Assessing the Effect of C:AVA Project on Income, Participation in Decision Making, and Market Access of Farming Households in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana

Editor’s Notes
The research article featured below is based from the paper entitled “Does addressing gender inequalities and empowering women improve development programme outcomes? The Case of C:AVA project in Ghana” prepared by Dr. Paul Boadu, Dr. Wilhemina Quaye, Asafu-Adjaye Nana Yamoah, Dr. Adelaide Agyeman, and Mavis Akuffobea of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (CSIR-STEPRI) in Ghana.

Background

Despite being a lower middle-income country, Ghana continues to face poverty, unemployment, housing deficit, and inequity, among others. With this, the Government of Ghana launched the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP) 2017-2024, an agenda for jobs, creating wealth, and equal opportunities for all. Ghana also developed its Medium Term Development Planning Framework (MTDPF) 2018-2021 focusing on the alignment of the framework’s indicators with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Meanwhile, with the goal of mainstreaming issues related to gender inequality into national development policy and planning processes, Ghana's National Gender Policy tries to highlight the social, legal, civic, political, economic, and socio-cultural conditions of women, particularly, children and the vulnerable. The focus of the government has shifted to the

CBMS-Ghana enumerators interviewing members of the community of Fakwasi in Kumfia-Fakwasi Town Council, Ghana

Inside

Analyzing the Determinants of Youth Unemployment and Labour Market Transitions in Gabane Village, Botswana

CBMS Data Validation Workshops Conducted in the Provinces of Kirundo and Cibitoke, Burundi

16th CBMS National Conference Announcements
promotion of education and skilled training for young girls, free senior high school education, school feeding programs, free prenatal services, and the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program, among others.

Gender gaps are still, however, apparent in Ghana. Unemployment is higher among females (2%) than among males (1.6%) and women are paid less than men for doing the same work. Disparities are present in access to resources and services such as land, agricultural inputs, credit, technology, and extension services resulting to a wide gender gap in crop productivity. Unlike male farmers, female farmers are often unable to participate in the production of maize and are restricted to cultivating subsistence food crops such as soybean and cassava due to lack of resources.

Although a considerable amount of effort has gone into addressing the problems encountered in cassava value chains, the issue of high post-harvest losses, among others, still persists in Ghana. The Cassava: Adding Value for Africa (C:AVA) project aims to reduce high post-harvest losses through the development of equitable high-quality cassava flour (HQCF) value chains that improve the incomes and livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

A CBMS study in Ghana analyzes the effect of C:AVA project on income, market access, and decision making of women

The local research team wanted to investigate the effect of C:AVA project in addressing gender inequalities and empowering women in Ghana by using Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) data in selected communities in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana. Specifically, the study aims to evaluate the effect of C:AVA project on farm income; investigate the effectiveness of C:AVA project in addressing poverty reduction by gender; investigate barriers to women empowerment in the study communities through women participation in C:AVA project and other interventions; and recommend options for improving gender focused project outcomes.

The 2018 CBMS census covers 2,716 households in 20 communities in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana.

Research Findings

Income: Table 1 shows the effect of participation in the C:AVA project on farm income. It shows that the average effect of participating in the project has a positive and significant effect on the farm income of the households. On the average, the C:AVA project benefits female-headed farming households. Involvement in the project has raised overall income by 981.71 Ghanaian Cedi (GHC) and has raised the income of female-headed households by GHC2,167.75, on the average.

Market Access: One of the challenges faced by farmers in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana is the lack of market access, which is partly a result of poor road networks in the area. Because of this and the lack of information on traders, prices, and capacity to meet food processing and safety standards, some of the major food producing villages and emerging food processing markets are unreachable especially during the rainy season.

