

**EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF HOUSEHOLD APPROACH IN
ENHANCING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN FARM DECISION
MAKING PROCESSES IN MZIMBA NORTH, MALAWI**

PhD THESIS (TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

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MZUZU UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER, 2022

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
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THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF PHD DEGREE IN
TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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SEPTEMBER, 2022

DECLARATION

I, Beatrice Mbakaya declare that this thesis is a result of my own original effort and work, and that to the best of my knowledge, the findings have never been previously presented elsewhere for the award of any academic qualification. Where assistance was sought, it has been accordingly acknowledged.

Beatrice Mbakaya

Signature: _____

Date: _____

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

We, the undersigned, certify that this thesis is the result of the authors own work, and that to the best of our knowledge, it has not been submitted to any academic institution elsewhere. The thesis is acceptable in both form and content, and that satisfactory knowledge of the field covered by the thesis was demonstrated by the candidate through an oral examination held on 12/10/20.

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DEDICATION

To my late brother Mleza Stanislaus Luhanga, who inspired me into the profession of transforming communities, may your soul rest in peace. To my children: Walusungu, Temweka and Temwanani Mbakaya, my busy time schedules could be felt in your life but not understood. My prayer is that at God's appropriate time, the outcome of my education in its fullness will be realised and shared in your life.

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ABSTRACT

Against the background of a continued low participation of women in farm decision making processes, Household Approach, the gender-transformative participatory extension, was adopted, adapted, piloted and up-scaled in a number of districts in Malawi including Mzimba North to enhance women participation in farm decision making processes among other reasons. This study aimed at exploring the potential of Household Approach in enhancing women participation in farm decision making processes. Informed by a pragmatic philosophical underpinning and a mixed method research design, this study was guided by feministic theoretical framework and participatory tenets. Individual interviews and photo voice were the main methods of data generation. Qualitative data was analysed using thematic approach and quantitative data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Local facilitators had average knowledge in Household Approach with a mean score of 54.73 (SD 7.92) and a range of 41-67%. Household Approach is implemented through agriculture cooperatives and model villages. Women took joint decisions in all farm decision making processes with a higher participation score in household visioning (0.91) compared to men (0.83) and youth (0.44). Unveiled through photo voice, factors that facilitate participation in farm decision making include: availability of resources, time, markets and records, knowledge in Household Approach, health status, food security status, stability of homes, sharing of benefits, potential enterprise benefits and distance to farms. In conclusion, inclusion, equity, sharing, transparency and accountability participatory values incorporated in the Household Approach, addressed most factors limiting women participation in farm decision making process thereby enhancing their participation in most farm decision making processes. However, this study recommends a multi-sectoral approach to the implementation of Household Approach to share implementation costs.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADD	Agriculture Development Division
AGRESSO	Agriculture Gender Roles Services Specialist
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
ASP	Agriculture Support Programme
ASWAP	Agriculture Sector Wide Approach Project
EPAs	Extension Planning Areas
FBS	Farm Business School
GAD	Gender and Development
GAGT	Gender Analysis for Gender Transformation
GALS	Gender Action Learning Systems
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoM	Government of Malawi
HHA	Household Approach
ICRISAT	International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics.
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IRLADP	Irrigation Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture Development Project
ORT	Other Recurrent Transactions

PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SD	Standard Deviation
UN	United Nations
USD	United States Dollar
VACs	Village Agricultural Committees
WAD	Women and Development
WPO	Women's Programme Officer

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the importance of agriculture and the key role women are playing in the agricultural sector amidst a number of challenges the sector is facing in Malawi. A background to the promotion of Household Approach (HHA) in agriculture development is then unveiled followed by a presentation on the problem statement, objectives of the research and research questions which guide this study. Finally, I share my position and experience regarding the problem under study and offer a justification of the study.

1.1 Background

Agriculture continues to play a key role in the growth and development of most countries in the world. The importance of this sector is more pronounced in developing countries including Malawi whose economy remains predominantly agro-based despite development in other economic sectors (Malawi Government, 2012a). In Malawi, agriculture accounts for 30 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), generates over 80% of national export earnings (Malawi Government, 2016), employs 76 % of the country's workforce (International Labour Organisation (2021). In Malawi, women provide 70% of the work force and produce 80% of food for home consumption (Malawi Government, 2012b).

Despite the fact that women play a crucial role in the economic development of the country, their participation in decision making processes in the agricultural sector is limited as the process itself is dominated by men (Malawi Government, 2012b). A report on the cost of gender gap in agriculture productivity reveals that Malawi stands to gain if women are involved in the entire agriculture value chain resulting in an increase in crop production, USD 100 million increase in Gross Domestic

Product and lift 238,000 people out of poverty if the gender gap is closed (UN Women et al, 2015). Njenga and Gurung (2011), further recommend that agriculture and development projects should be gender responsive, and take into consideration the needs, aspirations, knowledge, opportunities, constraints and challenges faced by men and women farmers including the young and old if hunger and poverty are to be alleviated in Africa.

In an effort to promote active participation of all gender categories in farm decision making processes, among others, in 2009, Household Approach (HHA) was piloted in Limphasa, Likangala and Nkhate irrigation schemes in Nkhata- Bay, Zomba and Chikwawa districts. HHA encourages households to build a coherent livelihood strategy for the entire household by encouraging farming households to create a shared vision, analyse their opportunities and constraints, and then work together towards achieving their vision in a way that does not empower one gender category at the expense of the other with the essence of promoting quality participation of all gender categories in setting household development agenda (Farnworth and Munachonga, 2010). Household Approach is an adapted individual household mentoring approach (Farnworth and Sambrook, 2014) Malawi learnt from Zambia under the Agriculture Support Programme (ASP). Malawi adopted a similar approach to addressing gender disparities however with some modifications. Apart from incorporating a number of aspects from the different household methodologies into this methodology, HHA in Malawi is being facilitated by lead farmers, in this case called local facilitators backstopped by extension workers among peer households. Unlike other participatory approaches which consider a village as an entry point for addressing various development issues including gender, HHA considers a household as an entry point to addressing gender issues (Malawi Government, 2015b). In 2016, the HHA was up scaled to all districts in Malawi including Mzimba North.

1.2 Problem Statement

Evaluation findings from areas where HHA have been piloted indicate that it enhances active participation of women in decision making processes of farming activities (Malawi Government, 2015b). However, Butler and Mazur as cited in Isgren (2012, p. 9), report that “...development is a human process for which there are no shortcuts. What works in one location may not necessarily work in another setting”. After adapting and up scaling of HHA in Mzimba North, not much is known on its impact on enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study was to explore the potential of HHA in enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes. Specifically, the study aimed to:

1. Assess local facilitators knowledge of Household Approach;
2. Assess implementation of HHA among targeted households;
3. Determine level of participation of women in farm decision making processes; and
4. Identify factors limiting or facilitating active participation of women in farm decision making processes in Mzimba north.

1.4 Critical Research Question

This study sought to address the following key research question:

Does HHA enhance participation of women in decision making processes of farming activities in Mzimba North?

1.5 Specific Research Questions

Specifically, the following research questions were/are addressed:

1. What is the level of local facilitators' knowledge of Household Approach?
2. How is HHA implemented among targeted farming households in Mzimba North?
3. Among peer households in Mzimba North, what is the level of participation of women in farm decision making processes?
4. What factors limit or facilitate active participation of women in farm decision making processes among peer households in Mzimba North?

1.6 Motivation of the study

I am a woman who has grown up in smallholder farm setting. I also happen to have specialised in agriculture extension profession for fourteen years interacting with smallholder farmers most of who are women. I have seen what it means to be a key player in a field like agriculture but devoid of the decision-making stamina. It is doing business as usual with no significant positive impact on most of your clients' livelihood. After adapting and up scaling of HHA, an innovative extension approach aimed at addressing issue of low participation of women among others, the researcher's interest was in knowing if it is achieving its intended objectives in Mzimba North. I am part of the field set up supervising implementation of HHA. I had deliberately put my position upfront so that I continually reflect on it and have no bias on my study so that the view-points, opinions, and experiences I got, came from the participants.

1.7 Justification of the Study

Recent reports on the review of the Agricultural Extension Policy (Malawi Government, 2017a) just indicate that women are well represented in Village Agricultural Committees (VACs), which are decision making forums on agricultural activities. Representation only is not enough as it does not give a wholesome picture of participation of women in farm decision making processes. From an assessment of participation of women in decision making processes among targeted households, this study unveil levels of participation of women and their associated challenges and opportunities. This provides recommendations for responsive actions which will sustainably address real needs affecting women in agriculture who are key players in this sector.

1.8 Operational Definition of Key Terms

The following section describes the meaning of key terms as used in this study.

1.8.1 Women in Peer Household

Peer households are homes which have been selected and are implementing the HHA. In this study, women in peer households are the ones who are assessed on their participation in farm decision making. However, the assessment on participation in farm decision making was extended to other family members (men and youth) in the peer households who acted as a control.

1.8.2 Women Participation in Farm Decision Making Process

In this study, women participation in farm decision making is defined as the involvement of women in decision making process in relation to household visioning, action planning, and implementation of agricultural activities of priority enterprises of households, monitoring and evaluation of

household action plans. I present a detailed discussion on how their degree of involvement in these decision-making processes was considered in section 3.5.2

1.8.3 Local Facilitator

A local facilitator/lead farmer is described as a farmer who has mastered a specific technology and is willing to support fellow farmers in the learning and implementation of that particular technology (Malawi Government, 2012a). In this study, HHA is herein considered as a technology (software technology) the lead/local facilitators have mastered for promotion among peer households aimed at seeing transformed power relations.

1.8.4 Gender Inclusion

In this study, gender inclusion implies HHA strategies that give the opportunity for women, men and youth to take part in farm decision making processes at household level.

1.8.5 Gender Equity

According to Ogunyankini and Jobson (2019), equity exists when social systems are designed to equalise outcomes between more and less advantaged groups. In this study, gender equity implies HHA processes providing opportunities for a fair participation among men, women and youth in farm decision making processes.

1.8.6 Transparency

Simango (2015), defines transparency as access to all relevant information by all people – including ordinary people affected by any programme as well as those wishing to participate. In this study,

opportunities that promoted access to information by men, women and youth on HHA processes were explored.

1.8.7 Empowerment

Empowerment means to enhance the capacity of an individual or group to make purposive choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes (World Bank, 2007). In this study, empowerment is measured by examining level of women's involvement in farm decision making processes.

1.8.8 Sharing

In this study, sharing is assessed in terms of peer members reached with HHA knowledge.

1.9 Synopsis and Outline of the Chapters

In this chapter, I have discussed the problem statement, the background to the problem, motivation of the study, the rationale for the study, the purpose and aims of the study and definition of key terms as used in the study.

Low participation of women in farm decision making is a development issue. In chapter two, I start by reviewing related literature on what development is, its theories and how development theories directed interventions, internationally and locally, addressing low participation of women. This is followed by a review on local facilitators' knowledge on HHA, implementation of HHA and then on participation of women in farm decision making processes and factors affecting their participation in farm decision making processes. I finally present and discuss the conceptual framework.

In chapter three, I discuss research paradigms, I isolated the paradigm that guided this study and justified the choice of the chosen research paradigm, research design and the research methodology used in this study. This is followed by a discussion on how data was generated by objective and data analysis procedures. I conclude this chapter with a discussion on ethical considerations and a justification on the trustworthiness of findings of the study.

In chapter four, I present the findings of this study and a re-contextualization of findings in the literature is done in chapter five.

Finally, in chapter six, I present a summary of the findings and recommendations by each objective of the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to give a theoretical basis for this study. Firstly, an understanding of how 'Development' has been conceptualised, is given, followed by a discussion on an overview of traditional paradigms of development with a focus on schools of thought behind their emergence and with a lens on how women's issues were taken care of in policy interventions in Malawi and the world as a whole under each paradigm of development. A justification on the adopted theory is then given. The chapter then provides an empirical analysis on local facilitators' knowledge of HHA, implementation of Household Approach from a background of household methodologies, participation of women in farm decision making processes and factors affecting their participation. A conceptual framework depicting relationship of reviewed factors as they relate to participation of women in farm decision making is then presented. Finally, a summary of the entire discussion concludes this chapter.

2.2 Understanding of Development

In Malawi the participation of women in farm decision making processes is one of the issues in agriculture that affects the contribution of agriculture to the development agenda. This therefore, calls for an understanding of what is development. According to Hopper (2012), the intellectual roots of the origins of development, lie with the European Enlightenment of the eighteenth century under the themes of progress, rationalism, modernity, science, capitalism, industrialisation and imperialism.

