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Gender and intersectional analysis of agricultural value chains for youth engagement in Rwanda

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Abstract. Youth engagement in agriculture is recognized as a quick and effective way to address problems of rural unemployment, poverty and food insecurity. This paper explores factors influencing youth engagement in agricultural value chains across nine districts in Rwanda, focusing on five major crops in Rwanda: maize, Irish potatoes, beans, chilies, and avocados. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative methods, including a survey of 635 youth engaged in selected value chains across nine districts in Rwanda, supplemented by key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Results from this study revealed a segmentation of youth engagement in value chains along gender lines, both in the selection of value chains and accross different segments. The study identified differences in the prioritization of needs among different youth social identities in agricultural, along with gender disparities in the ownership and control of productive resources. The study further noted that young women encounter particular barriers limiting their participation in leadership roles in agricultural organizations, including limited skills, restricted mobility, low education, and heavy domestic responsibilities. The study recommends deliberate measures to address these challenges, entailing the introduction of financial solutions to improve youth access to productive resources, affirmative actions to enhance young women's inclusion in lucrative value chain segments, and awareness interventions to address social norms. Likewise, strengthening governance structures of farmer cooperatives for youth engagement will unlock employment opportunities for young people in agriculture.

Key words: agriculture, gender, intersectionality, Rwanda, value chains, youth.

INTRODUCTION

Investing in young people can yield boundless results in terms of poverty reduction, employment generation and food and nutrition security. After all, they are the farmers, workers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow (IFAD 2019). The Rwandan population is predominantly young, with the proportion of young people below 30 years representing 65.3% (NISR 2022)[1]. Literacy levels among people aged 15 years and above stand at 78.8% and Rwanda's males (81%) are more literate than females (76.7%). Youth

[1] NISR: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda.

unemployment rate was at 20.8% in 2023, high and above the average unemployment rate of 17.2%. The unemployment rate is also higher among females (20.3%) than among males at 14.5% for the same period (NISR 2024).

The agriculture sector remains the backbone of the Rwandan economy in terms of contributions to national gross domestic product (GDP) and employment and income generation for the majority of Rwandan households (World Bank Group 2018). About 69.1% of the working age population are employed in agriculture (NISR 2024) and the sector accounts for about 27 percent of the gross domestic product (NISR 2023). The 2022 Rwanda Population and Housing Census report also indicates that the agricultural sector is mainly worked by women at 63.9 percent while males who are employed in agriculture represent 44.3%. The intertwined figures below (Fig. 1) present the rate of unemployment by age, underlining high unemployment rates among young women and men in the age bracket 16–30 years.

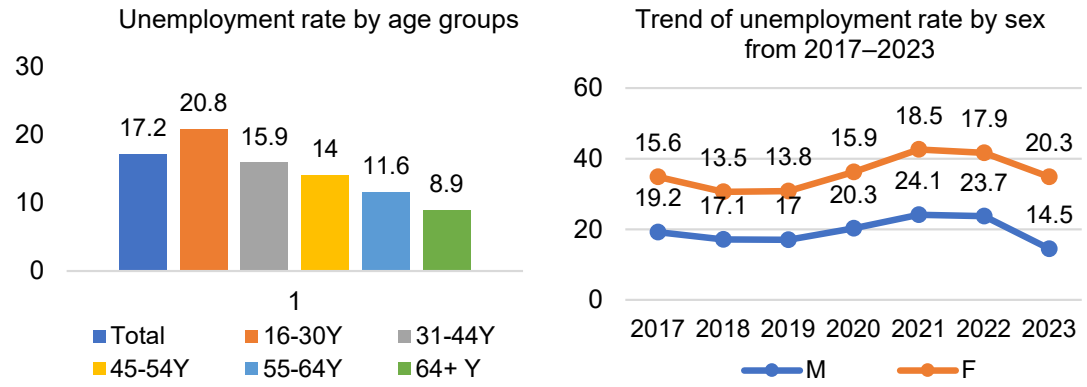

Figure 1. Trend of unemployment rates by sex and age groups in Rwanda.
Source: NISR, Labour Force Survey 2017–2023.

According to the Rwandan ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI 2019), women and youth engaged in agricultural value chains are mostly relegated to subsistence farming, with access to fewer economic opportunities. They continue to face a number of constraints holding them back from attaining economic gains. These include but are not limited to:

- Low participation in lucrative parts of agrivalue chains
- Limited access to key production resources like land, inputs and assets, and key services like extension support, technologies and market information and linkages
- Limited control over resources and decision-making.

