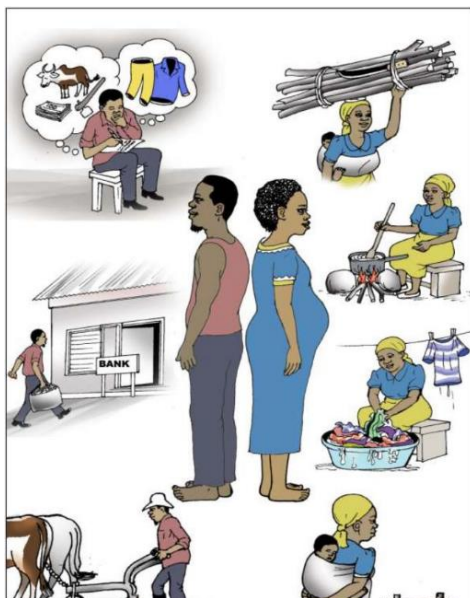




A4SD Gender Factsheet

“The African farmer and her husband”



COMPACI (2016) gender training material

“The African farmer and her husband...” This Proverb entails the essence of the importance of women in the African agricultural sector: women form the backbone of African smallholder farming. However “significant gender inequalities can be found in people’s access to [...] key productive assets and services: land, labour financial services, water, rural infrastructure, technology, and other inputs” (World Bank 2009). The gender division of labour in rural African families depicted on the picture on the left is very striking...

Being aware of this problematic is key to address the inequities in African (and beyond African) smallholder farming. Designing the value chain (VC) projects of the umbrella programme Agricultural Value Chains for Sustainable Development (A4SD), this problematic was proactively included in every planning step of the its four projects. The four projects, which operate in 15 countries, are:

- the Competitive African Cotton Initiative (COMPACI) on cotton,
- the Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI) on rice,
- the Competitive Cashew Initiative (ComCashew) on cashew, and
- the Sustainable Smallholder Agribusiness / Cocoa-Food Link Program (SSAB) on cocoa and food crops.

The projects have had considerable impact on the lives of women. Thus, more than 400,000 women were trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and in Farmer Business School (FBS). In the trainings, they learnt how to apply GAP on their fields and FBS strengthened smallholders’ business attitudes, their management skills and bookkeeping. This is one precondition to be able to get a credit or to access other agricultural inputs, important points to strengthen

female farmers’ agency. On average, men and women increased their income by up to 150% by implementing lessons learnt in GAP and FBS training.

Beyond production, the projects also promoted women in other value chain segments. However, let us not stay on a general level. Let us look at concrete example and listen to farmers and other sector actors telling their stories:

Gender successes in FBS trainings:

Until 2017, SSAB has trained more than 400,000 farmers in Farmer Business School (FBS). More than 110,000 of them are women. FBS strengthens smallholders’ business attitudes and management skills for better and diversified incomes and nutrition. As a result of the training farmers could increase their yields by an average of 55% for cocoa and 50% for maize.

Bibiane Ndzana participated in an FBS training in 2012. She lives in a rural area in Cameroon. After attending FBS training her life seriously changed: “After FBS in 2012, I do my cropping calendar and my operating account for my farms regularly. I apply the Good Agricultural Practice and plan my expenditure. I save and I am qualified for loans. I diversified production including groundnut.

I increased my profit from 1,200 EUR from 4 hectares in 2013, to 5,500 EUR from 6.5 hectares in 2015. I pay my children’s school fees easily now. My son will take over.”



Bibiane Ndzana (2015) in front of her field



Pieter Sipole Lubinda (2015) with his wife and son

Peter Sipalo Lubinda attended an FBS training in Zambia. He could seriously increase productivity of his farm and increase the well-being of his whole family: "Through FBS I learnt to think like a businessman so that I make money from my farming activities. Last season, I was able to produce more than 1,000 kg per hectare of cotton compared to my initial results of 450 kg - 600 kg per hectare.

