



Agricultural Policy Research in Africa



APRA TANZANIA INFLUENCING ACTIVITIES MEDIA WORKSHOP REPORT -ON AGRICULTURAL COMMERCIALISATION IN TANZANIA

1.0 Introduction

On October 20th 2020, the APRA research team -Tanzania team conducted a workshop for 35 journalists from various media houses. This is one of several influencing activities under the Agricultural Policy Research for Africa (APRA), focusing on understanding the drivers and livelihood outcomes of agricultural commercialisation in eight African countries. The main objective of the workshop was to communicate research findings to journalists as strategic stakeholders so that they can effectively participate in disseminating research findings from studies under APRA to relevant stakeholders so to inform as an input to seeking provide informed decisions when implementing strategies for improving the performance of agricultural value chains.

In Tanzania the research focused on understanding how commercialisation processes are happening in the rice and sunflower value chain in Kilombero district and Singida region respectively, and their impact on livelihoods and food security of men women and youths. The studies have identified opportunities for enhancing commercialisation as well as constraints to be addressed in order to ensure sustainable and inclusive development of agricultural value chains. The objective of the workshop was to share the findings with journalist for wider sharing and dissemination to other stakeholders including; policy makers, producer, processors, extension agents, traders, service providers, development partners and many others. Once informed, it is expected that the stakeholders will identify avenues for their engage as actors, service providers or facilitating agencies in the process of improving value chain performance in terms of profitability, inclusion and sustainability.

The workshop was held at Sokoine university of Agriculture in Morogoro region at the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). The Workshop involved 38 participants 11 female (29%) and 27 male (71%) Out of these 30 participants were journalists from 24 different media houses. The gender breakdown of the journalists was; 9 females (30%) and 21 males (70%). The remaining 8 were researchers (2 female and 6 male). The list of participants is presented The journalists came from 24 different media houses including; 10 television stations, 3 radio stations, 8 daily and weekly newspapers, 3 social media, and summarised in Table 1 below.

Media type	TV		Radio		Daily and weekly newspapers		Social media		Mixed (radio & TV)		Total	
Media type	5		3		8		3		4		23	
Number of participants from Media												
Gender	F	M	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number	2	8	1	0	5	3	4	0	3	4	21	9

Percent	20.0	80.0	100.0	0.0	62.5	37.5	100	0	42.8	57.2	70.0	30.0
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The theme of the workshop was: **“Impact of agricultural commercialisation on the livelihoods and women empowerment of the agrarian communities of Morogoro and Singida Region.”** Researchers communicated their findings in the form of working papers, Research reports, Policy briefs, and Blogs; and they used various formats to present those findings which includes Power Point presentations, posters, fliers, and printed blogs. The workshop as guided by a programme attached as Annex 1.

2.0 Opening of the Workshop

The APRA project country lead, Professor Aida Isinika opened the workshop by welcoming all the participants; she introduced APRA to Journalist as a programme involving over 100 researchers in six African countries (Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Nigeria) working in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom as the coordinating institutions. The research programme is funded by DFID with the aim of responding to Africa’s Malabo challenge to support the process of accelerating agricultural transformation and growth for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. APRA addresses the overarching research question **“What are the pathways to agricultural commercialisation that have been most effective in empowering women and girls, reducing rural poverty and improving nutrition and food security?”** APRA contributes to the Malabo process by;

- Producing new evidence to inform policies and investments in commercial agriculture to make them more effective and *inclusive*
- Providing a better understanding of the *political economy* behind agricultural commercialisation policy processes in the region

APRA has three work streams (WS1, WS2 and WS3);

- WS1 - Panel Studies of different commercialisation types and people’s *‘selection choices’* over two waves; *Focusing on* commercialisation choices; women’s and girl’s empowerment; labour and employment; food and nutrition security; and poverty reduction
- WS2 – Longitudinal Studies of pathways to agricultural commercialisation in different agrarian contexts; *Focusing on* processes of *‘stepping up’* and *‘stepping out’ of agriculture*
- WS3 – Comparative Policy Studies to fill evidence gaps in various areas including: business investment in agricultural commercialisation, growth corridors and commercialisation, rise of medium scale investor farmers, the new mechanisation agenda, livestock commercialisation in pastoral areas and young people and agricultural commercialisation.

