

**ASSESSMENT ON THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ISSUES AT THE HIGHER LEVEL OF THE COFFEE VALUE CHAIN AND NATIONAL PLATFORMS IN UGANDA**



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## **List of Acronyms**

IWCA	International Women's Coffee Alliance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
NDP	National Development Plan
DPO	District Production Officer
GOU	Government of Uganda
NPA	National Planning Authority
CAO	Chief Accounting Officer
FGD	Focus Group Discussion

## **Executive summary**

The International Women’s Coffee Alliance (IWCA) Uganda chapter is part of a global network of women that advocate for the reduction of barriers for women in issues concerning coffee production. The organization focusses on improving the livelihoods and resilience of women in the coffee value chain for equitable and sustainable business and production environment as well as address women participation constraints. Among other things, the IWCA Uganda Chapter, conducts surveys, assessments and essential research to establish and address production impediments and constraints including equitable access to resources. This study was therefore carried out in order to identify the gaps and weaknesses in representation of women issues with the aim of strengthening their participation and empowerment in coffee value chain and on national platforms in Uganda

The main objective of the study was to know the level of prioritization of women issues at the various platforms and readiness for women empowerment in the coffee sector and government programs.

The study was carried out in 2019 in the coffee growing districts of, Mityana, Luwero, Kapchorwa, Sironko and Ibanda and it focused on identifying gender dynamics of farmer communities in the coffee value chain in the 5 districts. The study examined several aspects of coffee value chains, namely structure, governance, value adding and profitability with the ultimate aim of investigating the conditions that are necessary to provide equal opportunities for women and men to engage in and benefit from coffee value chain development. It involved review of parliamentary minutes on Agriculture, review of minutes of National Coffee Steering Committee, review of district rolling plans, review of existing Coffee policies and collection of data from primary sources who included local government stakeholders, NGOs, Ministries and Coffee Steering Committees

## **Major findings of the study**

The following are the major findings of the study;

- i. Women have a significant representation both at National and local platforms. For example, a Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Animal industry and Fisheries

has a 50% women representation. However, there issues in Coffee sector are hardly discussed.

- ii. The existing laws and policies are generic in nature. They address the issues of famers generally with no specific provisions of addressing women concerns in coffee sub-sector
- iii. Women still face a challenge of access to resources like land, agro-equipment and access to credit facilities which limit their participation.
- iv. The cultural tendency is still a challenge. The society has remained largely patriarchal where men are presumed to be the sole decision makers especially in regard to control of proceeds from agricultural outputs. This automatically puts women a disadvantaged position of not participating in coffee value chain
- v. Women have representatives who are supposed to advance their interest in the coffee sector but these leaders almost only engage them in political activities.
- vi. Low levels of education among women are another factor which contributes to limited access to agricultural skills. This hinders their participation in coffee value chains and other national platforms.
- vii. Another factor is that, coffee being a perennial crop, young generation tend not to engage in the sub-sector and its predominantly employing the older generation. Young generation are rather engaged in activates that are seen to generate quick returns. with over 50% being a young population, young women will obviously miss out in participation in the sub-sector
- viii. Coffee farmer groups also have their critical requirements like membership fees which most of the potential women members do not have and this led to insignificant participation of women in coffee value chains.

### **Conclusion and recommendations**

The study shows that there are significant challenges towards women's participation in the coffee value chain right from limitations in the policy framework to leadership representation

and other aspects like access to vital resources like land. From the findings, its recommended that:

1. Development organizations should advocate for the development and/or review of gender policies to ensure that there is commitment to gender representation and justice so as to have the potential to generate transformational change in gender relations in the coffee sector.
2. Sensitization efforts should be carried out by government and coffee development organizations in order to highlight the contribution and the potential of women in the coffee value chain process.
3. Women should be empowered to join coffee producer membership organizations through advocating for the review of membership policies and/or encouraging men to share or gift ownership of land for coffee production to their wives and other female family members.
4. There is need to establish spaces to act as incubators for women's leadership and to allow both men and women to learn about the role of gender in the coffee development value chain.
5. There is need for the strengthening of women's committees in district and local council leadership structures so as to enable women leaders to have more influence over decision-making and access to financial resources.
6. Prioritize access to affordable credit for women and/or campaign for subsidized credit to be offered by the government or other local actors.
7. Invest in adult literacy programs to enable women to engage more effectively in democratic processes such as leadership elections and increase their awareness of and ability to access rights over land ownership and participation in their entire coffee value chain process.
8. Promote women led initiatives which add value to women's produce, generating additional resources that can be used to finance further women's empowerment initiatives and enable increased investment by women in their farms and families.

## **CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) Uganda chapter is part of a global network of women that advocate for the reduction of barriers for women in issues concerning coffee production. Globally, the mission of IWCA is to empower women in the international coffee community to achieve meaningful and sustainable lives and to encourage and recognize the participation of women in all aspects of the coffee industry.

### **1.1 Background to the study**

Coffee plays a leading role in the livelihood of Ugandans and contributes substantially to the national economy. Nearly 42% of farming households grow some coffee and coffee has contributed an average 30% to the country's foreign exchange earnings over the past decades. Coffee is therefore a strategic commodity whose development plays a critical role in the growth of the country's GDP and poverty reduction (*Uganda National Coffee Strategy Plan for 2015/16 - 2019/20*).

Like any other agricultural activities worldwide, women play a key role in the coffee development process. Women workers and farmers of coffee therefore, ought to be empowered, economically as well as politically so that they can have a variety of positive impacts in coffee development across the different levels of social and economic organizations.

This can be done by enhancing women's decision-making power and control over assets, strengthening democratic systems and encouraging a more equitable allocation of resources within coffee producer organizations and helping to raise productivity and improve quality in the entire coffee value chain process. This study was therefore commissioned by IWCA Uganda Chapter in order to identify the gaps and weaknesses in representation of women issues with the aim of strengthening their participation and empowerment in coffee value chain and on national platforms in Uganda. The findings of the study will help in upscaling the organizational capacity by IWCA to lobby and carry out advocacy campaign to address women issues on representation in the coffee sector.

### **1.2 Benefits of representation of women issues in the coffee value chain**

Women play a predominant role in African agriculture. They stand out as pillars of economic growth, especially when it comes to agriculture and agribusiness, which dominate rural economies throughout the continent. They are central to all aspects of agriculture and off-farm activities in their communities, yet their efforts are often hampered by their lack of access to productive resources, technologies, services and markets.

