

Exploring feminization of agriculture through gender dynamics across scales

Alessandra Galiè¹, Stephen Oloo¹, Catherine Pfeifer²

¹International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

²Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)

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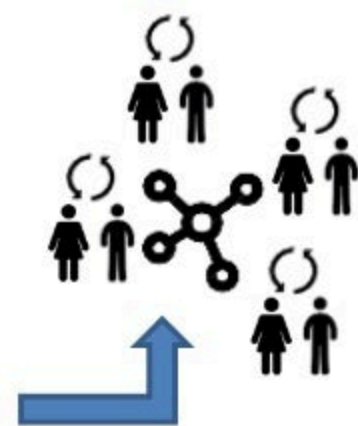
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This study in a nutshell

Methodological inter-disciplinary study
to understand how gender dynamics
at household and community level
influence Feminization of Agriculture (FoA)

Research question:

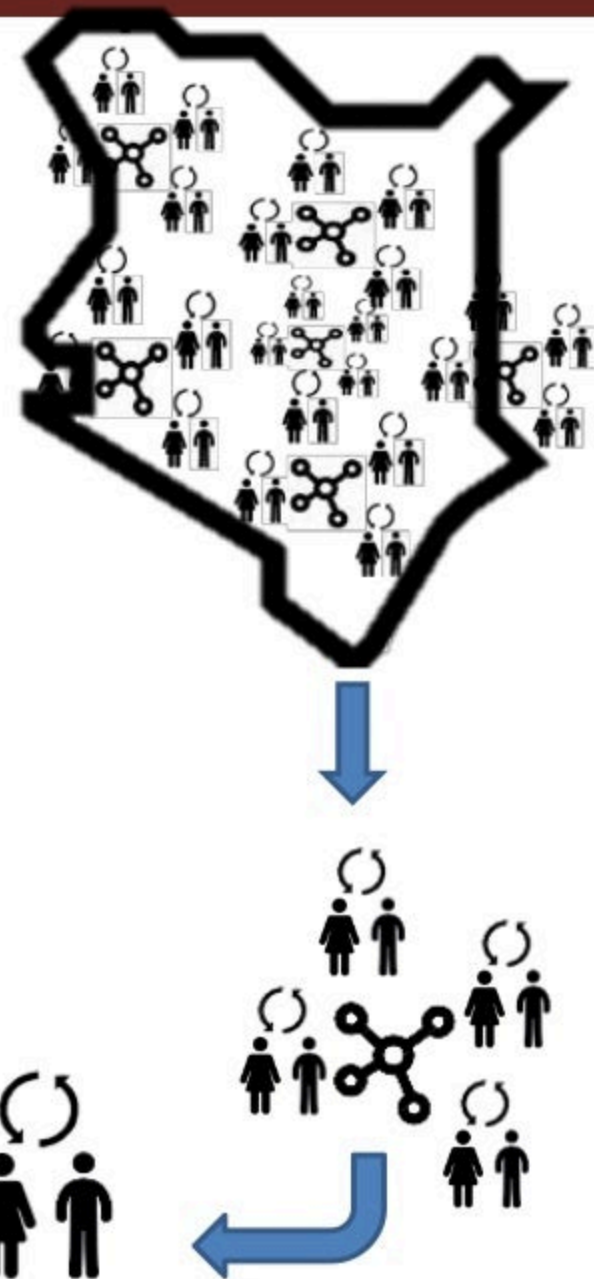
How do intra-household **gender dynamics**
scale to shape the regional/global trend 'FoA'?



This presentation in a nutshell

Our approach and initial thinking

Look forward to your thoughts



Defining Feminization of Agriculture (FoA)

‘Rising share of farm work undertaken by women relative to men’ (WB 2016)

OR

‘The extent to which women define, control and enact the social processes of agriculture – hence, *feminization being played out in agriculture*’ (Pattnaik et al. 2018)



Feminization of agriculture: why does it matter

1. Development of the agr. sector

- Who are the 'current' farmers?
- What are their opportunities and constraints?
- What technologies & support services do they need?
- How can policies support?
- What is the role of men's non-agr work in agr livelihoods?...

2. Progress on gender equality

- Does FoA empower (e.g. entail increased decision-making)?
- Is FoA an opportunity to earn an income OR it means being left behind as unpaid family labour?...

The problem this study addresses

We usually study gender dynamics at intra-household or community level and we rarely scale to national or regional levels...

