

# Trans-SEC

Innovating pro-poor Strategies to safeguard Food Security using Technology and Knowledge Transfer

## Cultural and gender differences in assessing Upgrading Strategies (UPS) for enhancing food security in Tanzania

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### INTRODUCTION

Food insecurity is a main threat to rural poor smallholders around the world. In the Trans-SEC Project a large consortium of scientists is developing **Upgrading Strategies (UPS)** along the **Food Value Chains (FVC)** of two Tanzanian regions - semi-arid Dodoma and sub-humid Morogoro - in order to enhance their food security. Our hypothesis is that **nationality/cultural background and gender of the scientists** may influence their decision making, while assessing the UPS upon potential, importance and feasibility for implementation in the regions.

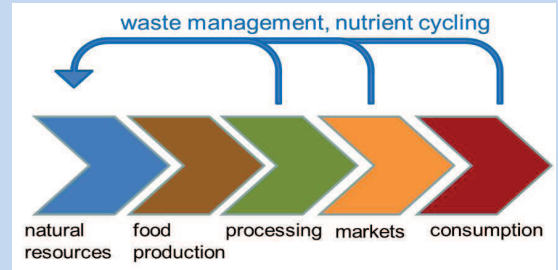


Fig.1: Six Food Value Chain components

### MATERIAL and METHODS

We carried out a **questionnaire based ex-ante expert assessment of the potentials and feasibility of 42 UPS** among the 6 FVC components Natural Resources, Food Production, Food Processing, Markets, Consumption and Waste Management (Figure 1). **29 out of 90 researchers** of the Trans-SEC consortium (response rate of 34 %), **20 male and 9 female**, responded. These were **18 Tanzanian and 11 German scientists**. The questionnaire was analysed, amongst others, for **differences in responses of scientists regarding their nationality/ cultural background and their gender**.

### NATIONAL / CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

#### Results on the potentials of Upgrading Strategies:

We found many North-South differences among the assessments of all UPS for both regions. Scientists of one nationality tend to rate the UPS similarly for both regions.

	Upgrading Strategies with highest potential for implementation					
	Dodoma			Morogoro		
	Tanzanian	%	German	%	Tanzanian	%
Natural Resources	Rain Water Harvesting	94	Rain Water Harvesting	83	Agroforestry	62
Food Production	Improved Crop Varieties	77	Manure Input	100	Improved Crop Varieties	82
Food Processing	Oil extraction processes	71	Preservation Techniques	57	Food Storage Devices	67
Markets	SACCO's	81	Communication Techniques	60	SACCO's	86
Consumption	Nutrition Awareness Training	58	Diet Diversification	63	Nutrition Awareness Training	55
Recycling	Food Waste for biogas	58	Waste Water Irrigation	80	Crop Residues as Mulch and animal feed, waste water irrigation	29

Fig.3: Examples for different assessments by Tanzanian and German Scientists showing similar ratings for both regions by scientists with the same nationality (grey) and similar ratings of UPS for one region by scientists from both nationalities (blue).

#### Relevance of FVC components:

We found differences in the importance and feasibility for the implementation of UPS within FVC components between German and Tanzanian scientists, in particular regarding their regional relevance.

### CONCLUSION

The assessment of **Upgrading Strategies and Food Value Chain components** differed largely between scientists of **Tanzanian and German nationality**, especially regarding UPS that are closely linked to the site specific conditions. We assume this to be caused by different professional backgrounds, perceptions, and experiences regarding the **Tanzanian regions and stakeholders**.

**Male and female scientists** assessed the UPS differently especially regarding their **site-specification** as well as on aspects of **technical input** (e.g. oil extraction processes). However, gender-differences in assessments seem not to be decoupled from scientists' knowledge and experiences about UPS and sites.



Fig.2: Food Value Chain components with all Upgrading Strategies.

### GENDER DIFFERENCES

We found gender-related differences in assessing the **potential of UPS** throughout both regions and all FVC components, but mainly regarding **Waste Management, Markets, Food Production and Consumption**.

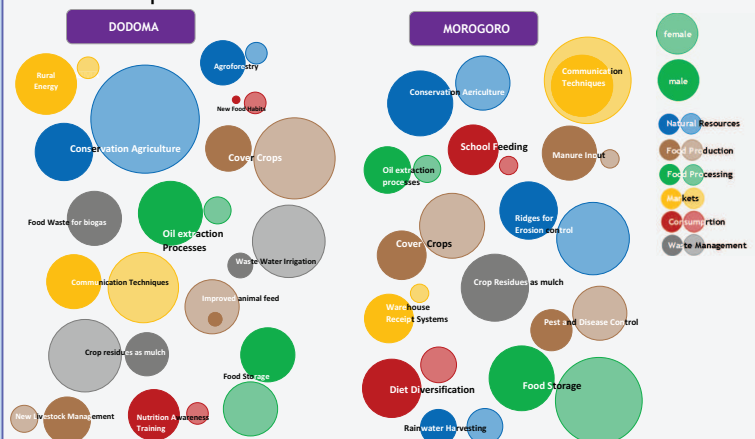


Fig.4: Differences between assessments of UPS with high potential done by female and male scientists.