A diversity of views and schools of thought exist on what is “Development” depends on what actors focus on in a system (Bellu, 2011). Broadly, “Development”, has been firstly conceptualised as ‘structural transformation’ and ‘long-term transformation of economies and societies’ (Sumner, 2007) characterised by a declining share of agriculture in GDP and employment; a rapid process of urbanisation; rise of a modern industrial and service economy; and a demographic transition from high rates of births and deaths to low rates of births and deaths (Timmer and Akkus, 2008). Secondly “Development” has been broadly conceptualised as ‘a vision or measure of progressive change (Thomas, 2004) with a focus on the outcomes of change. This focus on outcomes has however been criticised as an imposition of goals or objectives bringing a paternalistic assumption as to what is good for people’s wellbeing based on a set of universal values and characteristics raising questions of ‘ownership’ among the poor (Booth, 2004). A common theme on the two broad conceptualisation on ‘development’ encompasses ‘change’ in a variety of aspects of human society. The following section discusses the traditional paradigms to achieving desired change in state.

2.2 Traditional Paradigms of Development

2.2.1 Modernisation Theory

According to Coetzee et al (2007 p.31), modernisation refers to “the total transformation that takes place when a traditional or pre-modern society changes to such an extent that new forms of technological, organisational or social characteristics appear”. A leading theorist in Modernisation, Rostow (1960), advocated for a replacement of local traditions if communities were to become modern. For instance, in developing nations, agriculture modernisation programmes were adopted to achieve participation through trickle down process in which information about new technologies

were targeted at influential farmers who were prepared to adopt the technology. It was hoped that they would in turn share this knowledge to the other farmers.

Adopting a modernisation view, in the history of Malawian agriculture extension, Kabuye and Mhango (2006), narrates that in the 1950s, agriculture extension system in Malawi adopted the Master Farmer approach in which selected farmers considered as early adopters were supported with logistical support services and all extension efforts were concentrated on them with the hope that their crop and livestock production would increase followed by enhanced prosperity of their families. It was envisaged that in the long run, other smallholder farmers would follow suit by adopting improved technologies hence increased overall agricultural production in the country. However, according to Hopper (2012), modernisation theories were criticised for persistent and deepening of global inequalities which were thought to be natured by modernisation theory principles. The inequalities issue was also noticed with this master farmer approach in Malawi as reported by Kabuye and Mhango (2006), that much as the master farmers became prosperous, non-participating farmers did not follow suit in adopting the improved technologies as they envied and resented the Master Farmer prosperity and secondly because the Master Farmers were viewed as stooges of colonial government hence agricultural production was still low.

Further grounds for criticising the modernisation theory arose from studies Boserup (1970) did on impact of projects promoted during the modernisation period. From the findings of these studies, it was argued that many technologically sophisticated projects during this modernisation era, undermined women's economic opportunities and autonomy. Citing on how targeting of trainings happened, Boserup (1970), reports that training in new technologies was usually offered to men, limiting women's access to both technology and employment hence promotion of *women in*

development (WID) approach to incorporate women in development agendas. However, the heavy reliance of the WID approach on modernisation theory, restricted its transformative capacity of women (Connelly, Parpart & Barriteau, 2014). Criticism against the modernisation theory saw the rise of dependency theory.

2.2.2 Dependency Theory

Frank (1996), the leading theorist of the dependency theory, argues that colonialism and imperialism impeded the independent development of the Third World. He proposed for a radical political transformation and delinking of their economies from world markets. According to Connelly, Parpart & Barriteau (2014), the arguments of the dependency theorists, paralleled those in radical-feminist thinking who challenged existing power structures and also advocated a degree of separation from the sources of power and domination arguing that patriarchy exists in all societies and is the fundamental source of inequality hence the need to create alternative social institutions, separate from men, within which women can fulfil their needs. This saw the promotion of the WAD (Women and Development) approach seeking to create "women-only" projects, carefully constructed to protect women's interests from patriarchal domination. The initiation of the women program in the Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi was in line with the WAD approach targeting women farmers particularly resource poor women and women with minimal land holding size and serious labour constraints (Malawi Government, 2015a). WAD perspective was however criticised for marginalisation, for seeing women as a class, downplaying differences among women, particularly along racial and ethnic lines, and at times assuming that solutions to problems affecting the world's women can be found in the experiences and agendas of one particular group and finally, smallness of scale which limited the transformative potential of women-only organisations

(Connelly, Parpart & Barriteau, 2014). Shortcomings of the dependency and modernisation theories in the development debate saw the rise of other perspectives in development. People were identified as the missing element in development efforts (Simango, 2015), hence advocacy of people centred development approach also called participatory approach.

2.2.3 Participatory Development Perspective

Participatory development has been defined as the practice of involving all stakeholders in every stage of the development process with the essence of creating sustainability of projects and having a balanced power structure (Bleckley, 2008). Callan (2018), classifies four ways in which communities participate: Nominal- where much as people are included in groups, the functionality of these groups is doubtful and groups mainly serve purpose of display; Instrumental- where locals partly pump in their contribution as a means to own a development intervention; representative- where communities are given a chance to express their own interest and are supported in line with what they need and lastly transformative participation- where locals are involved in considering options, and taking collective action to fight injustice. Callan (2018), argues that all forms are important and can be utilised in different ways.

Following the participatory movement, the agriculture extension system in Malawi adopted the pluralistic, demand driven Agriculture Extension Policy in the year 2000. This Agriculture Extension Policy advocates for community participation in development interventions. The model village approach is one such participatory method which was adopted. Taking a village as an entry and planning base, the model village integrates all other participatory methodologies, aiming at having transformed lives among farming families (Malawi Government, 2012a). However, a report

on the status of extension and advisory services (Malawi Government, 2017a) indicated that there are still disparities in participation of different gender categories in these local decision making forums, with women and youth less likely to participate in farm decision making forums. This is in line with what Cornwall (2002, p. 8) argues, that much as participatory spaces can be created in order to allow people to interact and to discuss issues of their concern as well as to perform social responsibilities, power and differences among the people may allow or limit effective participation. This led to the adoption of Gender and Development (GAD) to implementation of development projects. According to Connelly et al. (2014), GAD emanated from the grass-roots organisational experiences and writings of Third World feminists and Western socialist feminists who according to their perspective, gender relations are seen as the key determinant of women's position in society, which can be changed if this is desired. As a policy intervention, Malawi promoted Agricultural Gender Roles Extension Services which targets both men and women with the aim of promoting quality participation of all gender categories in farming business. Household Approach is the gender-transformative participatory extension methodology that is being used to operationalise GAD in Malawi. The interest of this study was in exploring women participation in farm decision making processes under this approach in Malawi hence the adoption of a feminist lens. The following section explains the feminist theory and its methodological application in this study.

2.3 Feminist Theories

Thapa (2009), describes feminism as a movement and a set of beliefs which state that women should have political, social, sexual, intellectual and economic rights equal to those of men. Commonwealth Secretariate (2006), categorises feminist theories into three: theories of difference, theories of inequality and theories of gender oppression. Theories of difference analyse the differences between

women and men in society in terms of biological and social conditions and institutional socialisations where girls are socialised differently from boys because of their biological differences and the resulting inequalities become embedded in society and its relationships; secondly, theories of inequality whose proponents argue that the exploitation of women labour is located in what is effectively a difference of self-perpetuating social class embedded in ideology and practice and finally theories of gender oppression whose proponents describe women condition in terms of men using the norms of social system to enforce their ideological control and using an acknowledged oppressive tactics against women considered part of patriarchal system. A feminist methodology and/or theory aims to produce valid knowledge of gender relations, mostly with the view to ending women's unequal position in society (Squires and Wickham-Jones, 2004). My study aimed at finding out if HHA, as a gender transformative extension approach, is enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes in Mzimba North, Malawi. Gender-transformative approaches to development hold a conceptualisation of empowerment that embraces its feminist roots (Hillenbrand et al., 2015). Applying a feminist evaluation lens to gender-transformative measurement systems can provide epistemological guidelines for embracing complexity and capturing the critical intersections of gender, race, class and sexuality in the power dimensions of agency, relations and structures (Mertens *et al.*, 2009). As such, it makes sense to use a feminist methodological approach in my study which contributes towards advancing equality for women in Malawi. Using the visual methodology, photo voice, factors affecting women participation in farm decision making processes will be unveiled. Details on the visual methodology are offered in section 3.6. The following section presents an empirical literature review on: local facilitators' knowledge of HHA, implementation of Household methodologies at household level, women participation in

farm decision making processes and limiting factors to active participation of women in farm decision making processes.

2.4 Empirical Literature Review

2.4.1 Local facilitator's knowledge of Household Approach

One of the key factors highlighted as contributing to success of implementation of Household methodologies is a team of well-trained locally selected facilitators (UN Women watch IFAD, 2012). Alibhai (2009) also argues that the household-based approach requires high amounts of technical capacity. As part of assessing local facilitators' technical capacity in implementation of HHA, local facilitators' knowledge of HHA was assessed.

Rogers (1995), described knowledge as a situation when individuals (or other decision-making unit) learn about the existence of an innovation and seek understanding of how it operates. Rogers (1995), characterised knowledge into three levels: (1) awareness-knowledge, (2) how-to-knowledge, and (3) principles-knowledge. Awareness-knowledge: has been described as information on the existence of an innovation. The how-to knowledge is described as the understanding of how much of the innovation to use and how to use it correctly. This has been likened to the software knowledge and that the absence of this knowledge before trial and during adoption of an innovation results in conflict and resistance. Principles knowledge has been described as the functioning principles describing how and why an innovation works. Rogers (1995), argues that an innovation can be adopted without this knowledge, but the misuse of the innovation may cause its discontinuance. This study assessed local facilitators' awareness, how-to and principles knowledge of HHA.

2.4.2 Implementation of Household Approach

Duraiappah et al., (2005), argues that the ability of participatory development to fulfil its promise rests in part on the manner in which it is undertaken. Francis, Muthukrishna and Ramsuran, cited in Ndengu (2009) also argues that successful use of participatory approaches lies in the process rather than simply the technique used.

Compared to standard approaches to gender mainstreaming which assume that empowering women "outside" the household domain will automatically increase women's bargaining power within households, household-based approaches to training and extension bring about changes in gender relations "from within", rather than being imposed "from without" (UN Women, 2016). According to Bishop-Sambrook and Farnworth (2014), Household methodologies can be implemented through groups and also through individual household mentoring. In the first model of implementation of household methodologies, groups act as entry points. With support of extension officers and peers, group as well as individual household visions and action plans are developed to advance the interests of the group as a whole and also help members realise their visions. The second model of implementing household methodologies is through individual household mentoring meant to reaching out to poorer households which do not participate in project activities or belong to farmers' groups or participate in community meetings hence their views are not reflected in planning activities. The specificity of this approach is that all adult members of a household, including both women and men farmers, are visited and assisted by a trained mentor selected from the local community. During these visits, men and women in a household learn how to better plan their livelihoods together, work together to improve their food security and income, and to share the benefits equally (UN Women, 2016).

Alibhai (2009), reports that household-based approaches are heavily dependent on their local context hence the need to adapt them to local social, environmental, and political realities. Household Approach is an adapted individual household mentoring approach to addressing gender inequality, HIV and AIDS issues at the household level in Malawi (Bishop-Sambrook and Farnworth, 2014). Apart from incorporating a number of aspects from the different household methodologies into this methodology, HHA in Malawi is being facilitated by lead farmers, in this case called local facilitators backstopped by extension workers among peer households. Unlike other participatory approaches which consider a village as an entry point to addressing various development issues including gender, HHA considers a household as an entry point to addressing gender issues (Malawi Government, 2015b).

According to HHA implementation guidelines (Malawi Government, 2015a), Awareness sessions are part of initial Household Approach implementation processes meant to make wider community understand HHA, gain their commitment on implementation of Household Approach and also support households in implementation of Household Approach. After communities are sensitised on HHA, they help in identification of special interest groups or farmer-based organisations from which local facilitators and peer households to implement the approach are identified. Active female, male or child headed households involved in agricultural enterprises for home consumption and income-generation are targeted. Local facilitators interface with peer individual households in all procedures of Household Approach implementation which include: collection of baseline data or information which provides a clear status of the household situation and data for monitoring and evaluation. Secondly, household visioning, which is a process in which articulations of desired future state is done. After setting the household vision, a more detailed participatory needs assessment for all household members is done using participatory gender and HIV sensitive tools.

The household then sets objectives based on their consolidated prioritized needs and the vision's yearly milestones. Using a GHA responsive action planning tool, household action plan addressing priority enterprises, needs and problems as derived from the needs assessment sessions is developed with a focus to working towards achieving the set household vision. Finally, extension workers monitor what is happening at household level in case there are challenges which need attention. Considering the fact that the ability of participatory development to fulfil its promise rests in part on the manner in which it is undertaken (Duraiappah et al., 2005), this study assessed the way in which HHA was implemented.

2.4.3 Women Participation in Farm Decision Making and Determinants

Enete and Amusa (2010), analysed determinants of women's contribution to farming decisions, particularly in male dominated cash crop environments, cocoa agro-forestry households, in Ekiti state, Nigeria. Major constraints militating against women's contributions to household farming decision include: Lack of extension programmes, attitudinal barriers against women in farming societies and low level of income.

Godara (2017), analysing rural women participation in farm decision making in agriculture sector and factors affecting it in Haryana state, India, found out that most of the decisions regarding crop production activities have been taken by men in agricultural sector, depicting limited decision-making power of women in the study area. Age, education and husband income made a strongest and unique contribution to explaining the women contribution in farm decision making.

