

Farmers perception of female extension services in Ghana

Kwabena Buabeng^{1,2}, Katharina Löhr^{1,2}, Richard Asare³, Stefan Sieber^{1,2}

¹Leibniz-Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF) e. V. Müncheberg, Germany

²Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, 10099 Berlin, Germany

³International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ghana



Introduction

- Women in developing countries are actively involved in agriculture but there is very little or no assistance in terms of access to incentives and most importantly extension services.
- In Ghana, it is estimated that female farmers are accountable for over 70 percent of total food production.
- Most agricultural training programs in Ghana target men as they are household heads and often have access to productive resources such as land.

Objective

- Investigate why women are disadvantaged in agricultural extension work.
- Identify the problems regarding ineffectiveness of extension programmes among women as well as recommend measures for improvement.

Methodology

- Case study method: Household survey and interviews in four communities each in the Western and Ashanti Regions of Ghana.
- Field data was analysed using various statistical tools including frequencies.
- Data was collected on 80 farmers (40 females and 40 males) from February to April 2022.



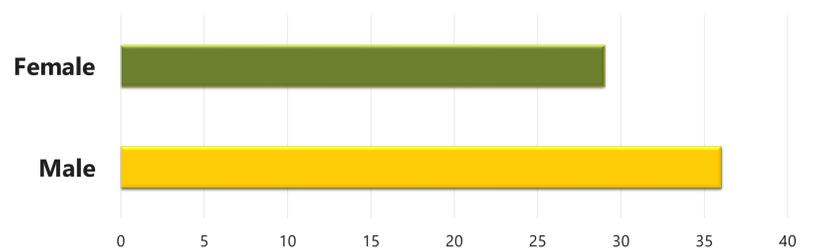
Photo: Interview with Female Farmer, Field Survey 2022- Akontombra, Western North-Ghana

Results

- Majority of the female farmers received less extension services as compared to their male counterparts and were not satisfied with the services they received.
- Male farmers have traditionally more access to various technologies, such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and credit resources.
- Female farmers are unable to do many agricultural activities and rely on hired labour to do so.

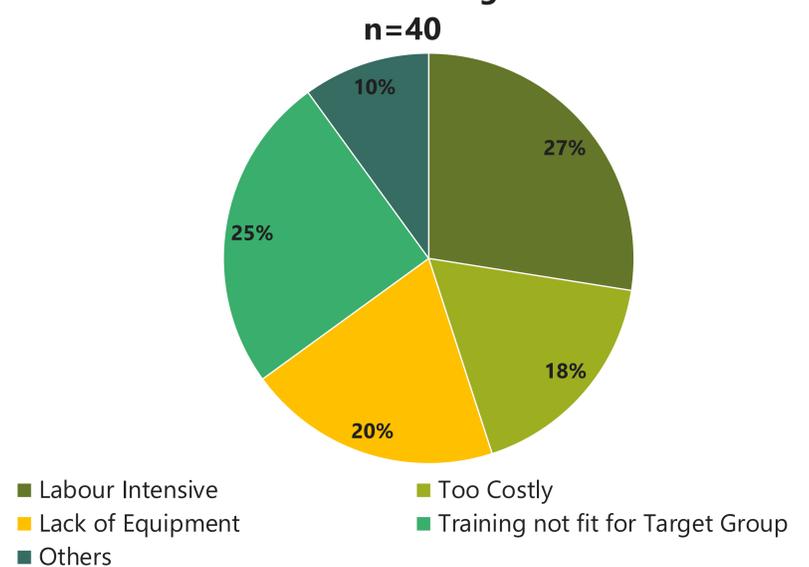
Access to Extension Services

n=80



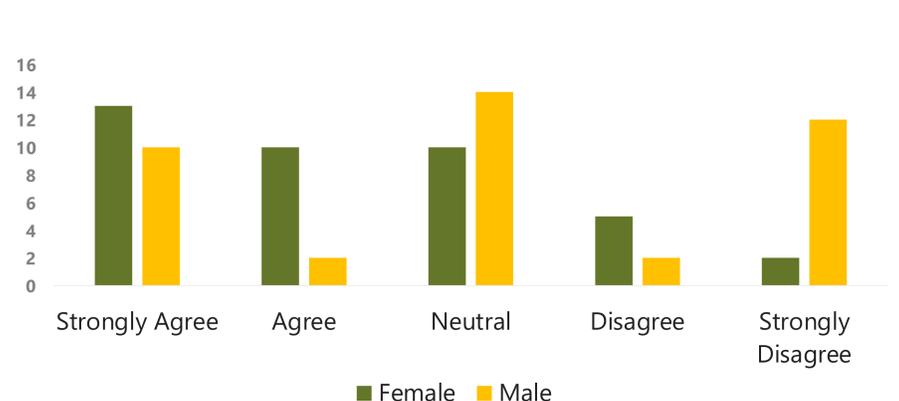
Reasons female farmers were not satisfied with training

n=40



Farmers' opinion on whether there should be more female extension officers as point of contact to women farmers.

n=80



Conclusion and Recommendation

- Lack of continuous refresher courses for female farmers to stay up-to-date with current practices is a major drawback to the effectiveness of extensive services targeted to female farmers.
- Extension programmes must consider the women to women contact as essential for ensuring that vulnerable or disenfranchised groups have better access to incentives.