Yet...

FoA is a regional phenomenon and it is rooted in intra-household and community gender dynamics (e.g. norms on: who is the breadwinner; mobility; childcare)...

=> So gender dynamics scale?!

Why study intra-hh dynamics at scale

1: To understand the phenomenon FoA

⇒ Better approaches to agr. development

2: To predict future trends of social change in agr.

⇒ Gender concerns of wider relevance are more useful for and adopted by policy makers

Sub-research questions

1. Is it conceptually appropriate to scale intra-household gender dynamics – in their complexity, volatility and local specificity – to the national and global level?
2. if yes, what is an appropriate methodology to scale gender dynamics in the context of FoA?

What we do in this study

- **Develop a methodology** to study how gender dynamics at hh and community level scale to influence FoA.
- **Pilot methodology** with existing DHS data on FoA in selected countries of sub-Saharan Africa (focus on livestock)
- **Validate/challenge** persistent **assumptions** about FoA

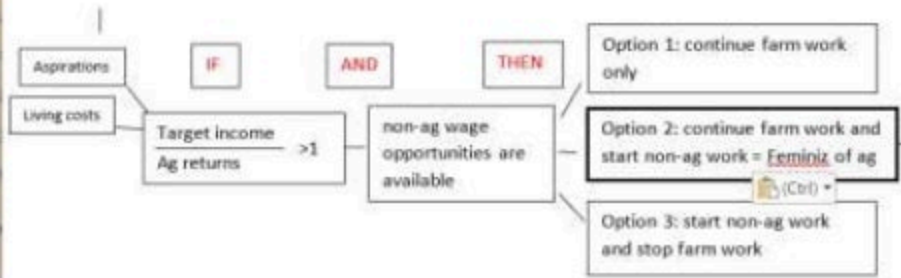
How we do it: 6 main steps

1. Develop a conceptual framework on complexity of dynamics affecting FoA
2. Identify key drivers and dynamics behind FoA
3. Develop a 'model' with drivers and dynamics interacting
4. Test our 'model' using existing DHS data
5. Refine 'model' (e.g. identify conditions under which FoA happens – livestock or crop systems; distance from urban areas; policy context etc)
6. Possibly: adapt 'model' for exploring future emerging social landscapes in agriculture

