

# A gendered analysis of small-scale cocoa production in Uganda

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## Introduction

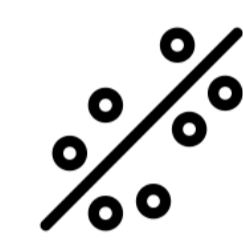
Cocoa production is an important source of income for many smallholder farmers in Africa. Smallholders often struggle with high transaction costs, limited access to markets and rural services as well as human capital and technology constraints. Such issues and constraints, which diminish farmers' ability to generate income and escape poverty, are often particularly pronounced for female farmers who represent a large share of the total agricultural workforce.

The following research questions were used to investigate a potential gender gap for a specific sample group in Uganda.

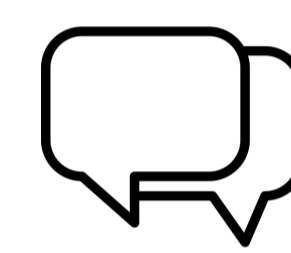
**RQ 1: What are the differences between male and female managed farms, if any, in terms of roles and approaches to cocoa-growing and related activities?**

**RQ 2: Does the fact that a farm is managed by a woman influence cocoa revenue?**

## Methods



Socio-demographic, farm and farming characteristics of male and female farmers were compared using a t-test. In order to account for gender differences on the farm-level, the responsibilities, affiliations and roles in cocoa cultivation and related activities were statistically examined. Multiple ordinary least squares regression models were developed to estimate whether female farmers have lower cocoa revenues than male farmers and which explanatory factors significantly account for this difference.



Data collection: Farm visits and semi-structured interview of farmers.



Sample: 205 smallholder cocoa farmers from Mukono district in Uganda.

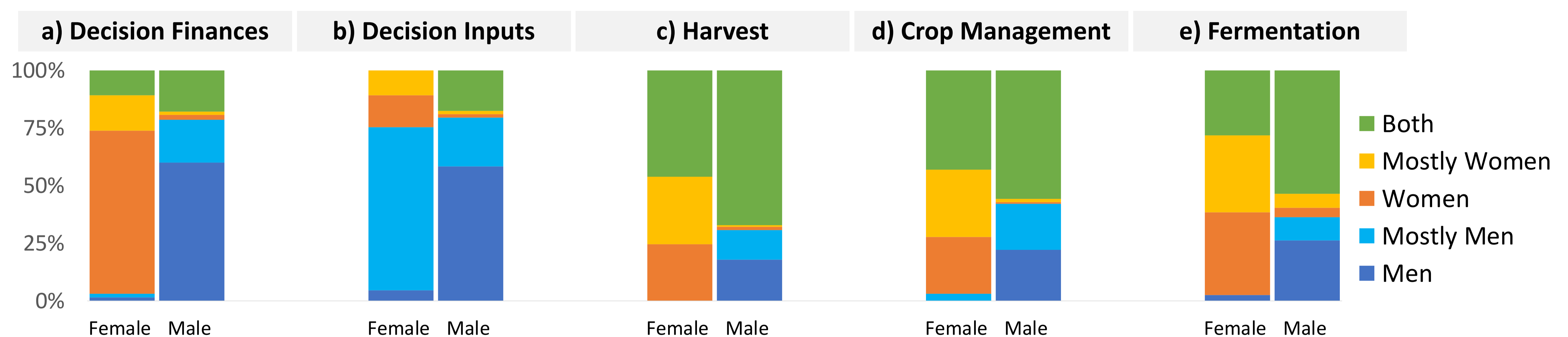


Fig. 1: Differences in roles and responsibilities concerning various decisions and activities on farm between male and female managed farms

| Cocoa Revenue (USD)            |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Female (dummy)                 | -212.36<br>(158.30)   |
| Cocoa Area (hectares)          | 646.24***<br>(153.43) |
| Workforce (number)             | 169.95**<br>(58.52)   |
| Formal Savings Account (dummy) | 579.99**<br>(194.04)  |
| Informal Savings Account       | 51.28<br>(167.16)     |
| Production Diversity (number)  | -32.03<br>(37.17)     |
| Group Membership (dummy)       | 154.37<br>(150.22)    |

Standard error in parentheses. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001.

Tab. 1: Selection of explanatory factors influencing cocoa revenue in USD (2019)

## Discussion

- Female cocoa farmers achieve significantly less cocoa revenue than male farmers (336 USD and 905 USD, respectively).
- Female managed farms have a prominent female workforce, while women play a more considerable role on male managed farms. **Input- and finance decisions are male-dominated.**
- Several gender-based differences in the sample group that show that **female farmers do not have the same prerequisites** than male farmers to manage a farm.
- Regression analyses confirm a **gender gap** in cocoa revenue generation. A **formal savings account**, the **workforce** and the **cocoa area** are key determinants that **significantly influence cocoa revenue**.

## Conclusions

The research revealed a considerable gender gap for the sample caused by several interrelated systemic inequalities that hinders women from participating in the cocoa sector and aggravates their ability to manage a successful agricultural business. A transformation towards a gender-sensitive cocoa sector is therefore needed.

