

### **Acknowledgement:**

This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada, and with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (CDFATD).

### **GEAT MEMBERS**

Dr. (Mrs.) O. F. Deji   Mrs. Kaothar Adeniyi Alabi  
Dr. Olugbenga T. Alao   Mr. Busari Ahmed Olugbenga  
Dr. Olatunde J. Ayinde   Mr. Koledoye Gbenga Festus  
Mr. Olatunji Matthew

**For further enquiries: Contact,**  
**Dr. (Mrs) O. F. Deji** - [odeji2001@yahoo.com](mailto:odeji2001@yahoo.com)  
(+234 8033716695)

**Dr. J. O. Ayinde** - [tundeyjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:tundeyjoy@yahoo.com)  
(+234 8035719389)



CAPE BRETON  
UNIVERSITY



## **NI-CAN-VEG Project for Food security**

# **Gender, Access and Control of Productive Resources**



## **STORY 1**



Foreign Affairs, Trade and  
Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce  
et Développement Canada

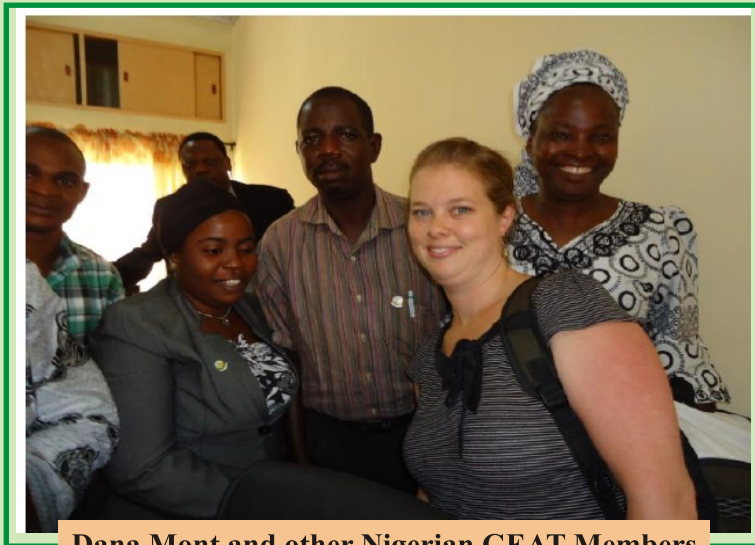


**IDRC | CRDI**

International Development Research Centre  
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

A Publication of Gender Equity Assessment Team (GEAT) of Nigeria-Canada Vegetable (NICANVEG) Project. Contact:  
Olanike F. Deji, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria.  
[Dejiolanike@gmail.com](mailto:Dejiolanike@gmail.com)

Women in the rural areas in Nigeria carry out more than 70% of the agricultural production activities but evidence has shown that they are more disadvantaged than men when considering accessibility to productive agricultural production resources. The Gender Equity and Assessment Team (GEAT) of NiCanVeg project is creating awareness about gender equality, especially in the area of access to productive resources such as land, credit, farm inputs etc. GEAT is emphasizing the need to give women unfettered



**Dana Mont and other Nigerian GEAT Members**

access to productive agricultural resources for enhanced food security and poverty alleviation. Prior to the intervention of the NiCanVeg Project, women were generally marginalised with respect to access to and control over productive resources.

Men were known to dominate the control and access to most of the resources and in most cases, men take the best and allow the women to take the left over- mostly the less fertile and less accessible farmland. In case of access to land,

women are not usually allowed to inherit land. Discrimination against women farmers in the area of access to agricultural resources is contributing to the looming food insecurity and feminised rural poverty in Nigeria.

### **Gender Inequality Stories from the Farmers' Mouths**

#### **LAND**

**Male (Ikole-Ekiti):** “Women do not have rights to own land. However, they may have access to use it but they cannot grow permanent (tree) crops. In case of a widow, the woman loses complete access to the land following the death of the husband.”

**Female (Ikole-Ekiti):** “The land is a man's property in this community. You can only have access to land on permission of your husband, if he dies, you lose all the right”

**Male farmer (Akaran):** “We have access to land, but the land we have is not enough for our vegetable farming, hence, we have to rent from others. However, women are not allowed to have direct access to land in this community”

**Female (Akaran):** “The land belongs to the male. We can only access it on their permission. Sometimes, if you have money, you can rent land on your own but, where are you going to get the money?”

#### **CREDIT**

**Male farmer:** “Our greatest problem in vegetable cultivation is that we are not having enough money to carry out our farm operations. The inputs and other cost of production are very expensive and the government is not

helping us with credit. What can we do?”

**Female:** “We do not have access to formal credit facility, because we cannot afford the terms and conditions, but we can obtain short-term loan from informal credit institutions” (arrangement between 4 or 5 of them)

## LABOUR

**Male:** “Although hired labourers are sometimes available, they often disappoint us. Also, the cost of hiring them is high because of competition for the few hired labourers available”

**Female:** “We can hire labour, like our male counterparts, but where are we going to get the money to do so?”



GEAT Members, Trainees from Cape Breton University, Canada and Farmers at Omi-Okun Farm site, Ile-Ife, Osun State during Gender empowerment discussion.

## ACCESS TO MARKET

**Male:** “Vegetable marketing is not a man's issue. It is our women that are only involved in vegetable marketing”

**Female:** “It is our problem to take the vegetables to the market and we must come back home with the proceeds, otherwise the family may go on hungry” Through the GEAT frequent visits to the farmers and the various gender awareness meetings/trainings, farmers are now better informed on the issue of gender inequality and therefore most of the issues concerning access to and control of resources have been overcome as men and women are beginning to see each other as partners in progress.

Also, GEAT is embarking on regular gender equality monitoring task of most NiCanVeg project activities to ensure gender equality in farmers' access to and control of farming inputs and resources that are being supplied to farmers through NICANVEG project.



Presentation of pumping machines and some under-utilised vegetable seeds to men and women NICANVEG vegetable farmers





Presentation of pumping machines to men and women NICANVEG vegetable farmers at Akanran, Oyo State.

Inequality in gender access to farm productive resources, especially land, is a serious constraint to attaining household food security in the project area because it limits the capacity and capability of women in contributing significantly to household food supply.

In case of prolonged ill health or sudden death of her husband, a woman's limited access to land will definitely predispose the family (children inclusive) to hunger. A major question that agitates the mind of gender experts is, "How will a widow continue to fend for the family left behind by her late husband, if she is denied access to land following the death of her husband?" The way out most often, is for the woman to move her children away from the village to urban area where they take up menial jobs to sustain the

family. In some circumstances, some frustrated family members may take to social vices such as prostitution, stealing and begging. This situation is a common picture in most developing countries including Nigeria and requires urgent attention of development agencies to mainstream gender into their projects and programs, especially those targeting the rural dwellers, majority of who are farmers by major occupation, in order to save the countries from imminent hunger and crime. *Profiled Researcher: Mr. Ahmed Olugbenga BUSARI (GEAT member, University of Osun State, Osogbo, Osun State).*



Presentation of pumping machines to men and women NICANVEG vegetable farmers at Ogbomoso, Oyo State.