In 1995, a new Constitution was enacted bearing significant provisions on gender equality and women empowerment which have also been provided for in other laws such as the Local Government Act (LGA) of 1997. The 1995 Constitution and the Local Government Act provide for guaranteed quotas for women representatives in Parliament and at Local Government levels. These are affirmative action provisions that aim at having equal presentation and participation in all spheres of life regarding men and women. It is believed, if women representation and participation in coffee farming and agriculture in general is fair, there would be an enormous positive impact as narrated below;

- a)** According to UN Women Report that was discussed during a three-day Sharefair on Rural Women's Technologies to Improve Food Security, Nutrition and Productive Farming held in October 2014 in Nairobi, it was revealed that on average, women make up about 43 per cent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries. Evidence indicated that if these women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 per cent, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4 per cent. In turn, this would reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12 to 17 per cent.
- b)** Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, to achieve gender equality, and Goal 8, to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all; also Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on food security, Goal 3 on ensuring health and Goal 10 on reducing inequalities.
- c)** The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of

life. Achieving the goal of equal partnership of women and men in decision-making will provide a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society and is needed in order to strengthen democracy and promote its proper functioning. **(Platform for Action, para 109)**

- d) Furthermore, strengthening women representation and participation in coffee sector supports broad-based development through improved livelihoods and rural incomes, with wider benefits in terms of household welfare, ranging from improved nutritional status to education attainment of dependents. Increasing female farmers' productivity and resilience to the impact of climate change can also make a crucial contribution in meeting the future demand for coffee worldwide.

## **1.2 Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the study was to know the level of prioritization of women issues at the various platforms and readiness for women empowerment in the coffee sector and government programs. Specifically, the study was carried out to:

- i. To analyze the policy framework related to gender compliance and prioritization of affirmative action;
- ii. Establish the level of representation of Women in the coffee sector value chain and government programs;
- iii. To find out the Role of women in the coffee production value chain;
- iv. To investigate the Factors influencing and/or affecting the participation and representation of women issues in the coffee value chain

## **1.3 Methodology**

### **1.3.1 Scope of the study**

The study was carried out in 2019 in the coffee growing districts of, Mityana, Luwero, Kapchorwa, Sironko and Ibanda and it focused on identifying gender dynamics of farmer communities in the coffee value chain in the 5 districts. The study examined several aspects of coffee value chains, namely structure, governance, value adding and profitability with the ultimate aim of investigating the conditions that are necessary to provide equal opportunities for women and men to engage in and benefit from coffee value chain development.

Value chain analysis is concerned with the effective and efficient functioning of value chains and their potential to provide profit to those who participate, while gender analysis is concerned with

the extent to which men and women have equal access and control over resources and assets, voice and agency, and/or have equal opportunities to attain their chosen life outcomes.

Gender analysis on the other hand considered the factors within the coffee value chain and in the wider environment that affect the extent to which both men and women can participate in and benefit from the operation of coffee value chains. Combining the two, gender analysis provided a context and cultural reference in which to situate value chain analysis.

### 1.3.2 Respondents, sampling and data collection methods

The data collection methods included desktop and document review of the legal and policy frameworks, district rolling plans, meeting minutes, and reports for issues concerning affirmative action and women representation. Key informant interviews were also carried out with women representatives, members of parliament, district farmer associations, committee on agriculture, technocrats in the coffee sector at the ministry, district and sub-county levels. Questionnaire surveys and focus group discussions were also carried out with the local communities in the respective sampled districts and representatives of coffee farmers associations. Table 1 below gives a categorization of the sampled respondents:

**Table 1: Respondents and Sampling method**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Sampling methods</b>	<b>Number approached</b>
Community members, leaders and coffee farmers	Purposive and simple random sampling	60
Members of Parliament	Purposive sampling	10
District coffee farmer associations	Purposive sampling	10
Subcounty/district technical leaders. District agricultural extension workers (5) DPO (1)	Purposive sampling	6
National coffee steering committee members: National chairman and 4 members	Purposive sampling	5

## **CHAPTER TWO: FINDINGS**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the findings in regard to the objectives of the study

### **2.1 Policy framework related to gender compliance and prioritization of affirmative action**

#### **2.1.1 Policy framework**

Gender is an important element of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to a gender-specific goal (SDG,5), with 9 targets, all other goals include gender-focused performance indicators. Uganda's NDP II (GOU 2015) and Vision 2040 (GOU 2014) refer to these goals and their key gender components. The *Vision 2040* statement highlights the progress the country has made in the legal and policy arena, in political representation, and in lowering gaps in education. It also points out that the conditions sustaining gender inequality in Uganda remain salient: gender disparities in access and control over productive resources like land; limited share of women in wage employment in non-agricultural sectors; sexual and gender-based violence; limited participation in household, community and national decision-making (GOU 2014:96).

The Ugandan national development programs like NDP II and III focus on strengthening Uganda's competitiveness for wealth creation, inclusive growth, and employment. The programs single out agriculture, tourism, and minerals, oil and gas as the key productive sectors in which to invest over the plan periods and they emphasize on infrastructure and human capital development as critical enabling sectors to underpin Uganda's push toward middle-income status by 2040. However, although the plans allude to increased labor force participation in cash crop production, no specific analysis of this point is provided especially in regards to gender.

It should however be noted that the programs like NDPII do make specific reference to gender-inclusion in some areas. The tourism sector includes the establishment of a special fund to support women in the sector to grow out of the informal into the formal sector, alongside the creation of a gender-responsive information management system for the sector. Goals of gender inclusion are expressly articulated in the sections dealing with human development. The plan does make reference to "up-scaling the transfer and utilization of food production and labor-saving technologies for women farmers", as one means of increasing production and productivity in the sector.

However, there are some notable gaps and omissions. There is no mention of gender in the areas dealing with agriculture, mining, environment and natural resources, trade and competitiveness, industry, transport, water for production, and ICT.

The Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic development (MFPED) has added impetus to the government's broad policy of mainstreaming gender in sectoral plans by issuing along with the Budget Call Circular, a requirement for gender-responsive budgeting in the 2015 Public Finance Act and also awarding certificate for Gender compliance to MDAs as a mandatory requirement for financial allocations. Assessment of compliance is to Gender and Equity is Equal Opportunities Commission, which was constitutionally established under EOC Act, 2007 to “)“to give effect to the State's constitutional mandate to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the ground of sex, age, race, color, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, health status, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability, and take affirmative action in favor of groups marginalized on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them; and to provide for other related matters”.

In the exercise of its powers, the Commission has assessed the agricultural Ministerial Policy statements over years and Agriculture has scored 49%, 70% and 79.3% for the FYs 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 respectively.

The reason for the gradual improvement in as far as gender compliance is concerned, over the years as per the Commission Report was that; Under the Community Agricultural and Infrastructure Improvement Project (CAIIP III) Project, 79 Agro-processing facilities were installed in 31 districts. These are being watched over by Ministry of Local Government.

