Open agriculture data and its potential to contribute to better development outcomes for Women in Africa

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The Context

- Women make up a significant part of the agricultural labour force in Sub-Saharan Africa at 54.7% and face more constraints than men across value chains.
- Targeted investments in women farmers and policies that close this gender gap in African agriculture could yield enormous benefits for women and their families, communities and countries.
- Closing the gender gap has potential to increase food security and improve livelihoods for Africa’s growing population.
The Policy Context

- The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the framework through which the goal of transforming agriculture in Africa is pursued.
- The CAADP Results Framework is an important instrument to guide planning and investments, and to measure, track and report progress on the agreed priorities. Key to this is **creating and sustaining a competitive and equitably-oriented agricultural sectors**
- Downstream, agricultural policy in many African countries, has not distinguished between men and women farmers and their different needs
Challenges facing women across agricultural value chains in Africa

- **Access to Land**
  - Land ownership
  - Land rights

- **Access to Finance and Financial Services**
  - Perceived High Risk
  - Lack of Management and Absorptive Capacities
  - Capacity of Financial Institutions

- **Access to Infrastructure**
  - Input-based infrastructure
  - Resource based infrastructure: Water/irrigation, Farm power/energy
  - Hard and Soft infrastructure
  - Institutional infrastructure

- **Access to Training and Technology**
  - Developing women's technical and entrepreneurial skills

- **Access to Information**
  - Knowledge and training in farming methods and techniques
What are the solutions?

- Institutional Transformation including Land Policy and Regulatory Framework, Fiscal Spending on Agriculture, Farm-level Institutional Efficiency and Evidence Based Gender Sensitive Policy Practice and implementation
- Access to Productive Resources
- Investment in Hard and Soft Infrastructure
- Development of high-value opportunities in agricultural value chains
- Increased Access to Technology and Mechanised Methods
Our Proposition

- Challenges affecting women in Agricultural value chains across Africa are interconnected across different issues and sectors.

- To address these challenges we have to generate data and evidence at the nexus of multiple interconnected issues to inform effective and sustainable responses.
- Access to affordable energy sources to address post-harvest losses through preservations e.g. boiling milk
- Availability of energy to turn harvest into nutritious meals
*Example datasets:* Data on access to energy, post-harvest losses etc

- Protecting communities’ access to sustainable energy such as firewood from forests and arable land while protecting the environment and clamping down on activities such as illegal logging
*Example datasets:* Data on deforestation, weather data and access to affordable clean energy etc

- Time spent collecting firewood and water which are critical in agricultural processes
*Example datasets:* time use survey data

- The manner in which land is accessed, allocated or transferred, controlled, and used
*Example datasets:* land use data and land rights
Benefits of Open Agriculture Data

- Increased access to accurate, timely information on improved farm practices such as precision agriculture and predictive farming
- Provide information for evidence informed and better coordinated policy responses and decisions by businesses and policy-makers
- Better tracking of progress and increased awareness of what works and what doesn’t
- Encourage cooperation and collaboration to solve long-standing and evolving problems
Opportunities for Strengthening Open Data Adoption & Use

• Strengthening policy environment for open and shared data and for inclusive and sustainable agriculture
• Building capacity in African governments and for farmers to support evidence-informed decisions
• Strengthening data ecosystems to collect, manage and share adequately disaggregated open and easy to use data on agricultural value and chains and on adjacent sectors
• Ensuring data interoperability across sectors and agencies/ministries
• Using open data champions to sustain momentum on open data
• Activating open data as a tool for collaboration in multi-stakeholder environments
• Develop frameworks and models for benefit sharing across the data value chain, incorporating the rights of the least-favoured
Thank you!