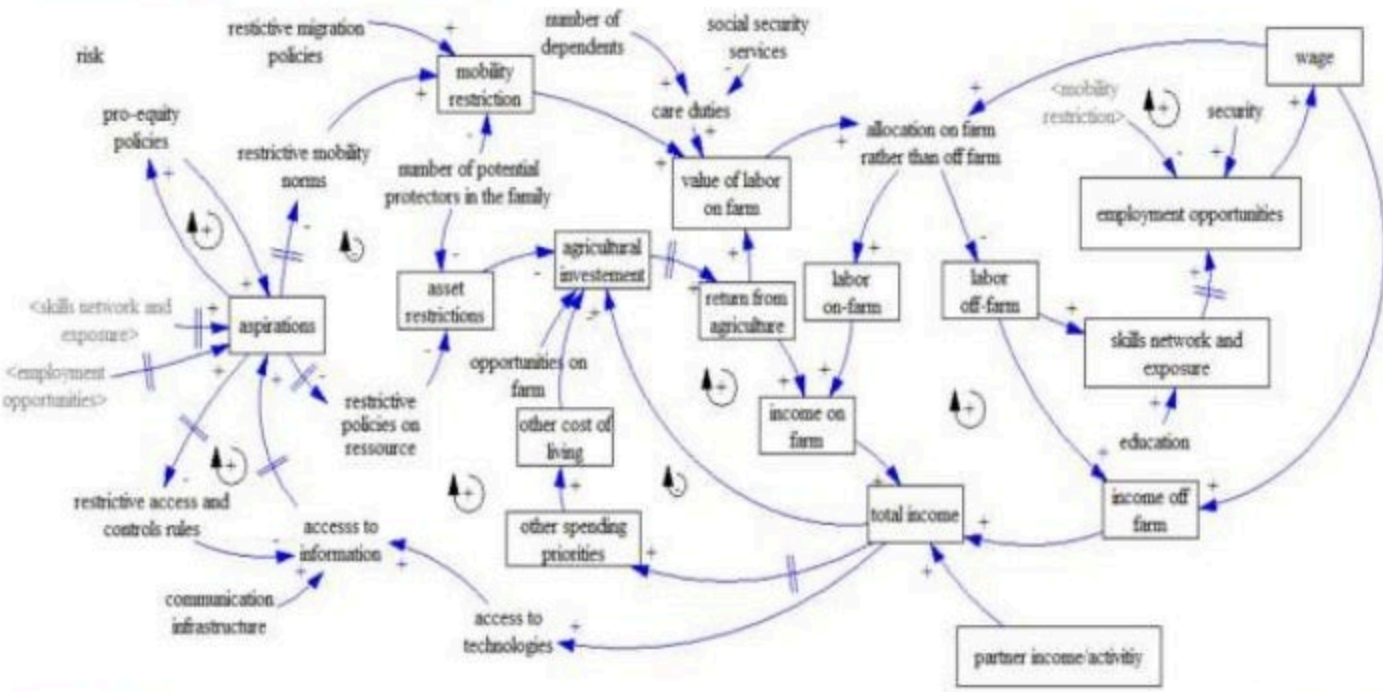
Brainstorming on dynamics affecting FoA

SHEET DESCRIBING THE SOLUTION TO BE PUT
 INTO PRACTICE / LAMING ALTERNATIVE
 - WITH COPPER (1000)
 - RISK
 - NETWORKS (of migrant, women, etc.)
 - ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES
 (local & national economy)
 & capability to take advantage
 - POLICIES (migration, social security,
 housing, environment) (national
 resources, labor)
 - SECURITY & POLITICAL SITUATION
 (UN/WHILE/IN ENVIRONMENT)
 DISCUSSION POINT
 → is form of sp. a transition to diff. su
 OR
 OR

Feminization of ag- 1. more women included in ag work than men; 2. men involved in non-ag work



- Influencing factors:
1. HH composition (education; age; gender; availability of 'protector' or 'carer'; n of dependents; n of active members)
 2. Risks (non-ag work may be unknown or risky; ag may be risky e.g. climate change; profit from non-ag work may be risked by investing in ag)
 3. Networks (migrants; influencers...to inform; help settle; get the job...)
 4. Alternative opportunities (local and national economy and capability of households to take advantage of them)
 5. Enabling environment: Policies (e.g. on migration; social security; labour natural resources)
 6. Enabling environment: Security and political situation
- gender dynamics and norm influence: perceptions, opportunities, constraints, policies



DETAIL 4
 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
 YES
 NO
 KEEP / IN FUTURE FARM? DO COFH
 ONE PHASE
 EXPENSE TO OFF FARM
 KEEP PHASE TO limit risk of off-farm
 → women from off-farm
 → women roles taken by farm

Identifying key drivers to develop a 'model'

Individual and household level

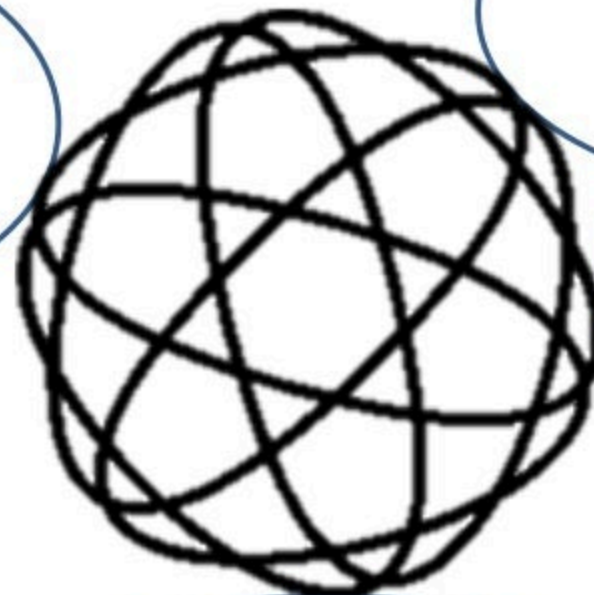
Individual capabilities

Institutions
(policies and
gender norms)