### **2.1.2 Gender Strategy**

Uganda first developed a National Gender Policy in 1997 that sought not only to implement constitutional provisions protecting women's rights, but also to domesticate the country's commitments to The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women(CEDAW), which Uganda ratified in 1985, and to the Beijing Platform of Action adopted in 1995. Uganda ratified the Women's Rights Protocol of the African Charter in 2010. Uganda's current gender policy was prepared in 2007. Key provisions include: building the capacity of central and local government agencies in gender mainstreaming; promoting affirmative action in political, economic and social spheres; and ensuring gender equality and

women's empowerment in all economic sectors, with a key focus on girls' longevity in school, improved health care for women, reduction in the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, and increasing women's access to agricultural incentives.

Uganda has made progress in gender mainstreaming across sectors in government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), with initial investment in capacity-building, especially in gender-responsive policy-making, planning and budgeting (GRB). This has led to the development of GRB guidelines and manuals, to provide gender focal persons in sectors, local governments and CSOs with critical reference materials and tools so that planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation across government is gender responsive (NPA 2013a). Sector-specific gender policies and strategies were developed in health, education, water and environment, agriculture, local government, and the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) (NPA 2013b).

### **2.1.3 Coffee sector strategy**

The Uganda National Coffee Strategy 2015/16-2019/20 is a strategy aligned with Vision 2040, and the National Development Plans and the draft Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP) and includes targets and results projected for the next 25 years in the coffee sector. Strategy 1.1.9 provides for the mainstreaming of gender and youth in coffee production by developing/promoting affirmative action for youth/women; Use of the 'Household Approach' to ensure extension services address gender and youth issues; Document and evaluate the impact on women and youth participation of the cultural norms and taboos; and Facilitate access to special fund for youth and women organized into various women/youth groups

### **2.1.4 The National Coffee Bill, 2018**

Section 2 of the bill explicitly proposes its purpose which include;

- (a) to facilitate the development of a competitive, participatory and sustainable coffee subsector in accordance with the National Coffee Policy, 2013;
- (b) to provide for the Uganda Coffee Development Authority to regulate, promote and oversee the coffee subsector; and
- (c) to regulate all on-farm and off-farm activities in the coffee value chain.

However, the bill is silent about the participation of women in the Coffee sector

## 2.2 Level of representation of Women in the coffee sector value chain and government programs

The study sought to establish the level of representation of women in the coffee sector. Some of the respondents had leadership positions like members of parliament, district/local council representatives.

### 2.2.1 Representatives of women in functions of district-based coffee committees

Respondents in leadership positions at various capacities were asked to evaluate the level of involvement of women in district /local councils. They were asked to give a ranking on a number of issues related to women involvement using the parameters of SA=strongly agree, A= Agree; NS=Neither agree nor disagree; D= Disagree; SD= Strongly disagree. The results are shown in table 2 below:

**Table 2: Women Involvement in district/local councils**

Function areas of the district/local councils	SD	D	NS	A	SA	Total%	Mean
involvement in over 80% of the decisions passed in a committee as a representative of women	8.4%	11.0%	4.5%	30.3%	45.8%	100%	3.94
appointed on a committee as a representative of women	16.8%	29.7%	14.2%	21.3%	18 %	100%	2.94
Involved in reviewing budgets and work plans for the last 12 months and ensuring inclusion of women issues concerning coffee value chain.	12.9%	15.5%	8.4%	31.6%	31.6%	100%	3.54
Raising issues concerning coffee value chain.	5.2%	6.5%	11.0%	38.6%	38.7%	100%	3.99
Bringing to the attention of relevant technical & political; leaders' different matters of concern of the coffee value chain	38.7%	27.1%	9.7%	16.1%	8.4%	100%	2.28
Receive and solve problems or disputes forwarded from committees.	9.7%	23.2%	10.3%	25.8%	31%	100%	3.45

Table 2 above shows results of a mean analysis that was carried out to show the perceptions of respondents on various aspects of women representation. It was observed that a good percentage of the respondents (45.8%) strongly agreed that they have been involved in over 80% of the decisions passed in a committee as a representative of women. However, there was some

disagreement from some respondents. Overall, with a mean score of 3.94 there was agreement that women representatives have been involved to some extent.

When asked whether women have been adequately appointed on a committee as a representative of women, (29.7%) disagreed, (21.3%) agreed, (16.8%) strongly disagreed, (18%) strongly agreed whereas the least number were not sure accounting for (14.2%) of the respondents. Overall, the respondents were uncertain about whether women were adequately represented in the committees (mean 2.94).

On the issue of whether women representatives were involved in reviewing budgets and work plans for the previous 12 months and ensuring inclusion of women issues concerning coffee value chain, it was observed that (12.9%) strongly disagreed, (15.5%) disagreed, (8.4%) were not sure whereas a good percentage (31.6%) agreed and 31.6 % strongly agreed. Overall, with a mean of 3.54, there was a relatively high level of participation of women representatives although respondents in some districts indicated that it was low.

On the issue of raising issues concerning coffee value chain it was observed that (5.2%) strongly disagreed, (6.5%) disagreed, (11%) were not sure whereas a good percentage (38.6%) agreed and (38.7%) strongly agreed. Overall, with a mean of 3.99, the findings show that women representatives raised issues concerning women participation in coffee value chain although some of them did not do so in some districts.

Regarding to whether they bring to the attention of relevant technical & political leaders' different matters of concern of the coffee value chain, a good percentage of the respondents (38.7%) strongly disagreed, (27.1%) disagreed, (9.7%) were not sure, (16.1%) agreed whereas the least percentage (8.4%) strongly agreed. With a mean response of 2.28, findings indicate that the relevant attention of technical and political leaders on different matters concerning women's participation in the value chain are hardly brought to the attention of leaders hence rarely addressed.

On whether the district/local councils receive and solve problems or disputes forwarded from committees, (9.7%) strongly disagreed, (23.2%) disagreed, (10.3 %) were not sure, (25.8%) agreed whereas a good percentage (31%) strongly agreed. Overall, with a mean of 3.45, most of the respondents were uncertain about whether the district councils actually receive and resolve the issues affecting women.

An analysis of the representation of parliament in the agriculture committee, Animal Industry and Fisheries indicate that 15 out of the 30 committeemembers including the chairperson are females as indicated in Table below. This presents a good opportunity for women issues in the coffee sector to be discussed and acted upon.