Mulugeta and Amsalu (2014), analysed participation and decision-making process of rural women in farming activities in Yilmana Densa district, Ethiopia. Results show that rural women regularly engaged and participated in critical farming activities including weeding, seed preparation, selling

agricultural commodities, and harvesting. Rural women's participation in farm management decision making was quite minimal. Lack of experience, illiteracy, false assumption about the role of rural women in agriculture, limited extension service and shortage of technical knowledge or skills were the main determinant factors affecting the participation of rural women in decision making process in the study area.

In a study by Petros et al. (2018) focusing on chickpea, sesame, maize and wheat crop enterprises in Ethiopia, women participated in every level of agricultural production, however, their role increased significantly (to as much as 88 percent) in the post-harvest phase (storage). Despite the key role women played in post-harvest losses, Petros et al. (2018) reports women's lack of decision-making power compared to men in post-harvest decision making. Women could be informed, consulted, or in some cases even veto decisions regarding post-harvest activities.

Patalagsa et al. (2015) found out that women who had received the training in vegetable production had more freedom to decide over most gardening tasks such as crop choice, planting and harvesting times, crop management, and inputs to use. There was a significant ($p < 0.05$) difference between the intervention and control groups in all five aspects. Most decisions were jointly done (men and women).

Looking at gender participation and decision making in crop management in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa, with specific reference to banana, cassava, groundnuts, beans, and cowpeas production, Ochieng et al. (2017) reports that most women took decisions jointly with their husbands, about 27.7 percent did not participate in crop management decision making process, and only 13 percent took decisions independently indicating a low level of decision making among women in crop management. The socioeconomic factors that significantly enable women to

participate in crop management decision making include a larger farm size, accessibility to credit, extension services, group membership, and engagement in off-farm activities.

Pal and Haldar (2016), reporting on participation and role of rural women in decision making related to farm activities in their study in Burdwan district of West Bengal, in terms of decision making, Mean (\pm S.E.) decision score for women respondents was 2.1 (\pm 0.1) and for men respondents it was 3.0 (\pm 0.1) implying that, decision making power in relation to farming activities was higher among man respondents than woman respondents ($t = 8.20$, $df = 10$, $P < 0.0001$) (Pal and Haldar, 2016) implying that men playing a larger role in farm production decisions and farm women's involvement in decision making process in agriculture field was quite minimal. Age, education and wealth status of rural women had significant influences on their involvement in decision-making.

Factors influencing women participation in farm decision making processes can be grouped into the following: Literacy levels of farm women, women's access to income, land and extension services, age of farm women, implementation of extension approaches and lastly attitudinal barriers

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Figure 2.1 depicts the conceptual framework for exploring the potential of HHA in enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes.

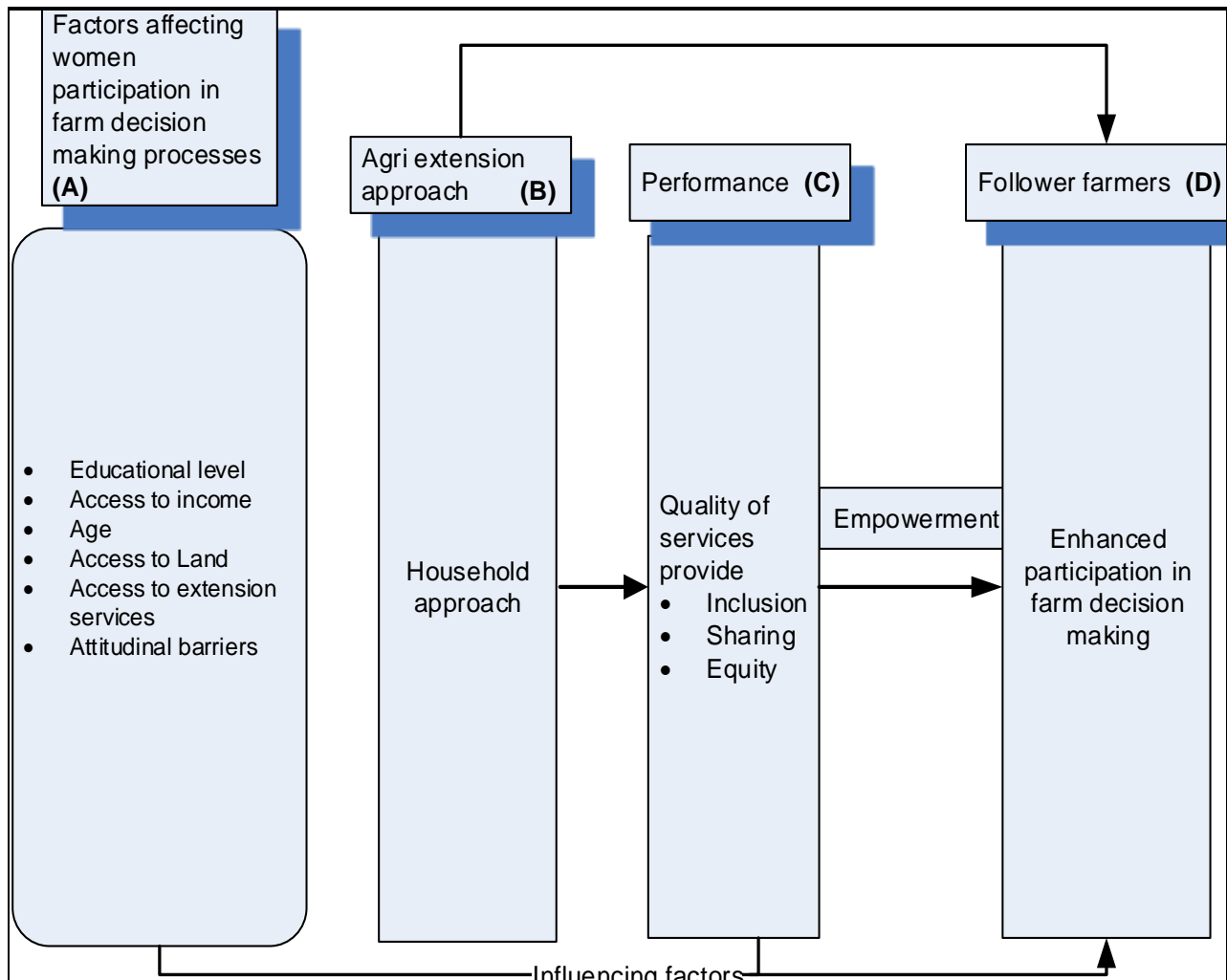


Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework for exploring the potential of HHA in enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes

Literacy levels, measured in terms of educational level attained by women, was found to enhance participation of farm women in agricultural decision making process (Pal and Haldar, 2016, Godara and Varsha, 2017). It is argued that educated women may be more aware of their rights and responsibilities in the household and may be more assertive about them than uneducated ones (Enete et al, 2002)

Women's access to income or credit enhanced women participation in farm decision making processes (Ochieng et al., 2017; Pal and Haldar, 2016). This is attributed to their stronger economic position.

Access to extension services enhanced women participation in farm decision making processes. Ochieng et al. (2017), argues that the knowledge and skills they acquire from extension empowers women with knowledge and enables to contribute ideas. Patalagsa et al. (2015), expresses access to extension services in terms of trainings received by women which also proved to enhancing freedom to decide over most gardening tasks such as crop choice, planting and harvesting times, crop management, and inputs to use compared to the control group.

Older respondents participated more in decision making process in the different areas of agriculture than their younger age group counterpart (Pal and Haldar, 2016). Enete and Amusa (2010), attributes this to experience which most often comes with age and continues to argue that in traditional societies, the older a woman gets, the more her opinion is respected and sought after, in decision making. Access to land enhances women's participation in farm decision making processes. Ochieng et al. (2017) argues that land allocation to women for production motivates women to contribute to the management of family land.

Attitudinal barriers which include: the misconceptions that women farmers do not have farming ideas, the general belief by society that farm women are subordinate to their male counterparts in farming, low-self-confidence of farm women in taking certain farming decisions, negligence on the part of women not to become involved in farm decision making among others, limits women

participation in farm decision making processes. Amaechina (2002), argues that these emanate from patriarchal-based socialisation in societies.

Apart from the socio-economic factors affecting the way in which women participate in farm decision making processes, the manner in which an extension approach is implemented also affects the way in which communities participate Duraiappah et al. (2005). Using the feministic framework, factors affecting women participation were assessed through the photo voice methodology and HHA implementation processes were assessed if participatory values were incorporated in the HHA process activities.

2.6 Literature Review Summary

Most of the reviewed studies are skewed towards assessing factors affecting women participation in production decisions. This study has gone further to assess women participation in visioning, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, operationally defined as farm decision making processes with a participatory lens.

This chapter presented a theoretical background of the study focusing on the adopted theories; firstly, central tenets of traditional theories of development, modernisation and dependency were discussed. It was shown that these theories failed to explain development and underdevelopment and such a failure led to the rise of an alternative development paradigm known as people-centred development or participatory development perspective. It was also highlighted that the beneficiaries of development should actively participate in all stages of development from initiation to evaluation as this can bring about empowerment, capacity building and sustainability. This was followed by an empirical analysis on: local facilitator's knowledge of Household Approach, implementation of Household Approach and women participation in farm decision making processes and factors

affecting it. Reviewed studies indicate that participation of women in farm decision making processes is minimal and a number of factors contributing to this have been discussed. It is argued that Household Approach enhances active participation of women in farm decision making processes, this study questions if Household Approach enhances women participation in farm decision making processes.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

In this section, the philosophical underpinnings of the methodology of this study are discussed as illustrated in Figure 3.1. The objective of this study was to explore the potential of HHA in enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes. To achieve this objective, an abductive research approach was used. In abductive research approach, both inductive and deductive reasoning is used in the research process to strengthen inferences in answering the research questions.

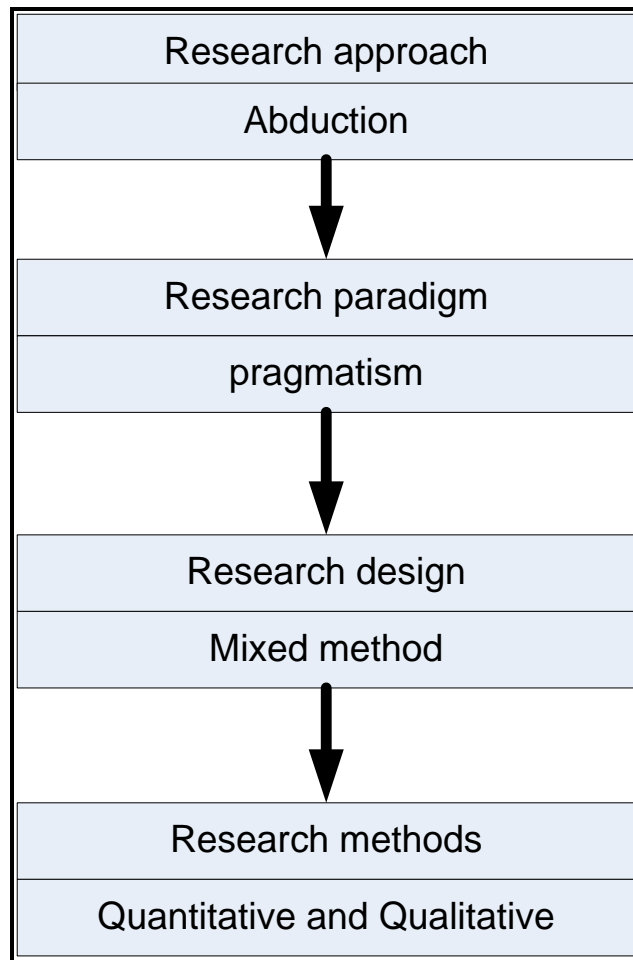


Figure 3.1: Flow of the research design and methodology

3.2 Research Paradigm

Guba et al. (1994), define paradigms as a “basic belief”, which represents “[...] the individual’s place in it, and the range of possible relationships to that world and its parts”. A paradigm consists of the following components: ontology, epistemology, methodology, and, methods (Scotland, 2012). Ontology is the study of being” (Crotty, 1998) and “raises basic question about the nature of reality and the nature of the human being in the world” (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005). Epistemology is “a way of understanding and explaining how I know what I know” (Crotty, 1998) and methodology is how can the inquirer (would-be) go about finding out whatever he or she believes can be known? (Guba et al., 1994). Methods are the specific techniques and procedures used to collect and analyse data (Crotty, 1998). According to Staneva et al. (2016), there are three main research paradigms: interpretivism or constructivism, positivism and pragmatism. The following section discusses the, ontology, epistemology, methodology and methods of the highlighted paradigms and a summary has been made on which paradigms this study fits and justification of their choice.

3.2.1 Positivism Paradigm

According to Lincoln and Guba, cited in Clark and Creswell (2008) ontologically, positivists believe that there is a single reality, epistemologically; positivists believe that the knower and the known are independent. Methodologically, it focuses on facts and value judgments through creation of hypotheses research, which leads to testing and possible generalisation and replicability (Staneva et al., 2016).