In Tanzania, APRA has achieved this by analysing commercialisation pathways for rice (WS1) and sunflower (WS2) value chains in Morogoro and Singida regions respectively. After the general introduction of APRA, the workshop proceeded with presentations forcing on rice, this was followed by presentations focusing on sunflower. Each set of presentations was followed by a session of questions and clarifications. Then there was a final plenary discussion to reflect on the key finding and implications in various respects.

3.0 Presentations

The workshop then proceeded with presentations as indicated in the workshop schedule. In this section the main highlights of the presentations are summarised.

3.1 Effect of rice commercialisation and Livelihoods:

Isinika presented a paper titled; *“Does Rice Commercialisation Impact on Livelihood? Experience from Mngeta in Kilombero District, Tanzania.”* The paper highlighted on the following;

- The study's conceptual framework to assess the influence of a large scale farmer and other infrastructure (electricity) and institutional (marketing) developments on rice commercialisation among smallholder farmers and the livelihood outcomes.
- The study's objective to assess effect of different forms of rice commercialisation on Poverty, Food security and Women's empowerment and youths.
- Key research questions and hypotheses
- The research process and methodology
- Indicators for assessing commercialisation and livelihood improvement

Key findings

- Regarding production, yield, commercialisation and livelihoods
- Low use of purchased inputs hence low yield; Low purchasing power
- Area expansion limited by village frontier & other users' needs
- Extensification and intensification involves increasing herbicides use

Policy recommendations

- Area expansion is not sustainable; threatening Ramsar site & Nyerere Hydro power downstream
- intensification a solution for both SSF & MSF but environmental concerns should be address
- Provide continuing education to farmers on safe use of chemicals and institutionalise monitoring effects of increased use of agrochemicals

3.2 The role of Livestock on rice commercialisation and effect on livelihoods of smallholder rice farmers in Kilombero valley, Tanzania.

Mdoe presented a paper on the role livestock play on rice commercialisation. The main highlights of the paper include;

- Livestock introduced by agro-pastoralist migrants accelerated commercialisation through provision oxen for pulling ploughs for tillage and carts for transportation
- Rice farmers are compelled to use combinations of HH with OP or TR or OPTR because of variation in the soil types and landscape of rice farms
- Rice farmers using improved tillage implements achieved higher rice commercialisation levels than farmers using hand hoe
- Farmers using improved tillage implements attained higher rice commercialisation levels than those using hand hoe alone. Rice commercialisation increased from 44.4% for hand hoe (HH) users to 64.9% for users of hand hoe and tractor (HHTR) tillage technology option (64.9%)
- Livelihoods of rice farmers in in terms of food security and poverty reduction improved with the use of improved tillage implements
- The percentage of male headed households using improved tillage implements, attaining higher rice commercialisation levels and better livelihoods are higher than those of female headed households.

Policy recommendations

- Emphasis should be in the promotion of the use of HHOP not only because it is more inclusive (widely used) than the others but also because it can be used in swampy areas where tractors cannot be used
- As an option for farmers who find use of tractor to be beneficial than use OP, its use can be promoted through establishment of tractor hire service where farmers can access tractors services at affordable cost

3.3 Yield and Commercialisation Effects of SRI Interventions in Mngeta, Kilombero District, Tanzania

A paper looking at use of the System of rice intensification (SRI) among farmers was presented by Mosha. The paper's main highlights include;

- Productivity advantage of SRI
- Efforts by the government and other development agents to promote SRI
- The connection between; productivity, profitability and commercialised
- Establishing causal relationship between yield or commercialisation and SRI interventions

Key findings

- Adoption of SRI technologies is increasing
- Farmers with SRI training had higher mean yield per plot (2.9 t/ha) than non-trained farmers (2.3 t/ha)
- Plots where SRI practices were used had higher mean yield per lot (2.8 t/ha) than for plots without SRI practices.
- SRI training increased rice commercialisation:
- The mean RCI of SRI trained farmers greater than for non-trained farmers by about 8.7%
- Total land size led to significant increase in mean RCI (5% for each additional acre)
- Mean RCI of farmers with access to extension was about 6% above that of farmers without access to extension.
- **Reason?** Access to extension is essential in improving

Policy recommendations

- The promotion of SRI technology through training is essential for higher productivity and commercialisation that may lead to improved welfare outcomes.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperative needs to develop a strategy to provide trainings and other mean of support to enhance adoption of SRI practices.
- Interventions that reduce production and marketing costs will make rice production more profitable.
- Improved transport infrastructure,
- Acceleration of rural electrification to promote establishment of rice mills and storage facilities close to farmers.

