The green cooking banana VC in SW Uganda: Gender roles and constraints

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Background

• Cooking banana is an important food and income crop in Uganda.

• Engagement in the banana VC is the basis of many people’s livelihoods

• However, the VC is faced with many challenges

• A VCA, with gender as an integral part was conducted in SW Uganda in 2016 to understand the challenges and the opportunities for improvement
The VCA explored various aspects:
- Structure of the VC
- Forms in which the bananas are sold
- Business entry requirements
- Post harvest losses (PHL)
- Profit margins
- Available VC services and their accessibility to VC actors
Objective of the gender component

- To understand how women and men are engaged in the cooking banana VC and the specific constraints they face

- How men and women actor experience all the explored aspects
Data collected from actors along the VC using mixed methods:

- 247 Randomly sampled surveys (100 farmers, 10 lorry traders, 7 bicycle traders, 10 brokers, 40 retailers and 80 consumers)
- 19 key informant interviews
- 10 FGDs (6 with farmers and 4 with"

Sex disaggregated data
About 30% of the actors in the VC are women.
Involvement of Men and Women

Production

- Producers: 79%♂; 21%♀

Wholesale

- Brokers 100%♂
- Bicycle traders 100%♂
- Lorry traders 100%♀

Retail

- Roadside vendors 100%♀
- Market vendors 70%♀; 30%♂

Activities

- Land preparation♂
- Planting♀
- Weeding♂
- De-suckering♂
- De-trashing♂
- De-budding♂
- Uprooting corms of harvested plants♂
- Digging water trenches♂
- Harvesting for sell♂
- Harvesting for food♂
- Selling♀
- Identifying producers with required volumes♂
- Harvesting♂
- Bulking♂
- Loading♂
- Transportation♂
- Off-loading♀
- Sorting♀
- Grading♀
- Peeling♀
- Selling♀

Key:
♀=Female, ♂=Male
Forms in which the bananas are sold

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producers</th>
<th>Wholesale</th>
<th>Retail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bunches</td>
<td>Bunches</td>
<td>Fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingers</td>
<td>Fingers (export)</td>
<td>Clusters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bunches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most common form is the bunch—challenges related to carrying esp. women
Business Entry requirements - producers

Land is the biggest determinant - perennial crop

- Limited ownership by women (About 25%)
- Access by mostly widows (80%) and a few married (12%) and single (8%) women
- Men-owned banana plots significantly bigger ($t=1.44, P=0.0765$)
- Average size of women-owned banana plots is 3.8 acres ($SD=3.71$) while the men-owned plots are about 5.97 acres ($SD=7.11$)

Increased commercialization of banana putting pressure on land used for annual crop production
Business Entry requirements - wholesalers

Financial Capital is the biggest determinant:
• Bulk purchase of bananas
• Transportation to markets
• Labour for harvesting and loading

Approximately $2000 per truck of 400 bunches capacity

Bananas transported at night when temperatures are low to minimize losses due to ripening

High capital requirements and gender norms (restricted mobility for women, more so at night)
Business Entry requirements - retailers

Social & Financial capital - biggest determinants:

- Rent of market stall – between US $16-19) per month.
- Airtime - communication with traders and consumers
- Labour costs – offloading (two fingers per bunch)
- Tax - 6 cents USD$ bunch offloaded
- Wholesalers give bananas on credit to retailers - pay after selling

Approximately USD$300 sufficient to start-up banana retail business.

Financial capital requirements lowest at the retail node
Post harvest losses

VC xterised by high PHL (14.9%): Farm (5.05%), Collection (6.08%), Lorry traders(13.90%), retail (18.42%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of loss</th>
<th>Scarcity</th>
<th>Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical loss (%)</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic loss (%)</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residual loss (UGX)</td>
<td>12,206</td>
<td>11,273</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exchange rate USD: UGX 3300

Determinants
Include:
Sex of the vendor and sex of the HH at farm level

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sustainability

Article
Postharvest Losses and their Determinants: A Challenge to Creating a Sustainable Cooking Banana Value Chain in Uganda

Enoch Mutebi Kikulwe 1,*, Stanslus Okurut 2, Susan Ajambo 1 10, Kephas Nowakunda 3, Dietmar Stoian 4 and Diego Naziri 5,6
## Profit Margins along the VC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Scarcity</th>
<th></th>
<th>Surplus</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large bunch ($)</td>
<td>Small bunch ($)</td>
<td>Large bunch ($)</td>
<td>Small bunch ($)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retailers</strong></td>
<td>Selling price</td>
<td>9.12</td>
<td>6.12</td>
<td>7.12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buying price</td>
<td>6.91</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>5.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margin</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>2.09</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lorry traders</strong></td>
<td>Selling price</td>
<td>6.91</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>5.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buying price</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>3.94</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margin</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>1.09</td>
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<td><strong>Brokers</strong></td>
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<td>2.53</td>
<td>3.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buying price</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margin</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bicycle traders</strong></td>
<td>Selling price</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buying price</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margin</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Producers</strong></td>
<td>Selling price</td>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td>2.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Highest margins for lorry traders and least for bicycle traders**
Access to services

- Limited access to market information at production and retail nodes
  - Rely mostly on lorry traders and brokers
  - Women producers more disadvantaged

- Limited access to credit from financial institutions - esp. women
  - Depend mostly on groups for credit which is minimal
Recommendations

• Promoting sale of bananas in different forms across the VC

• Intensification of banana systems through intercropping with annual crops.

• VC services tailored to the needs of men and women e.g. financial strengthening of groups & farmers organizations to support access to credit with limited collateral
Conclusions

Important for a VCA to be comprehensive to identify all actors - Even those not in the mainstream

GVCA enables identification of constraints & opportunities for developing comprehensive gender-responsive VC strategies:

- Gender inequalities in the VC
- Participation of men and women in the VC shaped by gender norms & relations
Thank you

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