
**THE EFFECT OF GENDER INEQUALITY ON AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT, ACASE STUDY OF LABONGOLAYAMO
SUBCOUNTY, KITGUM DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

In Uganda, the agricultural sector contributes substantially to gross domestic product. Although the involvement of Uganda women in the sector is extensive, female farmers face significant obstacles, caused gendering that impedes their ability to expand their family business and to generate incomes. Gender refers to social or cultural categories by which women and men relationships are conceived. The main goal of this study was to investigate how gender inequality affects agricultural growth. a situation in Northern Uganda's Kitgum District's Labongo Layamo sub county. The study also aimed to investigate what contributes to gender disparity in the development of agriculture. Men and women in Labongo Layamo Sub County were analyzed using sampling methods and sample sizes. The participants for the study were chosen using simple random sampling. Supervisors in the agricultural sector were chosen via deliberate sampling, while farmers were chosen from a pool of 15 men, 15 women, and 5 juveniles. According to the results, 47% of participants said that both men and women handled these tasks. On the other hand, 32% claimed that women performed clearing land while only 15% claimed that men did. However, 5% said that boys and 1% said that females were in charge of these activities. A majority of respondents (45%) claimed that both men and women were in charge of sowing, while 34% identified women as the person in charge. In contrast, 17% said that males were in charge of sowing, 3% mentioned boys, and only 1% said girls. Households involved in farming should seriously take the advice of the technical teams to support the gender mainstreaming programs and creating gender

awareness within their family and even to the neighbors for their own benefit in improving their livelihood or welfare.

*Key words: gender, inequality and agricultural
development*

Background of the Study.

According to an FAO (2011) report citing an IFAD analysis, the proportion of female-headed households (FHHs) in rural eastern and southern Africa ranges from 25 to 60%. Families with a woman as the head are not all alike. They can be roughly divided into two groups: homes headed by women who are single, divorced, or bereaved (de jure FHHs), and households headed by women who are married but are gone from the house due to work or other obligations.

Given its capacity to generate a wide range of foods in significant numbers, Uganda is recognized in the Eastern African region as a food basket and an economy centered on agricultural. It includes the cultivation of cattle, food and cash crops, as well as forestry and fishery subsectors. In 2011-12, these categories represented 62, 8, 17, and 13 percent of the agrarian GDP, respectively (Frank et al., 2023). Since it generated 23.7 percent of the GDP (at current prices) in 2011-12, agriculture is regarded as a significant industry. Pursuant to the UCA 2008/9, the country had over 3.95 million small and medium agricultural families, which generated the majority (almost 95 percent) of the food and cash crops. These houses had an average population of 19.3 million people, or 60% of Uganda's total population (Collins et al., 2023).

The majority of Uganda's labor force is employed in the primarily impoverished agriculture industry. Agriculture was the primary sector of the economy at the time of the Population and Housing Survey (PHC) 2002, with roughly seventy-three percent (81 percent female and 67 percent male) of the labor force involved in it. The

National Development Plan (NDP) of Uganda (2010-2015) acknowledged the gender gaps that still persist in a number of industries, including agribusiness. As a result, it is important to promote gender equality as well as shift cultural norms, mindsets, and practices. For female farmers to play a larger role in the commercial farming industry, a strategy aimed at enhancing equality between men and women in the agriculture sector has been put in place (John et al., 2023). This strategy includes improving access to services and assets that are successful as well as to assets like credit, business abilities, training, and market information for female entrepreneurs. Additional possibilities include improved chemical fertilizers, more effective seeds, mechanical implements, and equipment.

Statement of the Problem

For many years, gender disparity in Uganda's agriculture industry has been a major problem. This is due to the fact that, particularly for women, access to assets, productive assets, and schooling is still limited. This has been ascribed to a number of problems, including poverty, prolonged unemployment, growing demand for farmland, insufficient facilities, a shortage of schooling, and diseases, particularly the HIV/AIDS epidemic (Faridah et al., 2023).

The general district has a high illiteracy rate of 68% for females and a high primary school dropout rate of 56%, relative to the national average of 40%. this is due to an ongoing rebellion that has destroyed infrastructure, livestock, and property. Home malnutrition and a 30% poverty rate are the results of this. Boys make up 34153 of the 64245 students enrolled in primary school, while females make up 30,092 of those students, making a gender disparity of 54.4% to 45.% (Ministry of Gender Labor and Economic Development, October 21, 2015).In the Labongo Layamo sub county, there is a substantial gender gap in enrollment, with boys enrolling at a rate of 52% as opposed to girls' 48%, and boys dropping out at a higher rate (Mark et al., 2023).