<b>COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES</b>		
1	Hon. Lowila CD Oketayot	Chairperson
2	Ho. Migadde Robert	Vice- Chairperson
3	Hon. Akugizibwe Lawrence	Member
4	Hon. Kabagenyi Rose	Member
5	Hon. BintuJaliaLukum	Member
6	Hon. Birungi Carolyn	Member
7	Hon. ChemutaiEverlyn	Member
8	Hon. Katushabe Ruth	Member
9	Hon. KaahwaTophace B	Member
10	Hon. Kakooza Joseph	Member
11	Hon. Khainza Justine	Member
12	Hon. Kusasira Peace	Member
13	Hon. Lokoru Albert	Member
14	Hon. NyiiraZerubabel	Member
15	Hon. Elotu Cosmas	Member
16	Hon. Rwabwogo Sylvia	Member
17	Hon. Taaka Agnes Wejululi	Member
18	Hon. Aol Jacqueline Rama	Member
19	Hon. Sekindi Aisha NRM	Member
20	Hon. Prof. Ogenga Latigo	Member
21	Hon. Lakot Susan	Member
22	Hon. EitungananeEsiangu Kenneth	Member
23	Hon. Andrew KlizaKaluya	Member
24	Hon. Watenga Godfrey	Member
25	Hon. Okin PP Ojara	Member
26	Hon. Alum Santa Sandra	Member
27	Hon. Gonahasa Francis	Member
28	Hon. Veronica Nanyondo	Member
29	Hon. MuhindoTonny Harold	Member
30	Hon. Mukasa Julius Opondo	Member

Despite the fact that there was seemingly a high women representation in the Committee (50% of the total membership), the reviewed Committee reports do not point out at any single action taken by the committee specifically targeting women in coffee value chain both at higher level and lower levels of Government.

While re parliamentary debates on Coffee sub-sector, it was noted that, in It was also found out that, though there is significant representation in various leadership platforms especially at the local government levels, the Gender gap in coffee production was seen to be high and this was confirmed by the CAO of Ibanda district. According to him, confirmed;

*“While female participation in rural households is indispensable, women in Ibanda face gender specific constraints in accessing resources that hamper their agricultural productivity, negatively affecting household welfare. Women invest much of their labor in in coffee growing and processing but unfortunately, they do not control the proceeds because traditionally men have taken over this role. There are significant differences betweenmen and women in their level of empowerment and this has affected women participation in the coffee value chain.”*



*Photo 1: KII with CAO Ibanda district*

## 2.2.2 Participation with regards to receiving and giving feedback to women represented

Women representatives at respective platforms were asked questions regarding giving women they represent in communities' feedback from the district or local council deliberations. The responses are given in table 3 below:

**Table 3: Mechanisms for receiving and giving feedback to the women and other coffee farmers**

Mechanisms	SD	D	NS	A	SA	Total%	Mean
Hold consultative meetings with women to gather their views on issues in the community that affect their participation in coffee value chain	34.3%	40%	8.6%	11.4%	5.7%	100%	2.14
Mobilize women and other coffee farmers to participate in formulation and implementation of coffee-related Programs and campaigns	11.4%	22.9%	5.7%	45.7%	14.3%	100%	3.29
Regularly update women/farmers on issues being discussed in committees.	11.4%	37.1%	20%	17.1%	14.4%	100%	2.86

The table above indicates that on the issue of whether the women representatives hold consultative meetings with women to gather their views on issues in the community that affect their participation in coffee value chain, majority of the respondents (34.3%) strongly disagreed, a good percentage disagreed (40%), (8.6%) were not sure, (11.4%) agreed whereas the least percentage (5.7%) strongly agreed. With a mean response of 2.14, its clear that most of the women representatives hardly hold consultative meetings with the women they represent to discuss affairs concerning coffee.

However, on the issue of whether they participate in Mobilizing women and other coffee farmers to participate in formulation and implementation of coffee-related Programs and campaigns (11.4%) strongly disagreed, (22.9%) disagreed, (5.7%) were not sure, A good percentage (45.7%) agreed whereas (14.3%) strongly agreed. Overall, with a mean of 3.29, there was high participation of the women representatives on mobilizing women to participate in coffee related issues.

Finally, on whether they regularly update women/farmers on issues being discussed in committees, there were mixed reactions; (11.4%) strongly disagreed, a large percentage (37.1%) disagreed, (20%) were not sure, (17.1%) agreed whereas (14.4%) strongly agreed. The mean

score of 2.86, also showed that the representatives were divided on the issue of regularly updating members.

Findings from the key informant interviews also indicated that a majority of the participants mentioned that they had presented issues concerning women representation and participation in their respective capacities. One finance committee member from Luweero district elaborated on what she did; according to her, *“I have fought for women’s rights by ensuring that that all departments at the district level involve women in their activities.”*

When asked whether her issues were taken into consideration, she answered in the affirmative by saying,

*“With our efforts, women in the coffee value chain in the district in conjunction with Operation Wealth Creation gave out coffee seedlings to women and women groups.”*

The chairperson of the BuleraNabumbugu coffee farmers’ cooperative also mentioned that some of their gender inclusion activities had paid off. According to him,

*“Because of our advocacy activities, we benefited from trainings for women at the parish and village levels. The government leadership is to a great extent putting into consideration our efforts to enhance women participation in the coffee development value chain.”*

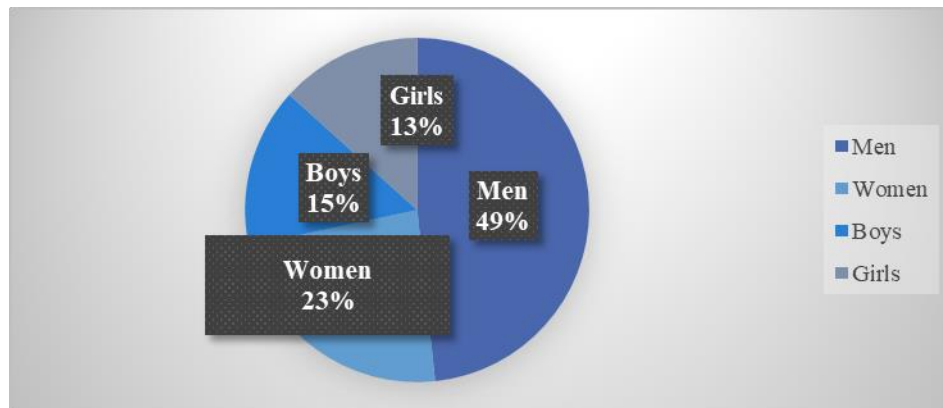


***Photo 2: KII with a committee member of the district coffee steering committee Ibanda district ,2019. Left is the office of one of the Coffee Processors Association.***

### 2.2.3 Participation /Role of women in the coffee production value chain

This section gives an analysis of the level of participation of community women in coffee value chain. When asked who has the major responsibility of coffee production in their households, majority of the community-based women surveyed mentioned that it was men (49%) whereas 23% mentioned that it's the women. A few mentioned girls and boys mainly from child headed households and those engaged in child labor to make ends meet for their families.

