



Empowering women farmers to participate in agricultural research processes

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Introduction

Empowerment is central to women's participation in agricultural research and to boost their role in agriculture and contribution to food security. To do so it is important to understand the current level of their participation and the factors that influence their participation in the stages of the agricultural research process. This enables identification of entry points and design of effective strategies for women empowerment.

Method/Approaches

- Qualitative and quantitative methods in the four Africa RISING sites
- The domains and indicators of women's empowerment analyzed include PRODUCTION (women's input in production decisions and autonomy in production); RESOURCES (access to and decision on credit); INCOME (control over use of income); LEADERSHIP (group membership and speaking in public); TIME (labor sufficiency).

Results/Achievements

Percentage of women participating in each research stage by participation status in Africa RISING project

Stage	Africa RISING project participants (n=118)	Africa RISING project non-participants (n=112)	Total (N=230)	Pearson Chi-square (p-value)
Did not participate in any stage	0	36	21	0.000
Identification and prioritization of research and development problems (design)	55	30	42	0.001
Identification and testing of potential technology options (testing)	58	17	34	0.000
Dissemination of tested and validated technologies (diffusion)	38	17	27	0.002
Monitoring and evaluation	32	12	22	0.001

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Results from a multivariate probit model of women participation in each stage (Decomposed model)

Explanatory variables	STAGES			
	Identification and prioritization of research and development problems	Identification and testing of potential technology options	Dissemination of tested and validated	Monitoring and evaluation
AGE	-0.152 (0.02)	0.00 (0.02)	0.007 (0.19)	0.005 (0.02)
EDUC	0.231 (0.22)	0.256 (0.17)	0.143 (0.17)	0.098 (0.17)
MARISTAT	-0.431 (0.43)	-0.045 (0.37)	-0.278 (0.37)	
LANDSIZE	-0.037 (0.04)	-0.013 (0.03)	0.102 (0.05)**	-0.031 (0.03)
AR PARTICI	0.045 (0.39)	1.678 (0.381)***	0.662 (0.36)*	0.083 (0.34)
INFORSOURCE	0.257 (0.14)*	0.059 (0.11)	-0.147 (0.11)	0.144 (0.11)
EXTENACCESS	2.109 (0.63)***	-0.176 (0.54)	-0.286 (0.37)	1.016 (0.61)*
FMRGROUP	1.349 (0.48)***	0.042 (0.36)	0.062 (0.35)	0.713 (0.34)**
PUBLICSPEAK	0.471 (0.41)	0.656 (0.39)	1.22 (0.38)***	0.763 (0.37)**
CREDITDEC	-1.431 (1.27)	0.742 (0.67)	0.525 (0.73)	-1.113 (0.62)
INCOMEDEC	1.820 (1.51)	0.269 (0.93)	4.389 (0.181)	0.750 (1.28)
PRODDEC	1.988 (1.17)*	0.129 (0.96)	3.981 (1.79)	-0.177 (0.91)
PLOTINDIV	1.577 (0.47)***	0.267 (0.41)	1.045 (0.46)**	0.460 (0.39)
LABORSUFF	1.325 (0.62)	-0.659 (0.45)	-0.236 (0.41)	-0.022 (0.39)

Figures in parenthesis are standard errors

*, ** and *** shows significant at 10%, 5% and 1% respectively



Plan for 2019

- Gender capacity development of key partners to equip them with gender analysis skills and expose them to the Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Index.
- Mainstream gender in innovation platforms



The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

www.africa-rising.net

