Abstract

Gender-Based Determinants of Upgrading Among Pig Value Chain Actors in Masaka District, Central Uganda

Gender integration in value chains has increasingly received attention in commercial-oriented agriculture. However, as agricultural value chains commercialize or upgrade, women are increasingly marginalized and further likely to drop-out; yet they are the majority labour providers in agriculture production. This thesis examined gender-based determinants of upgrading among pig value chain actors in Masaka district, which had the highest pig population and pork markets in Uganda. The thesis hypothesises that upgrading intention is an antecedent to upgrading behaviour determined by socio-psychological factors and that women and men achieving the upgrading behaviour is mediated differently by their capabilities, opportunities, and motivation in pig value chains. Integrating gender analytical frameworks and behavioural models using structural equation modelling was useful in this thesis, to examine the structure of pig value chains and gender differences in determinants of upgrading behavour. Findings reveal that in division of labour, men mostly do non-production activities which include selling pigs and pork, while women mostly do pig production work and washing utensils for cooking pork and serving pork consumers. Interestingly, women's upgrading actions were by downsizing of pig stocks through selling, then buying other resources such as land, animals, and business that would benefit them in future. Upgrading intention was mostly determined by the individual's resources and self-confidence towards actions for improving their value chain activities. Differences were revealed in mediation effect of gender-based capabilities, opportunities, and motivation among women and men actors in pig value chains. Furthermore, the thesis suggests that improving women's resource-based abilities and men's social opportunities could significantly avoid women's drop-out from doing work and motivate men to continue supporting pig value chain activities. This thesis contributes an integrated analytical matrix that would be useful to inform future gender analysis and upgrading interventions for commercial-oriented agriculture value chains.