This study explored the potential of the HHA in enhancing women participation in farm decision making processes. As advocated in this paradigm, this necessitated use of a theory to understand the framework within which the household extension approach is applied. This requires a dependent relationship between the researcher and the participants to understanding HHA implementation realities which is contrary to what positivists advocate.

3.2.2 Constructivism

Constructivists assume multiple, apprehend able, and sometimes conflicting social realities that are the products of human intellects, but may change as their constructors become informed and sophisticated (Hesse-Biber and Leavy, 2004). Epistemologically, constructivists see knowledge as created in interaction among investigators and respondents (Hesse-Biber and Leavy, 2004). This study captured multiple realities of the phenomena understudy- participation of women in farm decision making processes under HHA through interaction with participants.

Rather than starting with a theory (as in post positivism), constructivists generate a theory or pattern of meaning (Adom et al., 2016). This is contrast with how this study was designed. The case understudy, HHA is aligned to a theory to understand how it was applied to yield its intended objectives.

3.2.3 Pragmatists

Ontologically, pragmatists' worldview arises out of actions, situations, and consequences rather than antecedents conditions (Creswell, 2014). According to Patton, cited in Creswell (2014), researchers with a pragmatic view are concerned with applications- what works-and solutions to the problem. Like in this study, the interest was in exploring the potential of Household Approach in

enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes. Epistemologically, they accept different viewpoints which necessitate use of mixed methods (Creswell, 2014). The objectives of this study necessitate the collection of both quantitative data and qualitative data which also requires use of mixed methods.

3.3 Adopted Research Paradigm

Overall, this study was guided by pragmatic research paradigm. According to Patton, cited in Creswell (2014), researchers with this view are concerned with applications- what works-and solutions to the problem which is similar to the interest of this study; after implementation of HHA which aims at enhancing participation of women, the interest of this study is, does HHA enhance participation of women in farm decision making processes? The following section discusses the research design in relation to the adopted philosophical paradigm.

3.4 Research Design

Creswell (2014), defined research designs as procedures for collecting, analysing, interpreting, and reporting data in research studies. The aim of this research was to explore the potential of HHA in enhancing active participation of women in farm decision making processes in Mzimba North. Specifically, (a) assessing local facilitator's knowledge in HHA (b) assessing implementation of HHA (c) determining the level of participation of women in farm decision making processes (d) determining factors that facilitate or impede women participation in farm decision making process of priority enterprise. This involved answering different research questions yielding largely qualitative data set on (objective 2, and 4) and quantitative data set (on objective 1 and 3) hence the adoption of an embedded mixed method study design. The Embedded Design is a mixed methods

design in which one data set provides a supportive, secondary role in a study based primarily on the other data type (Creswell and Clark, 2007). Researchers use this design when they need to include qualitative and quantitative data to answer a research question within a largely quantitative or qualitative study (Creswell, 2014). My study is also largely qualitative however has a research question on determining levels of participation of women in farm decision making processes and assessing local facilitators` knowledge in HHA which necessitated collecting quantitative data further justifying adoption of an embedded mixed method research design. The following section discusses the methods and tools which were used in this study.

3.5 Data Generation

Data generation methods included: semi-structured interviews, photo voice and analysis of documents which include reports and farmers' records. Data generation started with the pre-testing of data generation tools to assess their ease of comprehension, relevance to their intended topics, effectiveness in providing useful information and the degree to which the questions were understood by different individuals. This was done through a pilot study. The essence of having a pilot study is to pre-test or try out a research (Teijlingen van et al., 2001). To avoid contamination of results, it is recommended that pilot participants should not be included in the main study (Lancaster, 2015). In order not to violate this fact, the pilot study by Mbakaya, Ndengu and Njera (2018) was done in Rumphi with guidance from the Agriculture Development Division (ADD) staff in Mzuzu. Apart from the fact that this targeted area was in accessible in some days of heavy rains, one participant targeted under photo voice methodology kept quiet on the malfunctioning of the camera after her children accessed it and damaged it. This was discovered during follow-ups and she was given her neighbours camera to use it. This lengthened duration of implementation of the pilot study;

otherwise, the pilot study went on very well. After the pre-test, the research tools were revised or maintained in readiness for the fieldwork. The following section describes the data generation route and methods which were used under each objective of the study.

3.5.1. Data Generation Route by Objective

3.5.1.1 Assessing Local Facilitators Knowledge of Household Approach

An oral test (see appendix 6) was administered through face-to-face interviews which allowed for more in-depth assessment of local facilitators' knowledge of HHA. The test was developed based on the outline in the Household Approach manual (Malawi Government, 2015b). Household Approach knowledge examined included: definition of HHA and importance of HHA, procedure for implementing HHA and principles of HHA.

3.5.1.2 Assessing Implementation of Household Approach

Through semi-structured interview guided by interview guide, the researcher interacted with all stakeholders who are participating in the implementation of the HHA to understand multiple realities of their experience regarding implementation of HHA. An interview guide (see annexes 1, 2 and 3) provided direction so that major points are not missed. Areas of interest checked in records included: implementation models used to upscale HHA.

Four categories of people were interviewed: subject matter specialists involved in implementing HHA; frontline agriculture extension staff; local facilitators and peer household. Unlike relying on written notes as the record of interview where much richness and detail of the interview is lost, with the permission of my interviewees I audio recorded all the interviews so that the detail of participants' responses, and the language and concepts they use in talking about their experiences and perspectives is maintained (Clarke and Braun, 2013). Information from interviews was

triangulated with report from staff and farmers' records book. This offered evidence of adherence to procedures for implementation of HHA in line with the participatory principles: inclusion and equity; transparency; empowerment and sharing (Simango, 2015).

In arranging for the interviews, phone numbers for all participating contact persons were solicited through frontline extension staff and appointment for interviews were made every evening before the interview day to confirm of their availability. The owners of households were responsible in arranging where specifically the interview could take place. These places happened to be under empty tobacco sheds or at the sitting room of each household. This type of setting was used because it was familiar to the participants, and thus was expected to encourage participants to feel more at ease.

3.5.1.3 Determining the Level of Participation of Women in Farm Decision Making Processes of Priority Enterprises

Using a semi structured interview guided by an interview guide, a quantification of the extent of participation of various gender categories in decision making in various areas was determined. Decision making processes referred to in this study are: visioning, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Face to face interviews allowed for more in-depth assessment of farmers' extent of participation and the interview guide provided an overall direction and ensured that no major points were missed.

When it came to assessing implementation, special interest groups were asked to rank three priority enterprises by order of their importance using papers. Maize was ranked number one because it is used as food and if in abundance, it is also sold. Beyond maize enterprise, a number of enterprises

were mentioned and these include soya, tobacco and groundnuts. For the sake of comparison among the targeted participants, maize was picked as common enterprise where participation of women in implementation of activities was assessed.

Regarding this objective, my unit of analysis was the peers’ home where men, women and youth, were purposively targeted. Much as the interest was women participation, men and youth were also interviewed to act as controls. Apart from men and youth household members acting as controls, Household Approach methodology at household level also targets men, women and youth hence the same model was used in assessing participation of household members in farm decision making processes.

In the interview they were asked to mention their degree of involvement in the various decision-making areas. Responses were considered on five-point scale (Table 3.1 - adapted from Pal and Haldar (2016)).

Table 3.1: Ratings on degree of involvement

Decision	Score
Not involved (NI)	1
Opinion sought (OS)	2
Opinion considered (OC)	3
Joint decision (JD)	4
Independent decision (ID)	5

The decision score was calculated using the following formula below (adapted from Pal and Haldar (2016):

$$\text{Decision score} = \frac{(NI \times 0) + (OS \times 1) + (OC \times 2) + (JD \times 3) + (ID \times 4)}{100}$$

100

The major challenge in generating data under this objective was that you could go to one household three or more times because it was one category (men, women, and youth) interviewed at a time which was tiresome. This happened because in most cases you could not find all categories at the same time. Even if you found all of them at the same time, it was not possible to interview all of them on the same day due to nature of question which required more probing. In addition, most of the youth could be out either as day scholars or boarders. The researcher had to wait until they came back from school in some instances. In some cases, interviews were deliberately scheduled during the holiday which lengthened the data generation period.

3.5.1.4 Identifying Factors Facilitating or Limiting Women Participation in Farm Decision Making Processes

Fournier et al. (2007), argues that in Africa the most important thing to do is to listen to people's stories because many African cultures are rooted in oral cultures and traditions. Story telling in the current study on factors that facilitate or impede women participation on decision making process of farming activities was facilitated by an approach to documentary photograph called photo voice. Photo voice is a community-based participatory research method developed in the 1990s by researcher Caroline Wang and colleagues. In photo voice, cameras are entrusted to the hands of people as one way of giving voice to people's experiences by recording their life conditions as they see them, which then becomes the central point for critical dialogue (Fournier et al., 2007). Photo voice methodology is based on the theoretical underpinning of giving a voice to those who are usually the subjects of research because of their underrepresented status and transforming them from

research participants to researcher or participant. The following section outlines the photo voice methodology used in the study as outlined by Wang (2006).

3.5.2 Outline of the Photo Voice Methodology

3.5.2.1 Selection and Recruitment of Target Audience of Community Leaders

As stipulated in HHA implementation manual, HHA is implemented through interest groups. An interest group has been defined as a group of farmers engaged in a similar agricultural enterprise which can be at village, section or Extension Planning Area level (Malawi Government, 2015a). Mzimba North implemented HHA through model villages and agriculture cooperatives as interest groups. As part of advocacy, the model village and cooperative committees were purposively chosen by the participants as the main recipient of the findings on factors affecting women participation in farm decision making processes because these committees oversee development initiatives in the model village and agriculture cooperatives.

3.5.2.2 Recruitment of Photo Voice Participants

Selection of community leaders was followed by recruitment of a group of photo voice participants. Kingery and Naanyu (2016) suggest a group of 7 to 10 participants. To broaden the representation of the targeted population and geographic areas throughout the district, through simple random sampling, 10 women from cooperative and 10 from model village were invited to participate in photo voice by signing consent letters. 19 consented to participate and one did not respond. Aged between 27-70 years, all the women attended primary education and had children, with a range of 1 to 10 children. All the women had access to land which was owned by their husbands. Women in particular were chosen because they are the largest labour force employees in agricultural sector in

Malawi; in particular, over 90 percent of economically active women are involved in agricultural activities (African Development Bank, 2019).

3.5.2.3 Training of Photo Voice Participants on Photo Voice Methodology

Before participants were given a go ahead to collect data, participants attended a 4-hour training session to learn about photo voice methodology. This training was facilitated by a Diploma holder in Information Communication and Technology who also happened to be an experienced photographer. Firstly, the training reviewed the photo voice methodology. The participants were informed that they would be responsible for capturing factors that affect women participation in farm decision making through photography and would then reflect on the photographs in individual interviews. We discussed that the reports from the interviews would be used to brief model village and agriculture cooperative committees, to which they agreed that the committees should serve as the primary recipient of the information. Secondly, a discussion on photography etiquette also took place that reviewed what types of photographs were acceptable and posed little risk to the subject for example those that do not interfere with privacy of an individual. Participants were instructed to obtain written consent prior to taking an individual's photo. If the picture included a child, the child's guardian was requested to consent. The informed consent forms described the purpose of the study and who to contact if the subject had questions, see sample in annex 6. The photographer had each subject sign a form and gave the subject a copy to keep. Participants were also trained on how to use the digital camera provided to them. Basic steps including how to turn on and off the camera, how to snap and review the pictures, and how to change the batteries were reviewed. Each participant had to demonstrate proper use of the camera to the study facilitator before use. Lastly, the training included a brainstorming session on suitable photos to capture. Questions to guide

suitable photos included (a) what factors facilitate women participation in farm decision making processes? (b) What factors impede women participation in farm decision making processes? Picture below depicts one of the training sessions in progress in Emsizini Extension Planning Area. EPA offices acted as venue for these training and extension staff also participated in the training so that they properly backstop farmers in the photo voice methodology.



Figure 3.2: Training session in progress on use of camera at Engucwini EPA, Mzimba, Malawi (Picture by: Beatrice Mbakaya- Researcher)

Issues that mainly came out focused on how to delete some pictures in case they were not captured properly, how to load and remove batteries, how to zoom pictures and how to know if the camera's memory is full, how to switch the camera on and off, and how to hold the camera. After the training, six cameras were given to nineteen women. One camera to about five to six women depending on their place of residency so that they can could take turns in using it. The number of pictures each participant as expected to shoot under each theme was open ended. The participants were given two

weeks to collect the pictures depending on the themes. During those two weeks of collecting the pictures, follow ups through phone calls were made in order to check on the progress. It was noticed that in one group, the shooting took longer than expected. This was because of a funeral that had happened in a nearby neighbourhood, and that culturally, it is expected that one is not supposed to work until after the burial ceremony. In this case, the funeral took longer than expected as the deceased had died while in South Africa. After it was reported that they are finished with the taking of pictures, the cameras were collected from participants so that photos could be printed and given back to participants for photo elicitation- documentation of meanings and lessons for each photo by participants. The number of pictures taken by each participant ranged from twelve to twenty-seven.