Market access in this study was defined as the ability of a farmer to sell all his or her farm produce. The probit regression results in Table 2

Table 1. Average Treatment Effect of C:AVA Interventions on Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pooled sample</td>
<td>Farm Income</td>
<td>Matched</td>
<td>981.71*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Farm Income</td>
<td>Matched</td>
<td>2,167.75**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Farm Income</td>
<td>Matched</td>
<td>276.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Statistically significant at \( \alpha = 10\% \); **Statistically significant at \( \alpha = 5\% \)

Source of basic data: CBMS Census in Selected Communities in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana (2018)
News Updates

Table 2. Probit Regression Results on Market Access

| Variables       | Coefficient | z    | P>|z| |
|-----------------|-------------|------|------|
| Age             | .000867     | 1.19 | 0.236|
| Age2            | -.0000148   | -1.42| 0.156|
| Education       | .0418658*** | 4.46 | 0.000|
| Household size  | .0124021*** | 8.27 | 0.000|
| Experience      | .0203395**  | 2.03 | 0.042|
| Gender          | -.0201131** | -2.14| 0.032|
| Treat           | .2539466*** | 9.98 | 0.000|
| Female*C:AVA    | -.0004868   | 0.00 | 0.986|
| Christian       | .0852462*** | 9.26 | 0.000|
| Muslim          | .0728931*** | 3.24 | 0.001|
| Extension       | -.1297561***| -11.31| 0.000|
| Income          | .0511032*** | 12.56| 0.000|
| Pseudo R2       |             | 0.0703|     |
| Prob > chi2     |             | 0.0000|     |
| Log likelihood  |             | -4986.3964|     |

**Statistically significant at α = 5%; ***Statistically significant at α = 1%

Source of basic data: CBMS Census in Selected Communities in Atebubu-Amantin District, Ghana (2018)

show which variables significantly affect market access. Results show that the probability of having access to markets increases if a household head has acquired formal education, if there is an increase in terms of household size, if there is an increase in farming income, if the household head has 3 or more years of farming experience, if the household head is Christian, if the household head is Muslim, or if the farmer is a C:AVA beneficiary. On the other hand, the probability of having access to markets decreases if the farmer is female or if the household has access to extension services.

Some Policy Implications and Recommendations

Adopting the CBMS methodology is essential in planning and targeting development interventions. Other than its usefulness in identifying priority needs of communities, CBMS helps planners assess program impacts.

Based on the analysis of the data from the CBMS census in Ghana, below are some of the team’s proposed policy recommendations:

Improving Market Access

There is a need to further establish marketing and commercialization activities in all agricultural and entrepreneurial development projects by linking farmers to markets within and outside their respective district.

Women Empowerment

All development programs/projects in Ghana should adopt gender mainstreaming activities and implementation measures. Eliminating existing socio-cultural barriers will encourage more women to participate in various programs like the C:AVA project. Sensitization and sharing of advocacies on addressing gender issues are some of the strategies that local planners can conduct in order to improve women empowerment.

Full details and results are contained in ‘Does addressing gender inequalities and empowering women improve development programme outcomes? The Case of C:AVA project in Ghana’ by Boadu et al. 2019.)
News Updates

Analyzing the Determinants of Youth Unemployment and Labour Market Transitions in Gabane Village, Botswana

Editor’s Notes
The research article featured below is based from the research paper entitled “Determinants of Unemployment and Labour Market Transitions of the Youth in Botswana” prepared by Dr. Happy Sphambe, Dr. Malebogo Bakwena, Dr. Lexi Setlhare, Mavis Kolobe, Itumeleeng Oageng, Keamogetse Setlhare, and Tsegoilotsolo Motswagae of the University of Botswana in Botswana.

Background
Since the country’s independence in 1966, Botswana has sustained rapid economic growth and has transformed from being labeled as one of the poorest countries in the world to an upper middle-income country. Much of the high growth rate has been attributed to its vast mineral wealth and the government’s effective implementation of fiscal and monetary policies.

Botswana, however, like most developing countries, lacks economic diversification and, as a result, only few productive employment opportunities are available. Youth unemployment, in particular, has been an ongoing problem in the country.

The local research team wanted to examine how the youth’s socioeconomic characteristics and labour market conditions influence their transitions from one labour market position to another using data from a Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in Gabane Village, Botswana.

