

Agricultural Extension and gender: some thoughts

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3 points

- Quick diagnostic
- Does it matter?
- Some emerging evaluation results

Women have lower contact with extension than men

- IFPRI-WB report (2010)
 - Ethiopia: 27 vs. 20 (at home/farm)
 - Ghana 12 vs. less than 2%
 - India (Karnataka): 29 vs. 18
- There is still a data gap on this, particularly for more detailed information (i.e. anything beyond contact)

Why do they have lower contact?

- Our work in Ethiopia (weird sample)
 - 79 to 58 (received advice from the DA)
 - Women receive less advice from the DA, but this is driven by women who are **not** household heads.
 - Women who are a model farmer (and 41% of model farmers are women) are 15 percentage points more likely to receive DA advice (whether or not they are the household head)
 - Among women who are not model farmers, the following attributes predict DA contact:
 - Age – the older the woman the more likely she talks with the DA
 - Marriage: married women are 14 percentage points less likely to talk to the DA
 - Women who live in a kebele with a female model farmer are 11 percentage points more likely to talk with the DA
 - Poverty, education do **not** matter

Why do they have lower contact?

- Connections matter
 - Our work (gender networks)
 - Broader governance of service delivery
- Extension agents focus on high value crops, and women don't grow them as much
- Going to the extension agent (including trainings):
 - Time (uninterrupted stretch of time)
 - Location (mobility constraints)
 - Content (see above)
- Attitudes: “women aren't real farmers” (e.g. US)

Does it matter?

Getting a sense of relative importance...(maybe)

| | Malawi: 25.4% | | Ethiopia: 21.1% | | N. Nigeria: 28% | |
|------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| factors | Levels | Returns | Levels | Returns | Levels | Returns |
| High value crops | | | | | | |
| HH labor | male | male | pool | | pool | women |
| Farmer labor | | | | | | |
| Hired labor | | | | | | |
| Children | | | | | | |
| Fertilizer | | | | | | |
| Land tenure | | | | | | |
| Extension | | | | | | |
| Distance | | | | | | |
| Oxen | | | | | | |
| age | | | | | | |

Does extension matter?

- Does contact matter for women's relative productivity?
 - Our work: not so much (only returns in Malawi)
 - Older work suggests it does matter – Horrell and Krishnan (2007), Tiruneh et al. (2001), etc.
- Does quality matter for women's relative productivity?
 - Basic quality issues are similar to education: the same for males and females. And this is a governance/institutional issue – quality of service delivery.
 - So, no?

How extension could matter for the gender productivity gap, and productivity overall

1. As agriculture takes off, extension might matter more (more on this in a minute)
2. As we fix quality, let's think about transformation
 1. Shift women from lower value to higher value ag, when they control things (e.g. tobacco) and also serve their high current high value crops (e.g. tomatoes)
 2. Think about boosting their role within the household, when they don't control things

2 pieces of impact evaluation evidence

1. Expanding extension in Ethiopia

- Program: Broad expansion in support for traditional extension (RCBP)
- Impacts (IE, PSM):
 - Increase in adoption of higher value crops and sales of same
 - Increase in area cultivated, labor
 - Increase in livestock
 - Plateau and decline of extension, and shift out to friends/neighbors, NGOs
 - SAME for men and women (except livestock)
 - Doesn't close male/female gap
 - But women benefit equally

2. Male v female lead farmers in Malawi

- Program: getting farmers to adopt conservation farming via lead farmers
- Impacts (IE, RCT):
 - Women LF learn as much from training as male LF
 - Women LF as likely as men to reach farmers with techniques and get adoption
 - And more so with incentives
 - But, farmers perceived women LFs as lower quality...(with some incentive offset)

Some closing research challenges

- As we improve quality of extension, can we close the gender gap in contact?
 - Need more diagnostics
 - Really need more policy experiments (which tackle underlying constraints)
- Can we use extension to transform women's role in agriculture?
- If we involve women as service providers, need to pay attention to farmer (both male and female) reaction.

THANK YOU