In Uganda, there exist disparities in the implementation of farming technology, including the use of inbreeding in plant and animal breeds, fertilizers, pest control methods, feeds, etc. Utilizing buying something depends on the accessibility of a variety of assets, including land, credits, education, and credits. All of which are greater restrictions for households with female heads than for those with male heads (FAO 2011). Primary school enrollment (6-13 years old) accounts for 20.3% of the district's total enrollment and was projected at 131,235 in 2011 (Ministry of Education, 2008). Boys make up the biggest proportion of this group.

Specific objectives of the Study

- 1. To explore the factors that promotes gender inequality in agricultural development.*
- 2. To determine the challenges that men, women and youth face in agricultural development.*
- 3. To determine the farmers' perception on men and women inequality in agricultural development.*

Research Questions

- 1. What factors promote gender inequality in agricultural production in Labongo Layamo Sub County?*
- 2. What are the challenges that men, women and the youth face in agricultural development?*
- 3. How do famers perceive men and women inequality in agricultural development?*

Methodology

Research design

The research adopted a descriptive research design and utilized both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study adopted a participatory approach involving field visits for the purpose of interaction with the target groups to objectively assess gender inequalities in agriculture development in Labongo Layamo Sub County.

Study population

The study's population consisted of farmers from labongo layamo parishes such Pagen Ocettoki Paibor and localities like Pagen central and west, Paibor central and west, and Ocettoki west and central villages. The preliminary frame was given by village leaders. Historically, only household heads of families or members of groups were listed. The list had been updated with the backing of the village's farming extension personnel to add female farmers from those houses in order to make sure the frame was complete. Consequently, members of the family who were employed by farming were the unit to be taken into account.

Sampling procedure and sample size

A total of 12,700 peasants from different neighborhoods made up the list of thirty applicants; only five people were picked from each hamlet. Men and women who come from families that grow coffee are among those who took part. However, in accordance with (Matata et al., 2001), a range of 80 to 120 respondents is adequate for the vast majority of the social and economic studies conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Target population

Agricultural participants, manufacturers' managers, cultivating crops officers, veterinary officers, staff from administration, and field development specialists were among the target demographic in Labongo Layamo Sub County. These workers disclosed information on gender parity, the rate of retention, and the current steps

they are making to ensure fair representation of all genders. The demographic group of interest for the study was those who participated.

Sampling techniques and Sample size

In the Labongo Layamo Parishes, men and women made up the analysis unit. thirty agricultural workers from a variety of homes were chosen by simple random sampling from the responders for the study. Three agricultural sector managers were chosen through a purposeful sampling process. The participant sample was chosen at random in order to provide statistics on the trends in gender issues in agricultural. Utilizing seasoned farmers and the managers in the farming community of local leaders, adequate size was established.

Research instrument

A self-completion questionnaire was the main research instrument. Questionnaire was designed for use by the local community members. Interview schedule or guide was used for interviewing the officials in the Agriculture sector like Agricultural officer, extension workers' local council one and other

Data collection procedure

To gather the primary info, surveys and deep conversations were employed. The responders who took the time to complete the surveys were given surveys. After the allotted response time had passed, they were gathered. The Ministry of Agriculture used the records housed there to provide information on the trends in gender issues in Uganda during the previous ten years. Multiple publications and a press article were also used to give secondary data. The conditions for the entire study process were put in place, including anonymity, confidentiality, and informed permission. Data has been given so that it cannot be traced to the people who provided it except

by the investigator, who did so out of respect for the informants and intentionally to protect them.

Data analysis

Qualitative and quantitative data were interpreted according to the themes arising using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). Data were presented in the form of frequency tables, pie-charts and graphs (Macmillan and Schumacher, 2001). Primary data were analyzed with respect to measures of central tendency while frequency distributions were used to establish the number of respondents giving certain information.

RESULTS

Male participants made up 55% of the sample, while female respondents made up 45%. Participants in the study were asked to specify their ages. According to the results, 40% of respondents identified their age as being between 41 and 50, 35% among 31 and 40, 12% between 51 and 60, 10% among 18 and 30, and 3% over 60.

Participants were asked to identify whether they were married. According to the data, the majority (54%) of people were married, 26% had never been married, 8% were widowed, and 5% had either been divorced or separated.

The goal of the study was to find out what level of education those who participated had obtained. Thirty percent of the people surveyed said they had received a diploma, 29% had completed their secondary schooling, 24% had attended college, and 8% had completed their primary education, while 6% had completed their adult training.