Globally, youth unemployment and underemployment are recognized as serious challenges in many developing countries, a fact that forces many youth to migrate to urban areas or even away from their home countries (Cruickshank et al., 2022). At 21.9 per cent, the youth NEET (not in employment, education, or training) rate in sub-Saharan Africa exceeded the global rate (at 20.4 per cent) in 2023 according to the International Labour Organization (ILO 2024).

In this paper, we use an intersectional approach to identify and analyze factors that influence young men and women's engagement in agricultural value chain segments in Rwanda, focusing on five key staple and emerging crops in Rwanda, including Maize

(cereal) Irish potatoes (tuber), Beans (legume), Chilies (vegetable) and Avocado (fruit). We argue that meaningful youth engagement in agriculture is a strategic and transformative pathway for addressing the persistent challenges of rural unemployment, agricultural productivity and food insecurity. The findings presented in this paper are expected to inform policy reforms and programming among government institutions and development partners mandated with agricultural development and youth employment in Rwanda. Furthermore, the study offers a basis for future scholars to explore the factors shaping job creation for rural youth within agricultural value chains in Rwanda and beyond.

Theoretical framework

Youth-centered agriculture value chains. The value chain describes the full range of activities which are required to bring a product or service from conception, through the different phases of production, delivery to final consumers, and final disposal after use (Kaplinsky & Morris 2001). The chain actors who actually transact a particular product as it moves through the value chain include input (e.g. seed suppliers), farmers, traders, processors, transporters, wholesalers, retailers and final consumers (Cruickshank et al., 2022).

In light of existing literature, a youth-centered value chain is viewed as a form of social inclusion that involves youth's ability to decide how to engage with business opportunities in the value chain and use their resources to actualize their engagement (Nigussie et al., 2024). This approach involves creating opportunities for the youth by increasing their productivity (education, skills, productive assets, and natural resources), connectivity (markets, information and social networks) and agency (civic and political participation, skills and education, and empowerment) so that they can be more fully integrated with their society and have the power to make decisions in their own best interests (IFAD 2019).

Youth are characterized by innovative behaviour, minimal risk aversion, less fear of failure, less conservativeness, greater physical strength and greater knowledge acquisition propensity (Kising'u, 2016). Consequently, their engagement in agriculture is recognized as a quick and effective way to address problems of rural unemployment, poverty and food insecurity and promoting youth participation in economic transformation in developing countries (Mueller et al., 2019). Yet youth face structural barriers including the policy, institutional, technological, and capability barriers for their successful participation in agricultural value chains, and ways to overcome them are not fully understood (Babu et al., 2021). Among these barriers, land tenure insecurity emerges as a significant impediment, with many young people accessing land without exclusive ownership rights (Jeremiah et al., 2024). This situation is further compounded by social norms and customary land inheritance systems prevalent in many African countries, which dictate how land is passed down across generations, often working against the interests of rural youth (Nigussie et al., 2024).

Intersectional Analysis: Considered as one of the significant advances across academic disciplines in recent decades, Intersectionality is a critical framework that provides us with the mindset and language for examining interconnections and interdependencies between social categories and systems (Atewologun, 2018). The intersectionality concept is based on the assumption that 'human lives cannot be reduced to single characteristics'; and 'human experiences cannot be accurately understood by

prioritizing any one single factor or constellation of factors' (Hankivsky et al., 2014). It engages with the complexities and diversity among women, men, and other gender groups, moving beyond the binary focus on the differences between women and men (Djoudi et al., 2016).

Intersectionality analysis has gained increasing attention in agricultural research, offering valuable insights into various aspects of social differentiation. When applied to agricultural research for development (AR4D), intersectionality can illiminate how how gender's interactions with other axes of social differentiation shape the social dynamics of agricultural systems and technological change to affect gender and development outcomes (Tavenner et al., 2022). For example, (Mungai et al., 2017) examined how factors such as ethnicity, education, age, and marital status influence the adoption of climate-smart agriculture technologies in Kenya. In a related study, (Addinsall et al., 2023) applied an intersectional lens to explore how local context, place-based knowledge, and practices shape the self-empowerment and meaningful engagement of Melanesian women in agricultural projects. Elsewhere, (Amoah, 2024) investigated the interplay between gender and other social markers, including marital status, childbirth status, and crop type, and demonstrated how these factors critically determine women's access to, use of, and control over land and other productive resources in the Wa West District of Ghana. Despite these contributions, there remains a limited body of research applying an intersectional approach and using gender-disaggregated data to analyze how gender, age, and other social identities interact to influence access to and control over productive resources in the agricultural sector.

