

Gender Inequalities in Cocoa Farming and Farmland Ownership in Ghana

Kwabena Buabeng¹, Katharina Löhr¹, Stefan Sieber¹

¹Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany

Background

- Customary and statutory laws play a role in the Ghana's land tenure system.
- Land ownership is mostly private (though small percentage is owned by the state), managed by customary authorities.
- Both formal and informal routes exist to accessing land.
- Women largely do not own land thus, are unable to be actively integrated into cocoa farming as own account farmers.



Fig. 1: Map showing the study sites

Objectives

- To design and adopt community-based strategies to address the needs of women cocoa farmers in terms of land ownership and access to training on good agricultural practices.
- To generate a more reliable data based on the entire network of labour and land tenure systems to guide the implementaion of evidence based interventions.

Table 1: Gender roles on small-scale cocoa farmers in Ghana (Source: Agyare-kwabi, 2009)

Activity	Women	Men
Weeding and land preparation	Mostly women	Some men
Purchasing of cocoa seeds/ seedlings	Some women	Mostly men
Planting	All	All
Intercropping of food crops	Mostly women	Few men
Cocoa spraying	Exceptional cases BUT women fetch water for mixing of chemicals	Mostly men
Harvesting/plucking	Some women	Mostly men
Pod breaking	All	All
Carrying to homestead/ depots	Mostly women and hired labourers	Some men
Fermenting, Drying and portorage	All	All
Bagging	Some women	Mostly men
Sale to local buying agencies	Few women who own their farms	Mostly men

Methodology

- Capabilities and Vulnerabilities Analysis framework & Moser framework (March et al., 1999) to assess gender roles in cocoa farming activities, with a focus on
 - ✓ the types of farm activities women participate in,
 - ✓ why they participate, and
 - ✓ how they significantly differ in terms of the challenges they face on the farmlands.
 - ✓ social differentiation such as class, age, race and ethnicity. Following the theories of the frameworks.

Tools: Semi-structured questionnaire

Descriptive statistics and nonparametric test

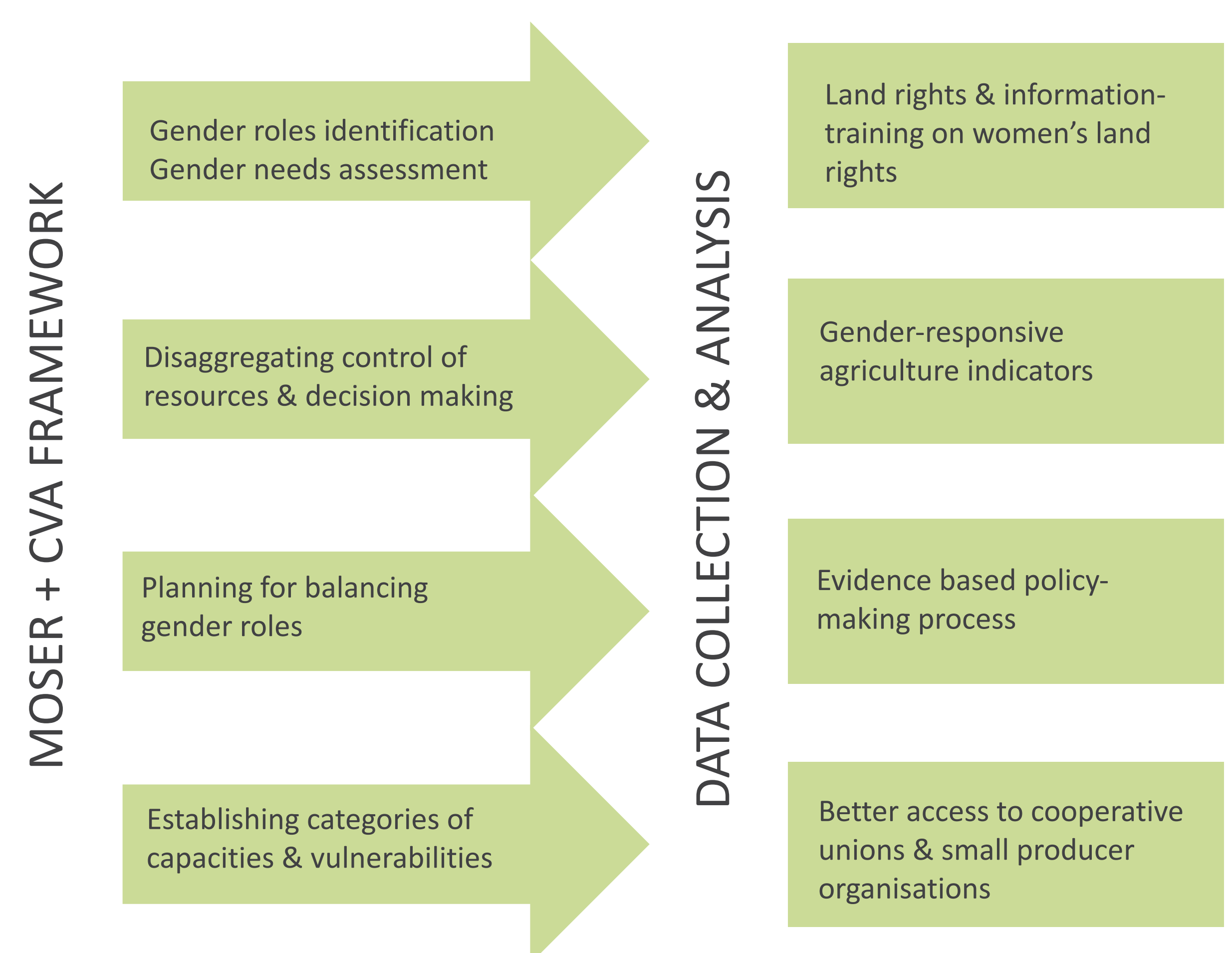


Fig. 2: Conceptual framework to address women's constraints in cocoa farming/land ownership

Expected results

- Bridge the research and policy gap of gender-sensitive research designs with appropriate sampling, which accounts for the heterogeneity among women involved in cocoa farming and, most importantly, includes hard-to-reach and especially disempowered women
- Generate more reliable data based on the entire network of labour and kinship relations surrounding a cocoa farms
- Understand the power relations revolving around cocoa production
- Identifying ways to effectively engage with women cocoa farmers while assessing possible women-specific risks and vulnerabilities

References

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