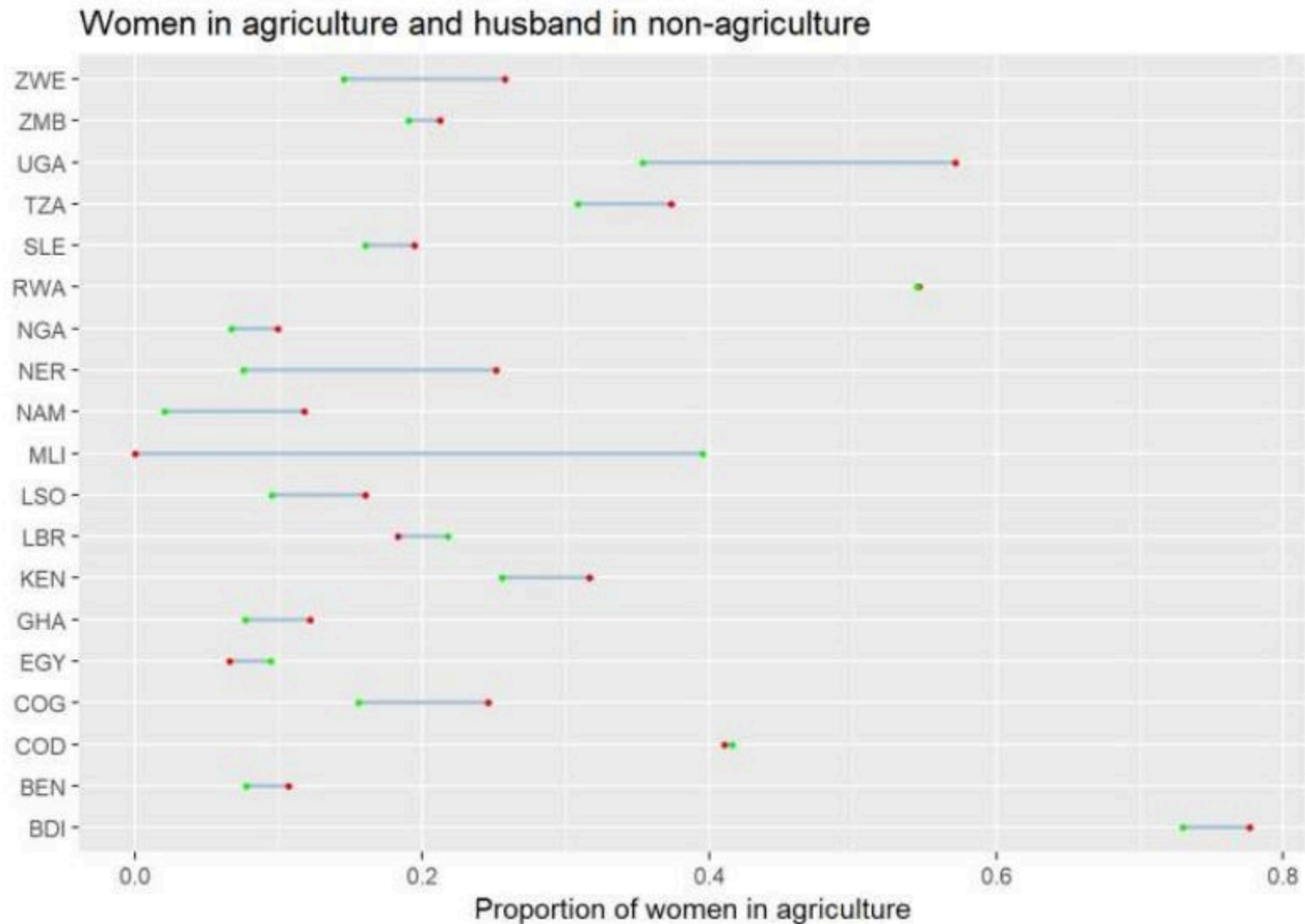
Hh, community, national levels

Market opportunities

Local, national, global levels



Initial DHS data analysis on FoA



Red = first round (generally between 2005-2010), green = second round (generally between 2010-2017)

Next steps

3. Develop a 'model' with dynamics and drivers interacting
4. Test our 'model' using DHS data
5. Refine 'model'
6. Possibly: adapt 'model' for exploring future emerging social landscapes in agriculture

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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Policies, Institutions, and Markets



Collaborative Platform for Gender Research



Photo: Neil Palmer/IWMI



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ILRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium

Box 30709, Nairobi 00100 Kenya
Phone +254 20 422 3000
Fax +254 20 4223001
Email ilri-kenya@cgiar.org

ILRI has offices in:
Central America • East Africa
• South Asia • Southeast and East Asia
• Southern Africa • West Africa



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