United Nations Development Programme

Promoting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable Development in South Asia (2013-2016)

Discussion for Research methodology

Project Inception Meeting

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References

IDRC/ DFID call for proposals "Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) Background papers:

Kabeer, Naila (2012) Women's economic empowerment and inclusive growth: labour markets and enterprise development
IDRC/ DFID/ Hewlett fondation (2013) Literature review onGrOW

Mayoux, Linda and Grania Mackie (2007) Making the strongest links: a practical guide to mainstreaming gender analysis in value chain development

De Santos, Anastasia (2013) The women's entrepreneurship diagnostic

Research component (now – 2014)

a. Database generation on women owned and led MSMEs including informal women traders with national and regional federations jointly with private sector partners → B2B portal

b. Country studies with 1 regional synthesis report on export potential, product lines, non-tariff barriers, including trade facilitation audits at selected borders, firm level survey.

Entrepreneurship-gender analysis

➢ Women concentrated in informal business; Formal SMEs owned by women is 8-9% in South Asia

Q: What are the barriers and constraints to women's entrepreneurship, increased productivity or transition to higher value added business?

▪ Lack of ownership, access and control of land and property
  → Lack of access to loans
▪ Legal, social and cultural barriers (e.g., permission from husband required)
▪ The 'gifts' sought by suppliers or officials

Entrepreneurship-gender analysis (contd.)

- Women in developing countries often start and continue the business because there are no employment opportunities outside of home; little evidence of active choice. So they stay at smaller-scale, the 'survival-oriented informal end of the enterprise spectrum. But women are not all the same:
  - ➢ Rural vs. urban (with positive perceptions of business entrepreneurs)
  - ➢ Education level
  - ➢ Poor vs. rich women
  - ➢ Access to family and hired labour (care responsibility)
  - ➢ Physical mobility (SL: 74% women are home-based vs. 52% of men) – lack of access to market, less association

Entrepreneurship-gender analysis (contd.)

- Women tend to concentrate in traditionally women occupations, which had low-capital requirements, thus low-priced goods and services

    Del et al (2009) on SL, for men investment levels and returns increased to a greater extent in male-dominated industries while the same applied for women who were located in mixed sectors but fell in female dominated sectors

- Once women are at 'accumulation' end of enterprises, gender differences to diminish.
- Various support needs to be provided to women entrepreneurs for them to move up from 'survival' to 'accumulation' level

Project approach

➢ What are the share of women owned and led SMEs?

➢ What are the goods they produce?

Membership data from Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Association of SMEs, other business associations = registered businesses

➢ Do they export their products or plan to/ willing to export? Or do their products rely on imported inputs?

　➢ Need to select a few products with regional trade potentials

　➢ Ask about non-tariff barriers

　➢ Conduct a gender-sensitive regional value chain analysis

　　– Needs both quantitative and qualitative analysis based on focus group discussions and multi-stakeholder consultations