**Figure 1: Household member in major role in coffee production**



Participants in FGDs were asked what women's role in coffee production is and it was revealed that women participated in almost all the activities in the coffee value chain. Some of the activities mentioned by the respondents include: land preparation which commonly involves digging and weeding the land to prepare for planting, care of nurseries, planting and crop maintenance, pruning and application of fertilizers; harvesting and primary processing where men and women work together on fermentation and washing of coffee and women are usually responsible for supervising the drying of coffee. Both Women and female youth at times participate in the sales and marketing, bagging and transportation of crops to the point of sale and most of them at times carry the coffee on their backs, walking behind the men until they reach the buying center, where the men sell the coffee and receive payment.

In addition to participation in the production of coffee, women participate in other farm and household activities as revealed by a participant in an FGD in Mityana,

*“Women also participate in cultivation of other food crops like bananas. We are also involved in individual or group farming and business activities; cultivating and selling vegetables or preparing food to sell in local markets.”*

Another FGD participant mentioned other roles of women,

*“Women usually take the lead on caring for farm animals; for example, breeding chickens or pigs; cleaning out the goats or cow shed and providing animals with food and water. Women are always responsible for childcare, cleaning, cooking and washing clothes as well as caring for elderly relatives, and fetching water and firewood.”*

It was also found out from the FGDs that whereas women play a key role in coffee value chain, it was mainly the men who controlled the proceeds from the sales.

A male participant from Ibanda alluded to this; according to him

*“After we receive proceeds from coffee farming , Women usually identify what is needed for the household, including food, and men decide how much would be spent; either men carry out the purchase themselves, or give the money to women to spend, asking for the change on their return which is usually spent drinking alcohol in bars.”*

Most Women therefore had no access to disposable cash and their only personal expenses were clothes and other few essentials. In fact, when probed further and asked whether they should share the proceeds of the coffee, male FDG participants rejected the idea. According to one participant who was a member of the cooperative union,

*“Women must work on the coffee because it is their duty as wives, but that this duty carries no corresponding right to participate in decision-making about the income from coffee sales.”*

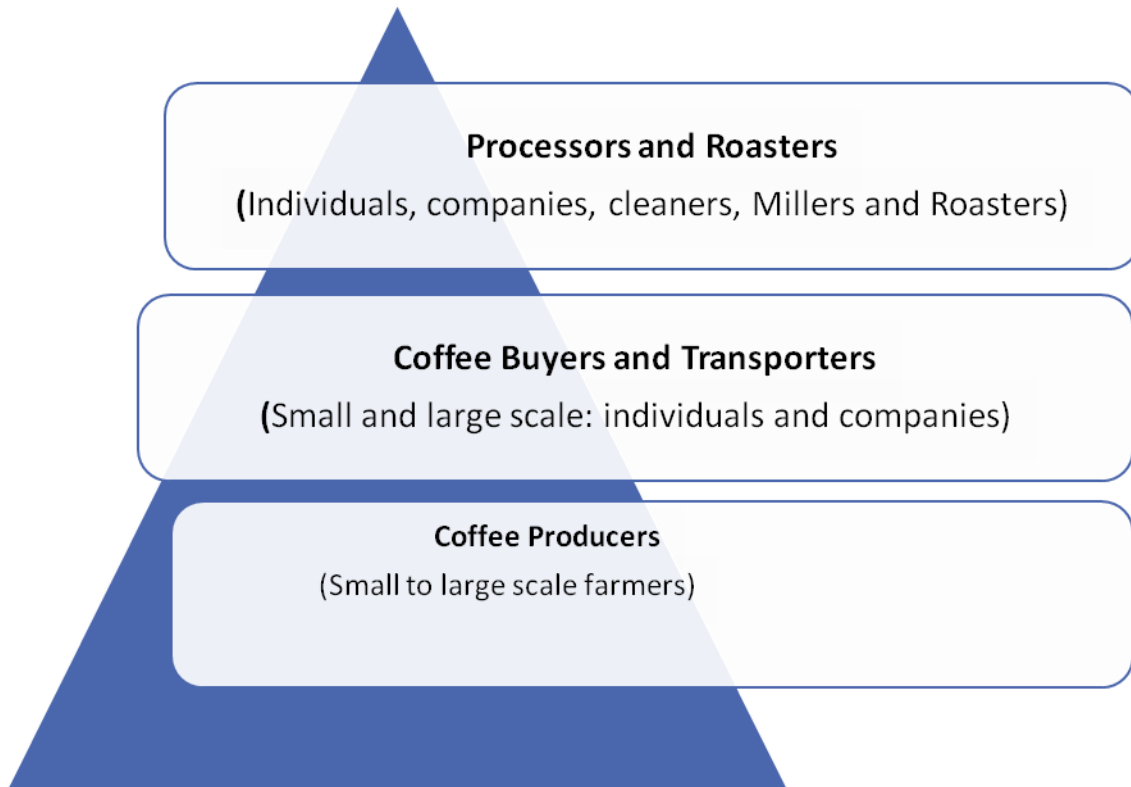


*Photo 3: Interview with woman processing coffee in Luweero district*

### 2.3 Factors influencing /hindering the participation of women in the coffee value chain

Analysis was made along the whole coffee value chain right from what happens at the Coffee farm up to the final consumer

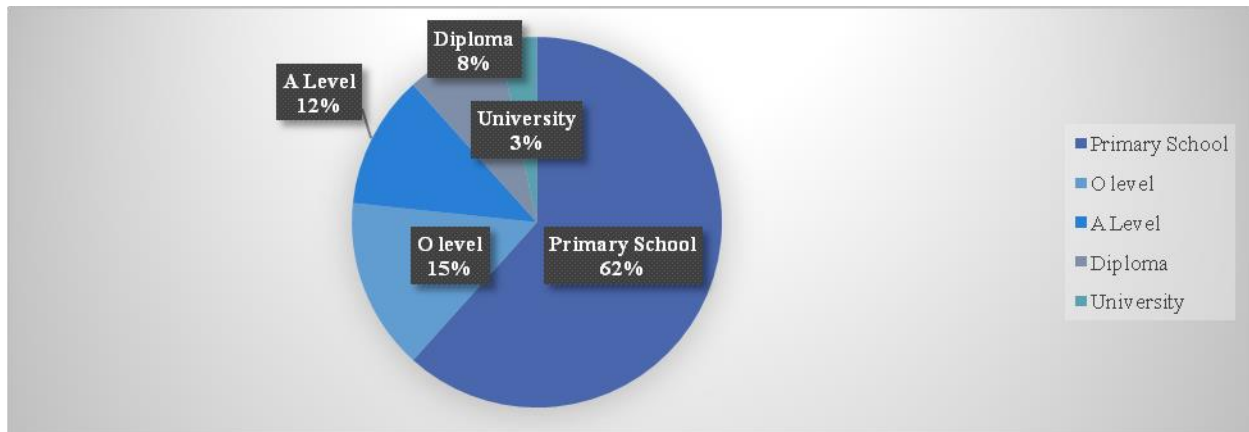
#### An illustration of coffee value chain



