

CASE STUDY ON HOUSEHOLD APPROACH



Mr and Mrs Milanzi's old and new houses

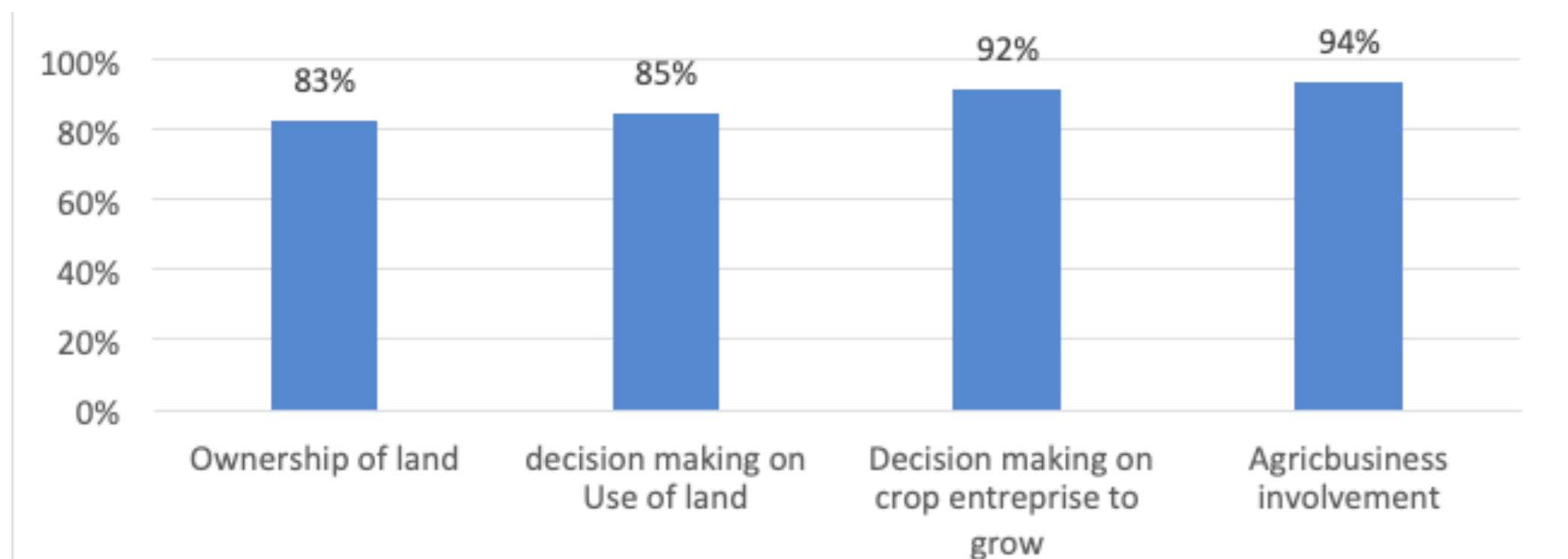
The family of Mr and Mrs Tchackson Milazi of Zidyana Extension Planning Area in Nkhotakota is all smiles, thanks to the training that they received through the Sustainable Agriculture Production Programme (SAPP) on household approach innovation in 2016. Before starting the approach, the family was food insecure as well as one of the poorest in their area. Mr and Mrs Milazi have 5 children (2 boys and 3 girls).

One of the commitments the household agreed to change as a result of the gender balance tree exercise was on decision making pertaining to the use of assets and equipment, choice of enterprises to engage in and decisions on expenditure. Previously decisions on use of assets and equipment were made by the husband but this has since changed. The family members are able to contribute on the use of assets. This has helped everyone in the family to be responsible in management of the assets.

As regards to the family expenditure, the husband and wife make joint decisions which is mostly guided by their vision journey. This helps the family in effective use of their resources. Through following principles of household visioning, the family has managed to build a new dwelling unit which is far better than their previous one. The household has also managed to buy solar panel and dining set chairs among other things. Mr and Mrs Milanzi's success story is attributed to the power of household visioning under the household approach innovation.

Mr and Mrs Milanzi's success story is supported by the 2018 annual outcome survey results on women involvement in decision making processes. The figures below show the involvement of women in asset ownership, decision making and agribusiness. The results show that 85% of women were involved in decision making and 92% are now involved in decision making on the type of crop enterprise to grow.

Women Ownership and Involvement in Decision Making Process



Control of crops

Study on Household Approach commissioned by SAPP in 2018, established fact that men exercise control over cash crops that bring big moneys (e.g. tobacco) or food crops if they are grown mainly for sale (e.g. maize) while women exercise control over food crops or crops that bring little moneys. From the list of crops that were reported during the fieldwork only men controlled the tobacco crop and this has not changed over the time. A good number of men also controlled maize. Otherwise, out of 127 cases of control on the reported crops, 56 percent of the control was exercised jointly while women exercises control of 24 percent of the crop cases and men 20 per cent. Discussions suggested that the trends are changing; in the past most of the control was by men but now it is jointly and this is attributed to the HHA.

