



# Gender Roles in Agroforestry: Challenges and Opportunities in Dodoma region, Tanzania



Photo by Mahlet Awoke, 2022, Dodoma, Tanzania

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## Introduction

- Agroforestry (AF) is a proven solution for enhancing agricultural productivity and addressing food security issues.
- In developing countries, women play a key role in agriculture, accounting for 60% to 80% of smallholder farmers (Uisso & Masao, 2016).
- Despite their considerable contributions, the investigation of gender role dynamics within the context of AF in Africa is understudied (Kiptot, Franzel & Degrande 2014).

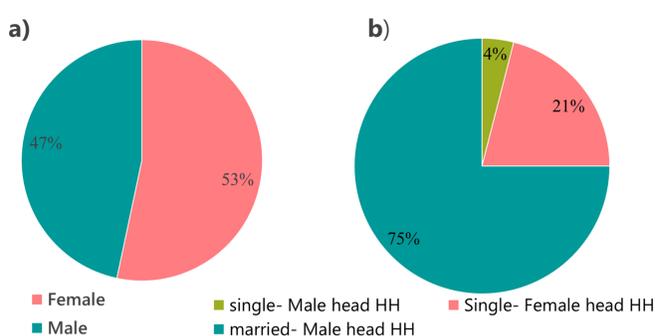
## Objectives

- Evaluating gender roles in AF by assessing the relative participation of women compared to men in AF and Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) technologies.
- Identifying factors influencing women's engagement in AF and SWC technology adoption.

## Material & Methods

**Case study Area:** The study was conducted in five villages located in the Kongwa and Chamwino District of Dodoma Region, Tanzania.

**Data Collection:** Household (HH) Survey: N=315 using stratified sampling  
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): N=54

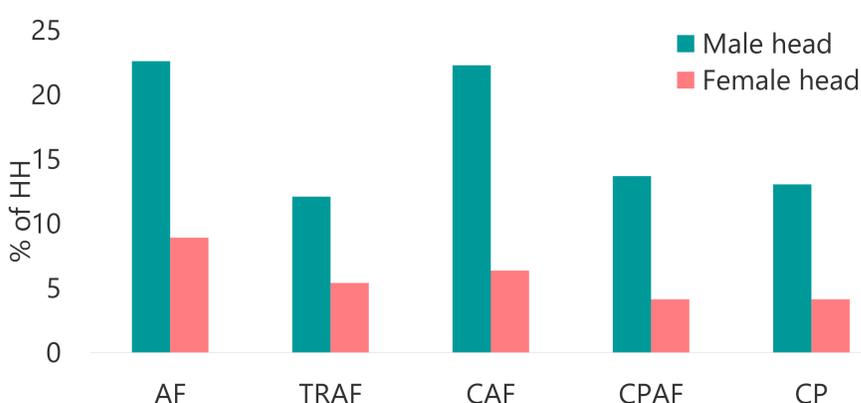


**Fig 1: a)** Respondents percentage by gender; **b)** HH Percentage by gender (N=315)

## Results

### Dominant AF and SWC practice in the case study villages

- Tree Intercropping (AF), chololo pit + tree intercropping (CPAF), tied ridges + tree intercropping (TRAF), contour planting+ tree intercropping (CAF), chololo pits (CP).



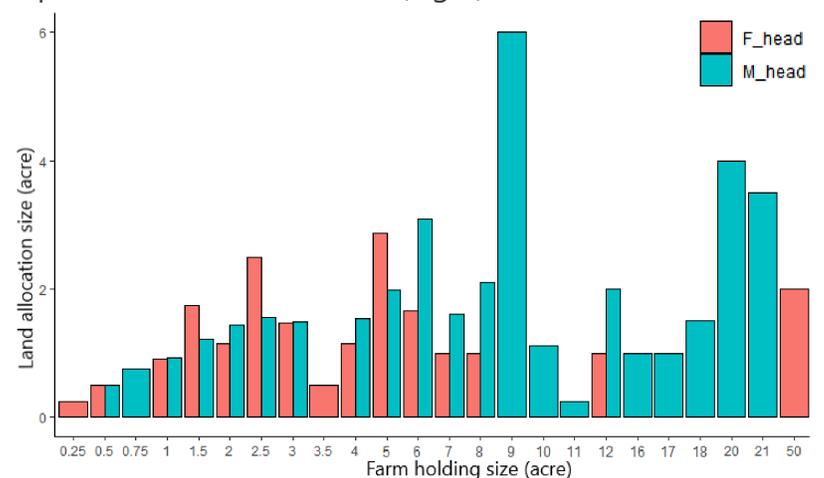
**Fig 2:** Practices of AF & SWC by gender of HH (N=315)

- Female farmers perceived AF alone as less labor-intensive compared to the other practices, while having a positive perception about the benefits of all practices under evaluation.

## Results Continued

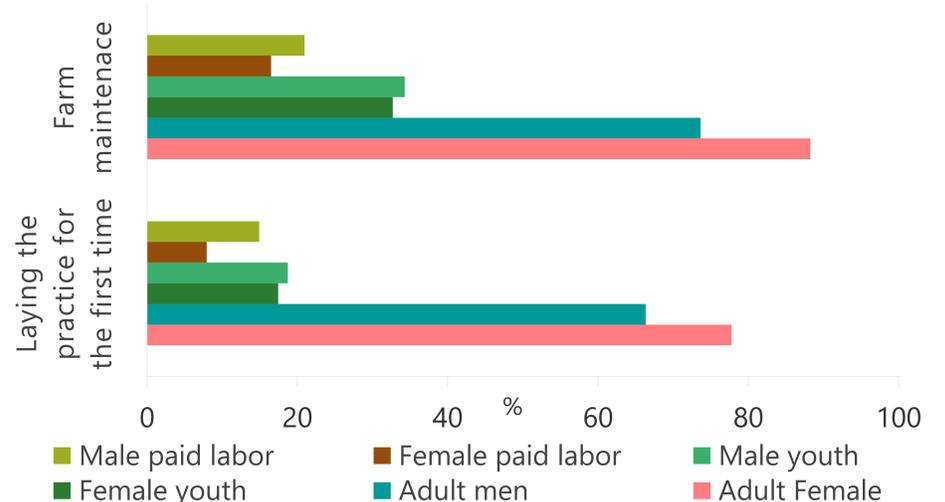
### Main constraints for female farmers when practicing AF and SWC

- High capital cost and lack of skilled labor particularly, for SWC (e.g. chololo pits).
- Lack of gender diversity in the agricultural extension services - No female extension workers in all case study villages.
- Male head HH owns more land and allocate more land to AF practice compared to female head HH (Fig 3).



**Fig 3:** Farm holding size and land allocation (in acre) to AF and SWC practices by gender of HH (N=315)

- Despite the constraints, female farmers are involved in a greater diversity of farm labor tasks compared to male farmers (Fig 4). Decision-making for crop type selection and farm income control was mainly joint.



**Fig 4:** Labor tasks related to farm activities by gender (N=315)

- More male paid labor than female paid labor.

## Conclusion and outlook

**Constraints:** Lack of capital, land ownership, labor intensiveness of SWC technologies, and lack of gender diversity in the agricultural extension services.

**Opportunity:** Positive perceptions about the benefits of the technologies.

- Establishing favorable conditions through increased credit access, resolved land entitlement issues, and greater involvement of female agricultural extension workers in the case study region can promote adoption and empower female farmers.