The intersectional analysis conducted in this study involved profiling diverse categories of youth, including young women, young men, young refugees or displaced persons, and young persons with disabilities, to better understand their unique needs and challenges in accessing decent employment opportunities across agricultural value chains. The analysis utilized the 'youth' marker as the central reference point to explore how additional social identities related to gender, age, disability status, refugees or the displaced interact to produce patterns of inequality and opportunity. Hence, the study sought to address the following central research question: In what ways do overlapping forms of vulnerability shape the participation of young people in different nodes of agricultural value chains, and what potential opportunities exist to enhance their meaningful engagement?

In addition, a gender and intersectional analysis toolkit was developed and applied to assess youth engagement in selected value chains across four key dimensions. These dimensions included: (1) the participation of young men and women along value chain segments; (2) their ownership and control over productive resources and assets; (3) the effects of social norms at household level on young women's control and decision-making over household resources and assets; and (4) the leadership and governance structures of selected value chains to determine these structures facilitate youth participation and promote access to dignified and fulfilling employment opportunities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study employed a blend of both quantitative and qualitative techniques. A survey targeting young females and males in the age range 18–35 years involved in selected value chains was carried out in 9 districts out of 30 in total across June and

July 2024. The selection of 9 study districts was purposive since the selected crops are grown throughout the country. We therefore ensured an equitable geographical representation of all four provinces plus the city of Kigali using the following criteria:

1) First, we considered the number of cooperatives involved in one of the selected value chains per district using the data from Rwanda Cooperatives Agency (Rwanda Cooperative Agency, 2023). Here, the highest probability of selection fell to districts with the highest number of cooperatives involved in those crops

2) Secondly, districts associated with most numbers of commodities among the 5 value chains were also prioritized

3) The presence of refugee populations in the districts of Gatsibo (Eastern) and Karongi (Western) was also factored in as an additional criterion to facilitate an intersectional analysis around young refugees as an important social category.

Based on the above, the survey was conducted in the Districts of Burera and Gakenke in the Northern province, Karongi and Nyabihu in the Western province, Gatsibo and Kayonza in the Eastern province, Muhanga and Nyanza in the Southern province and Gasabo in the City of Kigali.

The sampling frame was given as the total members of cooperatives involved in selected value chains within the study areas, while the sample size was determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula (Penyelidikan 2006):

$$n = \frac{X^2 \cdot N \cdot (1-p)}{\left(ME^2 \cdot (N-1) + X^2 \cdot p(1-p)\right)} \quad (1)$$

where n: sample size; X^2: Chi-square for the confidence interval (C.I) of 95% at 1 degree of freedom (3,841); N: Population size (N = 26,270 members of cooperatives involved in selected value chains in study districts as per the data from Rwanda Cooperative Agency); p: Population proportion (assumed to be 0.50 as no additional information about the population characteristics was provided and since this would provide the maximum sample size); ME: Desired Margin of Error (4%).

By applying the above formula, the sample size was shown as 587 individuals, to which a contingency attrition rate of 8.2% was applied to take care of non-respondents:

n = 587+ (587·0.082) = 635 individuals.

Once the sample size was determined, respondents were chosen using stratified random sampling and the population categorised into sub-groups on the basis of pre-determined demographic characteristics, namely age groups, gender, disability status and refugee status. A simple random criterion was applied to choose the final respondents.

Qualitative data were collected through 23 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with young women, young men, young refugees or displaced persons, and young persons with disabilities engaged in farming cooperatives across five selected value chains. Additionally, 44 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted with value chain actors and enablers, including input suppliers, processors, traders, transporters, financial institutions, and government agencies. These processes aimed to generate in-depth insights into key barriers to youth participation and uncover opportunities for their greater engagement in agricultural value chains.

Map showing study districts:

Source: Author's design using Arc GIS 10.8 version.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sample distribution

As summarized in Table 1. below, young females were the more represented sub-group in the sample (55%) over young males at 45%, influenced by the preeminence of young women in the farming segment, where more women are concentrated, unlike in other segments up the value chains.

