



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & FOOD SECURITY

VAM GENDER AND MARKETS BRIEFING #5

MARKETS, GENDER AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN BURKINA FASO

KEY MESSAGES:

- Livestock activities are mostly performed by men instead of women (52.8% of men). The existing gap between agricultural products commercialized by men and women is related to sold quantities.
- Frequently, women manage their plots to feed the family and use their personal reserve for commercialization. Ethnic affiliation constitutes a critical variable in women's labor division.
- Commercialization is a mandatory function. Women and men are constrained during the year to sell a part of their production. Despite the structural challenges they are facing, the quality of the products sell by women tend to exceed the quality of products sell by men.

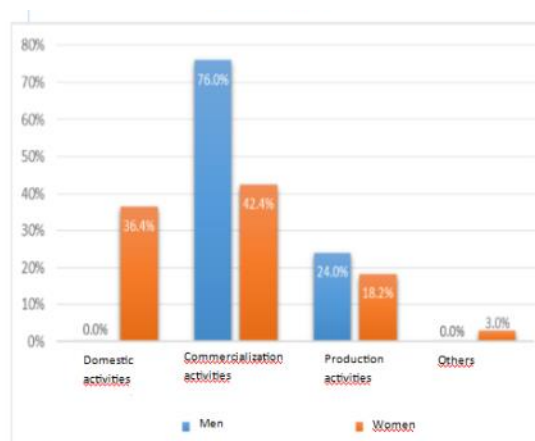
Multiples challenges faced by women

At the level of production, Burkina Faso in 2015-2016 records significant production of maize, white sorghum, millet, cowpea and red sorghum. Women are important actors in cereal production but face multiple challenges affecting their ability to produce in sufficient quantities. Confining them to their domestic activities is the first constraint to their autonomy. In addition, access to financing and the complexity of credit procedures remain a major problem. Finally, laborious access to equipment is a third challenge that significantly limits their production capacity.

At the level of processing, women find some difficulties to source raw materials because the quality and quantity of materials is irregular and prices fluctuate throughout seasons. Being able to store in sufficient quantities to guarantee stable prices and a perennial activity is necessary. Low processing standards in terms of preservation, equipment, skilled personnel and marketing make processing a significant challenge to overcome.

At the level of commercialization, of the products (Table 1), the challenges are related to (i) the financial means available to them to maintain or develop their trade, (ii) limited access to infrastructure to transport agricultural products to the market, or to source products in the surrounding villages, (iii) access to storage facilities and adapted equipment to their needs, (iv) workload and time management between domestic work and commercial activity, and (v) mobility often controlled by men.

GRAPH 1 : WOMEN AND MEN WORKING TIME BY ACTIVITIES AND BY ORDER OF IMPORTANCE



Up to 81% of women participate in the processing and conservation of agricultural products

89,7% of women possess low area lands (0.5 et 1 ha), it varies with the ethnic affiliation

Women are relatively autonomous in fixing the selling prices for products (78%) and in the decision to get a loan (84%)

CONTINUING THE ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCE ON AGRICULTURAL POLICIES	PURSUING CAPACITY BUILDING	INCREASING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES, FINANCIAL CAPITAL AND MARKETS	SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND DYNAMIZATION OF GENDER SENSITIVE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	REFERENCING AND MAKING MORE VISIBLE THE THEMATIC OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
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TAKING ACTION

Data collections as part of WFP's P4P program should be further developed and the GTP (Multidisciplinary Working Group) is expected to contribute to the existing data by referencing additional gender aspects of agricultural products commercialization, by periods, for women and men.

Providing more information on the Storage conditions, constraints and local strategies developed by women and men is suggested. Secondly, it would be relevant to provide information on product quality and stock management at home and in the existing infrastructure, but also on the local selling units used by women.

Finally, it is crucial to have more information on Equity and on remuneration for women and men. The study mentions the need to be informed about the capacities and opportunities for networking (province, region, subregion) by individuals but also about their conditions to access market infrastructures. These informations will provide an accurate picture of the difficulties faced by women.

Strategic axis focus on strengthening women producers and processors self confidence, enabling them to access multiple calls for tenders. There is

also a need to strengthen their negotiating capacities so that the contracts concluded reflect their needs. It is essential to continue to advocate for gender mainstreaming in women access to inputs and resources. It would also be relevant to conduct a study on women's issues and the supply system to gain a better understanding of the issues at this level.

Finally, creating more spaces for sharing experiences through national events involving women from the sub-region is necessary.

TABLE 1 : MOST SELLING PRODUCTS BY WOMEN AND MEN, BY ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

Order of importance	Agricultural products most sold by men	Agricultural products most sold by women
1 st	Corn	Corn
2 nd	Sorghum	Sorghum
3 rd	Millet	Black peas
4 th	Black peas	Peanuts

TO GO FURTHER :

Gender and Market Initiative: Empowering West African Women through Market-based Food Assistance : <https://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/106>

FOR THE LATEST INFO ON BURKINA FASO:

<http://www1.wfp.org/countries/burkina-faso>

SOURCE(S) :

WFP, 2016. Gender and Market Case Study #5: Markets, gender and women's empowerment in Burkina Faso.
Cluster Sécurité alimentaire, République Centrafricaine, 2017. Comment intégrer le genre dans la sécurité alimentaire.

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Photo page 1: WFP/Rein Skullerud