



SEEDS OF CHANGE CONFERENCE, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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Rural transformation opportunities: Challenges and Solutions for women participation in agricultural production in Tanzania.

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- ▶ About 80% of Tanzania's population lives in rural area.
- ▶ Approximately a half are women.
- ▶ The rural community largely depends on rain-fed traditional agriculture, dominated by subsistence farming.
- ▶ Due to low agricultural productivity and missed opportunities, the rural community is still living in poverty.
- ▶ Opportunities such as horticulture, apiculture, aquaculture and poultry, if utilized properly would contribute to poverty reduction in the community.

i) Rural Transformation opportunities in Tanzania

- Horticulture, aquaculture, apiculture, poultry (indigenous variety) and cattle (cow, goat and sheep).
 - Women's willingness to work provide large labor force (contributing up to 40% of the agricultural production).
 - Readily available market for agricultural products (local and international).
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- **Infrastructures required:-** Cattle and chicken sheds, fish ponds, beehives, green houses, drip irrigation kits and systems, bore holes, solar energy system and water pump.
 - **Complementary advantages (products and services):-** (i) Balanced diet; (ii) Biogas-clean energy for cooking and running generators-from cattle dung; (iii) Slurry/sludge from the biogas-digester and urine from cattle can be used as organic manure and insecticide respectively, and (iv) Chicken droppings can be used as source of food for the fish.

ii) Challenges for women participation in agricultural production in Tanzania

- Lack of property right ownership.
- Lack of access to reliable financial services.
- Gender disparity (culturally not involved in decision making process).
- Lack of social and economic knowledge and
- Lack of access to reliable technology.

iii) Solutions to challenges for women participation in agricultural production

- **Active Policy and Legal reforms so as to enable women to:-**
 - Have property right ownership (Land, house, and other family assets)
 - Have access to financial services, including accessing loans by using house or land title deeds as collateral for bank loans.
 - Have equal opportunity to participate in top, middle and local/lower management decision making bodies.
- **Social awareness creation about:-**
 - Importance of women in participatory decision making at household, community, and national levels.
 - Gender inclusion, equality and equity in the community.

Solutions to challenges...

cont...

➤ Formal Education:-

- Inclusion of **agriculture, gender issues** and **human rights** subjects" in formal academic curriculum.

➤ Community based capacity building on:-

- Finance management; Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH); Food security; Co-operatives management; Sustainable agriculture and Agricultural value chain strategies (post-harvest technology, value addition and marketing).

*“Together we can achieve gender equity,
improve agricultural productivity and enhance
rural transformation”.*

Thank you