3.5.2.4 Photo Elicitation Process

Individual home visits were thereafter done by the researcher to let participants explain the stories behind those pictures. On average exercise took about thirty-five minutes to one hour per household. During home visits, participants were told to choose five pictures to share with community leaders. The picture below depicts one of the visits which was made on photo elicitation from one participant in Emsicizin EPA (Figure 3.3).



Figure 3.3: One of the participants explaining meaning behind photos during home visit in Emsizini EPA (Picture by: Beatrice Mbakaya- Researcher).

The participants sorted through the photos and chose five to describe meanings and messages using the acronym SHOWeD: (Wang and Pies cited in Kingery and Naanyu (2016): What do you See here? What is really happening here? How does this relate to our lives? Why does this problem or strength exist? What can we do about this? As the participant was explaining the meaning behind those photos, with their permission, the interviews were also being recorded using an audio recorder. The interviews were conducted in Chitumbuka which is the language most of them were conversant with. Following the interviews, the conversations were transcribed into a report that was provided to the participants to review and verify its authenticity.

3.5.2.5 Sharing Photographs and Stories with Interest Group Committees

As part of advocacy, it was arranged that the photos and meanings behind the photos would be shared with committee of special interest group. Prior to sharing photographs and stories with interest group committees, committee of special interest groups was tasked to arrange for a venue. Venues opted for included: Cooperative ware houses and Extension Planning Area conference rooms. The picture in Figure 3.4 depicts one participant making a presentation to committee members of one of the interest groups in Engucwini EPA, Engucwini cooperative. The presentations and discussions were audio recorded. The photo voice methods described here align with and reflect those described in previous studies (Wang 2006 cited in Kingery and Naanyu (2016)).



Figure 3.4: Participant making a presentation to group members in Engucwini EPA, Engucwini cooperative (Picture by: Beatrice Mbakaya- Researcher).

3.6 Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Mzimba North which is one of the beneficiaries of IRLADP that has relevant data hence it has been purposively chosen to yield the required data. In particular, the study took place in Euthini, Emsizini, Mpherembe and Enguwini Extension Planning Areas. Below is a map of Mzimba North showing the specific areas in which the study took place (Figure 3.5).

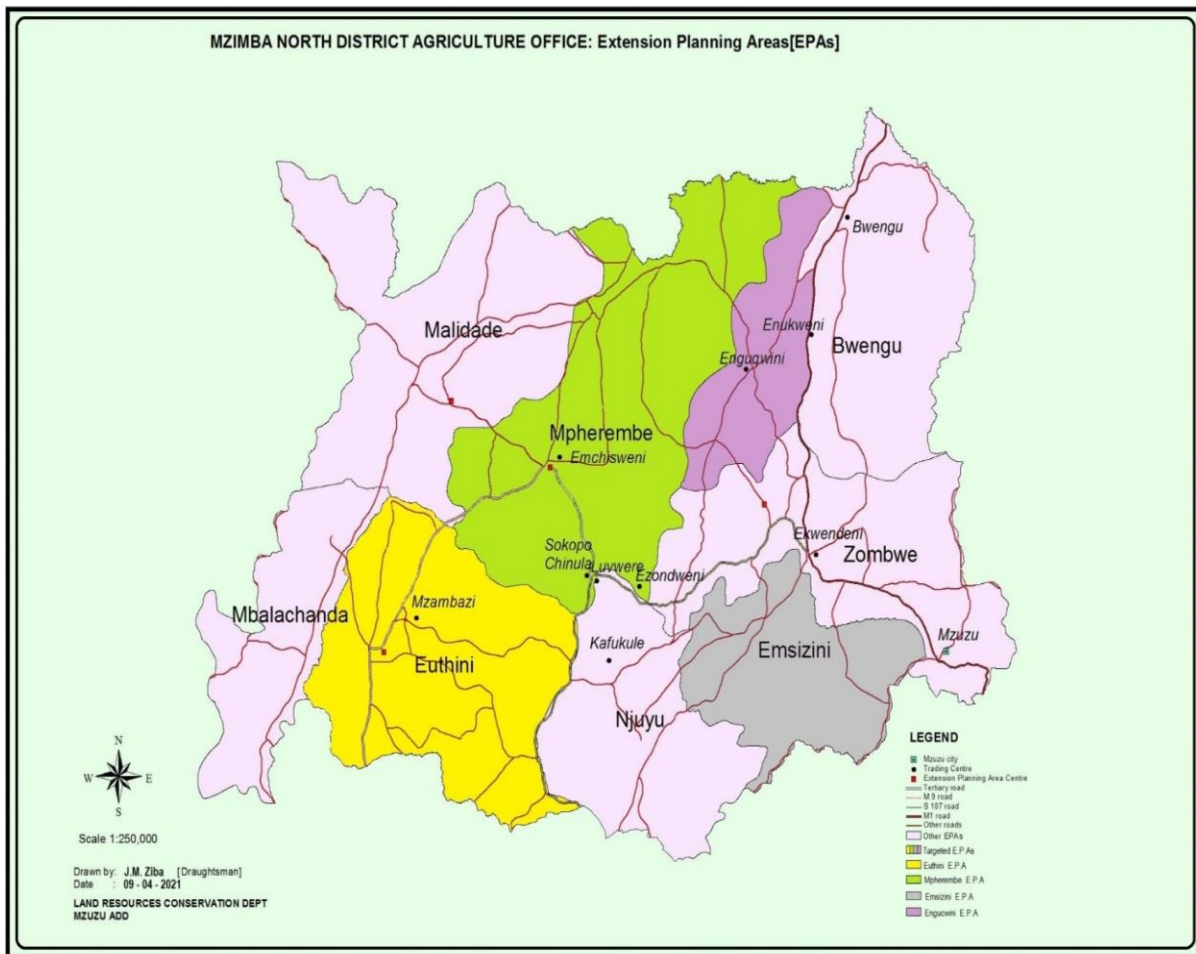


Figure 3.5: Map of Mzimba North indicating targeted Extension Planning Areas (Malawi Government, 2014)

With a patrilineal system in place in all EPAs under study, Mpherembe EPA had, 6,746 farming households (4,048 male headed, 2,698 female headed); Engucwini EPA had 17,997 farming households (10,798 male headed and 7, 199 female headed); Euthini EPA had 10,742 farming households (6,445 female headed, 4,297 female headed) and finally, Emsizini had 11, 868 farming households (6, 202 male headed and 4, 134 female headed). This implies that there were more men than women in the study areas. The Ngonis and the Tumbukas are the major tribes in the study areas.

With no perennial rivers existing in the study areas, agricultural activities are mainly rain fed. Maize is the staple food crop which is commonly grown. Cash crops include tobacco, paprika, groundnuts, vegetables and soya beans. Minor crops include pigeon peas, ground beans, fruits and vegetables. Apart from being used as source of income, livestock rearing is also done in the study areas for dowry, paying fines, and also as a source of food. Commonly reared livestock in the area include: cattle, goats, pigs, chickens, guinea fowl, turkey, doves, guinea pigs and rabbits.

Agriculture extension services provided in the study areas include delivery of technical messages on crop and livestock production, farm business management and lastly, agriculture gender roles extension services are mainstreamed in all extension activities, this includes the HHA piloted in the study areas.

3.7 Sample and Sampling Techniques

Cox (2008), defines the target population as those units for which the findings of the survey are meant to generalise. Engucwini, Mpherembe, Engucwini and Emsizini EPAs are among the EPAs where Household Approach was successfully implemented in Malawi and in particular, in Mzimba North, hence purposively chosen because they would yield the required data. All subject matter specialists, Agriculture Extension coordinators, frontline extension workers, local facilitators and

peer households involved in implementation of HHA were also purposively chosen Table 3.2 shows the sampling framework by objective by EPA.

Table 3.2: Framework for sampling by objective

Objective	Engucwini	Euthini	Emsizini	Mpherembe	District
To assess local facilitators knowledge in HHA	9 lead farmers (5 f, 4m)	8 lead farmers (4m, 4w)	8 lead farmers (4m, 4w)	8 lead farmers (3m, 5w)	
Assess implementation of household approach in Mzimba North.	-1 Extension coordinator (male) -2 Front line extension officers (males) -9 Lead Farmers (5 m, 4 f) -9 peer households.	-1 Extension coordinator -2 Front line extension officers (males) -8 Lead Farmers (4m, 4f) -8 peer households.	-1 extension coordinator (female) 1 Front line extension officer -8 Lead farmers (4m,4f) -7 peer households	- 1 Extension coordinator(f emale) -2 Front line extension (1m,1f). -8 Lead Farmers(3m,5 f) 9 peer households.	2 Gender Subject Matter Specialists (1m, 1f).
To determine level of participation of women in farm decision making processes.	9 peer households	8 peer households	7 peer households	9 peer households	
To identify factors limiting or facilitating active participation of women in farm decision making processes in Mzimba north.	10 Women from peer households 11 cooperative committee members	9 Women from peer households 11 model village committee members			

3.8 Analysis of the Data and Presentation of Results

This study gathered quantitative and qualitative data sets from interviews and documents. Qualitative data was analysed using thematic approach. Thematic analysis is a qualitative method for “identifying, analysing and reporting patterns (themes) within data” (Braun and Clarke cited in Simango (2015)). Quantitative data arising from documents was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. SPSS was used to analyse quantitative data. Tables and charts are used to present the results. The following section presents how each objective under study was analysed.

3.8.1 Analysis of Local Facilitators Knowledge of HHA

Under this objective, I had quantitative data which arose from data on knowledge of HHA among implementers. The first step in analysing this data involved marking the knowledge test using the marking sheet (see appendix 7) to compute knowledge score (%) for each participant. This was followed by grading the percentage scores. SPSS was then used to compute mean score for each examined area of HHA knowledge.

3.8.2 Assessing Implementation of HHA in Areas under Study

Under this objective, I had qualitative data. Qualitative data arose from narrations on HHA implementation models used. These narrations from the field regarding how HHA was implemented were transcribed and subjected to open coding. Codes, categories and themes were generated. Themes acted as my points of discussion. These realities were validated against the elements of participatory development theory from literature: inclusion and equity; transparency; empowerment and sharing (Simango, 2015).

3.8.3 Analysis of level of participation of women in decision making processes of farming activities

Farm decision making areas under study were: Visioning, action planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Analysis of women participation in visioning, planning, monitoring and evaluation was done by computing women's decision score in these stipulated decision making areas using the formula adapted from Pal and Haldar (2016) See section 3.5.1.3. Decision score for men and youth in these decision-making areas was also computed so that a comparison is made to women's level of participation.

Analysis of level of participation in implementation as another decision-making area, involved the following: firstly, computing decision score for each enterprise activity under implementation. The computation of decision score for each enterprise activity under implementation was also done for men and youth. Secondly, using SPSS, mean scores were then computed from decision scores.

To test if there were significant variations among the mean scores of respondents (men, women and youth) in relation to their participation in decision making process, normality test was done on the mean scores of respondents. This assumption was tested using the Shapiro Wilk test for normality (Shapiro and Wilk, 1965). Based on this test, if a p-value greater than 0.05 is obtained, then the assumption of normality is satisfied for the sample being tested. Where normality assumptions are not satisfied, a corresponding non- parametric ANOVA test that does not impose distribution assumptions is used. In this case the Kruskal Wallis test was used, however the Kruskal Wallis H test assumes that the distributions in each group (the distribution of scores for each group of the independent variable) have the same shape. Means test of imaginative variance was run to check for

similarity in shapes of distribution. When a p-value larger than 0.05 is obtained, then the assumption of similarity in shapes of distribution is not violated. A test for imaginative variance, indicated that the distribution of scores for each group of the independent variable was not similar, hence mean ranks were used to indicate significant differences between groups. Post hoc tests were done to test significant differences between pairs.

3.8.4 Analysis of Factors Facilitating or Impeding Active Participation of Women in Farm Decision Making Processes

Data from photo voices was analysed in two stages. Firstly, in the field through photo elicitation as explained in section 3.6.4. In the second stage of the analysis, the audio recorded interviews which had raw data, were transcribed verbatim and thematically analysed. The following sections outline the analysis process under this objective.

3.8.4.1 Making Sense from Transcribed Text

Firstly, I read carefully through the transcripts at least twice in order to become familiar with and get immersed into the data content (Braun and Clarke, 2006). In analysing, I was asking myself questions like, what does the participant want to say here? What came out was a set of conversations and a summary of what they say could be written in the margin.

To create order out of the different patterns and commonalities of participant expressions, I used a process of open coding. Codes identify a feature of the data (semantic content or latent) that appears interesting to the analyst, and refer to 'the most basic segment, or element, of the raw data or information that can be assessed in a meaningful way regarding the phenomenon' (Boyatzis, 1998). Codes written in the margin were taken out and re-written on a new piece of paper.

