Early insights into the Youth Transitions study

FP1 (CoA1.3)

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CC Activity: IDO- Equity and Inclusion achieved

SuB IDO’s

• Gender Equitable control of productive resources
• Technologies that reduce women’s labour and energy expenditure
• Improved capacities of women and young people to participate in decision making
Topical Conceptualization – Towards a GLDC Youth strategy

• What models would work for youth engagement in the GLDC value chains?
  
  • Who are the youth in the drylands?
  • What are the emerging gender issues?
  • What is the reality for GLDC?

Partnerships

  Makerere University – Uganda
  Sokoine University of Agriculture - Tanzania
  Haramaya University - Ethiopia
Definition of who the youth are in the drylands? Insights from Tanzania drylands, emerging gender issues..

(Sokoine University of Agriculture, ICRISAT)

In literature, youth are defined by age...15 to 40 years depending on the country, well documented in most policy documents

• But:
  ✓ What we are finding in the field, youth transition is a cultural process – and there are clear norms that guide the process.
  ✓ The transition pathway for the boy child and the girl child are very different and unique
  ✓ Girls are ‘youth’ for very short periods - 15-22 years and young men are youth sometimes for much longer, upto 40 years...
  ✓ If a girl child falls pregnant – a beginning of social exclusions - sets in (at the households, in the institutions and in programming of research and development programs)
  ✓ The girls ‘don’t identify as youth’...social norms don’t allow them to...
What is the reality for GLDC? Who are our clients? A developing hypothesis…

- Dryland farming is a reality for the youth (small scale, limited to food provision, markets are under developed)…not an aspiration

- Education investment is a pathway out of the drylands… to other careers. Those that don’t succeed in this pathway, most probably fall back into dryland farming.

- Young men have a higher probability of migrating to the cities with two outcomes – those that come back into farming and those that don’t come back into farming

- For the young mothers – the probability that they will get into dryland farming/and stay in two pathways - married or un-married. From farm survey data: women farmers are a majority of the rural households?

 ✓ Are we conscious of their needs of these young women? Do we reach them? Are we ready to scale GLDC technologies to this particular group considering their access, decision making, empowerment challenges?

 ✓ How is this scenario different in Uganda and Ethiopia? Is it a global issue?
AVISA/GLDC – Seed revolving fund, young engagement and gender inclusion (Proof of concept in Tanzania)

• Identification of commodity corridors
• SRF to stimulate company investments into groundnut/sorghum seed value chains
• Identifying key aggregators/processors driving demand in the commodity corridor:
  • Youth engagement – seed information, behaviour change communication (branding/information pack), aggregation of grain (trust?)
  • Role of women youth, empowerment training, financial access?
Other activities we have been involved in for the year

• Gender dynamics in the seed systems (FP4)

*What communication leads to women making decisions to use improved GLDC seeds?*

✓ Home saved seeds source not very popular (less than 2.2% for women)
✓ High use of friends, neighbours as source of seed/information about seed
✓ Frequent change of seeds, every 2-3 seasons –
✓ Behaviour change approach in popularizing improved varieties – main bottleneck in ‘branding/communication’ quality seeds of improved varieties
✓ Access to improved seeds in the local trading centres
✓ (role of cereal traders – as trusted source of grain/seed for women).
Gender Internship Program

• Innovation in funding, identifying Msc/PhD Students to contribute to the research studies
• 1 postdoc fellowship
• 2 Msc thesis (Gender gaps, cultural norms in seed access and utilization)
• 1 PhD on youth employment
• 2 conference papers at the Seeds of change conference in Australia.
Thank you

Demand-driven Innovation for the Drylands

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