

IDT8-049 | Women's production capacities enhancement and gender yield gap reduction in groundnuts in Uganda

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Literature shows that women in many African farming communities are more involved in agricultural production activities than men, but their capacities, including access to key farm resources and markets are lower, leading to gender differentials in productivity or yield gaps. In Uganda, women make up 53% of the agricultural labor force, but reportedly manage plots that are 20-30% less productive than plots managed by the men. This study analyses groundnut production differences among female and male farmers in Uganda. Yield gaps between the male and female farmers are considered at two levels; differences between actual and potential yields, and differences between expected and actual yields. A total of 240 randomly selected farmers (58% females) were interviewed using a pre-tested

questionnaire. Using regression analysis, factors that contributed to groundnut yield gaps among and between female and male farmers were determined. Results show that both female and male farmers experience a yield gap ranging from about 20% to 37%. The results further indicate that more men than women use improved seed, fungicides, and carry out timely weeding; the crucial factors that affect groundnut output and yield. Majority of farmers, especially women, use home saved seeds and fewer improved technologies due to high cost, leading to low production. Other factors contributing to the yield gap are socio-demographic, economic and institutional factors including less access to extension services by women, less access to and/or control over land, lower affordability of labor and other key inputs.

IDT8-050 | Groundnut gendered yield gap analysis in Tanzania: social and economic implication

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Tanzania is the sixth largest producer of groundnut in the world, which is grown for both food and income generation. However the average yield stands at 0.96 tons/acre compared to the world average of 1.5 tons/acre. This paper explores gender-related factors in groundnut production in Tanzania. The study is based on survey data collected from farmers randomly selected in the main producing regions of Shinyanga, Dodoma, Songwe and Mtwara, and it thus encompasses the socio-cultural and climatic differences. Data was analyzed using "gendered" stochastic frontier production function to establish factors affecting groundnut production across gender divides. The results

revealed that groundnut is the most important crop for all age groups and across gender divides. Participation in farm activities across locations is mostly by women and youth, particularly at the marketing stage. Female-headed households recorded lower productivity than male-headed households. The difference is attributed to factors related to differences in ownership of productive resources such as land, labour, improved seed and recommended production techniques. The paper recommends gender-specific support to close the yield gap, which will ensure equal income distribution and, hence, reduce poverty, especially in female farmers.