In terms of value chains, maize was most represented in the sample with 271 out of a total of 635 respondents (43%), followed by Irish potatoes with 176 respondents (28%), Beans (14%), Chilies (8%) and Avocado (7%). This distribution was based on their overall weight in terms of cooperative membership in the study areas (see Table 2 below). With regard to the social identity of respondents, young women accounted for 297 people out of a total of 635 (47%), followed by young men (38%), young refugees and displaced people (7%) and young people with disabilities (8%).

Table 1. Distribution of actual sample size by district and sex

Province	Districts	Distribution of sample by district (based on their weights)		
		total	male	female
CoK	Gasabo	37	15	22
North	Burera	85	36	49
	Gakenke	36	13	23
West	Karongi	70	50	20
	Nyabihu	111	40	71
East	Gatsibo	82	40	42
	Kayonza	144	56	88
South	Muhanga	30	17	13
	Nyanza	40	17	23
	Total	635	284	351

Source: Primary data, June–July 2024.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents by value chain and social identity

Respondents' identity	Maize	Irish potatoes	Beans	Chilies	Avocado	Total
Young men	97	75	31	21	19	243
Young women	111	90	43	30	23	297
Young refugees	41	0	5	1	0	47
Young people with disabilities	22	11	10	1	4	48
Total	271	176	89	53	46	635

Participation of young men and women in value chains

In the following section, the participation of young men and women along the value chains was measured by exploring the value chains that involve/employ a big majority of either men or women, the gender division of labour across value chain segments, and the needs prioritized by both males and females.

Value chains predominantly employing men/women. Tasks along the value chain are generally divided along gender and age lines due to gendered social norms that restrict women and men participation in specific value chains or in specific activities along one given value chain (Senders et al., 2020). This study sought to examine which among the 5 selected VCs is highly employing (young) men or women in different activities across value chain segments (Fig. 2 below). Beans value chain was ranked as the highest in terms of employing women at 71.9%, followed by maize (56.1%) and chilies (53.7%). Irish potato was reported to employ more men at 60%, while Avocado was found to be worked by both males and females (23.9% and 32.6% respectively).

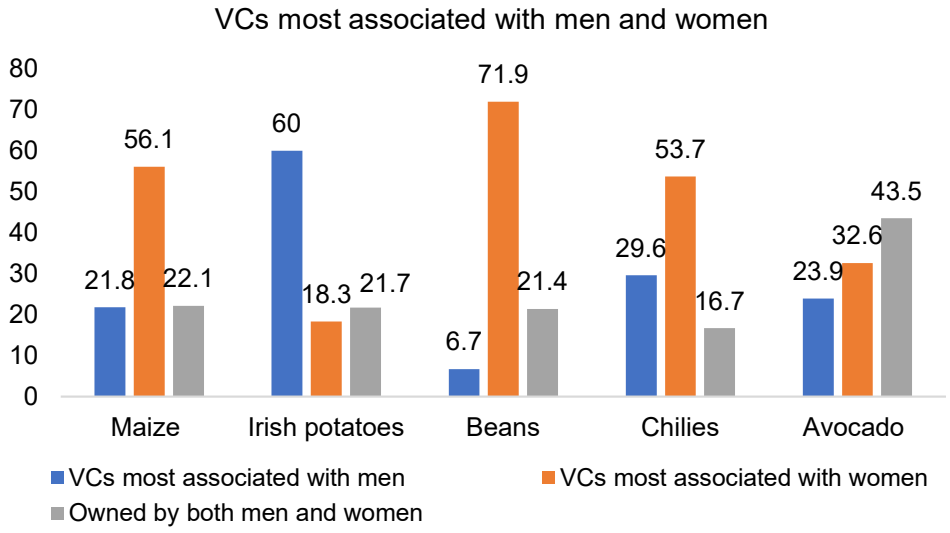

Figure 2. Value chains most associated with men and women. Primary data, June–July 2024.

During focus group discussions, respondents elaborated more on factors influencing their preference for specific value chains. Young women prioritized value chains based on the accessibility of inputs and household consumption needs, while young men emphasized favorable climatic conditions and market demand as the primary determinants of their choices.

