

Gender and Agriculture: Building smarter policy

Markus Goldstein



GENDER
INNOVATION
LAB



Why should we care about women farmers?

Women farmers produce less per hectare than men

- FAO: Addressing this could have big payoffs.
 - Women with equal access to inputs would increase their output by 20-30%
 - Aggregate increases could lift 100-150 million out of hunger
- A story from Burkina Faso
 - Both men and women in the household farm
 - But the women produce less per hectare than the men
 - Equalizing resources (labor, fertilizer) would significantly boost household production - **with the resources they have now**
- This is inefficient. This is money on the table. This is a gap we ought to close.

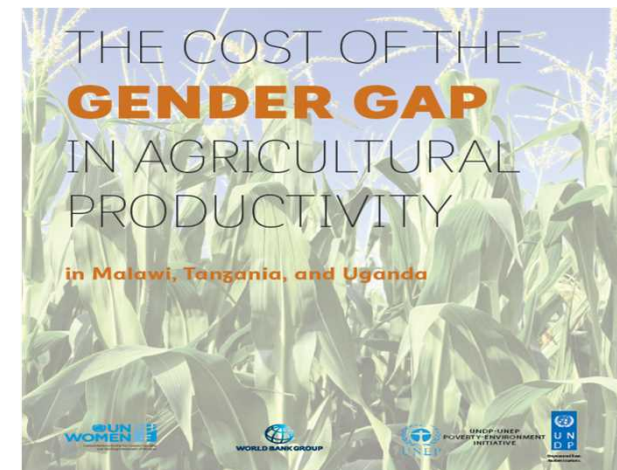
Today

1. Understanding the problem better
2. Policies that work

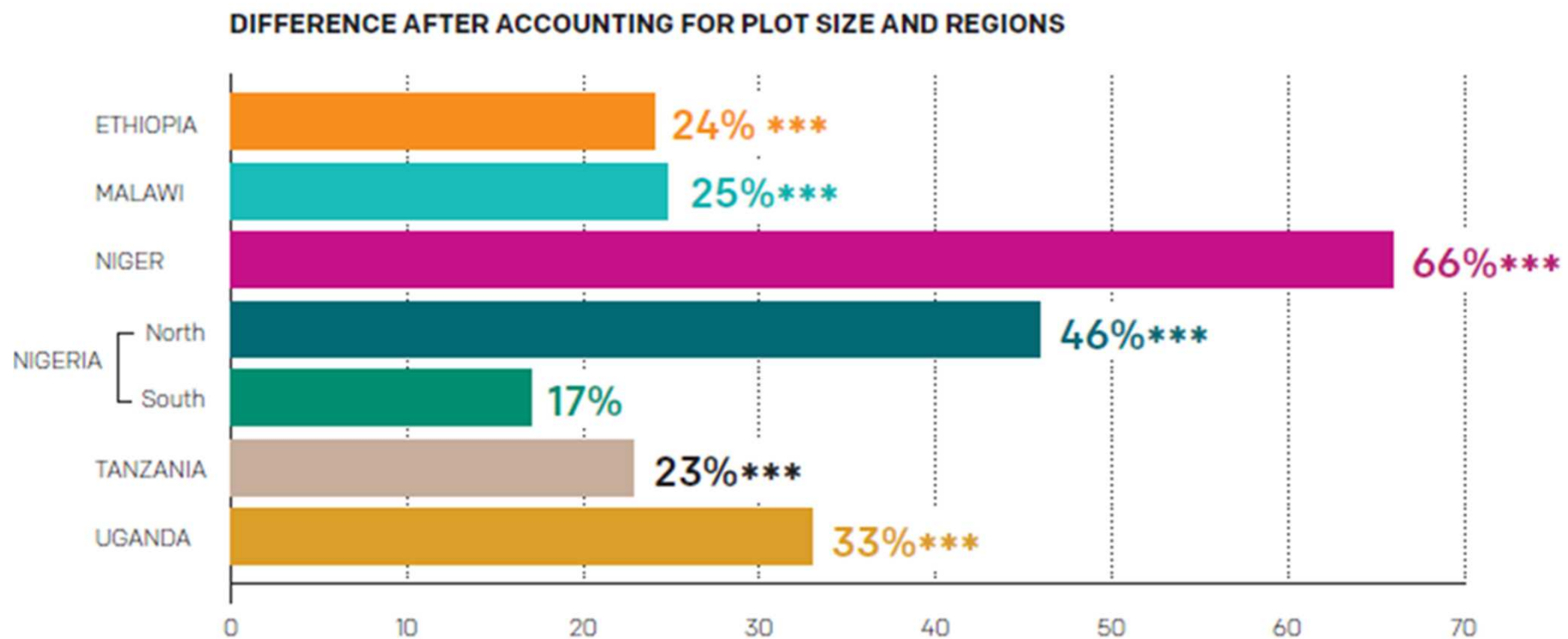
Using data and analysis to understand the female-male productivity gap

2 new reports

- Better data than ever before
 - LSMS-ISA surveys
 - Detailed plot level data including who manages
 - Nationally representative
- Decomposition analysis:
 - How much quantity of inputs matter
 - How effective are the inputs (the returns)



How much less do they produce?

