Women as a Key to Agriculture and Food Security in Sudan
The Case of Northern Kordofan State

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Background and Goals

- In the rural areas where most of the world’s hungry people live, women produce most of the food consumed locally. Their contribution could be much greater if they had equal access to essential resources and services, such as land, credit and training. Eliminating the obstacles that impede women could be the key to achieving household food and nutritional security (FAO, 2009).
- In Sudan, women have always been active in agriculture and food security, constituting 17% of agricultural labor. Unfortunately culture coupled with imperfections of official data underestimates their contribution.
- Accordingly, This study was carried out in the Western part of Sudan, mainly North Kordofan State in order to identify and assess the role of women in agriculture and food security and the identify the main factors and constraints affecting women contribution to agricultural production in the state.

Study Area and Sampling

- Northern Kordofan State is located in western Sudan, and its economy is based on traditional rainfed crop farming.
- The main staple food crops are Millet and Sorghum, while the main cash crops are Sesame, Groundnut, and Gum Arabic.
- The data were collected using a structured questionnaire in Omrawaba locality as one of the State’s five localities. Three administrative units were selected out of the four in the locality.
- Three villages were selected from each administration and from each village 10 households were randomly selected to constitute a sample of 90 respondents.
- This poster provides descriptive information based on the data.

Major Findings

- Women contribute 74% to the monthly agricultural income, 65% to total income, 62% to the labor work, and 65% to the household activities other than agriculture.
- Women average working hours are 14 hours/day, while, they are only 8 hours/day for men.
- The removal of the main obstacles women face could increase their contribution to and enhance the livelihood of the people in the state.
- Government policies should be reviewed to empower women by improving their access to resources and credit.

References


Fig. 1: The Contributions of Men and Women to Agricultural Production

Fig. 2: The Contributions of Men and Women to the Monthly Family Income

Fig. 3: The Contributions of Men and Women to other Home Activities

Fig. 4: What Do Women Lack in Agriculture?