Gendered division of labour among young people along VC segments. Results from the study show that the big majority of young women (90% or above depending on the value chain) are rather concentrated in farm-level activities for most of the selected value chains. A young female respondent in her thirties explained, 'My husband and I grow beans through our cooperative; however, I am primarily responsible for the farm work, while he prefers seeking off-farm employment, such as masonry and road construction, which offer quicker and higher daily wages'.

The other segments employing a relatively higher proportion of young women include aggregation and post-harvest handling (56% or more), input use (38% or more), pre-production activities (39% or more), marketing, selling, and trading (37% or more), processing (25% or more), and transport (28% or more). As illustrated in Fig. 3 below, women's participation declines as one moves up the value chain, particularly in segments such as aggregation, processing, transport, marketing, selling, and trading.

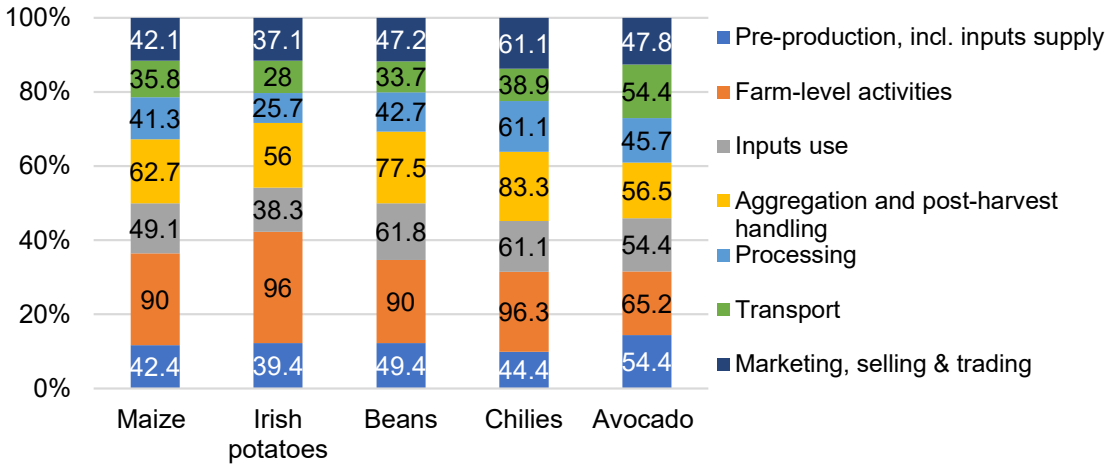

Figure 3. Participation of young women accross value chains segments.
Primary data, June–July 2024.

Regarding the specific tasks performed by women in the farming segment, focus group participants highlighted field preparation (ploughing), seed planting, weeding, assisting with irrigation, manure production, and fertilizer transportation. Women were also reported to play a significant role in harvesting and post-harvest activities, such as cleaning produce to ensure safety and quality. In contrast, men were primarily engaged in physically demanding or highly technical tasks, including carrying heavy loads, loading and unloading produce, climbing trees for avocado harvesting, applying fertilizers, and pesticide spraying.

Specific needs for different social identities involved in the selected value chains. As reported in Table 3 below, young women who participated in the survey prioritized access to agricultural loans as the most pressing need when it comes to participation in value chains development (with 47.5% vote), followed by agricultural training (46.9%), market related information (46.3%), agricultural inputs (46%) and land ownership (45.7%). As for young men agricultural inputs (39.4%) and land ownership at 38.8% were the most prioritized needs, followed by market related information with

38.5%, loans (38.4%) and training (37.7%). Young people with disabilities prioritized market information (10%) and loans (9.2%) ahead of training (8.5%), land ownership (8.4%) and agricultural inputs with 7.6%. As for refugees, land ownership at 7.1% and access to agricultural inputs (7%) were prioritized ahead of training (6.9%), market information (5.3%) and loans (5%). 'We rely on small parcels of marshland provided by the host district to cultivate, and this restricts our ability to engage in commercial farming. In terms of finance, we primarily rely on micro-loans obtained through savings schemes that we established within our community, or from occasional support by a few development projects operating in the refugee camp', noted a young female respondent living in a refugee camp.

Table 3. Specific needs for different social identities in selected value chains

Respondent category	Specific needs for different social identities in selected VCs				
	land ownership	agricultural inputs	agricultural training	market information	agricultural related loans
n =	534	554	493	400	404
Young men	38.8	39.4	37.7	38.5	38.4
Young women	45.7	46.0	46.9	46.3	47.5
Young refugees	7.1	7.0	6.9	5.3	5.0
Young people with disabilities	8.4	7.6	8.5	10.0	9.2

Source: Primary data, June–July 2024.

