

Women Role in Tobacco farming



MEETING

ITGA
International Tobacco Growers' Association

Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 5 - Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

(Source: United Nations)

End all forms of
discrimination

Equal rights to
economic
resources

Equal access to
technology

Ensure women's
participation in
decision-making

Promotion of
gender equality



Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 5 - Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (Source: United Nations)

Worldwide, women are just 13% of agricultural land holders

% of Women in paid employment outside Agriculture increased to 41% in 2015, from 35% in 1990

Ensuring women get equal opportunities will drive sustainable economic development at societies at large



Women Empowerment: Pillars

(Bayeh, 2016)



Economic



Social



Political



Environmental



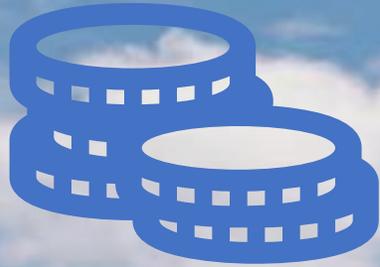


Women Empowerment

“Women and girls are more likely to be impoverished, less likely to get an education and more likely to suffer bad health. And when they’re born into poverty, it’s much more difficult for them to lift themselves and their families out of it”

Melinda Gates of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, *Why Poverty is sexist*, TIME Magazine, march 2016.





Women Empowerment: Economics

(Bayeh, 2016)

- One major of the major drives towards gender equality and women empowerment is Economics.
- Without economic empowerment it is unthinkable that women can surpass other barriers and become more active social and political members of their communities.
- Guaranteeing the generation of income by women is one of the first steps to ensure their development.



Women in Tobacco Farming



Women Empowerment: Education (Suen, 2013)

- Educating women generates additional benefits due to women passing their knowledge onto the next generation.
- This makes women a far more powerful agent in the sustainable development of communities.
- Enabling women to pursue their personal development will transform the skills of their families.
- African Proverb: ***“If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a nation.”***



MEETING



Women Tobacco Farming: Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul) (Fernandes, N.A.)



Respondents felt that growing tobacco was the only source of profitable income (Economic Empowerment)



Income derived from tobacco farming enabled women and their families to purchase high-cost items: build a house, acquire a vehicle, send children to school and have access to other material goods.



Due to the historical context of tobacco farming in the region, the activity has become a part of the community with women having family ties with the business.



Women Tobacco Farming: Southern Brazil

(Reis MM *et al.*, 2017)

- The study identified several drivers of tobacco cultivation in the region:
 - **Guaranteed market** (ensuring the family's income)
 - **The profitability of the crop** (especially on smallholding farms)
 - **The existence of technical and financial support during cultivation**
 - **Lack of alternatives**, difficulty accessing credit and indebtedness to tobacco companies.





Women Tobacco Farming: Southern Brazil

(Reis MM *et al.*, 2017)

- Reports from farmers:
 - “Production of food crops is only for big farmers, while smallholders are left with tobacco.”
 - “A hectare of tobacco guarantees your survival, while other crops with the same amount of land don’t guarantee survival.”
 - “Diversification really is necessary. If people had alternatives with the same quality of life, they’d stop planting.”



Women Tobacco Farming:

(Lee & Hu, 2016)



Women spend, at the very least, the same amount of time as men on tobacco farming, but they generally spent more time.

China: Women (6 to 8+ hours) and Men (4 to 5 hours)



Unequal pay (when workers were given a wage)

Men earned US\$ 11 per day

Women earned US\$ 8 per day



Women Tobacco Farming:

(Lee & Hu, 2016)



Women accompany their spouses to the tobacco sales to ensure that the income earned is not spent in the way home.



In African countries, the sale of tobacco and revenue collection is mostly associated with man, with women taking a minor role.



Women Tobacco Farming: China

(Lee & Hu, 2016)



Tobacco growers tend to have higher standards of living compared with growers of other crops (rice, corn or wheat).



Women on average spend much more time working on tobacco farming than Men (in addition to having to perform household chores).



Household decisions were equally shared



Average Income:
US\$ 2,240



Average Loan amount: US\$ 448



Women Tobacco Farming: China

(Lee & Hu, 2016)

Motivations to grow tobacco:

- Perceived higher profit (76%)
- Habitual practice (36%)
- Requests from authorities (22%)

Difficulties in tobacco farming:

- Natural Disasters (35%)
- Labor-consuming (25%)
- Lack of laborers (18%)





Women Tobacco Farming: Tanzania

(Lee & Hu, 2016)



Male-Headed Households (84%)



Women do not have the rights to the house and/or the land which leads to difficulties accessing bank credit (lack of collateral).



Houses with running water: 9.4%



Houses with electricity: 7%



Average income: US\$ 990



Average loan amount: US\$ 500



10% of Households are in continuous indebtedness



Women Tobacco Farming: Tanzania

(Lee & Hu, 2016)



Male dominated roles

- Sale of tobacco leaf to market
- Revenue collection from tobacco

Constraints for Diversification

- Lack of the necessary knowledge to switch to other crops as a source of income
- Requirement of special effort to provide financial support, agricultural technology and know-how
- Limited marketing opportunities





Women Tobacco Farming: Kenya

(Lee & Hu, 2016)



Male-headed Households (81%)



Households that own the land: 91%



Houses with running water: 22%



Houses with electricity: 12%



Average Income: US\$ 299



Average Loan amount: US\$ 200



20% of Households in continuous indebtedness



Tobacco Farming as an Empowerment Tool



According to the studies presented, **tobacco farming was stated as one of the few viable crops.**



Tobacco Growing Advantages:

The possibility to be stored for months before rotting.

The income is received in bulk



Tobacco works as tool for the emancipation of women by providing them with income to invest in their education. It will act as the stepping stone into a better future.



Future perspectives



Diversification is one of the leading challenges in this field: it becomes highly important to highlight the need for several criteria to be met to ensure that no one is left out of the process.



The various difficulties that the studies revealed must be taken into account to ensure that the livelihood of those who depend on tobacco is safeguarded.



Neglecting the economic needs of women is a threat to their independence.



References

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