

Gender Issues in Agriculture Commercialisation Processes

1

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PRINCIPLES GUIDING NEW
INVESTMENTS IN
AGRICULTURE**

30-31 JANUARY 2015

Main Messages

2

- Long history of agriculture commercialisation and investment, beginning in the era of Indian Ocean complex in 15-17 centuries
- Cannot generalise about gender and class relations in Tanzania; widely different histories, agroecological zones, different patterns of agriculture production in time and place but commonalities
- During colonial and post-colonial eras, state support systems were crucial in enhancing agriculture commercialisation, but for different producers (small-large, women-men, indigenous-'foreign', smallscale peasant – capitalist commercial)

Main Messages contd

3

- Changes in gender division of labour over time and place but again, cannot over-generalise
- Women's responses, including adjustment and resistance, varied and contributed to shape overall commercialisation process past and present

EARLY HISTORY

4

- Precolonial production of grains for slave/ivory caravans on largescale plantations and city states/ Zanzibar islands and cloves for export ‘overseas’ using slave and sometimes serf/tenant labour
- State subsidies and other support systems for settler farmers & corporate plantations in colonial period, with appropriation of land for settler and corporate growers
- State subsidies and other support systems smallscale indigenous producers and state owned plantations in *ujamaa* period (60s-70s), leading to highest levels of crop outputs for several individual peasant and plantation crops during 1970s and 1980s – agriculture stagnation is a myth

Early History

5

- Rapid increase in small family production for household use and for the market, arising partly from farm support systems targeting smallholder producers, [cultivators however; pastoralists excluded] expanded markets and market of last resort [crop boards, food reserves] which led to dramatic drop in migrant labour to plantations and mines by early 80s & labour crisis in those two sectors

In *Ujamaa* days, women full participants in process though often as unpaid labour or casual labour in farming systems; they created women's cooperatives/groups to access land, farm inputs, markets & to own shops and control cash proceeds in their own right

Structural Adjustment, Liberalisation & Privatisation

6

- Major achievements of the *ujamaa* era were rolled back by SAP, including free universal primary education and primary health care – user fees were imposed; delivery of education, health and water was liberalised and privatised, leading to growing inequality in access and an abrupt drop in utilisation of health care facilities.
- For smallscale producers, farm support systems and producer subsidies were dropped, the entire research and extension service system was dismantled. Many smallholder producers stopped growing export cash crops because of their inability to afford and/or access improved farm inputs and credit.

Structural Adjustment, Liberalisation & Privatisation contd

7

- Land alienation increased during post-SAP era, beginning in mining sector in 1990s, increasingly in agriculture and land speculation during 2000s, and even more so in post-2008 crisis period
- In post 2008 period, increasing involvement of finance capital in agriculture-related investments that are oriented in practice to large scale sector for export and/or local middle class; supported by government policy and budget frameworks
- No coherent development programme has been developed/financed to support small family producers, a large proportion of whom are women

Gender Relations

8

- Men as well as women forced to seek alternative sources of income outside of the household economy for survival, thereby depriving peasant agriculture [including pastoralism] of vital sources of labour.
- Increasing proportion of women participate directly in market as wage earners [formal, informal] and peasant producers & off-farm informal operators, albeit under highly exploitative conditions, and increase their status and power due to independent cash incomes

Gender Relations

9

- Women's wages and incomes systematically lower than men's up to present, even with same jobs, education and work experience – an indicator of impact of systematic discrimination against women in labour market
- Women [self]employed at bottom of ladder in both formal & informal sectors
- Majority of women carry double burden: production & reproduction, paid and unpaid work, in family/community; small elite rely on paid domestic workers to provide reproduction functions

INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE

10

Since 2010, as part of the campaign for ‘Economic Justice: making resources work for marginalised women’, TGNP Mtandao staff & other researchers joined grassroots women animators in selected rural Districts of Tanzania, to carry out participatory action research [PAR] with grassroots women groups. Animation methodology is used to encourage grassroots women and men activists to assess together the main issues which challenge marginalised women, explore basic causes, prioritise key issues for action & plan strategies to make change happen.

INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE contd

- PAR combines with facilitating local women activists groups to establish **knowledge centres** in order to sustain their own animation/research processes; and link them with **local press clubs** who carry out investigative journalism on the priority issues identified earlier by the local women in the animation process.
- Beginning with Kisarawe District in 2010, PAR reached five districts in 2014: Tarime, Njombe, Kishapu, Morogoro Rural and one urban district, Kinondoni. An artist named Muhidini Msamba was part of the early animation teams and captured main ideas in picture codes shown below.

INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE contd

12

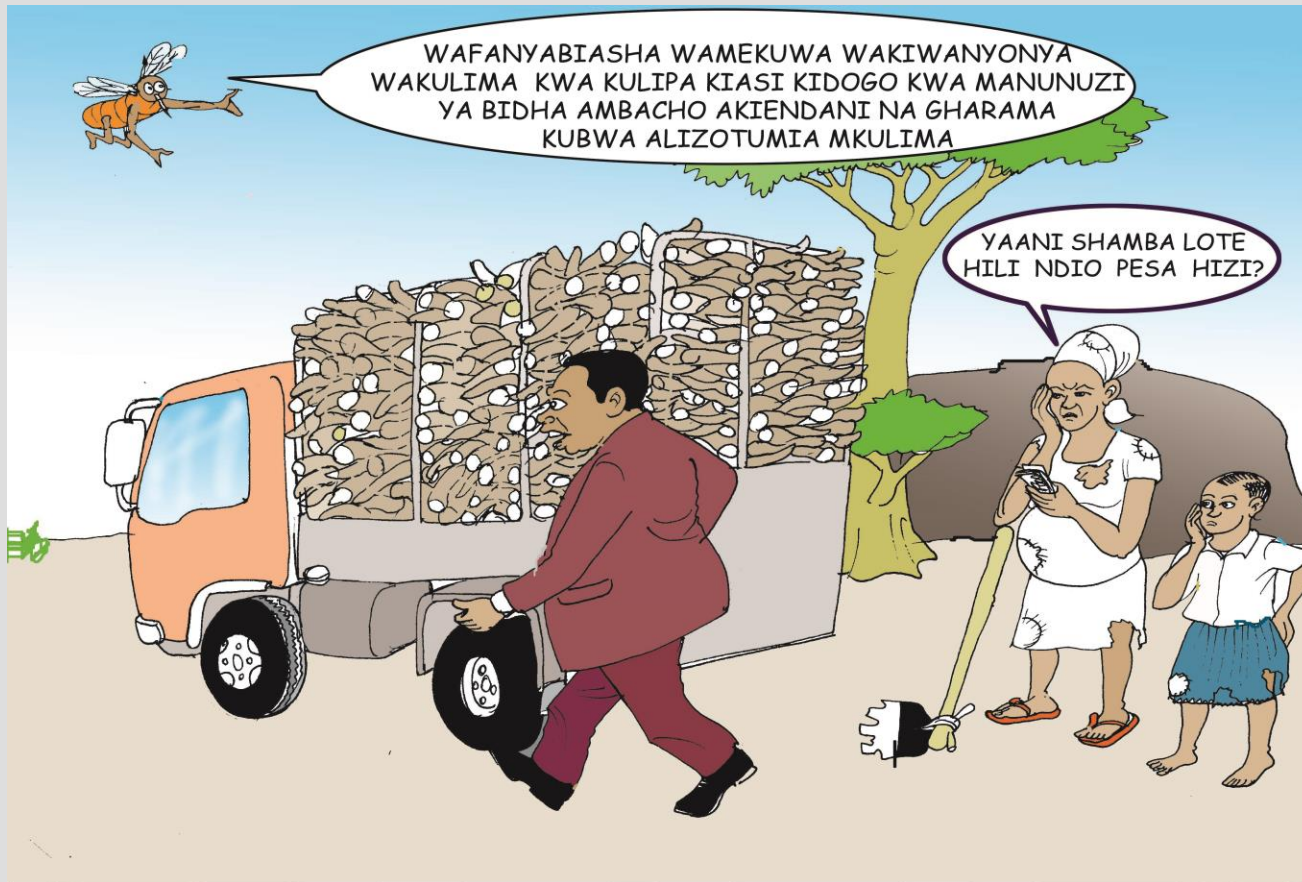
- These picture codes are used, with skits, song, poetry generated by local activists, to stimulate discussion in focus discussion groups, & to present main findings at **feedback workshops held at ward and district level with local government authorities.**
- Grassroots women take the floor each time to back up analysis of issues with personal experiences, challenging official efforts to dismiss these as exaggerations or false information. They continue to be used in weekly seminar series GDSS, Gender Festivals, & GTI training. Looking at pictures, facilitators ask people: what do you see? What's happening? What's the cause? What is the underlying structure? What do you want to do about it?

INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE contd



INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE contd [‘this little money for the whole farm?’]

14



INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE contd



INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE contd



INTENSIVE MOVEMENT BUILDING CYCLE contd:

17



FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT AND CORRUPTION CHALLENGED

18



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING