



Papaya Policy Brief E

Policy for Equity in Central-Eastern Africa 2002 - 2017

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*The extent to which agricultural policy frameworks in **Zambia, Tanzania** and **Malawi** integrate gender and generation into intensification activities varies: in Zambia, frameworks mainly refer to gender in terms of mainstreaming, numbers of beneficiaries within programmes and targeting, none give clear guidelines on operationalisation nor are gender roles and relations recognised. Youth are barely mentioned. In Tanzania, frameworks aim to promote equitable participation but it is difficult to track progress due to a lack of disaggregated monitoring data. Furthermore, key frameworks are silent on intra-household gender relations. In Malawi, key policy documents single out women and youth as prioritised groups and include measures such as 50% participation of women in programmes and projects. However, key initiatives such as the Farm Input Subsidy Programme still marginalise women and youth.*

***Zambian** AFRINT data 2002-2013 shows how women-headed households have similar levels of livestock, household labour and adult equivalence scores to married households. However, they still have lower levels of education, less land, hire less labour and have less mobility. Indeed, the panel data shows that women-headed households' access to land has decreased since 2002 at the same time as married households' landholdings increased substantially. Both household types show a large increase in the number of livestock. Maize production shows a significant difference between married and women-headed households whilst trends in both maize area and yields do not show statistical significance.*

Village-level data from Mkushi district shows considerable differences in performance: conservation agriculture increased production and yields considerably in one village, in another, farmers pursued crop diversification focusing on soya instead of maize; in a further village, proximity to commercial farms meant farmers opted to hire out labour rather than focusing on agriculture. When we look at maize trends in Mkushi by gender, we find no significant differences between women-headed households and married households. In other words, women-headed households have shared in the rapid increases in maize production and productivity from 2002-2013.

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Malawian AFRINT data from 2002-2013 shows that women-headed households in Malawi have lower levels of education, less land, livestock, access to adult household labour and adult equivalence scores than their married counterparts. Furthermore, they hire less labour and are less mobile (as proxied by bicycle ownership). Nevertheless, despite fewer assets and less mobility, women-headed households have shared in maize productivity improvements from 2002-2013 and have matched married households maize performance in many ways.

The data shows different intensification dynamics taking place in Dedza and Ntchisi districts. In Dedza, one village increased both maize area and fertilizer application leading to much greater production, yields and sales. In the other three villages production stagnated. In Ntchisi district agricultural trends were similar to the national level: maize area declined slightly; production increased slightly; yields increased considerably. Farms managed by women reduced the area under maize by a significantly greater amount than married households, had a slight reduction in able workers and had a slightly lower increase in the amount of NPK applied to maize. Whilst this led to a slight reduction in maize production, productivity of women-headed households was slightly higher than that of married households.

Tanzanian AFRINT data 2002 – 2015 illustrates a rapidly changing rural landscape: average maize yields and sales have increased significantly in both districts; the use of tractors has increased considerably; the average area under paddy has increased slightly whilst paddy production almost doubled. Married households use most improved/hybrid seed, enjoy double of the paddy yields of farms managed by women, sell most maize and enjoy greater income and more assets. However, farms managed by women have outperformed married households in terms of increases in maize productivity 2002-2015, increasing yields by 98% compared to 43% (albeit from a lower base).

District-level stakeholders in all three countries highlighted the actors involved in agricultural intensification, the opportunities and challenges they face in integrating gender and generation as well as how key entry-points for improving equity.

In Mkushi, *Zambia*, the Sustainable Development Goal of including at least 30% women in all programmes and projects had trickled down to the district level with actors now working actively to promote women's participation. Some NGOs in Mkushi were providing free extension services to women and youth. Others had provided bicycles to women to improve mobility. *Zambian* stakeholders suggested a wide range of ideas for how equity in sustainable intensification could be improved in Mkushi: to promote land titles for women and youths to access loans; engage churches to assist in breaking cultural and social barriers; for banks to provide preferential interest rates for women and youths; and for banks to reserve a certain portfolio, such as 30%, of loans for women and youth.

In Dedza and Ntchisi districts in *Malawi*, gender and generation is already firmly established at the level of discourse and policy. Indeed, the key actors not integrating gender and generation into their intensification activities in Dedza are those marketing produce, such as the Agricultural Commodity Exchange (ACE) and crop traders. This is significant in that the marketing of produce is particularly problematic for women in female-headed households. District stakeholders suggested that ACE could be providing women-specific services rates, such as reduced storage fees, to encourage women's involvement in marketing of crops. Participants in Ntchisi suggested putting in place mentorship programmes and encouraging women and youth to compete for leadership positions.

District-level workshops in Kilombero, Iringa and Mafinga in **Tanzania** highlight how gender equity is constrained by cultural beliefs about the position and roles of women in society and that specifically within agriculture, women are seen as fragile and not suitable for certain agricultural tasks. Key challenges to integrating gender and generation more systematically within service delivery included the unpredictability of government and frequent changes in regulations that constrain individuals in their work. Furthermore, access to resources, both financial and in terms of human capacity, was seen to be problematic.

Participants proposed a series of useful measures: that processors improve working conditions within factories to attract women and youth in value-addition activities; to encourage and where possible facilitate ownership of land for women and youth; to promote contract farming with women and youth; to work with women and youth groups to establish greenhouses for high value crops such as vegetables. It was also felt that women were more trustworthy as compared to men in relation to finances and should therefore be targeted for loans, something that is surprisingly not happening already.



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