



# Smallholder Women Farmers Impediments a risk to Agro ecological Farming Success

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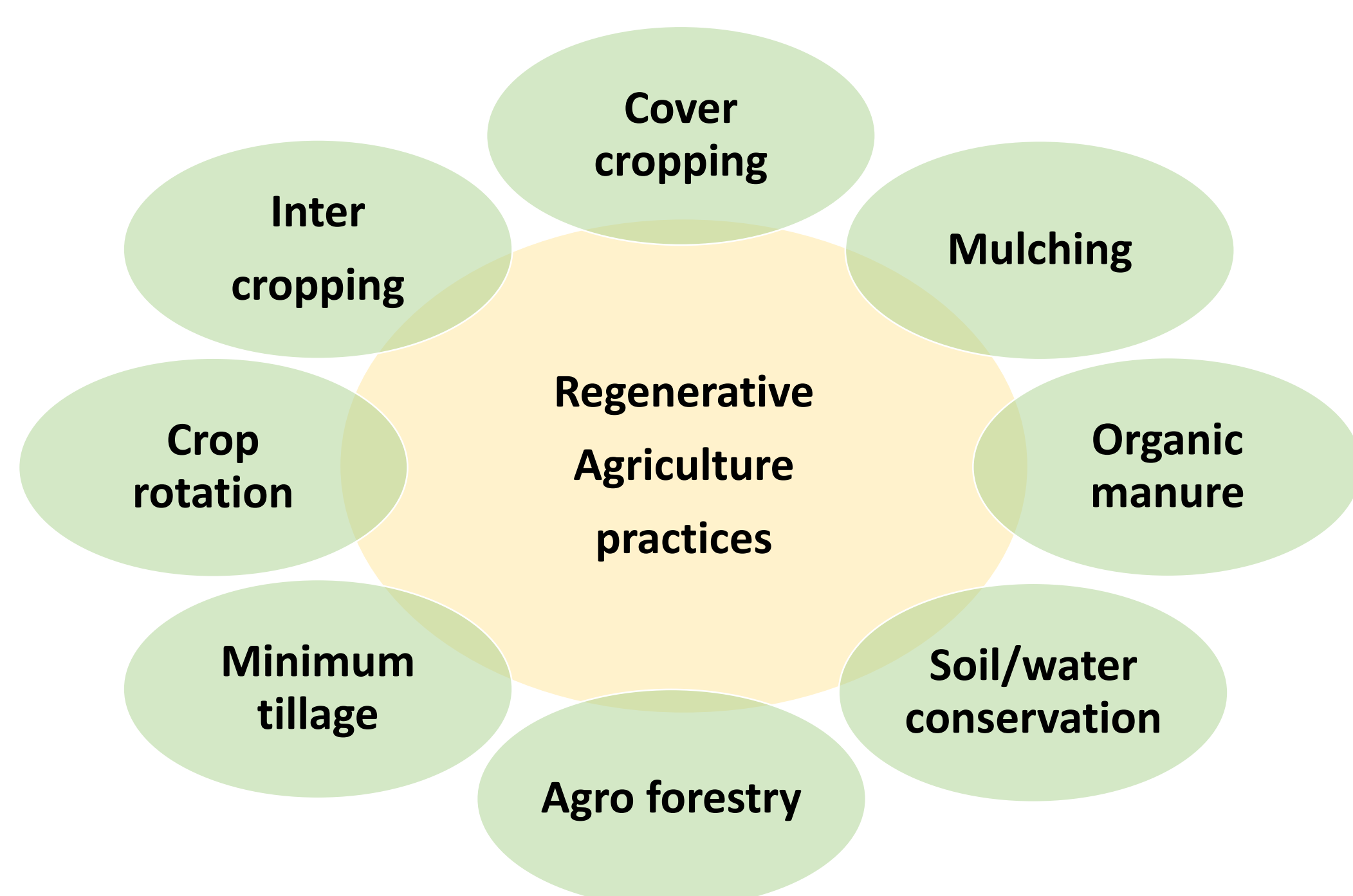
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## Introduction

- Climate change effects have seriously affected smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, with women smallholder farmers more negatively affected (Goh, 2012)
- Agro ecological and regenerative agricultural practices have been promoted as alternatives especially to smallholder farmers
- However, while these practices have been widely tested and adopted, there is limited evidence if they do really work for women