3.4 Youth participation in commercial rice farming

Mdoe presented a paper titled; **Youth Participation in Commercial Rice Farming in Kilombero Valley, Morogoro.** The paper's main highlights include;

- Defined youth (Age between 15 – 35 years old)
- Explained importance of assessing the role of youths in agriculture; they account for 35.5% of population
- Study objective; to examine the extent of youth participation in commercial rice farming in Kilombero valley and benefits from their participation.
- Although participation of youth in rice production is lower than old farmers, they participate effectively at all stages of the rice value chain.
- Some of the activities include; rice trading, processing and service provision such as herbicide spraying, transporting inputs as well as harvested rice by bicycles and motorcycles popularly (*bodaboda*)

- Irrespective of age, old farmers owned and planted more land with rice than young farmers
- Major means of accessing land for youth is inheritance
- Size of land inherited diminishes with the number of generations
- With the exception of pesticides and tillage services, use of purchased inputs is generally low
- The percentage of old farmers using purchased inputs is higher than that of young farmers except use of purchased seeds
- The proportion of female farmers using purchased inputs is generally lower than that of male farmers except young female farmers using herbicides
- Irrespective of sex, there was significant difference in the percentage of households that sold rice in 2016/17 between young and old farmers
- Overall no significant difference in commercialisation levels between youth and old farmers but young females had relatively low commercialisation level
- Older farmers earned relatively more rice income than young farmers
- Irrespective of age, male headed households earned more rice income than female headed households
- Return to labour for older farmers was higher than that of young farmers
- Female household heads obtained higher returns to labour than male headed households
- In general return to labour used in rice production was higher than daily wage rate elsewhere
- Contrary to the claim that youth dislike agriculture, youth were found to participate actively in rice production, trading, processing and provision of various services
- Youth who produced rice in 2016/17 farming season achieved relatively higher rice yields than older farmers
- Return to youth's labour used in rice production was relatively higher than daily wage rates for youth employed elsewhere
- The percentages of youth headed households that are food secure and those with low deprivation level are higher than the households headed by older farmers
- Major challenges that inhibit greater youth engagement in commercial rice farming include poor access to land, lack of capital, inadequate knowledge/skills in

Conclusions

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- The percentages of youth headed households that are food secure and those with low deprivation level are higher than the households headed by older farmers
- Major challenges that inhibit greater youth engagement in commercial rice farming include poor access to land, lack of capital, inadequate knowledge/skills in agriculture and limited access to lucrative markets

Recommendations

- Increasing youth's access to land through various ways including setting aside agricultural land for youth by the local government authorities (LGAs) at village level as provided for in the Village Land Act of 1999.
- Improving youth's access to capital through various ways including government loan guarantees and ensuring remittance of 4% of LGA revenue to the Youth Development Fund

- LGAs in collaboration with Development Practitioners to impart knowledge and skills in modern rice farming practices through training

This marked the end of presentations focusing on WS1. This session was followed by a number of questions from the audience for clarification. Photos related to each of the presentations are given in Annex 2.

4.0 Sunflower commercialisation

4.1 Interaction between livestock and sunflower commercialisation

Magomba presented a paper titled; **Livestock and sunflower commercialisation in Singida region and implications on poverty and inclusion**. The paper examined the interaction between livestock on the sunflower commercialisation and its impacts on the livelihood of farmers in Singida region.

He pointed out that livestock owners tend to cultivate significantly larger areas than those without livestock, and their participation in commercialisation farming is 10% more compare to those who do not own livestock. Farmers who do not own livestock, particularly care takers found to be poorer than their counterparts who own livestock; but some of the livestock owners may lack basic livelihood amenities, hence scoring low on livelihood indicators.