It is worth noting that variations in the prioritization of needs across different social identities were minimal among young women and men but slightly more pronounced among young refugees and young persons with disabilities.

Ownership and management of assets and resources

In developing countries, access to land is gendered with more male farmers having unparalleled easy access to farm lands than their female counterparts (Ankrah, Freeman & Afful, 2020). Fig. 4 below provides comparative information on young men and women's ownership of productive resources and agricultural assets.

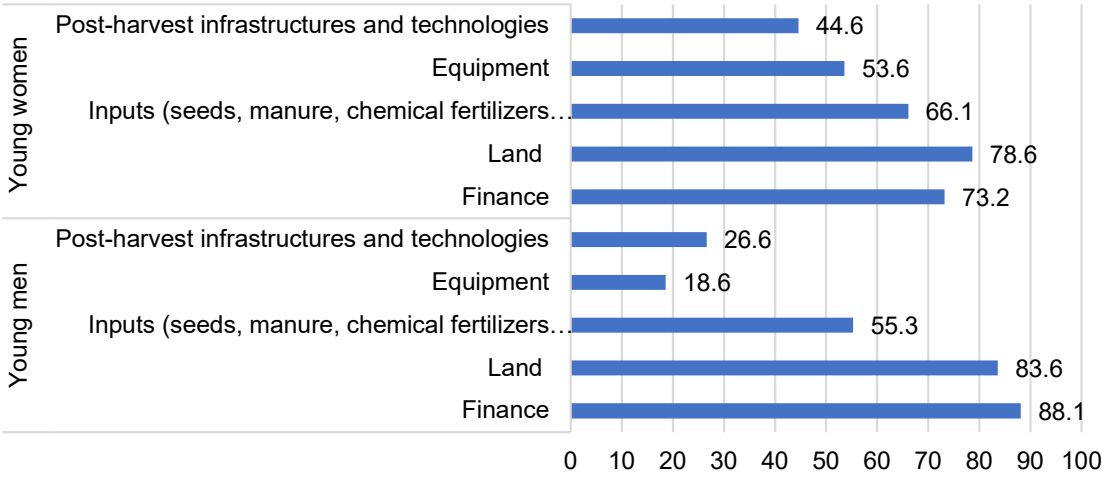

Figure 4. Ownership of productive resources by age and gender. Primary data, June–July 2024.

Data collected through the study shows that young men have the highest level of ownership of finance and land (88.1% and 83.6% respectively), compared to young women's 73.2% and 78.6% respectively. Conversely, women reported to have greater ownership of assets such as agricultural inputs, equipment and post-harvest infrastructures and technologies. A young male with disability noted, 'The land I cultivate belongs to my parents, and they do not allow me to use it as collateral when applying for loans. Without land ownership or trust, expanding my farming activities becomes a big challenge'.

Control over productive resources/assets by young men and women at household level

Control over productive resources was measured through the ability to manage and assert power in determining the use, decision to sell or rent the resource or asset in question. Based on the results from the survey as summarized in Fig. 5, males were reported to have by far more control over key productive resources and assets including land, finance, agri-inputs, equipment and post-harvest infrastructures (57%). Only a small percentage of respondents (4%) indicated that females have a greater control over the same resources and assets. However, a substantial percentage of respondents (39%) acknowledged that both men and women (for married couples) do exercise a joint management of household resources.

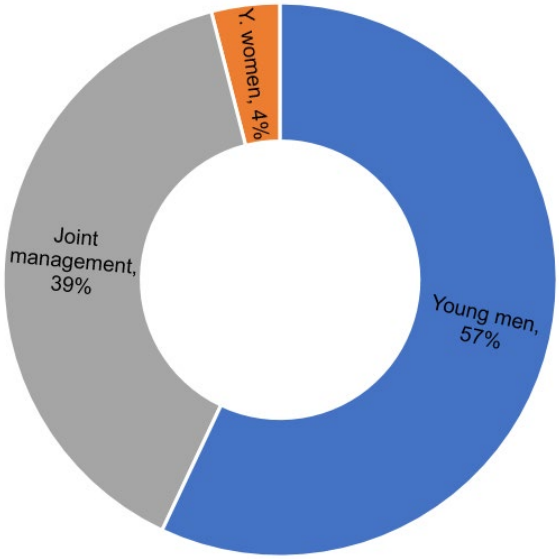

Figure 5. Control over productive resources by young men and women.
Primary data, June–July 2024.

