



An Evaluation of Gender Roles, Relationships, and Social Equity in Post-harvest Management in Benin and Mozambique

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The Challenge

Current status of PHM issues

- Approximately one-third of the food produced (about 1.3 billion ton), worth about US \$1 trillion, is lost globally during postharvest operations every year
- PHM losses have been estimated to range between 20% and 40%
- Highest of these losses are associated with grains and pulses estimated at 20-30%
- Women are mostly involved in primary PHM processes



Background of the Study

Focus Countries: Benin and Mozambique

Overview

Aspect	Benin	Mozambique
Location	West African Country	SADC country
Levels of food insecurity	33.6%	20% - 30%
PH Losses of grains	15% - 30%	30%
Causes of PHL	Lack of proper storage facilities and poor mechanisation	Lack of proper storage facilities and poor mechanisation
Common PHL losses	Pest attack, rotting, breakages during processing, spillages	Rotting, rats, weevils, heavy rainfall, humidity, theft, lack of storage facilities, and spillage
Agriculture design	Subsistence farming contributing	Subsistence farming
Common grain crop	Maize	Maize



Project focus

- Grain and pulses
- Primary post harvest processing (drying, grinding, winnowing, separation, primary storage, etc)
- Small holder farmers
- Rural communities
- Men and women



Purpose and objectives

The overall objective of the studies was to assess the gender dimension in the post-harvest management and review existing gender roles and relationships and social equity in post-harvest management.



Specific objectives

- Identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities, with regard to how dimensions of gender and social equity of PHM are addressed in the existing policy frameworks and assess how the current situation can be improved
- Identify PHM innovations, tools, or mechanisms that enhance gender balance and social equity, which can be scaled up
- Draw general lessons on the participation of women smallholder farmers and marginalized social groups in PHM
- Develop and share policy recommendations at national and regional levels.



Results

- a) Division of labour in post-harvest management of grains in Benin and Mozambique;
- b) Marketing and selling of farm produce;
- c) Storage, preservation and use;
- d) Policies and legislation on gender and social equity that are relevant to PHM in Benin and Mozambique;
- e) PHM innovations;
- f) RAS, training, extension services and education and
- g) Gaps identified in PHM innovations.



a) Division of labour in post-harvest management of grains in Benin and Mozambique

In both countries – manual primary PHM processing are done by women while services requiring mechanical equipment are done by men.



b) Marketing and selling of farm produce

- Women in both countries are responsible for selling small quantities of grains & pulses that are not considered as cash generating crops. For example, crops like sorghum, millet, cow peas.
- Men in both countries oversee bulk sales of cash generating crops, storage management, stock taking and control over revenues from sales.



c) Storage, preservation and use

- Women's granaries are smaller than men's
- Preservation methods used by men are more expensive and effective compared to those used by women
- In Mozambique, 85% of people do not use any preservation techniques, 42% of these do not have knowledge on preservation
- Women are excluded in decision making regarding, use, sale of produce and asset ownership
- Women's harvests are used at household level for consumption



d) Policies and legislation on gender and social equity relevant to PHM

As much as both countries have gender and social equity policies, they do not mainstream PHM, thereby neglecting the existing gap of the practical and strategic gender needs of rural communities.

Benin

- National Gender Policy Promotion (PNPG)
- Strategic Plan for Agricultural Sector Revival (PSRSA)

Mozambique

- Mozambique Strategic Plan for Agriculture Development Sector 2011-2020
- Ministerio de Agricultura (MINAG)
- Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN)



e) PHM innovations and mechanisms

- In the Benese rural societies there are equipment that are used for post harvest handling of grains and pulses. For example, maize shellers, wheeler calibrator, portable gin, portable calibrator, among others.
- Some of the equipment are not relevant for women because of cost and some are difficult to handle.
 - Examples:
 - the calibrator winnower requires strength and diesel to start up,
 - wheeler calibrator uses an electric mortar and is costly to women and
 - the maize sheller, is heavy and not suitable for operation by women.
- Adoption of such has been slow in Mozambique due to cost



Innovation...

Storage structures
in Mozambique
(FAO)



Examples of Innovations in Benin

Solar dryer



Innovations ...

Thresher



Innovations...

Rice grader



Innovations...

Maize
thresher



f) Training, extension services and education

a) Public extension services

b) Training

c) Education



g) Gaps identified in PHM innovations and frameworks

Gaps common in Benin and Mozambique

- Existing gender related policies need to be improved to specifically link PHM, especially considering women, children and marginalised groups.
- PHM innovations disseminated to farmers have to be usable to women without seeking help of men.
- Women's opportunities in marketing cash generating food crops need to be increased
- Extension services, education and training do not proportionally include men and women.



Conclusion and Recommendations

- Agricultural policy development at national level should address PHM of grains and pulses adequately as these are the main staples in study countries.
- Understanding the socio-cultural needs and opinions of both men and women when implementing PHM interventions provides a positive framework for sustainability of the interventions.
- Further research on appropriate traditional technologies suitable for poorer farmers needs to be scaled-up if positive results are noted.



Thank You!!



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