4.2 Sunflower commercialisation dynamics

4.3 Isinika presented a paper that was titled; **Sunflower commercialisation and livelihood pathways in Singida region: The danger of a single story.** The paper's main highlights include;

- Research context of agrarian change in relation to sunflower commercialisation in Singida
- The myth that accelerated development of Singida since 2000 attributed to sunflower production and processing

Main Research Questions:

- How have different pathways of sunflower commercialisation evolved in Singida region;
 - What are the dynamics of agrarian change,
 - How have these influenced the livelihood opportunities/options, choices and outcomes for rural women and men in different contexts.
 - Drivers of agrarian change;
 - Opportunities for asset accumulation pathways
 - History & Environment
 - Sharpness to see opportunities & avoid pitfalls
 - Ability to negotiate within networks
 - Methodology (15 villages 8 from Iramba; 7 from Mkalama)
- Evolution of sunflower over time
- Other livelihood options and interaction with sunflower
 - Changing dynamics
 - Enabling / disabling factors
 - Implications on sunflower commercialisation and food security

Main findings

- Highest improvement among rich
- Highest stagnation & decline among the poor
- Decline among rich higher in Iramba due to old age esp. male
- Improvement among rich not due to sunflower (NFI & remittance)
- FHH experienced higher % decline
- Improved poor & middle hh had non-farm income & expanded sunflower + other crops
- Drinking. Laziness & poor hh harmony important source of decline
- Nsoza & VICOBA important for women
- Implications on production on sunflower commercialisation and food security
 - Benefit as; improved houses, education, health services, food security, clothing, purchased livestock & other assets (furniture, solar, bicycles, motor cycles, ox ploughs, ox carts..)
 - Everybody benefited from commercialisation but some more than others
 - Many hh moved up a wealth rank, but some declined, but level of poverty still high (MPI 0.29 – 0.41; Mean TZ = 0.33)
 - Low ranking hh poorer than middle & rich; Care takers hh poorer than owners; FHH poorer than MHH; but No significant difference by age
 - The same for food security but younger hh less food secure
 - Therefore efforts to address poverty should be multipronged to include facilitation and local efforts to address vices
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4.3 Commercialisation and women's empowerment

Kilave presented a paper that was titled; **“The influence of commercialisation on women empowerment: A case of rice and sunflower commercialisation in Morogoro and Singida regions.** The paper’s main objective is to; To examine the impact of rice commercialisation on women empowerment in Kilombero District

- i. To examine the influence of culture and diversification on women empowerment in the sunflower and rice value chains
- ii. To examine the influence of culture and diversification on women empowerment in the sunflower value chain in Singida region

The main findings include;

- Gender differences were identified between men and women in resource ownership; decision making and empowerment

Conclusions (Rice)

- Rice commercialisation in Mngeta division has a significant contribution into women empowerment
- There is a positive linear relationship between rice commercialisation and women empowerment
- Access and ownership of resources is the most important predictor for women empowerment
- Gender inequality is still high for women living in marital (control of resources)
- Men have more control of resources and dominated the decision making
- women empowerment in rice commercialisation activities is attained at the expenses of their increased workload at the household level

Recommendations

- The initiative to empower women through rice commercialisation should also focus to improve access and control over resources
- the Government of Tanzania and NGOs should focus on intervention that improve the rice commercialisation including connecting villages to electricity, improvement of feeder roads
- More efforts be made by government and development partners by promoting gender dialogue within the communities to foster change of cultural and social barriers impacting negatively on women empowerment.

Conclusions (Sunflower)

- Sunflower commercialisation has benefited almost everyone involved
- combination of initiatives for livelihood improvement including diversified source of income is more important for women empowerment
- There are still gender differences between women and men participation in decision making at the household level
- The level of women empowerment was higher in aspects related to decision making in agriculture production, decision making in household income and on time spent on reproductive activities

Recommendations

- while sunflower was the primary source of livelihood improvement in the study area, empowerment outcome depends on the diversity of enterprise portfolio a farmer has as a source

of income including a combination of many crops and other IGAs than focusing on sunflower commercialisation only

- The LGA and other value chain actors should increase support for women initiatives that empowers them. E.g. formalise women self-help groups and help in the enforcement of existing laws and regulations for equal ownership and control of resources.

4.4 The role of farmers and local processors on sunflower commercialisation

Isinika presented a paper about the political economy sunflower in Tanzania. The papers' main highlights included;

- Global and national trend for supply of local production
- Rising productivity and processing capacity
- Supply gap from local production
- Opportunities & challenges

4.5 Effect of Covid-19 on rice and sunflower commercialisation in Morogoro and Singida regions

Gideon Boniface made a presentation on the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on rice commercialisation. The highlights of the presentation included:

- Covid-19 has disrupted rice value chain in Tanzania
- The effect happened at variable degree along the value chain
- The price of rice has declined by 40%

5.0 The way forward

After completing all the presentations, the workshop participants discussed in a plenary session about the way forward in using the information from the workshop as a resource for disseminating to the general public about APRA research activities, findings and policy recommendations. The following were agreed upon;

- i. All the participants were encouraged to produce outputs about the reported research findings in their various media houses
- ii. The published material would be shared to the researchers via a common WhatsApp group (APRA MEDIA FORUM) that was established and became available since 20th October 2020. More than 20 outputs from the electronic and print media have been shared thus far. The journalists have been very productive. This forum is expected to last for about one month.