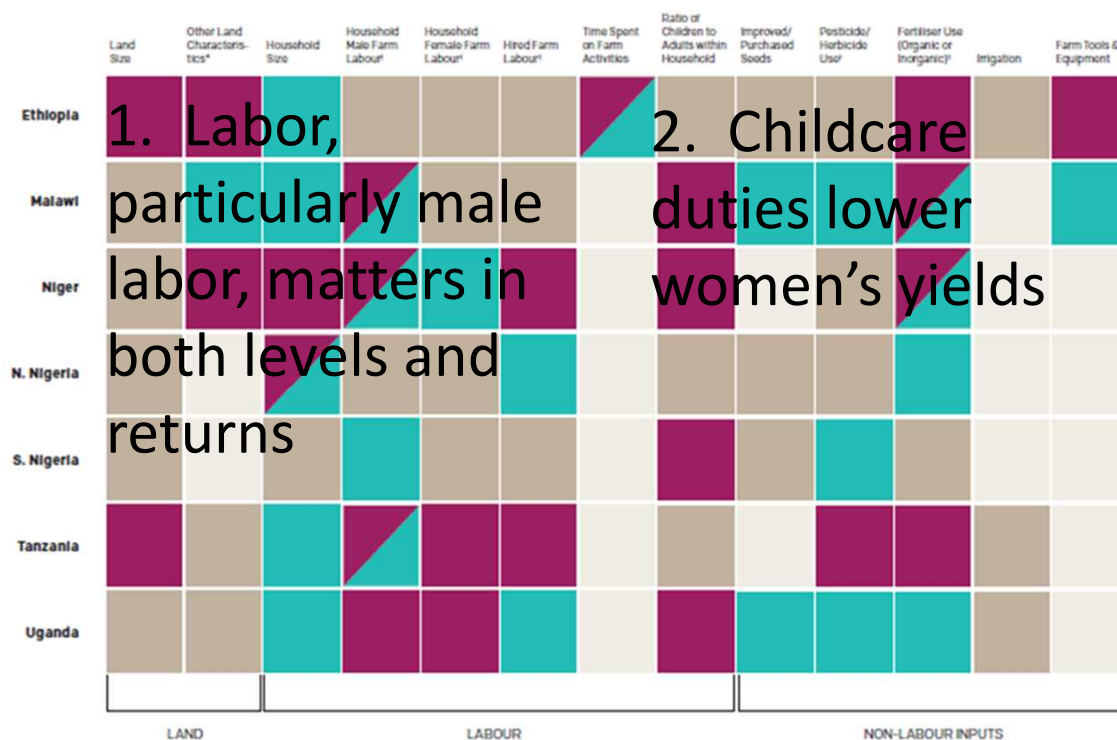


And this difference matters for the economy & food security

Closing the gap in Tanzania would yield a:

- 2.1 percent increase in current agricultural output
- 1.5 percent increase in agricultural GDP or about \$85 million
- 0.46 percent increase in total GDP or about \$105 million
- 80,000 people being lifted out of poverty
- 80,000 more people being adequately nourished

What's driving the gap?



Closing the gap: policy priorities

Key Driver		Policy Priority	STATE OF EVIDENCE
LAND		1. Strengthen women's land rights.	PROMISING
		2. Improve women's access to hired labor.	EMERGING
LABOR		3. Enhance women's use of tools & equipment that reduce the amount of labor they require on the farm.	EMERGING
		4. Provide community-based child-care centers.	EMERGING
NON-LABOR INPUTS		5. Encourage women farmers to use more, & higher-quality, fertilizer.	PROMISING
		6. Increase women's use of improved seeds.	EMERGING

Closing the gap: policy priorities

Key Driver		Policy Priority	STATE OF EVIDENCE
INFORMATION		7. Tailor extension services to women's needs, and leverage social networks to spread agricultural knowledge.	PROMISING
ACCESS TO MARKETS		8. Promote women's cultivation of high-value/cash crops.	EMERGING
		9. Facilitate women's access to & effective participation in markets.	PROMISING
HUMAN CAPITAL		10. Raise education levels of adult female farmers.	PROMISING

But we have a long way to go in terms of evidence

- Some “promising” interventions – but based on quite limited evidence
- Half of the areas are “emerging” – which means there is no rigorous evidence
- 2 quick examples from our work on land registration to show some evidence on what works, and how

How might security of property rights matter?

1. With worse property rights, you invest in the land less
 - In Southern Ghana, women produce less maize and cassava per hectare than men because they are more afraid of losing their land
2. It takes time to protect your property rights (e.g. you have to guard your borders) and this keeps rural citizens from maximizing their income

Better property rights in Benin



- MCC funded intervention provided for land certificates with rights determined at the community level
- Rigorous evaluation comparing treatment and control communities
- Results in the short term:
 - Both women and men are more likely to be growing perennial crops and planting trees
 - Women fallow their land more, closing the gap with men. With fallowing, their productivity can improve.

Better property rights in Benin



- Results in the medium term:
 - Both men and women are still more likely to be growing perennial crops
 - Only women are more likely to be planting trees
- Better property rights → more investment, and the response is stronger for women

Land title registration in Rwanda



The program

- UKAID and others funded a pilot and then national scale up of land title registration
- This was a low cost, participatory approach building on a range of legal changes (including for women's rights over land)
- Rigorous evaluations of both the pilot and the national program

Land title registration in Rwanda



Pilot results

- Increased investment in land
 - +9.9 percentage points for male headed households
 - +19.3 for female headed households
- Married women significantly more likely to have property rights (recognized as owner)
 - But not officially married women (i.e. those without a marriage certificate) significantly **less** likely

Land registration in Rwanda



Then the program went national

- Preliminary results from a rigorous evaluation show:
 - Not officially married women got equal rights (policy change)
 - Farm labor for both men and women was reduced
 - But yields were constant → the reduction in labor came from labor that was guarding not producing
 - Off-farm work and earnings went up
 - Food security improved for males and females, adults & children

In conclusion



- Continue to better understand where the gender gap in production is coming from by looking at root causes (e.g. labor)
- Interventions may not work as we expect, so continue to experiment, evaluate and scale effective interventions