

Promoting gender-equitable agricultural value chains: Issues, opportunities, and next steps





Myths?

- Value Chain Analysis and development didn't need to address gender issues
- Women involved only as producers
- “Gender in Value Chains” only matters in value chains where women already have high participation (e.g., horticulture)





The business case

Improving women's incentives to increase productivity (& profitability)
Reducing discrimination to improve efficiency
Building on new market opportunities
Identifying niche markets

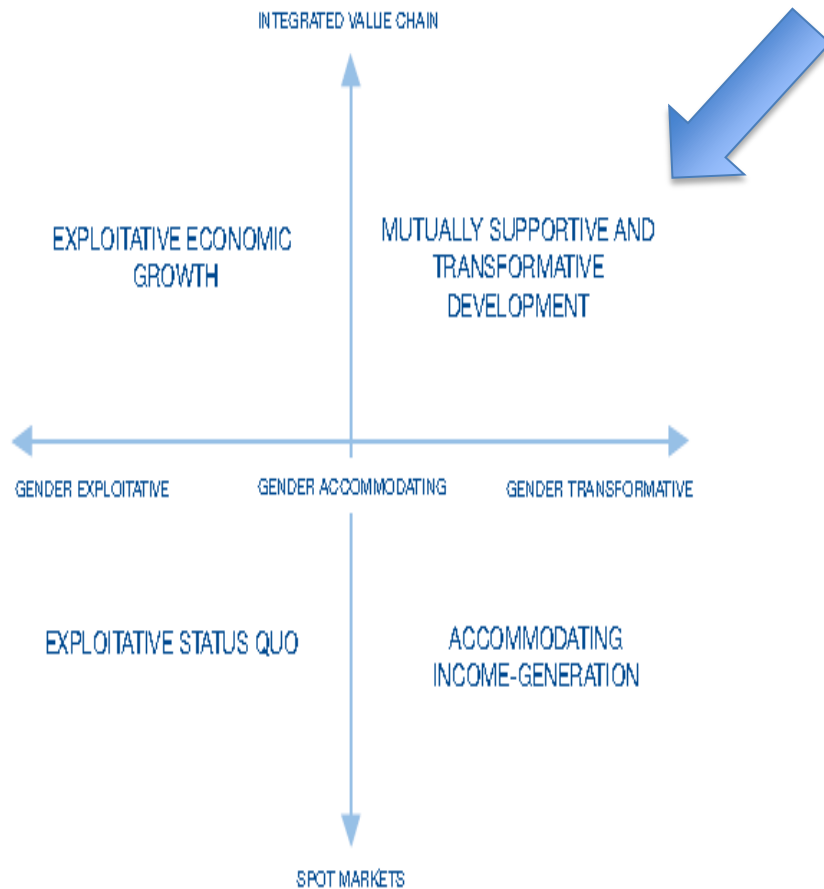
The social justice case

International conventions
Fair business practices
National laws include social and gender equity





The Development Case: Achieving the Win-Win



- Gender equality is good for economic growth
- Gender inequalities are costly to economic development
- Competitive and gender equitable VC programs can enhance poverty reduction



1. Value chains are embedded in a social context and its existing social relations

- The household and market interact
- Social institutions reflect social norms
- Legal frameworks embody social beliefs



2. Gendered factors shape determinants of value chain participation

- Assets as well as income
 - Extent
 - Sequence





3. Understanding gender dimensions of benefits and/or governance systems

- Women often have participation that garners few or no benefits
- Men often have control or ownership of resources and that provide benefits without participation



4. Value Chains change gender roles and relations

- New technologies, upgrading shifts labor practices
- Crop production, sales changes control over resources
- Formalizing transactions affects intrahousehold financial management

What's next?

- Developing value chains that support nutritional outcomes
 - A4NH
 - Harvest Plus
- Value chains for climate-smart agriculture
- Strengthening the asset base for improving women's participation in agricultural value chains
 - IFPRI/ILRI's Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project





PROMOTING GENDER EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS

HANDBOOK



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Technical Note on

Applying Gender-Responsive Value-Chain Analysis in EAS



Applying Gender-Responsive Value-chain Analysis
in Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Key gender and value chain issues for extension

Three assumptions guide much of the gender and value chain literature.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

A GUIDE TO INTEGRATING GENDER INTO AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS¹

*Based on Promoting Gender-Equitable Opportunities
in Agricultural Value Chains: A Handbook*

Value chain development is at the core of USAID's agricultural programming. It is a key feature of new initiatives, and is a primary pathway for achieving the goal of increasing agricultural growth and expanding the staple food supply. The improved market-based coordination that is the hallmark of value chains reduces transaction costs and leads to increased agricultural productivity and economic growth.

Creating and sustaining competitive and equitably-oriented value chains that help small-scale farmers, especially women, will require explicitly examining gender issues and proactively integrating gender components into value chain analysis and development strategies.

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