6.0 Closing

Professor Isinika closed the workshop by thanking all the participants for their active participation. She was very grateful for the journalists' response and active participation during the workshop. She expressed her hope that there is room for further collaboration during events in the foreseeable future such as National stakeholder conference and the Regional rice conference both scheduled for early next year. The workshop was closed at 3.30 pm

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Workshop programme

Time	Activity	Responsible (Lead)	Method
8.00 – 8.30	Arrival & registration	Gideon	Registration
8.30 – 8.40	Introduction	Magomba	Self-introduction
8.40 – 9.00	About APRA	Isinika	Presentation
9.00 – 9.20	Effect of rice commercialisation & livelihoods	Isinika	Presentation
9.20 - 9.40	The role of livestock on rice commercialisation and effect on livelihoods of smallholder rice farmers in Kilombero valley, Tanzania?	Mdoe	Presentation
9.40 – 10.00	Yield and Commercialisation Effects of SRI Interventions in Mngeta, Kilombero District, Tanzania	Mlay/ Kilave	Presentation
10.00 – 10.20	Youth participation in commercial rice farming	Mdoe	Presentation
10.20 – 10.40	Question, Answers and Discussion	Facilitator Magomba	Plenary discussion
10.40 – 10.50	Group photo	All	
10.50 – 11.20	Tea/Coffee Break	All	
11.20 – 11.40	Livestock and sunflower commercialisation in Singida region and implications on poverty and inclusion	Gideon/ Magomba	Presentation
11.40 – 12.00	Sunflower commercialisation and livelihood pathways in Singida region: The danger of a single story	Isinika	Presentation
12.00 – 12.20	The influence of commercialisation on women empowerment: A case of rice and sunflower commercialisation in Morogoro and Singida regions	Jeckonia	Presentation
12.20 – 12.40	The role of farmers and local processors for the commercialisation of sunflower in Tanzania	Isinika	Presentation
12.40- 1.00	Effect of Covid-19 on rice and sunflower commercialisation in Morogoro and Singida regions	Magomba/ Gideon/ Mdoe	Presentation
1.00 – 1.20	Questions for clarification	Facilitator Kilave	Plenary discussion
1.20 – 2.00	Lunch	All	
2.00 – 2.15	Summary; Major policy recommendation and policy implications on Rice Commercialisation	Isinika	
2.15 – 2.30	Summary: Major policy recommendation and policy implications on Sunflower Commercialisation	Magomba	

Time	Activity	Responsible (Lead)	Method
2.30 – 2.45	Group discussion: target stakeholders and messaging for change	Mdoe	
2.45 – 3.20	Group Presentation	All	
3.20 – 3.35	Wrap up and closing remark	Isinika	
3.35 -	Administrative Issues and Departure	Secretariat	

Annex 2: Events during presentations on rice commercialisation



Figure 1a: A summary of events during presentations on rice commercialisation



Figure 1b: Aida Isinika narrating about the impact of commercialisation on livelihood



Figure 2a: APRA researcher Ntengua S. Mdoe explaining the roles of livestock on rice commercialisation



Figure 2b: Devota Mosha an APRA researcher clarifying the impact of SRI technology on rice commercialisation.



Figure 3a. Ntengua Mdoe, APRA researcher presenting participation of youth in commercial agriculture.



Figure 3b: Professor Isinika responding to journalist's questions about the APRA research

Annex 3 Events during presentations on sunflower commercialisation



Figure 4a: APRA researcher Christopher Magomba presenting the existing relation between livestock and sunflower commercialisation.



Figure 4:b Aida Isinika presenting the danger of single story in sunflower commercialisation



Figure 5:a Devotha Kilave an APRA researcher presenting the link between commercial farming and women empowerment.



Figure 5b: Mr. Gideon Boniface APRA researcher presenting the impact of Covid-19 on the rice value chain in Morogoro region