The 2018 CBMS census recorded a total of 6,842 people in 2,693 households in Gabane Village, Botswana. Around 55.4% of the population are youth (ages 15-39 years old).

Research Findings
CBMS results reveal that overall unemployment in the study site is at 23%. An even higher unemployment rate is observed among the youth at 26% and unemployment among female youth is higher at 29.9% compared to unemployment among male youth at 21.1%.

Around 47.2% of the youth in Gabane Village were employed, 39.4% were unemployed, and 13.5% were out of the labour force during the observed

---

1 The three labour market states include the state of being employed, state of being unemployed, and the state of being out of the labour force.
2 The study used the age category 15-39 years old because most of the youth programmes in Botswana cover individuals aged 15-39 years old.
The multinomial logit regression results in Table 1 show how certain variables increase or decrease the probabilities of youth transitioning from unemployment to employment while variables related to educational attainment and two of the variables related to ward locations are not statistically significant.

Being male (compared to female) increases the probability of becoming employed relative to remaining unemployed, all else being equal. In terms of age differential, being older (relative to the base age of 15-24 years old) increases the likelihood of getting employed than remaining unemployed. In terms of income, earning higher wages increases the probability of being employed than remaining unemployed. In terms of participation in government labour market programmes, the chances of being employed rather than staying unemployed increases if a youth participates. Lastly, results suggest that being in the Gabane North East ward (compared to the Gabane South East ward) increases the likelihood of employment relative to unemployment.

Meanwhile, the results also reveal that age, income, and location affect youth’s transition from unemployment to the OLF state while variables related to gender, educational attainment, and participation in the labour market program are not statistically significant.

Compared to 15 to 24-year-olds, older youths or those belonging to the age range of 25-34 years old or 35 to 39 years old, are less likely to exit the labour force when unemployed. Youths with higher monthly wages are also less likely to exit the labour force. This finding seems to suggest that, in response to low remuneration, some may be discouraged from entering the labour market and obtaining jobs. In terms of location, on the other hand,
being in Gabane North West or Gabane South West wards, compared to being in Gabane South East, reduces the probability that youths will leave the labour force.

**Some Policy Implications and Recommendations**

Based on the analysis of the data from the CBMS census in Botswana, below are some of the team’s proposed policy recommendations:

**Addressing Unemployment among Youth**

Employers usually require a certain amount or level of training/experience from applicants. Hence, there is a need to provide more internships and/or entry-level opportunities for the youth during and after graduating from school.

A youth unemployment task force composed of representatives from public and private sectors and representatives from educational institutions should be established at the community level. This task force will try to promote cooperation between all concerned stakeholders in order to create apprenticeships and jobs for the youth and collect best practices.

Public and private sectors should also come together to provide young people in primary and secondary schools as well as those in their early years in university with programs concentrating on entrepreneurship, business, and economics. Quality education and post-secondary practical training coupled with a set of key competencies can increase youth’s employability.

Improving the connection between higher education curricula and the demands of the labour market can also significantly increase youth’s employability.

**Improving Youth Participation**

Lack of knowledge is one of the primary reasons why the youth are unable to gain access to or engage in existing employment programs in Botswana. There is a need to publicize government youth programs, more especially at the community level in different council wards and at the main kgotla by setting up a youth council and a committee of advisors to empower youth in the communities.

Aside from promoting existing employment programs, free training courses on conducting market research and refining business plans should also be provided to potential youth entrepreneurs.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the complexity of the application process to the youth programs which tends to discourage the youth. Program forms and other qualification criteria for funding should be simplified. For instance, the program forms can be translated from English to the local language (Setswana). Providing an orientation on application guidelines may also be helpful.

