



Gender-sensitive actor characterisation and analysis within the pineapple value chain in Uganda

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Introduction

- Actor characterisation and analysis is an important pre-requisite for effective participatory stakeholder processes, integral to transdisciplinary research on value chains (VC).
- Individuals’ interest and needs in the VC differ depending on who is involved at various points in the VC. This is strongly influenced by gender.

Aims of the study:







- Analysis of the gendered distribution of VC functions and the identification of constraints for women’s participation.
- Analysis of how women and men experience the VC in similar and contrasting ways regarding the challenges they face in their business.

Conclusions

- Women mostly act in the VC as farmers, market sellers and local processors. In Ntungamo they are additionally involved as local wholesale traders.
- Constraints for women’s participation in the VC are due to social norms, lack of resources and shortage of time.
- Some women are better able to negotiate gendered constraints by making use of their wealth, experience and social capital.
- Challenges highlighted by all actor groups include the lack of market during peak seasons and unreliable business relationships.
- Additional challenges differ by region and by gender with women experiencing more challenges related to physical labour, shortage of time and social norms.

Results

Gendered distribution of value chain (VC) functions

Gendered participation		Explanatory statements by chain actors	
More men	More women	Ntungamo	Masaka
←-----→			
Farmer		 <p>"Women do not have land [...] women cultivate a small piece of land but the big farms are for men."</p>	<p>"For husband and wife, it is the husband who has authority over land."</p>
Transporter		 <p>"You have to get helpers to cut and carry to the center. Men can cut and carry themselves."</p>	<p>No women involved in transportation</p>
Small-volume Broker		 <p>"[...] men can go early morning and come back late in the evening, which women can't do."</p>	<p>"It's difficult for a woman to move around driving looking for pineapples. Pineapples are not only found in one area"</p>
Large-volume Broker		 <p>"Women have many domestic roles at home, so they have to buy [pineapples] in nearby places"</p>	<p>"Pineapple business is mostly done at night and such work is not good for women who are married."</p>
Kampala and regional trader		 <p>"For women, we attract more customers. [...] Customers like buying from women so it's an advantage."</p>	<p>"When we look at the stall sellers the majority are women."</p>
Street-side vendor		 <p>Munanasi not typically produced in Ntungamo *munanasi is juice made by squeezing and boiling pineapple with tea leaves, ginger and sugar</p>	<p>"Mostly there are ladies in shops selling [munanasi] but if men have shops then they might sell munanasi too."</p>
Local wholesale trader			
Market seller			
Local processor (munanasi*)			

Source: observation, semi-structured questionnaires (n = 112), participatory group activities (n=22)

Examples of women using social capital to overcome constraints and challenges to their participation in the VC

Female farmer, Masaka "A friend came and asked me to start with pineapples and I said I have no potential and capital. She said that she will get me a cheap place and you hire one acre, it was 70,000/UGX so I hired the land and planted. [...] From that day I kept on expanding."	Female trader to Kampala, from Masaka "Where I sell pineapples at the [main] market, there are only two traders who are women; but like 30 traders who are men because we face more challenges [...] I have good relations with the chairman [of the market] and he has really helped me a lot in Kampala. If someone comes and steals pineapples from me, even when he is far already the chairman asks him to bring them back."
Female broker and local trader, Ntungamo "To become a broker, I learned it from my husband. [...] the [traders] came to know and trust me because of my husband."	

Source: excerpts from a narrative interview question (n = 3 interviews)

Insight into the different typical challenges faced by actor groups


Most actors	Primarily Ntungamo	Primarily Masaka	Primarily women	Primarily men
Lack of market and low prices during peak seasons	Limited access to pineapple fields due to steep terrain and poor roads	Bargaining power typically held by traders	Physical labor challenges	Pressure of being the breadwinner for one or multiple households
Breaking agreements and unreliability in business relationships	Damages during transportation	Scarcity of fertile soil	Time shortage	
Lack of capital and resources		Price and quality of chemical inputs	Burden of household and childcare responsibilities	
		Changing, unpredictable climate	Restrictive social norms	

Source: semi-structured questionnaires (n = 112), participatory group activities (n=22)

Study locations: 2 areas in Uganda

Itojo subcounty, Ntungamo district
>1200mm/year rainfall. Peak seasons: March, April; Sep-Nov

Transport: Bicycles and motorcycles from gardens to collection center and local market. Cars, trucks and taxis to regional and international markets.



Kyanamukaaka subcounty, Masaka district
>1200mm/year rainfall. Peak seasons: January, July

Transport: Pickup trucks from gardens to collection centers, then trucks to Kampala and international markets. Cars and motorcycles from gardens to Masaka town.

Source of map: www.wikipedia.org

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