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Rural Nonprofit Organizations in Haiti: Gender and Technology Transfer

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A trainee of the AREA Project interviewing a farmer from the Kenscoff region. AREA researchers conducted more than 800 interviews with Haitian farmers to learn, amongst others, about their barriers to adopt new technologies.

Photo credit: Pelo Calixe/AREA



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RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVE

Rationale

- Farmers' Organizations' Roles Globally and in Haiti
- Haitian women's historical role in agriculture (Marketing and Production)

Objective

- Identify gender-related factors, if any, that could influence technology adoption by farmers in Haiti

Site of the Study

- Kenscoff - a municipality near the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince



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AREA PROJECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPERIMENT

- Testing three widely used models of technical assistance; Farmer Field School model, the Master Farmer model, and the Extension Education model
- Gender dynamics in the farmer organizations as a component of the relationship between farmer groups and experimental treatment.
- Status and roles of men and women in farmer organizations and relationship to adoption of innovations.



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THE PROCESS

- Farmers learned about the 7 innovations not previously used in Haiti over the course of one full year.
- The innovations were provided to vendors then farmers were able to purchase inputs at the actual cost of the item over three months.
- Vendors kept a record of each item sold which was used as a count measure.
- Exit interviews were conducted to check independent on-farm testing effects.



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SAMPLE SELECTION

- **30 farmer associations that participated in all aspects of this experiment** were classified in four categories based on the percentage of female members:
 - Largely male membership
 - mixed-gender, 20% - 40% female membership
 - mixed-gender, 40% - 60% female membership
 - Largely female membership
- **6 of the 30** farmer associations with 20-40% female membership were sampled for my research
- Randomly selected **2 women** and **2 men** in each association for a **total sample of 24 individuals** .



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DATA COLLECTION

Leader's Interview: the overall situation of the farmer associations from a leader's perspective

Farmer Group Dynamics: assessed the perception of trust, confidence and support in the farmer associations from the member's perspective

My Fieldwork: the distribution of power and benefits among men and women within the farmers' associations.



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DATA ANALYSIS

- Mission/Focus of the associations
- Women's contributions to the farmers association
- Women's status as members in the association
- Women's economic activities
- Women's limitations and Issues as members in the association



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MY FIELD WORK

Power and Authority

- The exercise of power and authority is high for both male and female members who serve on governing bodies in the association
- Males in leadership positions are recognized as the most powerful people in the associations

Benefits/Opportunities

- Male and female members of governing bodies in the associations have high access to benefits and opportunities
- More men have access to training and other benefits
- Women want benefits other than those related to agriculture, including credit, water cisterns, small livestock, and assistance for their children



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FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- Motivation
- Decision Making
- Capacity
- Access to technologies
- Differences in benefits for male and female association members
- Different needs and different roles in agriculture for men and women.



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GENDER & FARMER'S ORGANIZATIONS

What farmers' organizations need to do to better serve the needs of women farmers.

- Need to **empower women** in these associations to exercise more power and authority and to get more benefits.

What donors can do to improve the benefits of farmers' associations for women.

- Before engaging with farmers' association, donors and other partner organizations should verify that the association treats women appropriately and supports gender equality within the association
- They need to be aware of women needs and issues for adopting certain technologies.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Acknowledgement and Disclaimer: “This study is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the cooperative agreement # AID-OAA-A-15-00039. The contents are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.”



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