#### (a) Factors affecting women in coffee at a production level.

Women and girls who are engaged in coffee production are predominantly characterized by low level of education or none at all and this leads to quite number of challenges/limitations. It was discovered through the study that a number of socio-demographic as well as cultural and policy factors either influenced or hindered women participation in the coffee value chain process. At a cultural level, the women had the obligation to participate in some activities as set out by the values and principles accorded to women by the community. Very few of them were aware of the existing policy framework that accorded women the right to participate in the community activities. This could be attributed to the fact that majority of the community women hardly attained a higher level of education with majority (62%) of them having obtained just a primary living education as shown in figure 2 below:

**Figure 2: Community women level of education**



It should however be noted that despite the low levels of education, the women could participate more in the coffee value chain process if they were more sensitized by their representatives. However, when asked whether they know their representatives, most of the respondents mentioned that they are aware of them and know how they are elected but the representatives barely engage them on issues concerning coffee growing. The representatives mostly engage them on other issues especially related to political activities.

Beyond basic education, it was also discovered from the study that differences also exist between male and female farmers in their access to agricultural knowledge and skills. For coffee growers, agricultural extension, is often the main source of information on improved farming methods and new technologies. However, when respondents were asked whether they access extension services. Figure 3 below shows that majority of the respondents (80%) mentioned that they had contact with extension services at one time or another. The extension services mainly involved training on how to improve yields through fertilizer use and efficient land management.

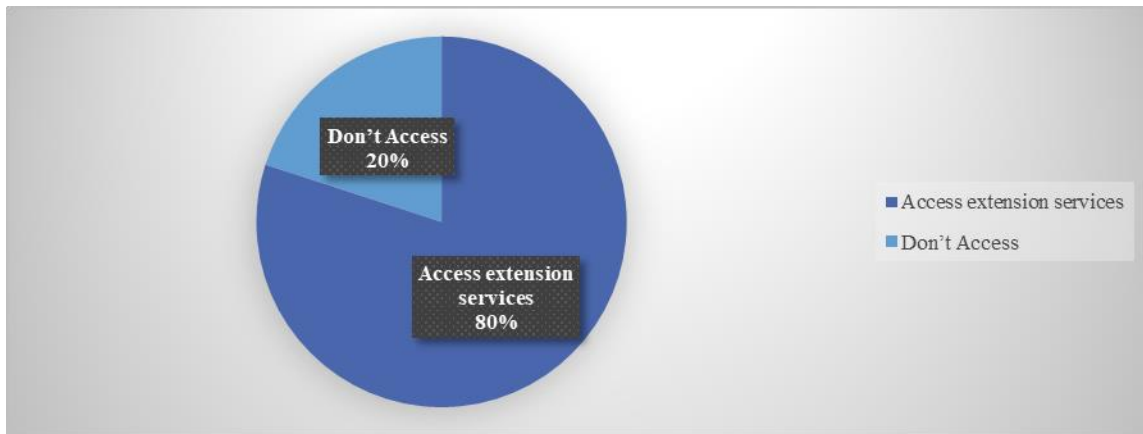


**Photo 4: Interview session with a male respondent in Luweero district**

However, the participants in the FGDs complained that the services were unreliable and haphazard in nature. Most of the inputs promised in the extension services were not supplied by the government. These findings were corroborated by an interview with one of the key Informants a district production officer of Mityana. According to him

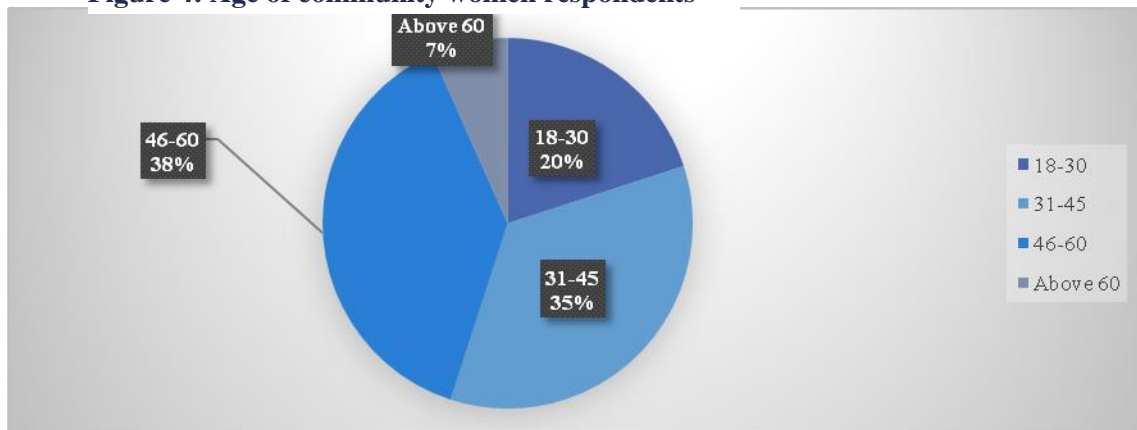
*“The women as compared to men have less control over land, use fewer agro-inputs and have less access to extension services. This limited access to productive assets may decrease women’s bargaining power in and outside the household consequently, limiting their ability to join producer organizations that require ownership of assets such as land.”*

**Figure 3: Access to extension services**



From the study, it was found that most of the women who participated in the coffee value chain process were over 30 years old as shown by figure 4.

**Figure 4: Age of community women respondents**



Age was found to be a critical factor in participation in the coffee value chain process. According to one district agricultural officer,

*“Women who tend to participate in coffee value chain process are older. Their ability to participate could be attributed to the nature of the coffee enterprise which is a long-term perennial crop that tends to attract older people who have more access to and control over factors of production such as land compared to the younger people. In addition, some of the women are elderly and don’t have more reproductive roles compared to the young”*

Some key informants also attributed institutional factors as being an influence and hinderance in the participation of women in the coffee value chain process. One of the key factors mentioned was the ownership of coffee gardens. According to an extension worker from Kapchorwa,

*“.... Ownership of coffee gardens give one the right to make decision and carryout any related activities on such at will. However, most gardens are shared since most of our access to land by women is by virtue of marital status hence limiting their decision making and optimal participation in the value chain process.”*



**Photo 5: Interview session with female respondent in Luweero district**

Social capital in the form of Community-based organizations, such as farmers' groups, clusters, co-operatives or savings associations, are an effective way of improving access to factor and productmarkets, information about production techniques and to pool risk. Collaboration of individual farmers helps to overcome constraints in accessing resources and to realize economies of scale.