3.8.4.2 Axial Coding

The goal of axial coding is the strategic reassembling of data that have been split during initial coding (Theron, 2015). This involved looking for links and connections between the codes so that related codes could be merged into categories.

3.8.4.3 Selective Coding

According to Strauss and Corbin (1990), selective coding is the process by which all categories are unified around a “core” category. In relation to this, categories talking about same things became themes and these themes were used as a basis for my discussion.

3.9 Ensuring Trustworthiness of the Study

Rigor and trustworthiness were established through adhering to the principles of credibility, dependability, confirmability and transferability (Guba et al., 1994) as per the presentation below.

3.9.1 Credibility of Findings

Credibility is defined as the confidence that can be placed in the truth of a research findings (Holloway and Wheeler, 2002). Krefting (1991), argues that in qualitative research, truth value is obtained from the discovery of human experiences as they are lived and experienced by participants. Consequently, this study achieved credibility through prolonged engagement with participants during the data generation which took eight months. This engagement allowed participants to become accustomed to the research and increased the rapport between researcher and the participants. As a result, they were able to discuss sensitive issues related to the study which at

the beginning of the research they could not articulate. As has been alluded to earlier, use of triangulation of the methods of data production and analysis has greatly enhanced the credibility of this study, since it allowed the various data sets to talk to and reinforce each other. Flick (2015), defines triangulation as taking different perspectives on an issue in your study or in answering research questions. Two extension officers with expertise in thematic analysis were invited to review the data scripts. Consensus was sought on the identified categories and themes. Inter-coder reliability has strengthened the role of triangulation. Credibility has also been enhanced by the detailed description of the study settings. Moreover, I have made a thick description of the findings with ample quotations from participants, to show that the findings originate from them. Additionally, I have produced a logical layout of the findings by theme, followed by rigorous process of code reduction to categories and then to themes, which has further enhanced the credibility of the study. After the data generation I transcribed the interviews and focus group discussions. I took the transcripts back to my participants to check whether what was summarised is actually what they had said; a process known as “respondent [participant] validation or member checking”. It involves taking the data, analyses, interpretation and conclusions back to the participants so that they can judge the accuracy and credibility of the account (Creswell and Clark, 2007). This input from participants has added to the credibility of the results because it shows that the report contains their actual voices. The following quote depicts what one respondent said during validation:

“Aah! I did not know that I was using too much vernacular language in my responses” (Agriculture extension worker, Mzimba North, aged 31).

3.9.2 Transferability of Results

Transferability refers to the degree to which the results of a qualitative research can be transferred to other contexts with different respondents Bitsch cited in Anney (2014). For the transferability criterion, the researchers gave sufficient details about settings, inclusion or exclusion criteria, sample characteristics, and data collection and analysis methods, so that the reader can evaluate the extent to which the conclusions made by the authors are transferable to other settings, situations, and populations (Closs and Hadi, 2015). In addition, transferability was enhanced by providing adequate data extraction to support themes and subthemes.

3.9.3 Dependability of Findings

According to Bitsch (2005), dependability refers to “the stability of findings over time” . To address the dependability, all the research decisions and activities to show how the data were collected, recorded and analysed (Bowen, cited in Anney (2014) has been clearly documented for readers to develop a thorough understanding of the methods and their effectiveness.

3.9.4 Confirmability of Findings

Confirmability is “concerned with establishing that data and interpretations of the findings are not figments of the inquirer’s imagination, but are clearly derived from the data” (Tobin and Begley, 2004, p. 392). Confirmability, which is a process criterion, was achieved through detailed documentation of the findings to leave an audit trail that can later be checked by another person to demonstrate clearly the evidence and thought process that led to the conclusion. Triangulation of the data generation methods, data analysis and theoretical perspectives added justification for the confirmability of the findings of the study.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

Webster's New World Dictionary cited in Babbie (2013), defines ethical as "conforming to the standards of conduct of a given profession or group". Research ethics addresses the question of which relevant issues caused by the intervention of researchers can be expected to impact on the people with or about whom they research and steps taken to protect those who participate in the research (Schnelland Heinritz cited in Flick (2015). Creswell (2014), advocates those ethical issues must be considered at all stages of the research process. In this study, I was guided by the four philosophical principles of ethical research based on ethical theory advocated by Murphy and Dingwall (2001, p. 339) namely Autonomy or Self-determination, Justice, Beneficence and Non-maleficence. The following paragraphs explain how these principles were taken care of throughout my research process.

3.10.1 The Principle of Autonomy or Self Determination

This principle suggests that the researcher should ensure that participants' values and decisions should be respected (Flick, 2015). In this study, the principle was adhered to through informed written consent, and the assurance of confidentiality and anonymity of participants. Anonymity is defined by Polit and Beck (2010) as protection of the participants in a study such that even the researcher cannot link them individually to the information provided. Confidentiality is the protection of the participants in a study such that their individual identities will not be linked to the information they provided and will never be publicly divulged (Polit and Beck, 2010). In my letter of informed consent details of the project were clearly stated so that participants could make informed decisions regarding their participation. Participants were told that their involvement was voluntary and that they were free to withdraw from the study at any time if they so wished.

Confidentiality and anonymity of participants were also guaranteed through the use of pseudonyms. Recording of interviews and FGDs was only done with the permission of participants.

3.10.2 The Principle of Non-Maleficence

According to Davis and Lachlan (2017) the principle of no maleficence holds that no avoidable harm should be done to participants. In this research I ensured that the venues were safe and comfortable and that the research instruments did not subject my participants to any danger or embarrassment. Research participants organised our interface meetings either at Extension Planning Area (EPA) or cooperative office or also in their houses especially at sitting room. During interviews, my participants were not forced to discuss something they were not comfortable with.

3.10.3 The Principle of Beneficence

Davis and Lachlan (2017), describes beneficence as positive and beneficial outcome of research should be. The participatory approach to data generation was meant to ensure that participants benefited from their participation. The participatory visual methodology enabled participants to reflect on their own lifestyles and this has the potential to bring about positive change in their behaviour. Through this study, I get the impression that my participants benefited in various ways as the following extracts demonstrate:

“We can now teach Household Approach at Natural Resources College” (Female peer member, 43 years old, Engucwini EPA)

3.10.4 The Principle of Justice

Justice requires that the researcher treat participants with fairness (Ndengu, 2009). The nature of data collected in this study necessitated the researcher to visit one household a number of times. This required flexibility on the researchers' part to allow the household to conduct their household chores after which the researcher could visit them depending on the suggested time by participants. Participants were encouraged to suggest the course of our research activities, such as when we could meet next. Distribution of cameras among photo voice participants was also done in such a way that participants do not travel long distances to access cameras from their neighbours.

3.11 Security of Research Materials

In terms of security, electronic copies of research findings are stored on flash disc or CD, and all research materials are kept securely by me under lock and key in a research briefcase for safety. I intend to keep the research data for five years before disposal, to enable those who would want to query something, to do so.

In conclusion, in this chapter I discussed the adopted research paradigm, design and methodology. This was followed by a detailed discussion on how data was generated by each objective by technique. Data was generated through, the interview, reports, farmers' records and the photo voice, including the respective instruments and equipment I used and the experiences I encountered. The process of data analysis was presented showing how various data sets, one-to-one interviews and photo voice were subjected to my theoretical framework. Data analysis procedures were then discussed in detail. I concluded the chapter with a discussion on ethical considerations. Finally, I justified the trustworthiness of the findings of the study. In the next chapter I present findings of the study, showing how they answer my research questions.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

4.0 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to explore the potential of Household Approach in enhancing women participation in farm decision making processes. Four questions that the study addressed were: (a) What is the level of local facilitators` knowledge on Household Approach? (b) How is Household Approach implemented among targeted farming households in Mzimba North? (c) Among peer households in Mzimba North, what is the level of participation of women in farm decision making processes? (d) What factors limit or facilitate active participation of women in farm decision making processes among peer households in Mzimba North? I have therefore structured the presentation of the results of this study according to the research questions.

4.1 Local Facilitators' Knowledge of Household Approach in the Study EPAs

Having been trained in Household Approach, this study took an interest in assessing knowledge on Household Approach among local facilitators who happen to be utilised as implementers of HHA on the ground. The study revealed that all local facilitators (100%) were in the category of an average knowledge level of (40% – 69%). The mean knowledge score of participants was 54.73 (SD 7.92) with a range of 41- 67%. This implies that knowledge gaps in HHA exist among local facilitators (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Local facilitators' knowledge on HHA

Knowledge score (%)	No of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents (n=33)
0-39	0	0
40-69	33	100
70-100	0	0
Total	33	100

Mean 54.73 (SD 7.92)

An analysis of the distribution of scores for each type of knowledge which comprise of awareness and how-to knowledge indicates that the least mean knowledge score was on principles of Household Approach (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Mean score for each examined area on HHA

Type of knowledge	Possible Mark	Mean score
Definition of Household Approach	5	4.36 (SE± 0.96)
Principles of Household Approach	5	1.09 (SE± 0.15)
Procedure of implementing HHA	10	5.94 (SE± 0.06)
Importance of household approach	7	3.06 (SE± 0.20)
Overall score	27	

This implies that the most deficient knowledge among local facilitators is on principles of Household Approach.

Accountability of the household in the implementation of the action plan was not mentioned by all local facilitators (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Theme and score under principles of Household Approach

Principles of Household Approach	Possible Mark	Mean score
Regular and consistent individual household visits by the local facilitator	1	0.24 (SE \pm 0.75)
Involvement of all adult and youth household members	1	0.21 (SE \pm 0.72)
Guidance by extension worker in the implementation of the approach	1	0.51 (SE \pm 0.34)
Accountability of the household in the implementation of the action plan	1	0.00 (SE \pm 0.00)
Well trained facilitators on the approach	1	0.12 (SE \pm 0.06)
Overall score	5	

From an assessment of local facilitators' knowledge of Household Approach, it can be concluded that local facilitators were more knowledgeable on what Household Approach is than other types of knowledge.

4.2 Implementation of Household Approach in the Study EPAs

The ability of participatory development to fulfil its promise rests in part on the manner in which it is undertaken (Duraiappah et al., 2005). After being trained on Household Approach, the interest of this study was secondly on how Household Approach was implemented in the district because this would have an implication on its intended outcome.

4.2.1 Interest Groups Used in Implementing Household Approach

This study found out that in Mzimba North, the first interest group through which Household Approach is implemented, is a model village. According to Malawi Government (2012a), a model village has been defined as a village with well-defined development structures; with village leadership and subjects receptive to harmonised integrated development interventions for improved rural livelihoods. Existing lead farmers in these model villages are selected and trained on Household Approach. The expectation is that after successfully implementing HHA in their homes, they there after facilitate identification of peer homes which can also be trained in HHA and implement the approach. After these peer homes graduate, they facilitate identification of other peer homes which can undergo the same process until all the homes in the village are trained in the approach. Secondly, implementation of Household Approach is happening through agricultural cooperatives. According to Government of Malawi (2012a), an agricultural cooperative is a corporation which aims at improving the economic conditions of its members by increasing their profits from farming similar enterprises. Existing lead farmers in these cooperatives are trained in HHA. After successfully implementing the approach in their homes with support from extension workers, they are expected to facilitate identification of peer homes which can also be trained in HHA and implement it in their homes. After peer homes graduate, the local facilitator facilitates

identification of other peer homes to be trained also in HHA and implement the approach. This process of identification of peer homes, training them in HHA and graduating them, goes on until all members in the cooperative are trained in the approach. Below is an extract from one of the extension workers on interest groups used to promote HHA in Mzimba North.

“Here in Mzimba North we have implemented two types of models of HHA, model villages and farmer-based organisation. Of course, the way we started we skipped some steps, we were supposed to train extension workers first but we trained them together with local facilitators and they were tasked to identify peer households and train them on the HHA concept. They went and identified peer households in their groups and model villages of course what was happening was that extension workers were backstopping, like are they doing what they are supposed to do or are they doing a good job. But on choice of interest groups, the change that we made was that, we identified them here at the office and we called them and trained them together, extension workers and local facilitators (Agriculture extension worker, Mzimba North, aged 29 years).

The next section presents ways on how peer households were selected in Mzimba North as depicted in figure 4.1.