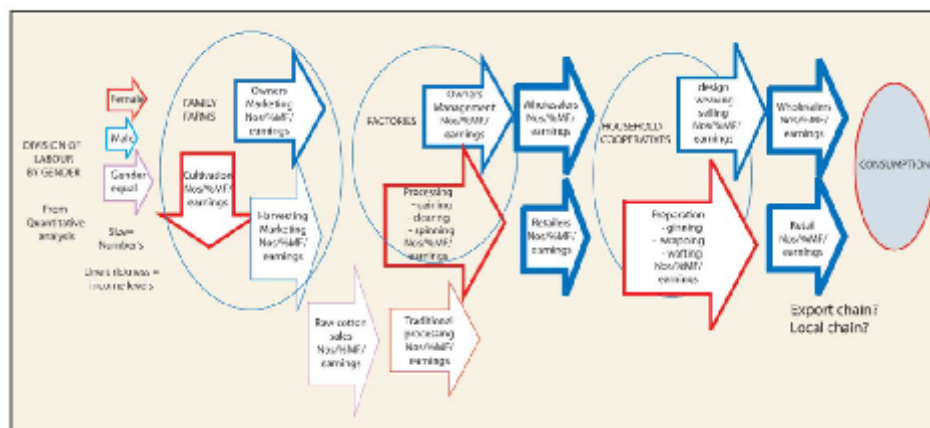Figure 3. Preliminary map: Honey value chain, Ethiopia from SNV
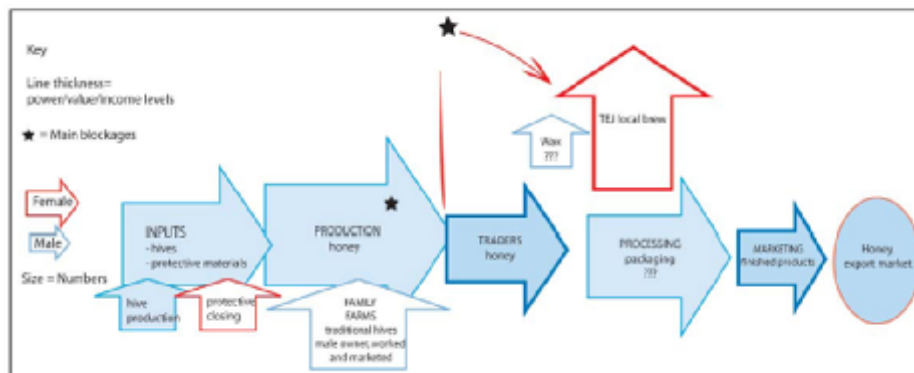
Source: Mayoux and Mackie (2007)

Figure 4. Some invisible women stakeholders in honey value chain
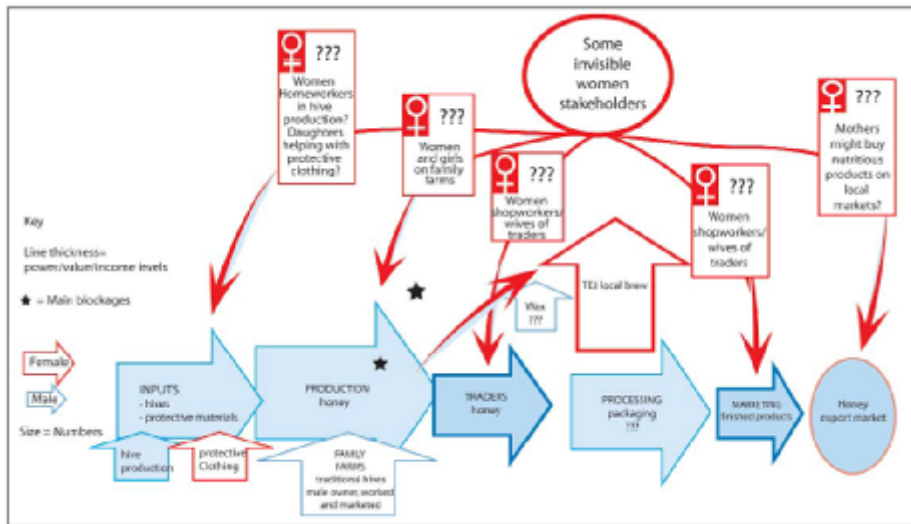
Source: Mayoux and Mackie (2007)

Figure 7. Who gets what and where? Home textiles: Ethiopia (Source: ILO)

Source: Mayoux and Mackie (2007)

Additional questions

Q: To what extent the project should capture micro and informal enterprises? i.e., they are not likely to export directly but with support their products can be exported or benefit from cheaper imported inputs

> ➤ Ask about barriers to expand their business

→ WMSME database for B2B portal

Q: women-owned informal business – definition

Q: women-led enterprises – definition (women in leadership, women employment is > 40%?)