



PELUM TANZANIA

Women Empowerment Brief

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A woman contributing in one of the land rights trainings organised by PELUM Tanzania

Gender and Women Empowerment

Gender equality is not only solely a matter of Human right but also an important issue that is connected to agricultural performance and food security. Studies show that, if women have the same access to resources as men, agricultural production will increase up to 33% and number of hungry people in the world will be significantly reduced. In empowering women in spheres of life UN has incorporated women agenda in 2030 agenda

(Sustainable Development Goals) to make sure that member states apply all agendas to eradicate poverty and empower women and girls in all spheres of life.

PELUM Tanzania with its core business of promoting ecological agriculture has been contributing to gender equity and women empowerment in various areas of life. This has been done through various programs and projects activities towards realizing the organization's vision: Prosperous

smallholder farmers deriving livelihoods from ecological agriculture.

In 2017, PELUM Tanzania implemented a number of activities that contributed to gender equality and empowerment as detailed hereunder.

1. Women empowerment through Land right and governance training. PELUM Tanzania facilitated a three days land right and

governance training to 1,284 ordinary villagers and progressive farmers where women participation was 51% (628 M, 656 F). Ordinary villagers were villagers without any leadership position in the village. One of the main topics of the training was on women and youth land rights as per Tanzania land laws.

The land rights training contributes to women empowerment and strengthens women capacity to act and make choices on issues related to land rights. After the land rights training, some of the trained women started to request for land ownership and allocation from their

villages and their families. For instance, in Mela Village, Mvomero District Council, after this training a total of 188 (88 women, 100 men) villagers requested land from the village government. Out of these, the village approved and allocated land to 140 villagers of whom 50 were women. This implies that these 50 women have the



A woman airing out her views during one of the policy dialogues organised by PELUM Tanzania

land that they personally own by their own names. It had never happened in Mela village for a woman to apply for village land or even for the village to allocate land to women due to lack of knowledge on women land rights.

One of the land rights training participants from Ikuka Village, Kilolo District in Iringa region, after the training





Members of one of the farmer groups sorting beans seeds

allocated their inherited land to two of his sisters each two acres. This man admitted that, before such training, he was not aware that women have right to inherit family land but due to the knowledge acquired from the land right training, he allocated land to his sisters.

2. Gender empowerment through Issue Based Dialogues

In 2017, PELUM Tanzania in collaboration with its member organizations organised a total of 29 issue-based dialogues on farmers' seed and land rights aiming at influencing policy decisions in favour of smallholder farmers. The dialogues provided a forum for youth and women engagement with policy and decision makers at village and district levels by interaction and airing out their voices and concerns related to seed and land rights. Through those dialogues, capacity and confidence of women and youth in interacting with policy and decision makers was strengthened. Women participation in the dialogues was 49.9% (2,536 male and

2,526 female) participants.

3. Networking and Learning Events for gender empowerment

PELUM Tanzania organized learning and networking events for women and men smallholder farmers and Member organizations' staff for learning on issues related to ecological agriculture, seed and land rights. Women and youth participants represented 40% of all learning and networking participants. This implies that women and youth were given opportunity to share achievements, lessons, and challenges on ecological agriculture, seed and land rights. Participants of the networking and learning events were 140 (56female, 84men).

4. Village Land Use Plan (VLUP) for women and youth empowerment

In 2017, PELUM Tanzania supported 27 villages develop VLUPs. In developing Village Land Use Management (VLUM) committee, women

legal representation (50/50 male/female representation) was taken into account. This did not only allow women to take part in decision making but also ensured that women voices are heard and women issues are correctly presented and addressed in developing village land use plans. Furthermore, women and youth had 51% participation during participatory village land use plan awareness raising meetings.

5. Women economic empowerment

Total of 250 smallholder farmers, 48% women were organised in 15 farmer groups that produced 16,407 kgs of Quality Declared Seeds (QDS). Over 80% of the seeds was sold while the remaining 20% was used by the group members in planting in their own farms. Both sold seeds and seeds used in own farms translate into women increased income hence women economic empowerment. Use of quality seeds leads to increased productivity implying that farmers had surplus grains for sale after setting aside grains for food.

On top of facilitating and conducting Participatory Village Land Use Plans in 27 villages, a total of 4,625 land parcels were mapped for issuing Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO). Out of these land parcels, over 1,000 land parcels are owned by women, 500+ land parcels jointly owned by husband and wife and the rest are owned by men. Women land

ownership lead to increased production and productivity, as women are able to make long term agricultural investments on their land due to the assured tenure security. Moreover, women may use this land certificate of ownership as collateral to secure agricultural investment capital in terms of loan from various financial institutions.

6. Information, Education, and Communication materials for gender empowerment

PELUM Tanzania developed land right booklets with four different titles. One of the booklet is on Women Land Rights as per Tanzania land laws. In 2017, over 3,000 copies of women land rights booklets were distributed to women and men farmers as well as other stakeholders. The booklets have contributed to strengthened women and men knowledge on women land rights. In Lenjulu Village, Kongwa District, Dodoma region for example, Happy Mtiesya used women land rights booklet as a reference in convincing her brothers to give her part of the land that they had inherited from their parents. The brothers were convinced and the land was distributed to all members of the family where Happy Mtiesya got two acres of the land.

Apart from booklets, PELUM Tanzania facilitated six (6) interactive radio programs, one hour each with four community radios. These were live radio programs where various topics were presented

and the audience was given opportunity for participation including the question and answers session. The topics covered included importance of land use plans, women land rights, land conflicts, and land rights in general. The community radios used were: Country FM and Furaha FM in Iringa, Radio Mwangaza in Dodoma, and Abood Radio in Morogoro. The total audience reached by these four radios is 13,919,000.

The aim of the radio program was to enhance knowledge on land rights and governance within smallholder farmers. Apart from involving women in the radio programs by asking questions and contributing on the issues at hand via telephone, women were directly involved as guest speakers in the program so that other women could learn from them. By involving women directly in the radio programs enabled women and youth audience to learn from the experience of others women

on issues related to women and youth land ownership.

7. Tools for Gender and Women Empowerment

PELUM believes that gender mainstreaming in its programmes will tackle the causes of marginalisation among the disadvantaged group, and promote justice to the full advantage of both women, youth, and men. In 2017, PELUM Tanzania reviewed its Gender Assessment tools and Gender Policy. With the aim to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all the organization programs and assess the impact of gender mainstreaming in the programs using various approaches. Gender has to be mainstreamed in program and projects planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

When empowered, women and youth are confident to demand for their rights.



Youth, women, and men farmers holding land rights booklets they received from PELUM Tanzania