(Full details and results are contained in “Determinants of Unemployment and Labour Market Transitions of the Youth in Botswana” by Siphambe et al. 2019.)
CBMS Data Validation Workshops Conducted in the Provinces of Kirundo and Cibitoke, Burundi

Selected under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) II initiative of the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Network, the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) project team in Burundi is led by project leader Dr. Jeanine Nkunzimana and co-project leader Mr. Jean Claude Nsabimana and is composed of project researchers Ms. Lydia Bukuru, Ms. Nesha Ramful, Dr. Rama Lionel Ngenzebuke, Dr. Charles Kabwigiri, and Mr. Claver Kabuhungu.

The CBMS-Burundi project team conducted two CBMS data validation workshops. The first workshop was held on December 12, 2019 at the Rama Hotel in Kirundo Province, Burundi while the second one was held on December 13, 2019 at the Green Garden Resort in Cibitoke Province, Burundi.

The data validation activities are meant to ensure that the data collected in both sites are in line with or close to the reality that the community members are familiar with. This is also a way of comparing which province is faring well and/or lagging behind in certain SDG indicators.

The workshops convened the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Decentralization and Institutional Reform Mr. Ir Pontien Hatungimana, local governments, enumerators, locals, and a representatives of Concern Worldwide Burundi. A total of 41 participants were able to attend - 21 participants in Kirundo and 20 participants in Cibitoke.

The opening remarks during the first validation workshop was given by the representative of the Governor of Kirundo while the opening remarks during the second validation workshop was given by the representative of the Governor of Cibitoke.

In both workshops, the following program was prepared by the project team: Mr. Isaac Bizimana, a member of the University Research Center for Economic and Social Development (CURDES) of the University of Burundi, discussed the objectives of the project and presided over the workshops. Mr. Nsabimana presented the background on the CBMS design and the advantages of using CBMS in localizing the SDGs while Ms. Nkunzimana presented the team's report on the localization of SDGs in the three communes (Bugabira in Kirundo and Mugina and Mabayi in Cibitoke).

This was followed by an open discussion between the research team and the participants. Part of the feedback received was an appreciation of the results presented as these gave an accurate picture of the situation in the study areas. The Ministry of Decentralization offered to take the lead in terms of expanding CBMS in the provinces.

The participants also recognized the usefulness of the poverty maps in identifying areas which need to be prioritized for the preparation of the community’s development plans.

Among the recommendations that were mentioned at the end of the discussions were to enhance the skills of the local planning entity in terms of field operations, processing data, and preparing poverty maps as well as to increase the resources allotted for data collection and data processing at the local level.
16th CBMS Philippines National Conference Announcements

Save the date! The CBMS Network Team of the Angelo King Institute for Economic Business Studies of the De La Salle University (DLSU) - Manila in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will hold its 16th CBMS Philippines National Conference, a 3-day policy conference with the theme “Institutionalizing CBMS for more Transformative Development Initiatives” on March 11-13, 2020 at the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, Ortigas Avenue, corner Asian Development Bank Avenue, Ortigas Center, Quezon City.

The annual CBMS conference gathers all CBMS partners at the national and local level to discuss latest developments, findings, and best practices in the implementation and use of CBMS in the country. As of October 2, 2019, CBMS has been adopted by LGUs in 78 provinces (35 of which are province-wide), covering 1,100 municipalities, 111 cities, and 31, 110 barangays.

There is an ongoing Call for Papers/Presentations for the 3-day conference. All Local Government Units (LGUs) implementing the Community-Based Monitoring System - Accelerated Poverty Profiling (CBMS-APP) in the Philippines are invited to submit their proposals. Visit this link for more details: bit.ly/CBMSNatconCallforPapers2020

There is also an ongoing Call for LGU Entries for the 9th CBMS Special Awards. All LGUs in the Philippines with at least one completed round of CBMS implementation using the CBMS-APP are invited to submit video/photo entries for Best CBMS Advocacy Video and Best CBMS Photo. Visit this link for more details: bit.ly/9thCBMSSpecialAwards

Regular updates about the conference registration, program, and other logistical concerns are provided in the conference website (link: bit.ly/16thCBMSNatconWebsite) and at the CBMS International Network Facebook Group (link: bit.ly/CBMSNetworkFBGroup).