Effects of social norms and power relations on young women's control and decision-making over household resources/assets by district

Men and women have different perceptions about women's decision-making in agricultural activities, and spouses' perceptions of decision-making participation are influenced by social norms, which requires rigorous consideration of social norms to understand intrahousehold decision-making (Qanti, 2022). An assessment on the effects of social norms on women's control and decision making over household resources was done as part of this study and results show that out of 9 districts considered, Burera comes on top when it comes to the proportion of survey respondents who consider that social norms have a negative incidence on young women's control and decision making over household resources (48.3%), followed by Gatsibo district with 39.2%, Gasabo (rural) with 33.3% and Kayonza with 25%. In the other 5 study districts, the proportions are much less significant.

Overall, about 25.7% of survey respondents across the districts confirmed that indeed social and cultural norms are likely to affect young women's control and decision making over productive resources at household level, which is significant, as summarized in Fig. 6.

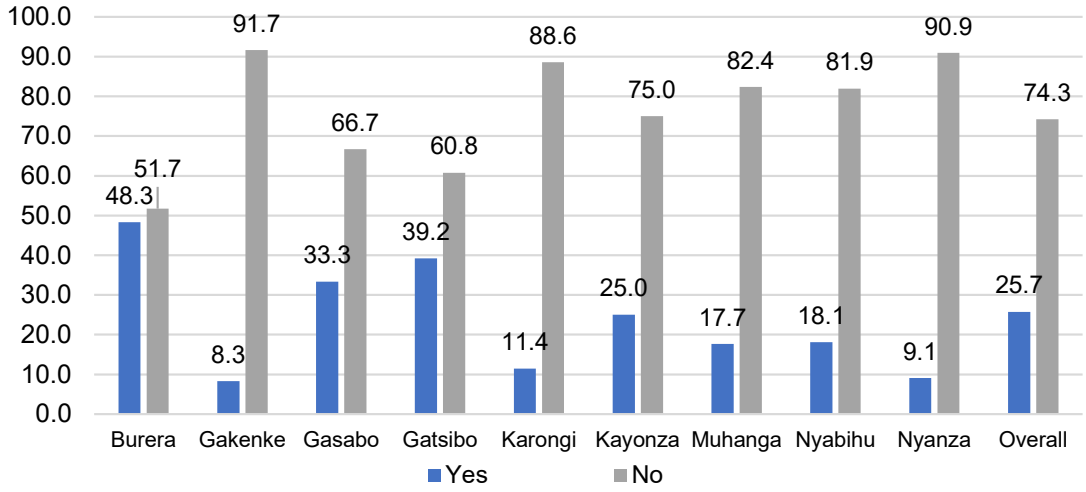

Figure 6. Effects of social norms on young women's control and decision-making. Primary data, June–July 2024.

The effect of social norms was also discussed in focus group discussions and participants asserted that men are traditionally expected to set spending priorities and manage household resources. Failure to do so would be interpreted as weakness by their peers, while a married woman who takes important decisions at household level would be viewed by the society as disrespectful, overly ambitious, and insubordinate. This was summarized by a female respondent: 'The management of household resources is typically regarded as a man's role, in his role as the household head. When we, as women assert our voices in key decisions regarding management of household resources, we are perceived as disrespectful or ambitious, a perception that can lead in our social isolation, physical abuse, and other forms of mistreatment within the family'.

Leadership and governance of selected value chains

The study assessed a few areas of cooperative governance for selected value chains and whether the type of governance structures in place are likely to promote more engagement and participation of young men and women in value chains.

Requirements for being elected as a member of the leadership committee

Table 4 below states the conditions required to be elected as a member of cooperative committee. According to the majority of respondents, integrity is the essential criteria and has been given an overall score of 95.6%. The other election criteria that were listed include experience (rated at 63.8% by male and female respondents), level of education (56.2%), time (40.5%) and the possession of assets and financial resources.

Particular barriers limiting young women's access to leadership positions. Notwithstanding the criteria put in place by the cooperative for occupying leadership positions, respondents were required to highlight particular barriers that young women often encounter in securing leadership positions within their respective value chains.