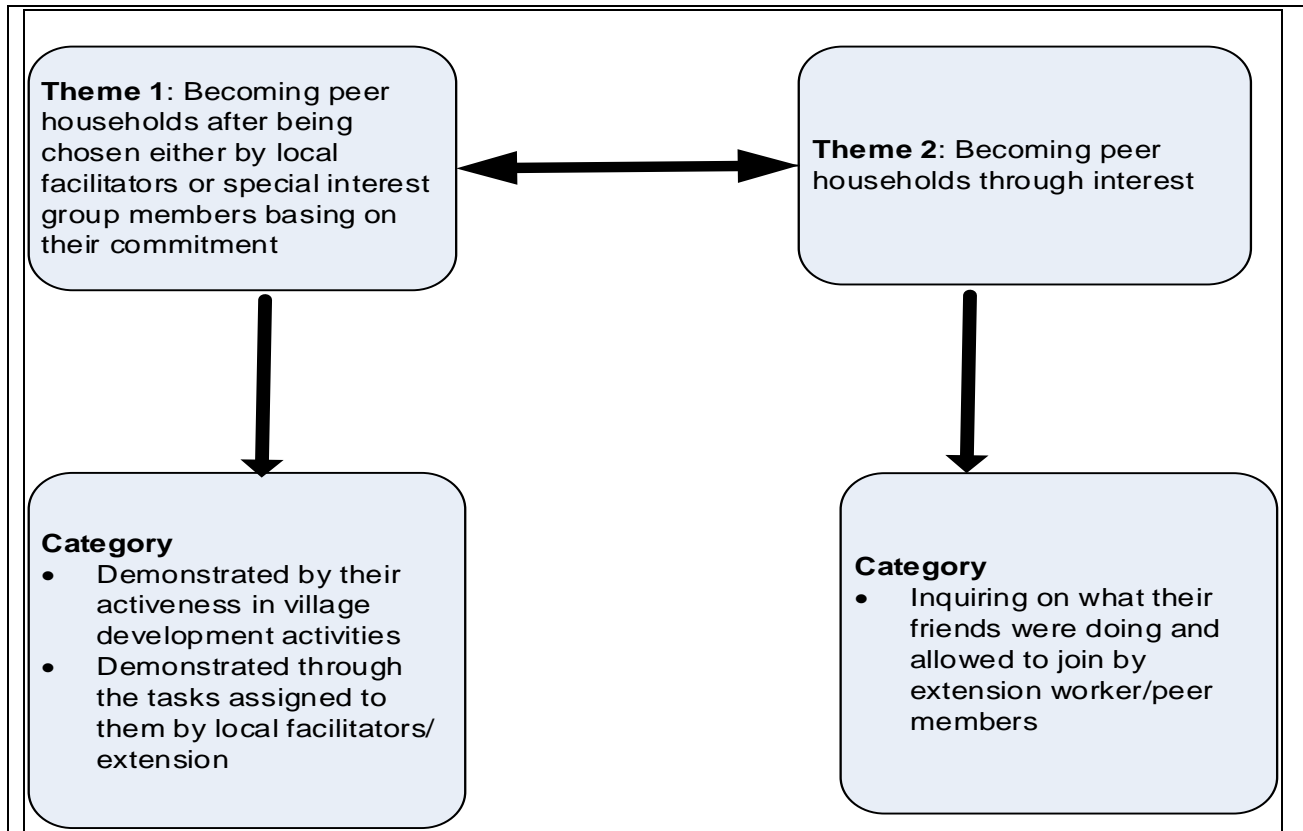


Figure 4.1: Themes and categories on how peer household emerged

4.2.2 Peer Households Selection

4.2.2.1 Choice of Peer Households by Local Facilitators or Special Interest Group Members

Households became peer households after being chosen either by special interest group members as reflected in the following quotes:

“Our friends briefed the group village head about HHA and he was told to facilitate choosing people to become peers and we were chosen” (Male peer member, age 37, Mpherembe EPA)

“I was chosen by my local facilitator” (Male peer member, Euthini EPA, 47 years of age).

Their choice was based on their commitment demonstrated by their activeness in development activities and also on tasks assigned to them by either the local facilitator or extension workers.

4.2.2.2 Joining out of Interest

Some households became peer households by joining out of interest. They could go and inquire on what their friends were doing and could be allowed to join. Regarding excerpts on how peer households joined out of interest, the following is one of the related quotes expressed by one peer member:

“We saw our friends participating in HHA, so we went to our extension worker to inquire how we can benefit from these gatherings. Of course, we were already meeting as an ICRISTA group, then we heard that women should have special lessons then thereafter we were called peer household”

(Female peer member age 29, Mpherembe EPA)

In summary, households became peer households because of interest in the HHA concept, some were chosen by special interest groups, extension worker or local facilitator because of their commitment and hardworking spirit.

4.2.3 Challenges to Implementation of HHA

Implementation of HHA in Mzimba North had a number of challenges as depicted in figure 4.2.

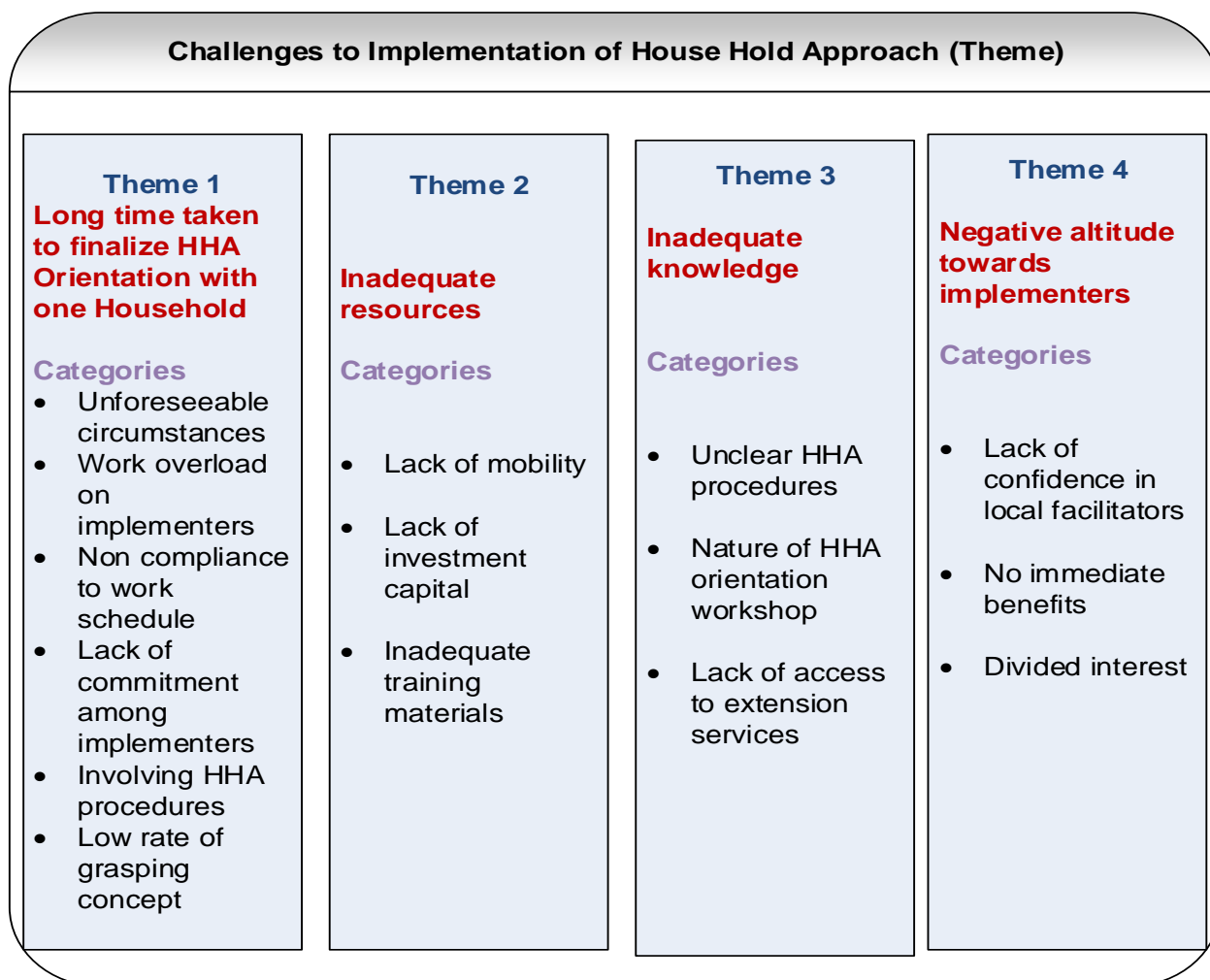


Figure 4.2: Themes and categories on challenges regarding HHA implementation

Themes emanating on challenges faced on Household Approach implementation are (Figure 4.2): Long time taken to finalise HHA orientation with one peer household, inadequate resources, inadequate knowledge and negative attitude towards HHA implementers as presented in the following sections.

4.2.3.1 Long Time Taken to Finalize HHA Orientation with One Household

Each peer household is expected to be oriented on all HHA tools; however, implementers complained that this takes longer than expected. This was attributed to long time taken for learners

to grasp the concept due to old age and illiteracy levels. In some cases, it could be noncompliance to action plans due to some unforeseeable circumstances which include sicknesses, funeral and peak periods of farming. In other cases, it was due to too much work load by implementers. Regarding excerpts on long time taken to finalise HHA processes with one household, the following are some of the related quotes as expressed by respondents:

“They have low literacy levels and yet you need not do for them, they need to draw so it takes a little longer to finish with one person for them to properly understand.” (Male local facilitator, 41 years old, Engucwini Extension Planning Area).

“Peers we reach out to are old, it takes time for them to grasp a concept so we keep on repeating lessons” (Male facilitator, 29 years of old, Euthini Extension Planning Area).

“It’s not easy to find all gender categories at the same time, people suspect you that you come there for the wife or man not for official duties. This case is worse in peer households where the husband is a drunkard, they come drunk and find you and tell you that you just want my wife” (Male extension worker, 46 years of age, Engucwini EPA).

4.2.3.2 Inadequate Resources

Inadequate resources was one of the issues reported to affecting implementation of HHA. Resources varied from farm inputs, business capital and mobility mechanism. Regarding excerpts on inadequate resources affecting implementation of HHA, the following are some of the related quotes as expressed by respondents:

“It’s not easy to find markers, flip charts- you go to the extension worker; they say they also don’t have.” (Local facilitator, 47 years old, Euthini Extension Planning Area).

“Most people like this concept but they demand pakwambila (capital), they tell us you cannot just help us with a vision without capital and when they discover that there is no provision of capital they stop” (Local facilitator aged 26 years old, Mpherembe Extension Planning Area).

“Mobility is a problem and people wait for you to backstop” (Male extension worker, Emsizini Extension Planning Area).

4.2.3.3 Inadequate Knowledge

Inadequate knowledge was one of the issues affecting implementation of HHA. This knowledge gap included some scenarios which the HHA manual is not clear like on how to deal with implementing HHA in a polygamous family, a family with one gender group and a family which is dominated by small kids. Regarding excerpts on inadequate knowledge affecting implementation of HHA, the following are some of the related quotes as expressed by participants:

“It is something we observed even in training, the HHA manual assumes a household as composing of wife, husband and kids. There is no allowance of household with a female or male only. What about households which have a woman and girls or all females or all males or a female with baby or male with a baby. Mostly the issue is on administering gender balance tree as one of the tools. How do you promote HHA in a polygamous family-women living in different houses? The HHA manual is silent on how to deal with such scenarios” (Female extension worker, aged 57, Mpherembe Extension Planning Area).

“Time we were trained was also short sono kuti upange grasp makola vikusuzga (so for you to understand a concept, it is a problem).” (Female local facilitator, aged 31 years, Emsizini Extension Planning Area).

“Our friend who went to the HHA orientation and used to teach us, went to South Africa, so we could not forge ahead” (Female peer member, aged 51 years from Euthini Extension Planning Area).

4.2.3.4 Negative Attitudes towards Implementers

As per the arrangement, local facilitators come from same villages where they implement HHA. This study established that the local facilitators experienced negativity from fellow community members. They believe that their friends cannot tell them something tangible without them going to a workshop. Regarding excerpts on lack of confidence on the local facilitators, the following are some of the related quotes as expressed by respondents:

“I went to Ekwendeni to be trained on HHA, them getting it from me who also comes from their village, they are not convinced. However due to frequent follow-ups to their house-holds, there is a change” (Female local facilitator aged 46, Euthini EPA)

“People who are not interested tell us that we are just wasting time on things which are not profitable, but because we are committed, they talk and it goes.” (Peer member, aged 53, Mpherembe Extension Planning Area).

Lastly, HHA requires participation of women, men and youth, e.g., when it comes to visioning, each gender category is supposed to produce their own and then at the end, they merge. However as reported, it’s either the man or woman only firstly developing interest in the approach, the beauty is that it ends up trickling to the whole household. Regarding excerpts on varying rates of interests in HHA among peer household members, the following are some of the related quotes as expressed by respondents:

“Concerning HHA, just ask my wife, I do not stay here most times” (Male peer member, 65 years old, from Engucwini Extension Planning Area).

“In the earmarked peer household, it turns out that you just collaborate with the wife, the husband is not concerned” (Male extension worker aged 53, Engucwini EPA).

Despite the above challenges, peers realized the following benefits under HHA which include improved coordination among peer members. The following are some quotes from respondents regarding improved coordination.

“In my family we do all things together. We discuss where we are going, like now we want to build a house for my second wife then thereafter, boys’ quarters” (Male peer member, Euthini Extension Planning Area).