In addition to cotton, I diversify my production, and now I grow maize, groundnut and vegetables to improve my family's health and wellbeing. From the money I earned I was able to build a nice house for my family with roofing sheets. We also purchased cows, goats and chickens, which we didn't have before. I am a lead farmer in my community, so I help others by demonstrating the good agricultural practices."

ICT and Gender: SSAB developed gender sensitive training videos



SSAB (2017) training video of GAP for maize

One reason for the success of our training is the projects' gender sensitive training material. A good example is the SSAB project's training videos released in 2017: SSAB developed one video on GAP for maize and another one on good nutrition practices. The characters in the video, Obi and Aminat, are a couple who do cocoa farming. The videos draw a picture of two human beings having equal rights and responsibilities in their relationship and in regards to their farming activities. Thus Obi tells us, that in "February we clear the plot from all herbs" while weeding with a machete while Aminat is raking the herbs. And while Aminat tells us that "the roots of maize needs a well prepared seed bed", she and her husband "work the soil well" side by side. The same is true for the video on nutrition. Both husband and wife tell us the story of their mutual good nutrition practices. If you want to know more, please find the videos on the [SSAB website](#).



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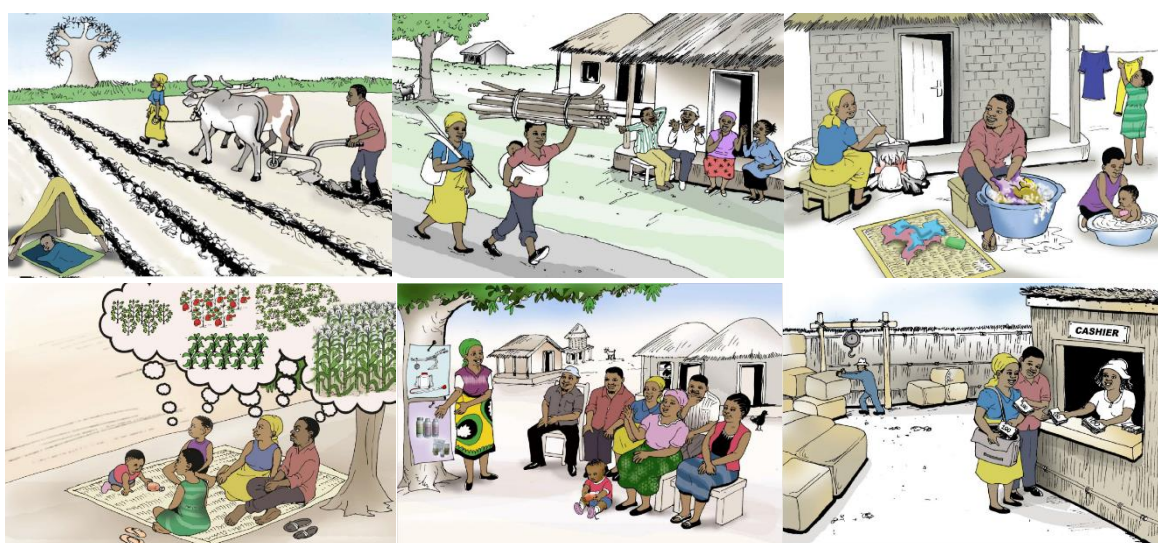
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Gender training material developed by COMPACI

The COMPACI project trained more than 900,000 cotton farmers, almost 200,000 of them being women. This means that the project trained almost a quarter of all African cotton farmers. But the project also undertook serious efforts to raise awareness for gender equality among farmers. For that purpose the project developed gender training materials that were used by agricultural extensionists. In total COMPACI trained 25,000 farmers using these extension materials. The below excerpts tell the story of the content:



COMPACI (2016) gender training material

CARI and its gender successes: How Mrs. Abdulkareem started her own rice parboiling business

CARI trained more than 90,000 farmers in GAP and more than 60,000 in FBS. More than 35% of them were women. But CARI also has a dedicated gender component on which it collaborated with Walmart. In the frame of this component women are trained in processing rice through parboiling. More than 29,000 women have undergone this training so far. Hajia Mariya Abdulkareem is one of them. She lives in the Area of Kano State, in northern Nigeria.