High up on the list is the lack of leadership capacity and skills that was credited with 62% by both young women and young men, followed by youth mobility credited with 46.3% by young women and 48.3% by young men. Limited access to resources and assets, low education levels and domestic work burden are the other important elements prioritized by respondents for limiting women's chances of accessing to leadership positions.

Table 4. Requirements for being elected in cooperative leadership committees

Requirements to be elected	Male	Female	Overall
Possession of financial resources	8.3	8.5	8.4
Possession of assets	30.5	27.8	29.3
Time	43.0	37.3	40.5
Level of education	57.8	54.2	56.2
Experience	60.7	67.6	63.8
Integrity	95.4	95.8	95.6

Source: Primary data, June–July 2024.

It is worth noting that the results provided in the table below reflect consolidated responses from both young females and young males who participated in the survey. It is therefore interesting to note the convergence of responses from different value chains and from both gender groups when it comes to sequencing the bottlenecks that limit women from accessing and effectively exercising leadership positions. This is detailed below:

Table 5. Particular barriers limiting young women's access to leadership positions

Barriers faced by young women for accessing leadership positions	Maize	Irish potatoes	Beans	Chilies	Avocado	Overall
Domestic work burden/ unpaid care work for women	34.3	20.6	28.1	37.0	60.9	31.8
Lack of leadership capacity and skills	60.5	58.9	66.3	61.1	80.4	62.4
Low education	37.3	46.3	37.1	38.9	65.2	41.9
Working without salary or compensation	29.2	20.6	24.7	16.7	67.4	27.9
Limited access to resources and assets	42.4	45.4	32.6	46.3	71.7	44.3
Age limit (considered too young to lead)	28.8	23.6	18.0	33.3	23.9	25.9
Youth mobility[2]	52.8	39.7	37.1	57.4	65.2	48.3

Source: Primary data, June–July 2024.

CONCLUSIONS

Drawing on the intersectionality theory, this study conducted a youth-centered value chain analysis with the aim to identify factors that influence young men and women's engagement in value chains in Rwanda, with focus on five key crops including Maize (cereal), Irish potatoes (tuber), Beans (legume), Chilies (vegetable) and Avocado (fruit).

Results from the study point to a segmentation of youth engagement in value chains along gender lines. While value chains such as beans, maize and chilies are highly predominated by young females, Irish potatoes is predominated by young males. Equally,

[2] Youth mobility: reflects the perception of members of the community about youth's lack of stability and their inclination to move up from one place to another in search of better opportunities.

the study found that the choice of specific value chain by young women was influenced by easy access to inputs and household consumption needs, whereas young men prioritized suitable climate conditions for growing a particular crop and market demands.

Next, the study established that the big majority of young women (90% or above) were concentrated in farm-level activities for most of the selected value chains. There was a dichotomy in terms of needs of young women and men, with the former prioritizing access to loans, training and market information as the most pressing needs, whereas young men prioritized access to agricultural inputs and land ownership as the priority needs. Young people with disabilities prioritized access to market information and agricultural loans while young refugees cited land ownership and access to agricultural inputs as the most prioritized needs.

Results further show that young men have the highest level of ownership and control of key assets such as finance, land, agricultural equipment and post-harvest infrastructures and technologies, with agricultural inputs the sole asset that was reported to be owned by young women. Overall, one in four respondents across the districts confirmed that social and cultural norms are likely to (negatively) affect young women's control and decision making over productive resources at household level, mainly due to patriarchal system and deeply rooted gender stereotypes, particularly in rural areas. Lastly, it was established that young women continue to face particular bottlenecks in securing leadership positions within agricultural organizations including cooperatives in their respective value chains, entailing the lack of leadership capacity and skills, followed by mobility constraints, limited access to resources and assets, low education levels and domestic work burden.

The study recommends adopting financial solutions adapted to the needs of young women and men to promote their access and ownership of productive resources, prioritizing affirmative actions that promote young women inclusion in lucrative segments of value chains (input supply chains, aggregation, processing and trading), and conducting awareness activities to address cultural and social norms that negatively affect young women's participation in the value chains for dignified and fulfilling work opportunities. Streamlining existing governance structures of farmer cooperatives will also enhance youth engagement and unlock employment opportunities for young women and men in agriculture and improve women's participation in leadership.

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