



GENDER DYNAMICS IN SMALLHOLDER VEGETABLE PRODUCTION: INSIGHTS FROM TANZANIA

Nicolas Patt¹, Gundula Fischer², Andreas Gramzow³, Philipo Joseph Lukumay³

¹Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Rural Development and Agricultural Economy

²International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Africa RISING, Tanzania

³AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Tanzania

Corresponding author email: npatt09@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

This study investigates gender dynamics in vegetable producers' households as related to labor, income and expenditure allocation — a topic that has not yet been sufficiently researched. It addresses the following questions: Who invests how much labor in the vegetable production process? Who gains how much income from vegetable sales? And finally, who covers which household expenses through the income gained? Research was conducted under the Africa RISING project funded by USAID and led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Target areas are the Babati, Kiteto and Kongwa districts in northern and central Tanzania.

METHODOLOGY

SURVEY

- Collection and analysis of quantitative data from 403 male and female vegetable farmers, living in target villages

STAKEHOLDER VALIDATION

- Validating and contextualizing quantitative findings during focus group discussion with gender-separated farmer groups

FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS

- Clarifying remaining questions through key informant interviews
- Examining environment of households



Fig 1: Female farmers improving soil quality through mulching

KEY FINDINGS

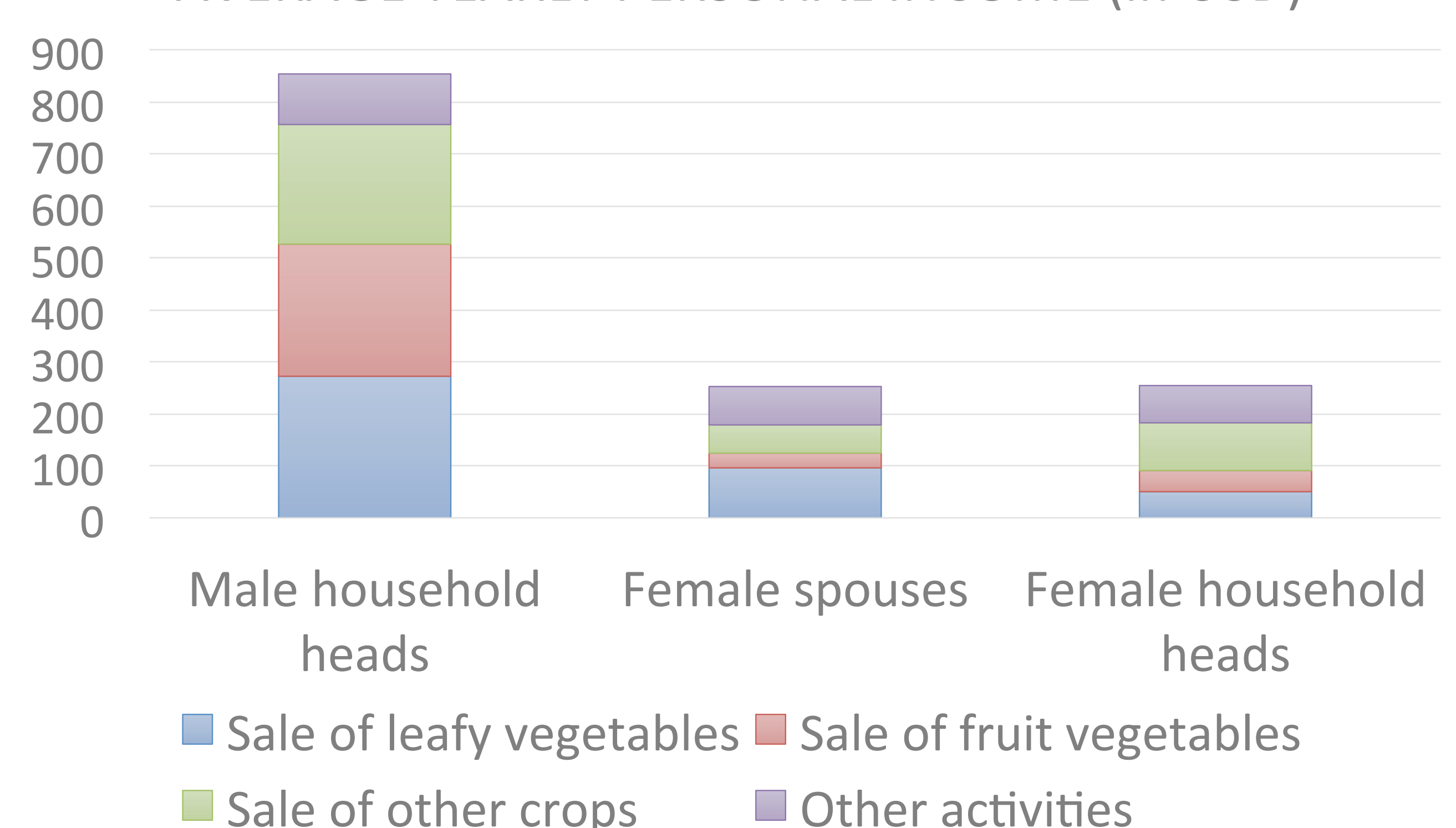
LABOR, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ALLOCATION

- In male-headed households both male and female respondents perceive their own labor share to be higher than that of their partner
- Men receive and control significantly higher amounts of money than women (income and expenditures)
- While male and female household heads received equal amounts of money through leafy and fruit vegetables, women in male-headed households mainly received income through leafy vegetables
- Information on own income is in most cases not shared among husbands and wives
- Patterns of cooperation vary considerable between households

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Vegetable production may constitute a beneficial livelihood strategy and economic niche for women in rural areas
- Low cooperation and distrust between household members are serious obstacles for poverty reduction, food security and women empowerment
- Development interventions should address underlying gender issues by gender-transformative approaches that engage both men and women in dialogue and activities

AVERAGE YEARLY PERSONAL INCOME (in USD)



The Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

www.africa-rising.net