Mrs. Abdulkareem has built her own rice parboiling business: "I have just received an order from one of my customers in Kura to supply 40 tiers (about 100kg) of parboiled rice next week. [...] You know, I no longer parboil for a fee. I now own my parboiling business and I get quite busy sometimes. [...] It was at the training [by CARI and its Nigerian partner WOFAN], where I learnt the actual cost of parboiling each kilogram of rice and I realized I could do it on my own even if it means starting with a small quantity. Besides, the training gave me confidence that I could process better quality rice than the millers were putting in the market. [...] I was able to sell my processed rice quickly and at better prices than others because it was of very high quality. Because we learnt the importance of being a member of a cooperative group in another training [FBS] organized by WOFAN and CARI, I also started parboiling with members of my group. We were getting paddy on credit from WOFAN aggregation center. After processing the rice, we would sell the parboiled rice back to the center, pay back our loan and share the profit amongst ourselves. [...] Now, I am a businesswoman. [...] I used to make 250 Naira per week,



Hajia Mariya Abdulkareem (2015; center) cleaning processed rice with other members of her group

parboiling for millers. But now, I make an average of 1,500 Naira per week from my own parboiling business. I also make an extra income of about 1,500 Naira from parboiling with my group twice a week.”

Interventions of ComCashew for Gender Promotion

When ComCashew (formerly African Cashew initiative (ACi)) started operating in 2009, hardly any value chain experts could be found in the African cashew sector. This was particularly true for female experts. For this reason, the project started to train people with experiences in the sector in its Master Training Program (MTP) since 2014. In total 291 knowledge carriers are now graduated Master trainers. Out of these, 78 graduates were women. Graduates are farmers, processors, traders, or researchers and come from 15 African countries.

After the training, some of the female graduates have been promoted in their working environment coming into leadership positions. They became role models and change agents. Let us listen to some of them:

Ardiata Traoré became Production Manager in the Burkinabé cashew factory Gebana Burkina Sarl after participating in MTP: “This is what my colleagues said about me after attending the MTP: ‘You react in a different way and more professionally than before. Instead



Ardiata Touré (2015) in the processing factory where she is production manager

of being very aggressive to situation, you differently react in a more responsible way’ [...] MTP has provided me with an understanding of the different stages of the cashew value chain: From establishment of a cashew farm, to farm maintenance, from determining the quality of raw cashew nuts, to the different steps of cashew processing. The knowledge gained has increased my confidence and I am professionally better equipped to overcome future challenges which I might face.” (Also [see the Video of Ardiata Traoré.](#))

Another MTP success story comes from Annie Zottorgloh, a Master trainer of the 2nd training Edition, working for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Ghana. She testifies: “Before joining the program I was shy; unless I was pushed, I hardly talked in public. After the presentation on trainer attitude, I understood that I had to move from my comfort zone and stretch myself. Therefore, I seized an opportunity of scholarship for a training in China. For the first time, I travelled and let my husband take care of the children. Before I could not have done that.”

Amy Fall from Senegal, our third example, works for the NGO “Association des femmes de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (AFAO)”: “Thanks to my MTP certificate, I have been promoted as Cashew Processing Technician. My analysis and decisions taking has been improved. I am now paying more attention to details and always check my assumption.”

A4SD’s gender approach in a nutshell

The projects regrouped under A4SD have a large outreach, having trained more than 1.8 million farmers, more than 400,000 of them being women. But the project impact is not only broad scale but it also goes deep. As shown in the present document, A4SD has implemented a gender-sensitive approach at various levels and with various modes of implementation: through ICT, face-to-face extension and expert trainings. At the same time, the program intervened on gender in all segments of the value chain: it addressed stakeholders from female farmers’ to extension agents to women active in processing to female sector experts.

Please visit: www.A4SD.net



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