However, it was realized from this study that women in Uganda often struggle to actively participate in farmer groups, and yet Membership to farmer groups is very critical to the level of participation of women in the coffee value chain process. An extension worker from Sironko was of the view that Women who were members or come from a family that is in a farmer group participate more in the coffee value chain process since they have access to more information, credit and technical assistance. However, some women were left out of the farmer membership groups because of the membership criteria used. According to the extension officer from Sironko district,

*“Membership criteria are minimum attributes set for one to be a member. Requirements such payment of membership fee, maintaining financial penalties for failure to attend meetings, single member perhousehold and having a coffee garden hindered women’s participation in farmer groups. In fact, in all the member group meetings that I have attended, very few members are women since they cannot meet the membership requirements.”*

Similarly, a representative of Café Africa a national coffee platform, Mr. Emong Samson pointed out some issues that hindered women participation in farmer groups. According to him,

*“Women hardly participate in coffee membership organizations since prevailing social norms, time constraints and limited mobility as a result of the double burden of household and field work limit their participation. Women have significantly lower participation in group meetings among female farmers compared to their male peers. Coffee sector is dominated by men traditionally and this his limited participation of their counterparts”*



*Photo 6: KII with a representative from Café Africa, a national Coffee platform:2019*

Access to credit was also a significant factor that affected women’s participation in the coffee value chain process. This was a key issue arising from the FGDs. According to one participant,

*“Few of us source credit to finance coffee production from the bank and microfinance institutions. Others get from friends/relatives. But most of us can’t to look for credit because of the fear of debts.”*

An agricultural officer in one of the interviews reiterated the importance of credit in women’s participation in the coffee value chain process. According to him,

*“The more women accessed credit, the more they invested and allocated their time to coffee so as to ensure that they clear the debt.”*

Access to land was also found to be a significant aspect towards participation of women in the coffee value chain process. Land is a very crucial coffee resource because it is a growth media for coffee. By observation method, the researchers noticed that Land in the study site was in small parcels which was majorly accessed and controlled by men than women hence limiting women’s participation in the coffee value chain process. According to an extension worker from Ibanda district,

*“Land as an input is both inherited and purchased. Women access land by virtue of the relationship with men through marriage or any other form of relationship. The women as compared to men have less control over land, use fewer agro-inputs*

*and have less access to extension services. This limited access to productive assets decreases women's bargaining power in and outside the household consequently, limiting their ability to participate in the coffee production process."*



*Photo 7: Data collector inspecting a coffee garden in Mityana*

A key informant from a coffee cooperative in Luweero reiterated the importance of land in women empowerment in the agricultural sector and coffee sector in particular. According to him,

*"Land is the most important agricultural production factor and provides the basis for growing crops or holding livestock. Land, when farmed sustainably, can be passed on through generations, providing a livelihood for rural communities. Importantly, in areas with functioning property markets, land can also be used as collateral to obtain finance from commercial lenders. As such land ownership is vital to secure working capital loans and particularly finance for long-term investments in agricultural enterprises. Unfortunately, there is a considerable gender difference in access to land in Uganda. This is often the result of customary practices that limit access to and rights over land."*

From the field, it was also discovered that It's not just resources and support that woman struggle with. Sexual assault and rape on the coffee farms often goes unspoken about, especially deep in the rural villages and for many coffee producers, it's a reality – especially for those in positions of less power, such as coffee pickers, both women and girls.

Other factors include at production level include:

Low levels of productivity, poor general agronomic practices e.g., failure to prune and or stump old coffee bushes; poor crop protection practices that has result into a high disease and pest burden e.g., the coffee wilt disease, fluctuating prices which discourage women farmers from growing more coffee.

High post-harvest losses, resulting from limited knowledge and capacity to handle harvests , lack of modern storage facilities, high bank lending rates, and poor market access roads among others and

Women Farmers face great difficulty accessing coffee seedlings in terms of quantity and quality because of availability limitations

### **(b) Factors affecting Women in Coffee at marketing level**

A number of women farmers are engaged in coffee marketing level either as suppliers, buyers & transporters. At this level, they face an uphill task is the daily execution of their businesses.

Female coffee buyers/ transporters face similar challenges like their male counterparts in the same business but the magnitude obviously differs. One of the striking factors affecting them is the lack of enough working capital which is mainly caused by their disadvantaged position at family level, of limited or lack of access to resources both financial and non-financial. The other cause for this scenario is caused by unfavorable financial products offered by the lending institutions. Some Financial Institutions offer interest rates that go way high to 35%. This becomes unbearable and becomes hard for women to access.

The other pressing factor is price fluctuations. With limited resources, women coffee farmers are perturbed by ever fluctuating prices of coffee. During the study it was discovered that women are affected by the price fluctuations across all levels of coffee value chain right from the producers up to the processors; both individually or as members of coffee groups. However, it was learnt from the interviews held that for the last three years, (from 2017 to 2019) there was a slight increase in the price of coffee at the farm gates which gave farmers and local buyers a smile. This was due to slight increase in the international demand for coffee. Nonetheless, given that buyers normally buy coffee from

the farm sites, there is a tendency of the local farmers in rural areas to keep in dark regarding the increase of coffee prices.

In Kapchorwa, one of the female interviewees lamented of the high costs involved in the transporting coffee from the producers to the processors, which is engineered by poor terrain coupled with unfavorable climate especially the rainy season. Roads become impassable and it is very hard and costly to transport coffee. This has greatly affected women in coffee farming



Field Photo: Kapchorwa-Swamu road. Sometimes traders use donkeys to transport produce.