Ownership and control of land

Land ownership and control in rural Malawi are matters of culture and linked to system of marriage. Chitipa district is traditionally lobola system or patrilineal-patrilocal where land is typically owned and controlled by a man - upon marriage, a woman settles in the man's village upon a man paying lobola or dowry. Lilongwe district is traditionally chitengwa systems or matrilineal-matrilocal where land Lilongwe typically owned and controlled by a man - upon marriage, a woman moves to settle in a man's village upon the man giving chiongo or a small 'thank you/token money' to the woman's side. Chiradzulu is a matrilineal-matrilocal system where land is typically owned and controlled by women - upon marriage, a man settles in the woman's village. The household approach study established that ownership and control over land started to move towards joint ownership and control between husband and wife as illustrated by the results from the household assessment report.

District	Pieces of land assessed	Piece of land owned by			Piece of land Controlled by		
		Husband	Wife	Jointly	Husband	Wife	Jointly
Chitipa	15	4	2	9	2	4	9
Lilongwe	10	2	5	3	2	1	7
Chiradzulu	12	2	10	-	2	2	8
Total	37	8	17	12	6	7	24

Ownership and control of livestock

Discussions during the field visits claimed that there is increased joint ownership of livestock due to the HHA exposure. But the picture that is emerging is that livestock may be jointly owned especially by man and the wife but the man still exercises control especially on cattle. It is also important to note here that the 'woman ownership and control' particularly refers to households headed by a woman or where the woman is in polygamous marriage. And when the livestock is said to be owned by children, in strictest sense it is the parents who own it but they normally talk about children owning in relation to inheritance. In summary, the HHA can be attributed to progress in joint ownership but much work in HHA remains in terms of transforming the status quo on control as presented the table below.

Who owns and who controls the livestock?

Livestock Class	No. cases assessed	owned by				Controlled by			
		Husband	Wife	Children	Jointly	Husband	Wife	Children	Jointly
Cattle	6	1			5	3	2	1	
Goat	21	1	4	1	15	5	2	1	13
Pig	9	1	1		7	1	2		6
Chicken	27	1	7		19	4	7		16
Total cases	63	4	12	1	46	13	13	2	35
% Case distribution	100.0	6.3	19.0	1.6	73.0	20.6	20.6	3.2	55.6

LESSONS LEARNT ON HOUSE HOLD APPROACH

Enthusiasm among frontline extension workers, Local Facilitators and Peer Households

There is overwhelming interest and enthusiasm among frontline extension workers, Local Facilitators and Peer Households to sustain the HHA processes even without support from government or NGOs. Those consulted mentioned three factors. First, the presence of well trained and conversant local facilitators means that the HHA processes can continue without external support. Second, almost all those consulted were able to understand that the household visions were their own 'property' and responsibility and implementing them was to their own advantage. It is therefore imperative that more staff and farmers be exposed the approach through training of staff and local facilitators.

Resourcing the HHA process: The HHA process demands good allocation of timely and predictable resources. It is acknowledged here that some districts have adequate resources but the challenge is to ensure that these resources trickle down to facilitate grassroots HHA activities.

Follow-up and supervision: To help the AEDOs, local facilitators and peer households to do the right thing, there is need for regular follow up and supervision. It was clear during the fieldwork that this is a weak aspect of the process.

POTENTIAL FOR REPLICATION

The HHA processes can be replicated in other countries where the focus directed towards promotion of gender relations and promotion of agricultural productivity and production through good agricultural practices. The following are the points to be considered when replicating the approach.

Focus: The HHA processes should focus towards transforming intra-household gender and power relations in decision making, division of labour, sharing of benefits etc. around agricultural activities/agricultural value chains.

Joint Household Visions: The household members should focus on development and implementation of visions that have direct bearing on agricultural value chains through good agricultural practices.

HHA tools: Adhere to the use of gender balance tree, vision journey and action planning tools, are most relevant and liked by many in helping to transform the gender relations and improve the household status, which is the ultimate goal.

Baselines information: Design a simple form to be completed and kept by the household itself. The aim would be to collect simple but relevant gender and agricultural information against which the joint household visions can be developed, implemented and progress measured.

HHA implementation Approach: Should be through selected individual peer households where members of that household are trained together and helped to develop and implement a joint household vision. This promotes inclusiveness for the participating household.

Resourcing the HHA process - the HHA process demands good allocation of timely and predictable resources where stationery in form of flipcharts and hard covers in a must.

NEXT STEPS:

Sustainability of the approach hinges on active involvement of the community and local leadership, assisting the farmers to reap more benefits from their main livelihood strategies and the involvement of the dependants in the household.