

Approaches to Measurement of Women's Empowerment in Agri-cooperatives: Case Studies from Georgia and Zambia

Jana Mazancová*, Caroline Beach, Anna Beránková

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Kamycka 125, 165 21, Czech Republic

*corresponding author: mazan@ftz.czu.cz

Agri-cooperatives have been often proved to be an effective tool for the improvement of female farmers' livelihood. International donors, government, and NGOs dedicate their funding and effort to mobilise cooperative movements to achieve SDGs' targets. The impact of collective actions is primarily measured through economic benefits on their members. Other benefits remain undiscussed, as their measurement face some methodological challenges. Our paper emphasises the contextual methodological approach of women's empowerment (WE) measurement to be incorporated in regular monitoring of the collective performance and consequent impact at the level of the cooperative members. Based on two case studies, we demonstrate two major approaches of WE measurement: (i) an aggregated three-dimensional model of WE focusing on female members particularly – case study in Georgia in 2018, and (ii) a three-dimensional sex-disaggregated contra factual model – case study in Zambia in 2019. Data collection in both cases combined questionnaire survey ($n_i = 272$; $n_{ii} = 65$) and focus group discussions. The data analyses were approached via operationalisation of selected variables for each dimension and then tested with non-parametric tests (Man-Whitney, Chi-square) in Georgia, while weighted scores were applied for the case of Zambia. In addition, the paper shows the possible pathways to measure WE despite the lacking WE segment in monitoring design.

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