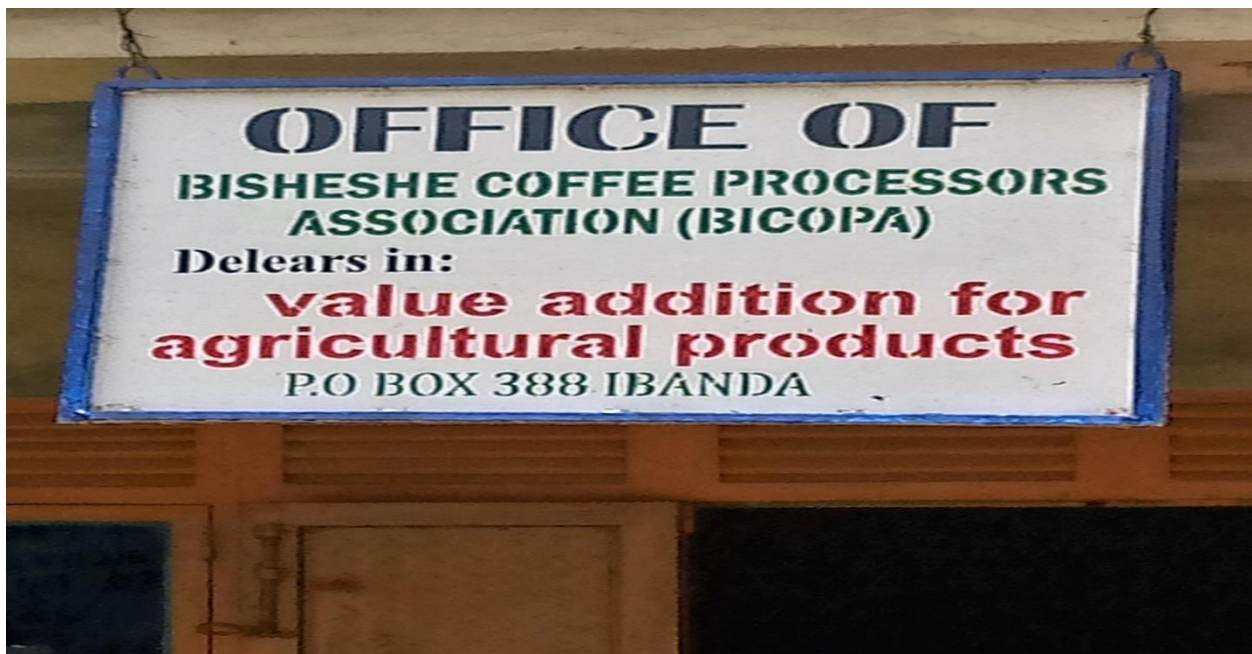
There are other factors that affect women in coffee at the marketing level and these are;

- Limited access to good varieties
- Limited business management skills, e.g., record keeping
- For export traders, dollar volatility and scarcity are hindering their opportunity to exploit premium price coffee for FOB

**(C) Factors affecting women in coffee at processing level.**

A number of women have sought and even created employment at the level of coffee processing, at all levels of causal, middle and top management and face different challenges. At institutional level, it was revealed that high cost of electricity to run processing machines / equipment is a great challenge.

*“It’s very hard for us to operate due to power charges”* Kellen, in Ibanda lamented. *“When balancing the cost of power and the profits realized, you really see that the business is not healthy at all”*



Kellen, a member and a leader at Bisheshe Coffee Processors Association appealed to both local and central government to see how they subsidize their business

Kellen further revealed to the Research Team that women like any other coffee processing dealer have suffered under the hands of the middle men who buy processed coffee on behalf of coffee exporters. She claimed that coffee is always bought at low prices with an excuse that it is of low quality even when it is known to be of high quality. But because they cannot afford additional costs to Kampala and also limited access to exporters, they always succumb to prices they are offered.

Again, the high bank interest rates are not sparing women who are in coffee processing. It was revealed that if rates were low, processing plants would expand it would also be easy to buy processing equipment which is also costly. As of July 2019, the loan interest rates were between 18.0 and 22.0 per the Bank of Uganda State of the Economy Report. Given the vulnerability of agribusinesses, it's not favorable for coffee processors.

As already mentioned from above, the other factor affecting women coffee processors is the cost of processing equipment is very high.

Most of the processing plants are located in rural areas with few drying and storage facilities which in the chain forces them to process coffee that is not yet fully dry. This affects the quality of the coffee beans produced and consequently will reduce on the outturn that the processing dealer expects. In the end women's incomes will reduce and the diverse effects will trickle down both to the wellbeing of the economy and also on the wellbeing of their own families.

Other factors that affect women at coffee processing level at middle and managerial level included the following;

- Poor infrastructure especially the roads in most rural
- Processing stops at selling coffee beans
- Traceability of coffee from farm to final product.
- Government policies in agriculture which do not prioritize coffee
- Failure of cooperatives



*A group of workers at Bisheshe Coffee processing plant in Ibanda pose for a photo together with the Researcher*

**(d) What about casual female workers' coffee processing plants?**

The study also found out that women in coffee processing sub-sector also find a number of troubling challenges that range to low wages, lack of job contractual agreements, lack of maternity leaves, long working hours, sexual harassment by their superiors, lack of housing, poor working environment, occupational hazards etc.

## CHAPTER THREE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.0 Introduction

The study shows that there are significant challenges towards women’s participation in the coffee value chain right from limitations in the policy framework to leadership representation and other aspects like access to vital resources like land. Recommendations are highlighted in the matrix below for IWCA-Uganda Chapter to take action:

S/N	Recommendation	IWCA actions	Responsibility	Period
1	The level of prioritization of women Issues should be elevated in all coffee platforms both at local and national levels.	The IWCA Coordination team should liaise with other coffee platforms where they are represented and lobby for inclusion of women issues in coffee sector as an agenda item for discussion	IWCA	
2	Periodic surveys/studies/monitoring exercises of farmers should be carried out to identify day to day issues affecting women	The IWCA Secretariat/ Managers should mobilize resources and carry out periodic visits to Identify issues affecting women in coffee sector and develop strategies on how to advocate for the elimination of these issues	IWCA-Uganda	

3	Strong advocacy for women empowerment in coffee sector should be at the forefront of IWCA activities.	This can be done through production of Informational, Educational and Communication materials that address the plight of women in coffee sector	IWCA	
4	Formation and empowerment of women groups especially in rural areas and at the district level to tackle the challenges affecting women in coffee through attitude change	The IWCA-Uganda together with the help donor communities can empower local women groups to challenge the status quo of women in coffee farming. This can be drama through dramas, roleplaying, simulations and other attitude change channels	IWCA, Donor Communities, Other Coffee platforms, Government	
5	There is need to establish spaces to act as incubators for women's leadership and to allow both men and women to learn about the role of gender in the coffee development value chain.	The IWCA secretariat should liaise/lobby the district councils to provide community halls where women and men can be trained	IWCA	
6	IWCA-Uganda should specifically try and create	IWCA-Uganda/Parliament	IWCA Secretariat/	

	a platform with Parliamentary committee on Agriculture so that once successfully issues of women in coffee sector can have a priority voice and attention		Responsible Parliamentary clerk	
7	A special audit should be commissioned to assess gender laws and other affirmative action programs to identify their relevance towards empowering women in coffee and provide input on how well they can be amended to address the cause	A special team of legislators/law makers can be instituted to establish how well the available legislation addresses the plight of women in coffee sector	IWCA Secretariat	