Gender and Agriculture in Western Honduras

Lessons from the Women in Agriculture Network (WAgN) Honduras Project

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Acknowledgements

Horticulture Innovation Lab at UC, Davis

"This research is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the Horticulture Innovation Lab, WAgN:Honduras project and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government."
Honduras
Empowering Women Through Horticulture

Who we are:
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School

Where we work:
- Western Honduras

What we do:
- Seek to understand how the horticulture value chain can support equity and empowerment for women
Empowerment

• Agency:
  o Power over
  o Power to
  o Power with
  o Power within
  (Kabeer, 2005; Alkire et al, 2013)

• Gendered Economy Perspective
Research Objectives

• Determine barriers to women’s participation in the horticulture value chain (HVC)

• Identify barriers to women’s adoption of technologies

• Identify policies and cultural norms that limit the participation of women and other marginalized populations in the HVC

• Determine the intra-household dynamics between men and women, particularly in terms of decision making, livelihood strategies and agricultural production
Women in Agriculture Network

• Baseline data collection
  o Qualitative – focus groups, key informant interviews
  o Quantitative – household survey

• Workshops
  o Bringing producer organizations together to share experiences

• Farmer Field Schools
  o Integrating gender into horticulture production training
Women in Agriculture Network

- Baseline data collection
  - Qualitative – focus groups, key informant interviews
  - Quantitative – household survey
- Workshops
  - Bringing producer organizations together to share experiences
- Farmer Field Schools
  - Integrating gender into horticulture production training
WAgN Honduras Survey

- Fieldwork (including training and piloting):
  - August 15 – November 15, 2016
- Enumerators:
  - 6 + 2 coordinators.
- Geographic area:
  - 30 municipalities
  - 103 communities
- Total interviews:
  - 953 people
  - 562 households
Our survey sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female Headed Household</th>
<th>Dual Headed Household (Women)</th>
<th>Dual Headed Household (Men)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Interviewed</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Sample</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Households</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School or Less</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literate</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ownership of Assets

Ownership of types of assets

Ownership of Assets***
- Single Headed Households (Women)
- Dual Headed Households (Women)
- Total Women
- Total Men

Ownership of Agricultural Assets***
- Single Headed Households (Women)
- Dual Headed Households (Women)
- Total Women
- Total Men
Access to Credit

Access to and decisions about Credit***

Able to make decisions about NGO Credit**

Able to make decisions about formal credit

Able to make decisions about informal credit***

Able to make decisions about friend/family credit***

Able to make decisions about microfinance credit***

Single Headed Households (Women)  Dual Headed Households (Women)  Total Women  Total Men
Control over income

Input on Income and Economic Decisions

- Income from household crop
- Income from commercial crops
- Income from livestock
- Income from non-farm activity
- Income from wage and salary
- Feels can make decisions regarding major household expenditures
- Feels can make decisions regarding minor household expenditures

Single Headed Households (Women)  Dual Headed Households (Women)  Total Women  Total Men
Food Insecurity

Worried would run out of food*
Could not eat healthy food because of lack of resources***
Ate little because of lack of money***

Mild Food Insecurity - FIES

PennState
College of Agricultural Sciences
Food Insecurity

Moderate Food Insecurity - FIES

- Had to skip a meal because of lack of money***
- Ate less than should because of lack of money***
- Household Ran out of food because of lack of money***

Single Headed Households (Women)  Dual Headed Households (Women)  Total Women  Total Men  Total

PennState College of Agricultural Sciences
Food Insecurity

Severe Food Insecurity - FIES

- Was hungry but did not eat: ***
- Went an entire day without eating due to lack of money:

- Single Headed Households (Women)
- Dual Headed Households (Women)
- Total Women
- Total Men
- Total
### Dietary Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>FH</th>
<th>DHW</th>
<th>DHM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grains and Starches</td>
<td>99.2</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>99.3</td>
<td>99.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin A Fruit and Veg.</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy Green Veg.</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuts</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legumes</td>
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<td>90.1</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>92.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Veg.</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fruit</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>46.8</td>
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<td>Meat and Seafood</td>
<td>22.2</td>
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<td>21.0</td>
<td>24.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
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Key Findings

1 – Food insecurity still prevalent for too many of the people in the area, especially considering mild and moderate measures of food insecurity

2 – Dietary Diversity inadequacies even for those who are “food secure”

3 – Women are worse off in food security and dietary diversity, particularly single female headed households

4 – Women’s empowerment when compared to men, unequal, for access to resources and control over income
Future Directions

• Expanding analysis to include multivariate regressions

• Further analysis of division of agricultural production between men and women

• Examining links between socially defined norms and perceptions of horticulture production

• Addressing non-WEAI barriers to empowerment such as domestic and community violence, education
Future Directions

• Farmer Field Schools

• Impact of Horticulture Production

• Gender trainings

• Capacity building
Thank you!

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