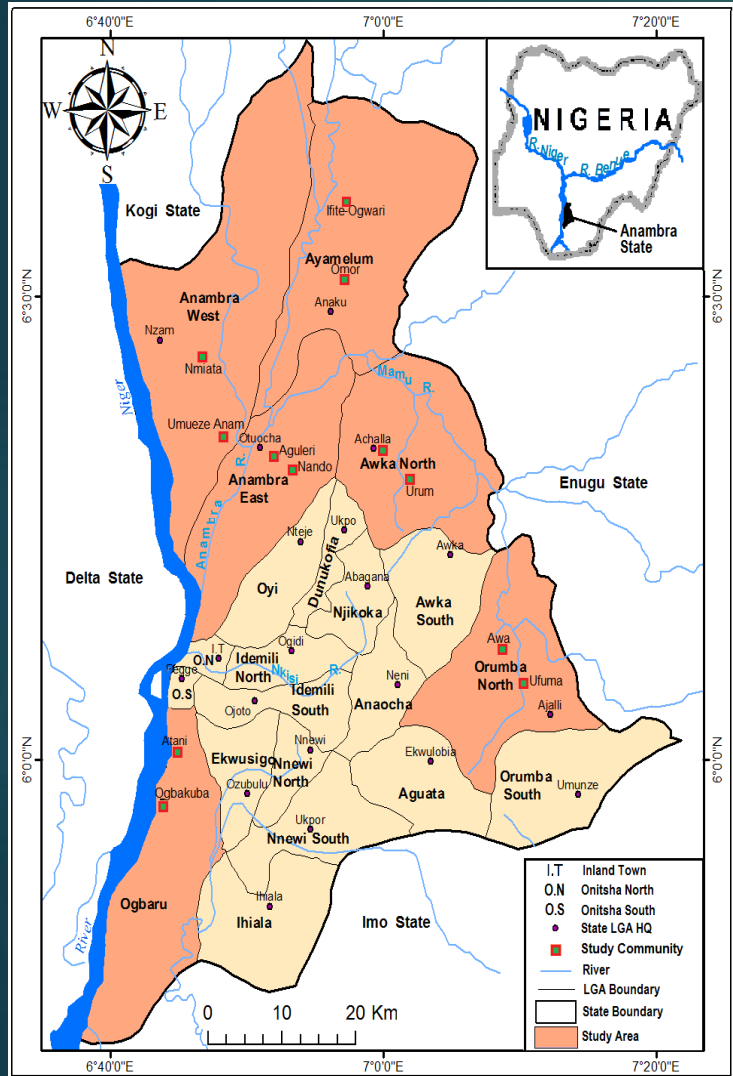
Climate Change, Gender Dynamics and Resilience

- ▶ Climate change has created increased uncertainties in achieving food security
- ▶ CC induced food insecurity affects the dynamics of gender roles and behaviour
- ▶ CC effects increases the inequalities that exists between men and women
- ▶ *Even within same household*, gender influences sensitivity to shocks
- ▶ Resilience enable farmers to prevent, anticipate, prepare, cope and recover from climate change induced risks

Research Gaps in Climate Change and Gender Studies

- ▶ Growing evidence of numerous ways in which men and women are vulnerable to CC shocks as well as resilience building
- ▶ However, most gender studies are focused on male and female-headed households
- ▶ Better understanding of different experiences between **husbands and wives** when exposed to CC induced food insecurity

Research Results from a Nigeria Case Study



- ▶ The study investigated the gender dynamics of farm households' resilience to climate change-induced food insecurity in southeast Nigeria
- ▶ The study was conducted in Anambra State, which is the most vulnerable state to flooding in the region.
- ▶ Research sites are typical of livelihood groups sensitive to climate change and with below average levels of poverty and food insecurity
- ▶ Approximately 286 respondents (couples) constituted the study population
- ▶ Collective & bargaining approaches, FGD, in-depth interviews and household surveys.

Research Findings

- ▶ Gender differentiated perception regarding intensity of observed extreme weather conditions
- ▶ Gender differentiated perceptions of the effects of climate change on household food security situation
- ▶ Men had more access to climate change-related information than their wives
- ▶ Women were slightly more vulnerable to CC-induced food insecurity than their husbands
- ▶ Husbands were slightly more resilient than their wives
- ▶ Gradual shifts in gender roles in the various food security activities.
- ▶ Gender disparity in patterns of access, ownership, control & decision-making power over household resources.
- ▶ Men implemented more risk management strategies than their wives
- ▶ The couples implemented negative coping strategies
- ▶ Limited income was the major challenge to building the resilience of the couples

Recommendations in Line with 2021 UN Food Systems Summit

- ✓ Gender-integrated approach in the design of intervention programs
- ✓ Create opportunities for off-farm generating activities
- ✓ Increased participation of women in climate change governance
- ✓ Strengthen extension agencies to provide adequate information to farmers
- ✓ Gender-responsive policies to improve women's capital
- ✓ Improve farmer's access to credit and basic facilities

