



Gender equity in value chain and livelihoods development: Innovative approaches and tools

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Agri-Chains & Sustainable Development — Linking local and global dynamics

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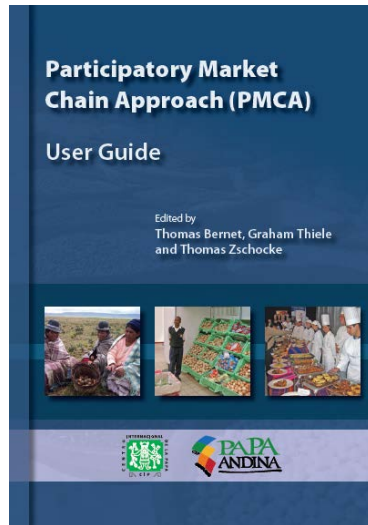
Assumptions underlying value chain development with smallholders

Assumptions	But ...
Smallholders have sufficient assets to meaningfully engage in value chains.	Below certain asset thresholds, they are not 'value chain ready'.
Men, women and the youth have equal access to assets.	Access to assets is differentiated by gender and age.
Their livelihood strategies can readily be adjusted to the specialization required in value chains.	Smallholders pursue diversified strategies, optimizing livelihood systems as a whole, rather than any given subsystem.
Women can readily combine value chain with other household activities.	Women often face trade-offs between business and reproductive activities.

PIM tools addressing gender issues

PMCA

Gender-responsive method
to stimulate innovation
along market chains



Based on Bernet et al. (2006)

Ensure gender-equitable
stakeholder collaboration
and trust

LINK

Gender-responsive
guide to business models
that link smallholders to
markets



LINK METHODOLOGY

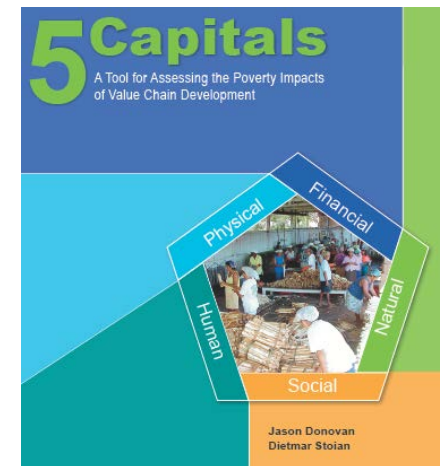
A Participatory Guide to Business Models that Link Smallholders to Markets

Based on Lundy et al. (2012)

Ensure that men and
women are able to equitably
access and benefit from
value chain opportunities

5Capitals

Gender-responsive
assessment of poverty
impacts of VC development



Based on Donovan & Stoian (2012)

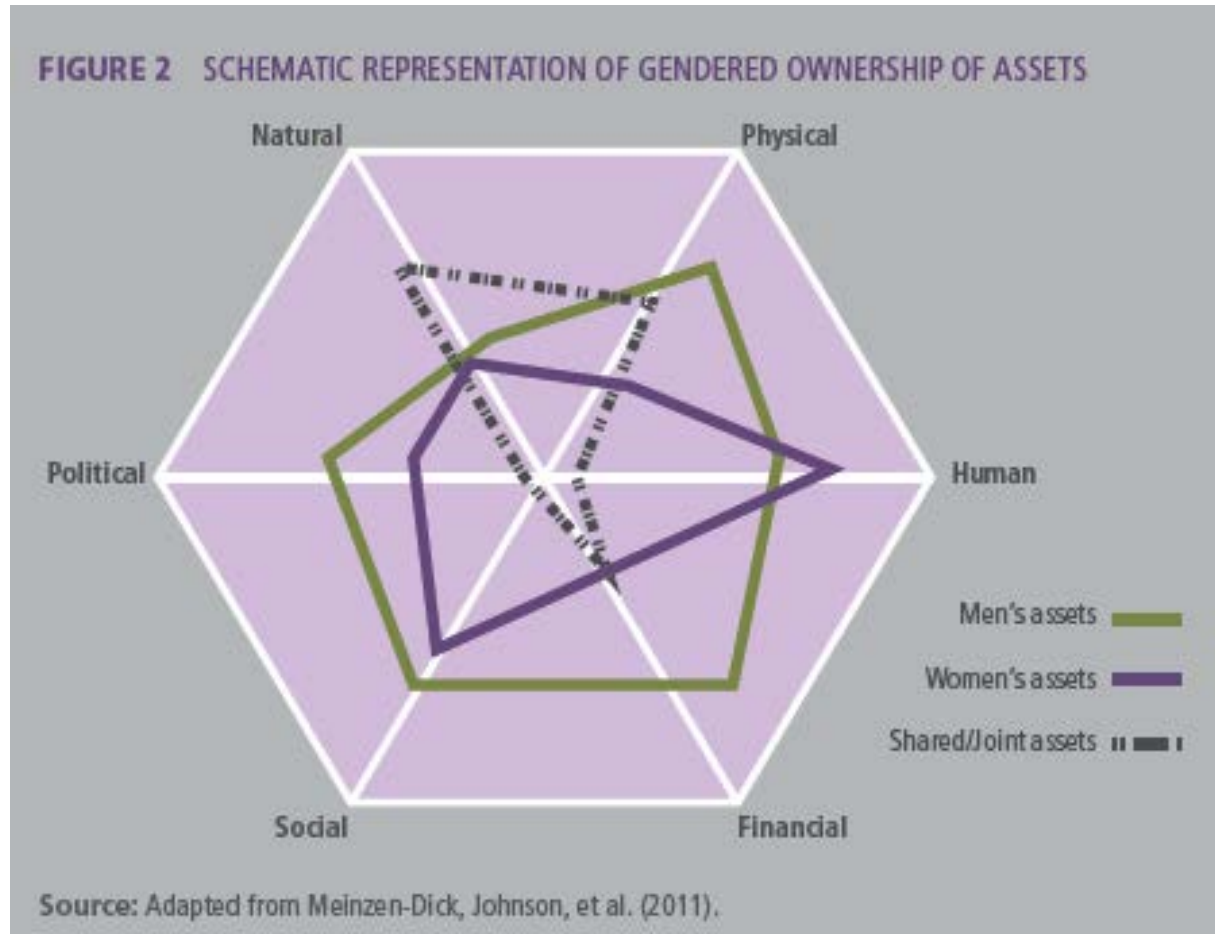
Ensure gender-equitable
access to assets at
household and
enterprise levels