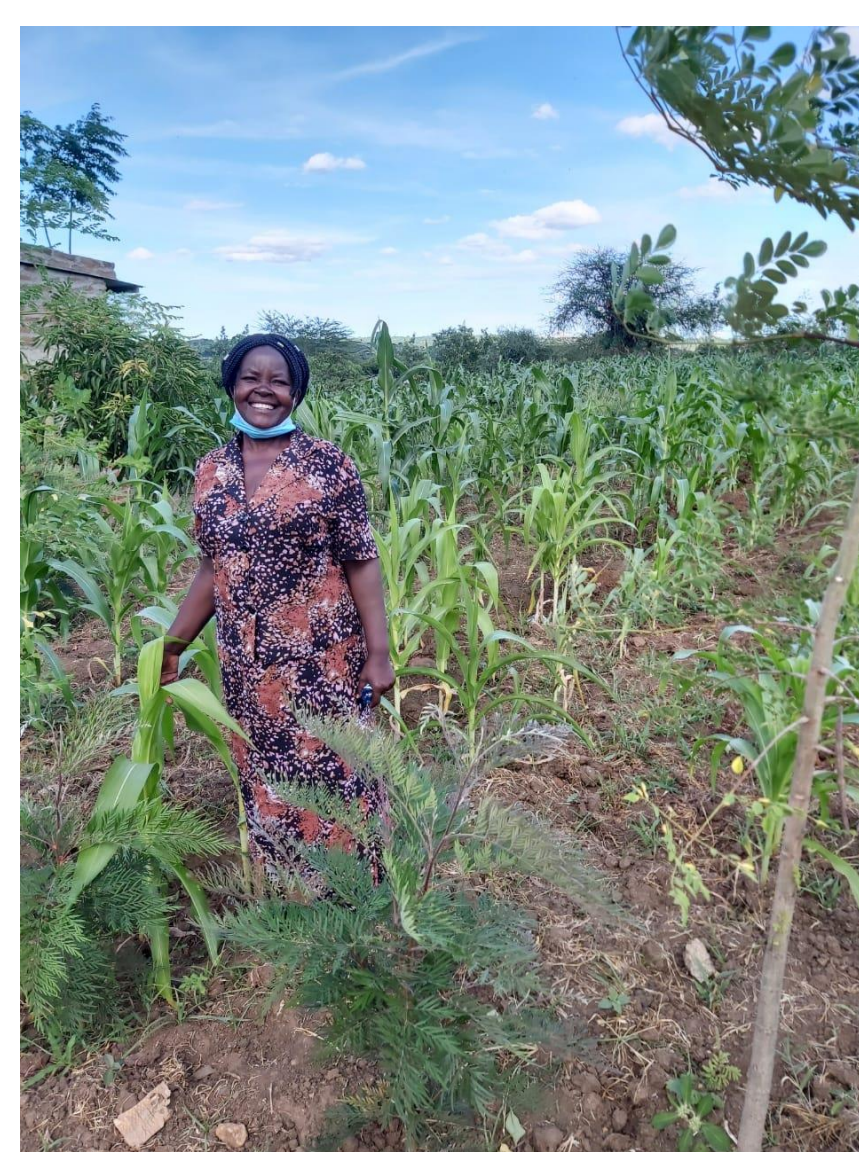
## Case Study Selection

- Project sought to scale up regenerative agriculture (RA) practices among smallholder farmers in Makueni county, Kenya
- Achieved through a sustainable village based advisors business model
- Project carried out by Cereal Growers Association Kenya and funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa



## Methods

- Research design – Case study
- Stratified random sampling and random sampling techniques
- Data collection method: semi-structured interviews
- Data analysis: Content Analysis
- Selected 96 farmers who had implemented at least one RA practice. 72% were women



Female farmer interviewed at her farm

### Typical farming practises



Planting basins



Terrace

## References

- Goh, A. H. (2012). A literature review of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change on women's and men's assets and well-being in developing countries. International Food Policy Research Institute, CAPRI Work, 1-44.

## Results

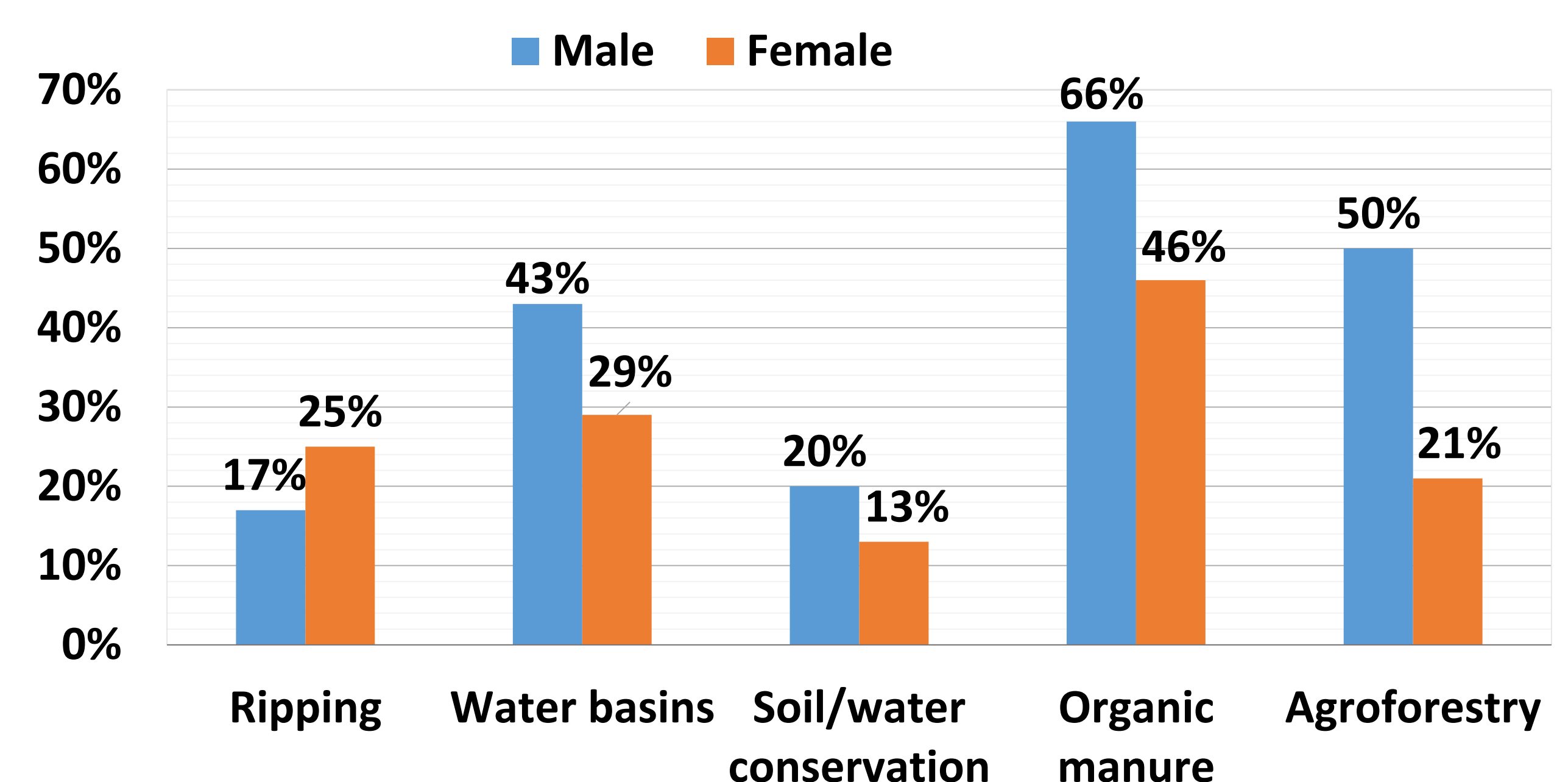
- Women reported more barriers to RA adoption compared to men

Women's barriers to adoption	Men's barriers
Some practices time consuming, need energy and labour which the women lack	Limited finance to implement
Limited decision-making powers on family land	
Culturally women do not make farming decisions	
Limited financial capacity to implement e.g. hire labor, machinery, purchase inputs	

- Women reported four out of eight RA practices as being difficult
- Women from more marginalized areas adopted the least RA practices

RA practices difficult for women	Reasons for difficulty
Minimum tillage	Need energy, labour or machinery
Soil and water conservation structures	labour intensive, technical know how needed
Organic manure	Heavy load to carry manure to farm and labour for application
Agro forestry	Need technical labour to establish nursery or capital to buy seedlings

- More men used these four RA practices compared to women



## Conclusion and Recommendation

- Innovative cheap mechanization should be considered
- Sensitization on issues of gender equality in families should be addressed by County Government
- Favorable loan products for women for farming activities needed
- Village-based advisors to continue to work with County Governments to assist farmers especially women

## Acknowledgements:

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