

Project Information

- Country: Kenya
- Project Name: Project on Enhancing Gender Responsive Extension Services in Kenya (Technical Cooperation)
- Cooperation Period: 2014–2017
- Implementing Organization: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

1. Background and Project Summary

In Kenya, 70% of all agricultural productive activities are undertaken by women. Due to limited access to land, funds, technology, etc., however, their agricultural productivity is said to be lower than that of men by 20%–30%. In addition, as women also carry out most of the reproductive tasks including domestic duties and childrearing, their excessive workload often causes their agricultural productivity to deteriorate. Furthermore, it is normally men who manage incomes from sales of agricultural products and have the final say on family decisions. This is also a factor that causes women's motivation for engaging in productive work tending to decline.

Against such a background, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF) of Kenya established the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy in 2010, placing special emphasis on the roles of women in agriculture. In line with the strategy, the goal of which is to "promote gender-responsive policies, programs and projects for sustainable agricultural productivity and better living," the Kenyan government has been striving to facilitate gender equality and mainstreaming.

JICA implemented Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP) from 2006 through 2009, with the aim of increasing the management efficiency, productivity and incomes of smallholder horticulture farmer groups, thereby contributing to gender mainstreaming in the industry. The result also attests to the fact that promoting gender-equal farm management can contribute to the overall improvement of agricultural productivity and living standards.

MoALF rated the positive effects of SHEP highly and requested JICA to implement this project to further establish the gender mainstreaming approach introduced by SHEP within the ministry and spread it not only among smallholder horticulture farmers but also among smallholder producers of other agricultural products.

2. Gender-responsive Activities

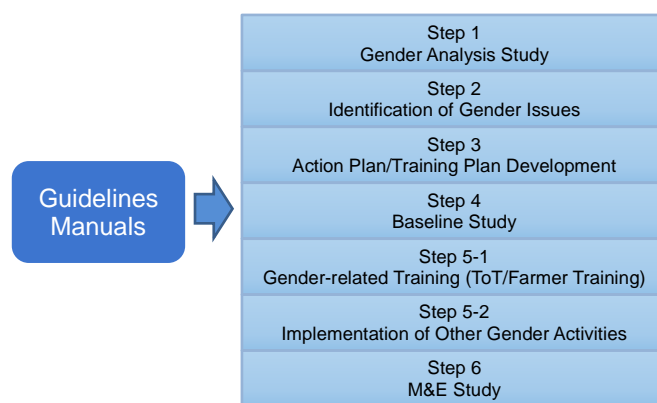
The objective of this project was to promote gender-responsive agricultural extension services by enhancing the institutional capacity of authorities involved in smallholder farmer support, thereby contributing to improving the livelihoods of female and male farmers.

More specifically, the following activities were implemented:

(1) Developing Gender Mainstreaming Package*

Detailed project cycle-based descriptions of a series of processes and methods for gender mainstreaming in smallholder farmer support projects, as well as tools necessary for implementation of these processes and methods, such as manuals, checklists and training modules, have been systematically organized and compiled into a package.

* "Gender Mainstreaming Package (GMP)" consists of manuals and guidelines describing how to mainstream gender at each stage of a project cycle.



(2) Boosting the institutional capacity of MoALF and county extension workers for more effective use of GMP

Proactive human resource development efforts have also been made through implementation of workshops and other training programs to allow GMP to be widely applied to, and practiced in, smallholder farmer support projects in Kenya.

(3) Introducing GMP to non-partner smallholder farmer support projects, as well as to county governments and agricultural training centers

To confirm the effectiveness of GMP, which it had developed, this project evaluated the quantitative effects of GMP through comparing baseline and end-line surveys in cooperation with other agricultural projects implemented by the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and other organizations. The result was that GMP was highly rated by involved parties, attested to by the fact that some were interested in introducing it to their subsequent projects.

3. Positive Effects of Gender-responsive Activities

This project has proved that GMP is an effective tool for gender mainstreaming and can improve the effectiveness of development projects.

The following describes the main effects identified through interviews conducted in the field:

(1) "Realization" of farmers and "transformations in the attitudes and behavior of men"

It has been confirmed that gender-related training (gender awareness building, family budget management, gender action plan establishment, etc.), designed to involve both men and women, resulted in actual changes, at agricultural household level, in the division of roles between men and women, and ways of thinking and attitudes about decision making.

In fact, men of farmer groups who participated in gender-related training have realized the realities of the workload faced by female farmers and begun to take measures to reduce their work burdens and manage their family finances together with their wives.

These male farmers are now aware of the fact that enhanced consciousness of male and female farmers as equal business partners and reflection of the experience and knowledge of women in management will lead to increases in the efficiency and profitability of farm management. Some men also say that they feel, through their own experience, that planning their household finances together with their wives allows them to manage their family budgets more efficiently.

(2) Empowering women

Female farmers all say that after the training their household workload has reduced, allowing them to save more time and energy spent on household chores to use it for agricultural productive work. They also add that the training has helped them to improve their own capacities, including the ability to think from multiple points of view, by learning how to efficiently manage farm and household budgets.

In this way, the project has contributed in reducing work burdens for women and involving them more in decision making regarding agricultural productive activities and managing household budgets. At the same time, it has also changed men for the better, resulting in greater productivity of farmers, and has triggered them to take specific action to resolve gender-related issues.

(3) Sustainability in post-project period

The Kenyan government continues to work to promote gender equality in agriculture to improve the livelihood of both male and female agricultural workers. The following describes the main reasons that there is a high prospect of sustainability after the completion of the project:

- [1] The Kenyan government clearly states about gender-responsive measures in official documents about agricultural projects targeted at smallholder farmers under the control of MoALF.
- [2] MoALF has a department in charge of promoting gender equality and staff members specializing in gender-related matters.
- [3] MoALF and county extension workers have improved their instructive and other skills and knowledge through support activities of this project.

For example, some extension workers have voluntarily provided gender-related training to non-

Photo) Gender-related training



targeted farmer groups and other extension workers in neighboring areas.

Conclusion

Transforming the attitudes and behavior of men and empowering women are vital elements of gender-related changes. When farmers come to realization themselves, such changes can be further accelerated.

This project has proven that gender-responsive activities can bring about changes to gender roles and relations at agricultural household level and contribute to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. In addition, it has also promoted gender mainstreaming from multiple perspectives throughout the Kenyan farming society. This suggests that gender-responsive activities should be proactively incorporated into other projects going forward.