Table 1: Education level

Levels	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	8	8

Secondary	30	29
Certificate or diploma	31	30
Degree	25	24
Adult education	6	5
TOTAL	102	100

The purpose of the study was to identify the person who engaged in farming in the division. According to the results, 47% of participants said that both men and women handled these tasks. On the other hand, 32% claimed that women performed clearing land while only 15% claimed that men did. However, 5% said that boys and 1% said that females were in charge of these activities. A majority of respondents (45%) claimed that both men and women were in charge of sowing, while 34% identified women as the person in charge. In contrast, 17% said that males were in charge of sowing, 3% mentioned boys, and only 1% said girls. When asked who does the weeding, most people (39%) said that women do it, followed by men (27%), both men and women (18%), girls (4%), and boys (2%). The investigation also aimed to identify the person in charge of harvesting. According to the results, 42% of those who participated said they were harvesting, 29% said they were, 25% said they were both men and women, and 1% said they were boys and girls. The participants were asked to identify the person in charge of drying operations in the farms. The results suggest that most people (50%) cited women, followed by men (33%), and both men and women (17%). A majority of the participants (41%) said men were in charge of value furthermore, 30% said both men and women were involved, and 29% said women were in charge of it. The investigation also aimed to identify those responsible for advertising operations. According to the data, 46% of respondents indicated men, 30% suggested women, and 24% specified both men and women.

Table 2 below. Agricultural activities of the respondents.

Activities	Men	women	Both	Boys	Girls
<i>Land preparation</i>	15	32	47	5	1
<i>Sowing</i>	17	34	45	1	3
<i>Weeding</i>	27	39	18	2	4
<i>Harvesting</i>	29	42	25	1	1
<i>Value addition</i>	33	50	17	0	0
<i>Marketing</i>	46	29	30	0	0
<i>Drying</i>	33	30	24	0	0

The responders were asked to list any difficulties they encountered while carrying out their duties on the farms. Women who responded said they had issues such not having enough money to hire casual workers or buy farm equipment.

Participants were asked if there was equal access to land for men and women. According to the conclusions, while 21% of respondents said that men and women in the division had equal access to land, the majority (79%) said that this was not the case. According to the participants, cultural differences including land ownership and considerable economic power meant that men had more rights to land than women did. The purpose of the study was to determine whether men and women had equal access to mechanized. Men and women do not have equal access to automation, according to the majority of those who participated (88%) whereas 12% said that this

was the case. According to the responses, the majority of women lacked both the financial means and the technical know-how to operate equipment.

The responders were asked to state who chose the planting date and who would actually be doing the actual planting. Most of the respondents (41%) said that both men and women were in charge of choosing the moment to plant time and the person or people who would actually do the seeding. However, 36% indicated that men decided when planting should be undertaken and the person responsible for planting while 25% of the respondents indicated that women decided when to plant and who did the planting as indicated in table 3 below.

Table 3: Individual responsible for determining planting time and planting responsibility

	Frequency	Percentages
Men	15	10
Women	10	15
Both	5	5
Total	30	30

The purpose of the study was to determine if men and women had equal access to SACCO and cooperative savings and credit institutions. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the results showed that women and men did not have comparable access to financial and savings places of confinement, whereas 12% showed the opposite. According to the participants, financial organizations like SACCOs and cooperatives frequently discriminate against women when it comes to banking services since they are less likely than men to have assets they may use as collateral for loans.

Participants were asked to identify who makes decisions about what should be offered for sale and eaten on the farm. The majority of participants (53%) said

males had a big effect on what required to be bought and consumed, while 29% said men and women had a big influence and 20% said women did. This suggested that decisions about the sale of farm output are largely made by men.

Participants were asked if men or women were in charge of the farms' sales of food crops. Compared to 31% who said women controlled the selling of food crops, the majority (69%) said males did. According to the participants, some food crops were sold to brokers who then looked for buyers in urban areas, while others were taken to the marketplaces. Regarding the sale of cash crop products, participants said that the crops were transported to the factories and then sold via farmers' cooperative organizations.

The individuals who responded were asked to indicate if they believed that women had influence on agricultural product price. While 38% of respondents said women had some influence over the price of goods, the majority (63%) said they did not. Men always had an advantage, according to the participants, because they were given the task of hunting for markets; as a result, they were better informed about market circumstances, as well as about product demands and costs. If the proceeds from sales were distributed equally, the respondents were asked to state this. The study's findings indicate that 89% of the participants split the returns equitably, despite 11% of participants saying otherwise. Men always received a higher portion, according to the people who participated, who claimed this was because they were responsible for more family duties like providing for the family's basic requirements, paying for children's education, and making other kinds of investments.

Conclusions of the study

The study came to the conclusion that while males handled the function of value addition and advertisement, women were primarily responsible for the sowing, harvesting, and curing of crops. This showed that differences in the people who

engaged in farming operations throughout the Labongo Layamo Sub County were indicative of gender discrepancies in agribusiness.

Recommendations

Households involved in farming should seriously take the advice of the technical teams to support the gender mainstreaming programs and creating gender awareness within their family and even to the neighbors for their own benefit in improving their livelihood or welfare.

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