Gender-differentiated access to assets: Why does it matter?

- Men and women differ in terms of access to and control over critical livelihood and business assets (human, social, natural, physical and financial capital)
- This puts them at advantage/disadvantage with regard to labor division, income generation and overall decision making
- Understanding gender-differentiated access to assets helps overcome: gender blindness, gender silence and gender deafness



Gender-differentiated access to assets

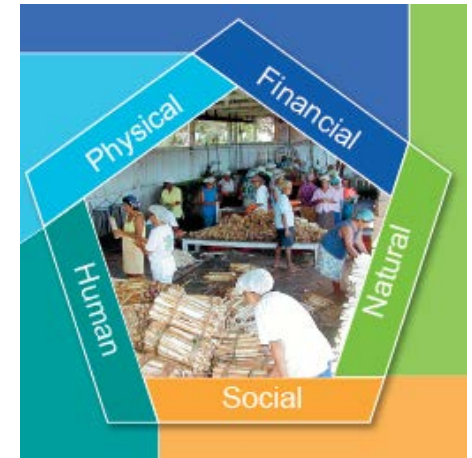


Goal: Reducing the *gender asset gap* through agricultural (value chain) development

Gender-responsive version of *5Capitals*

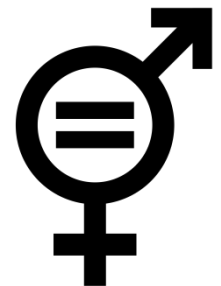
- In-depth analysis of access to and control over assets by men and women allows to determine opportunities towards increased gender equity and overall livelihoods development
- Household level: labor division, income generation, decision making across portfolio of market- and subsistence-oriented livelihood activities
- Enterprise level: governance, business administration, inclusive workforce
- Gender lens for context analysis: effects of and options for policies and development interventions

5Capitals-G



Key gender questions

- Which assets are managed by men, which by women, and which jointly, and why?
- What if the gender asset gap is widening as household assets increase?
- From a household perspective, is gender equity best be strengthened in a given value chain or across the portfolio of livelihood activities?
- Does women empowerment imply disempowering men (zero-sum game)?
- If so, what are the implications for livelihood resilience resulting from VCD?
- If not, how to achieve women empowerment without compromising men's contributions to livelihoods resilience?



Preliminary findings

- Limited scope for a 'middle-ground' between ease-of-use/low cost and rigor → purpose decides
- Combination of enterprise and household assessments meaningful, but need to look inside the household and business (gender perspective)
- In-depth gender analysis adds additional layer → importance of tool testing
- Sound context analysis is critical
- Importance of (self-)critical attitude → learning rather than compliance (or PR) driven
- *5Capitals* strengthened through explicit gender lens → more insight on gender-equitable opportunities for livelihoods and business development among smallholders

Eye-opening moments

- Notion of jointness: be mindful of midpoints along the continuum from male-controlled to female-controlled assets
- Sensitization and training are critical: enumerators often reflect societal gender values and patterns around them → need to raise their self-awareness for sound data collection
- Overcoming gender inequity at household level through couples therapy: e.g. NGO work in Africa
- Still waiting for insight on: possibility of overall positive household livelihood outcomes despite gender asset gap



Practical implications of the findings

- Opening the black box of the household
→ gender-responsive or gender-differentiated approach needed for:
 - technology development and refinement
 - capacity development
 - creation of enabling environment
- Addressing the gender asset gap at household level and beyond (enterprise, community, value chain, food system)
- Engaging with development partners (NGOs, government agencies, private sector) to build capacities for addressing gender asset gaps
- Developing broader approach to gender equity across a portfolio of value chains and livelihood activities → multi-chain approach





Thank you

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