“Though am the second wife, we stay like my sisters. I do not interfere with vision of children because when this man was proposing to me, he told me that he already had a wife and kids hence I do not work contrary to the plans of this house, like, if it is proposed that the money realized goes to fees, I cannot oppose and I do not! My friends’ children are my children and when they get educated, they will also help me.” (Female peer member and second wife aged 23 years old, Euthini EPA).

“In the past, our children could not understand the HHA concept, but now from the time our local facilitator oriented us, the children are taking part and are interested and they can now explain how important HHA is”. (Female peer member, aged 39 years old, Emsizini Extension Planning Area)

“The way I understood it, it is a good concept, it has transformed my family, misunderstandings have reduced, and we talk on what we can do. Everybody contributes their ideas” (Male peer member, aged 61, Mpherembe EPA).

Improved infrastructure was another benefit cited to emanate from HHA implementation. Building of houses was the dominant asset reported to have been a product of HHA among peers. Other assets included livestock, motor cycles and household utensils. Excerpts on what some peer household members reported on benefits under improved infrastructure are reported below:

“I was in a very useless home just a chisakasa waka (temporally shelter), now I have a mud house, now I have plans to mould bricks and thatch it with roofing material from God - grass)” (Female peer member, aged 70, Mpherembe EPA)

Improved sharing of household resources was one of the benefits registered under HHA as narrated in the quotes below from respondents:

“The way things are being organised in this household have changed. In the past after doing some casual labour and realise some money I could get a larger portion because I could say it is my money from ganyu (casual labour) and a little something for soap for the home, but now a bigger proportion of the money is left at home and I am realising my family is happy now. My children are also able to contribute on how we should conduct business in the house, like my daughter just said that: this time when am going to school, be well prepared for me when I would be going to a boarding school, purchase things like mats and a travelling bag” (Male peer member aged 54, Emsizini EPA).

“In the past after selling like tobacco, I was not transparent to my wife and children could not even know and I could make programmes on my own. But after learning HHA I discovered it was wrong,

because if you hide money and your wife finds the money, it could attract a lot of misunderstandings and at times when she found the money, she could secretly take it and use it the way she wanted, but now, we budget together” (Male peer member, aged 56, Emsizini EPA).

Men doing chores culturally meant to be done by women has been registered as one HHA benefit as narrated in the quotes below from respondents:

“When coming back from the farm, I also carry some of things we use at the farm because we are all human beings and we get tired” (Male peer member, aged 54, Emsizini EPA).

“But also, here at this home, every one cooks” (Male peer member, aged 64, Euthini EPA)

“When you are coming from the farm, as a man you can also carry a baby or a bundle of firewood because you are all human beings and you are equal” (Male peer member aged 47, Emsizini EPA).

Following implementation of HHA, a positive impact of extension services was depicted as stipulated in the quote below:

“I was in blindness, not knowing that there are extension workers in this world, but ahh! now, extension workers have opened my head. Am doing little by little. I have bought chickens; this is the manure I have made in the bags.” (Female peer member, 26 years of age, Emsizini EPA).

Lastly, participatory approaches are meant to empower the less privileged. Some peer household members indicated of the opportunity HHA has brought to their lives like the cultivation of a spirit of self-reliance. This is what one peer household member who happened to be a widow had to say:

“HHA is very useful in my life, though am a widow, I do not get desperate to go for bad ways of surviving, like going out with other people’s husbands, but HHA helps me remain focused and not desperate” (Female peer member, aged 48 years, Engucwini EPA).

Summarising implementation of HHA in Mzimba North, model villages and agriculture cooperatives were taken as special interest groups. Efforts to train implementers were done through support from donor funded projects. A platform promoting inclusion for all gender categories to participate in HHA is given to all peer members through a number of strategies e.g. making of individual visions before making a consolidated household vision. The essence is to make sure each gender category expresses themselves without interference. Promotion of equity in decision making processes is happening through use of symbols in teaching HHA tools and also flexible times of meeting with peer households by local facilitators. From 36 peers, the HHA concept had been up scaled to 118 peer households. This is an indication that sharing of the concept is happening. Transparency in household business is done through household reviews.

4.3 Determining Level of Participation of Women in Farm Decision Making Processes.

After implementing HHA, the third objective of this study was assessing the level of women participation in farm decision making processes and this was done in comparison with other household members (men and youth). All the household members (men, women and youth), were asked to mention their degree of involvement in decision making in relation to various decision-making areas which include: household visioning, action planning, and implementation of agricultural activities of priority enterprises, monitoring and evaluation.

In this study, participation in decision making is defined as the involvement of women, men and youth in decision making process in relation to visioning, planning, implementation, monitoring and

evaluation. The following section presents results on participation of women, men and youth in these farm decisions making processes starting with visioning processes.

4.3.1 Participation of Women, Men and Youth in Visioning

Before analysing women participation in farm decision making areas, this study found out availability of household visions. This included individual visions for the men, women, youths and joint household visions. Most households (88%; n=33) had joint visions. Analysing visions in one of the sites where one of the household methodologies, Gender Action Learning System (GALS), was implemented in Malawi, Farnworth and Munachonga (2010), also found out that most visions among the participants were joint visions between men and women compared to individual visions of men and women. Individual visions were least among the youth. This was attributed to age of youth who were too young to make their own visions (between 2 and 8 years), their absence from home due to their attendance to school, seeking greener pastures in town, living with grandparents and in some households, they were no youths.

Observations on availability of Household Approach tools among peer households revealed that vision journey was the common tool which was pasted on the walls of sitting rooms among peer homes (Figure 4.3). Household visions are a symbolic panoramic view of what households would like to be in a stipulated period of time. Households consider the far-left circle as a point where they are now especially assets they have. Right far circle, as a point where they want to be and circles in between are land marks achieved by each year represented in circles. A sort of SWOT analysis is conducted in the discussion where the households assess opportunities they have and they draw them above the vision and challenges below the vision. Around each circle, activities which household will do to go to next milestone are also indicated.

After making individual visions where each gender category can adequately articulate their vision without interference from other members, households are expected to come up with a joint vision where all members are expected to participate. This is another deliberate mechanism to promote inclusion of interests of all men, women and youth in the household undertakings. An analysis of participation of women, men and youth in joint household visioning (Table 4.5), found out that women had a higher participation score (0.91) in household visioning compared to men and youth who had a participation score of 0.83 and 0.44 respectively. Among the responding women (n=33), 28 women representing 85% of the responding women, took joint decisions. Among the responding men (n=33), 25 men representing 76% of the responding men, also took joint decisions. Most youths (13), representing 39% of the responding youths (n=33), had no participation in decision making in the area of household visioning. Overall, most men and women took joint decisions while most youths respondents had no participation in household visioning.

Table 4.5: Participation of women, men and youth in household visioning

	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	Score
Men	4	0	4	25	0	0.83
Women	1	1	3	28	0	0.91
Youth	13	6	4	10	0	0.44

Key: NI=Not involved, OS=Opinion sought, OC=Opinion considered, ID = Independent decision and JD = Joint Decision.

4.3.2 Participation of Women, Men and Youth in Action Planning

Women and men had the same participation score (0.80) in action planning however more women (26), representing 80% of responding women (n=33), took joint decisions compared to men (23),

representing 70% of the responding men (n=33) who also took joint decisions. Most youths (14) representing 42% of responding youths (n=33), had no participation in decision making in the area of action planning. Overall, men and women took joint decisions in action planning and most youths respondents had no participation in action planning (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6: Participation of women, men and youth in action planning

	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	Score
Men	6	1	3	23	0	0.80
Women	4	1	2	26	0	0.80
Youth	14	7	5	7	0	0.38

Key: NI=Not involved, OS=Opinion sought, OC=Opinion considered, ID = Independent decision and JD = Joint Decision.

4.3.3 Women, Men and Youth Participation in Implementation

Peer households were asked to rate sources of their livelihood which determines fulfilment of their visions. All peer households depend on farming as main source of livelihood. Farming being the main source of their livelihood, this study analysed participation of women, men and youths in the various production activities in maize enterprise which ranked their number one priority enterprise. Among responding men, participation score was highest in the area of re-planning (0.95) (Table 4.7) while women and youth had their highest participation score in shelling (1.05), (0.68) respectively.

Table 4.7: Women, men and youth participation in types of decision related to production of maize enterprise

Activity	MALE						FEMALE						YOUTH					
	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	SC	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	SC	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	SC
Buying	2	2	2	26	1	0.88	1	1	4	26	1	0.91	18	2	4	9	0	0.37
Land clearing	4	0	2	26	1	0.86	1	2	2	26	2	0.92	13	3	3	14	0	0.51
Ridge making	3	1	0	28	1	0.89	0	1	3	28	1	0.95	12	3	5	13	0	0.52
Planting	4	0	2	27	0	0.85	0	0	1	31	1	0.99	13	2	3	14	1	0.54
Bottom dressing	5	0	3	25	0	0.81	0	2	0	30	1	0.96	14	2	4	13	0	0.49
First weeding	3	0	1	29	0	0.89	0	2	0	29	2	0.97	14	1	4	14	0	0.51
Top dressing	3	1	3	26	0	0.85	0	2	2	27	2	0.95	14	1	5	13	0	0.5
Second weeding	6	0	1	26	0	0.8	1	0	2	27	3	0.97	15	3	4	11	0	0.44
Harvesting	6	1	2	23	1	0.78	0	2	0	27	4	0.99	13	3	3	14	0	0.51
Shelling	12	0	2	19	0	0.61	0	0	0	27	6	1.05	9	0	4	20	0	0.68
Bagging	6	0	4	20	3	0.8	1	1	4	25	2	0.92	13	7	4	9	0	0.42
What to sell	5	0	1	23	4	0.87	1	2	5	22	3	0.9	20	8	4	1	0	0.19
How much to sell	4	0	2	24	3	0.88	2	1	1	26	3	0.93	15	7	4	7	0	0.36
Actual selling	4	1	3	20	5	0.87	2	3	1	22	5	0.91	15	2	8	8	0	0.42
Use of proceeding	4	0	2	23	4	0.89	0	3	3	26	1	0.91	15	6	1	11	0	0.41
Replanning	3	0	0	25	5	0.95	2	3	1	22	5	0.91	15	2	8	8	0	0.42
Mean	4.6	0.4	1.9	24.4	1.8	0.84	0.69	1.6	1.8	26.3	2.6	0.9	14.3	3.3	4.3	11.2	0.1	0.5
SE±	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.1	0.0

Key: NI=Not involved, OS=Opinion sought, OC=Opinion considered, ID = Independent decision and JD = Joint Decision.

Mean (\pm S.E.) decision score for men respondents was 0.84 (\pm 0.0) and for women respondents it was 0.9 (\pm 0.0) and lastly for the youths, it was 0.5(\pm 0.0). Kruskal- Wallis test was done to find out if there were significant variations among men, women and youth participation score in decision making. The youth had the lowest mean rank compared to women and men (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8: Mean- Ranks: Kruskal- Wallis Test for men, women and youth participation score.

	Gender group	N	Mean Rank
Participation score in decision making	Men	16	25.00
	Women	16	39.94
	Youth	16	8.56
		48	

The test statistic; Kruskal- Wallis Test for participation score among men, women and youth, revealed that there were significant variations among men, women and youth in their participation score in decision making (χ^2 (2) = 40.282, p = 0.000), Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Test Statistic - Kruskal- Wallis test among men, women, youth and participation score in decision making

	Participation score in decision making
Chi-Square	40.282
Df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.000

Since significant differences were found among men, women and youth participation score, post hoc tests to test pairwise comparisons was done to know which groups show statistical differences.

Significant differences in participation scores between gender categories was found in all groups: men and women ($p = 0.000$), men and youth ($p = 0.000$), women and youth ($p = 0.000$) (Table 4.10).

Table 4.10: Test Statistic- Post hoc Men and women, men and youth, women and youth

	Men and women	Men and youth	Women and youth
Chi-Square	20.208	23.367	22.978
Df	1	1	1
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000	.000

4.3.4 Women, Men and Youth Participation in Monitoring of Farm Plans

This study therefore analysed participation of women, men and youth in monitoring of farm plans (Table 4.11). It was observed that in most cases (24) men representing 73% of responding men ($n=33$) and 18 women, representing 55% of responding women ($n=33$), took joint decisions. Most youths (20), representing 61% of responding youths ($n=33$), had no participation in decision making in the area of monitoring. Overall, most men and women took joint decisions in monitoring although men had a higher participation score (0.81) compared to women (0.68). Most youths did not participate in monitoring.

Table 4.11: Participation of women, men and youth in monitoring (n=33)

	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	Score
Men	5	1	2	24	1	0.81
Women	10	0	3	18	2	0.68
Youth	20	2	2	9	0	0.33

Key: NI=Not involved, OS=Opinion sought, OC=Opinion considered, ID = Independent decision and JD = Joint Decision.

4.3.5 Women, Men and Youth Participation in Evaluation

This study also assessed participation of gender categories in evaluation (Table 4.12). It was observed that in most cases (18 men), representing 55% of responding men (n=33) and most women (19), representing 58% of responding women (n=33), took joint decisions although women had a higher participation score (0.71) in evaluation compared to men who had a participation score of 0.64. Most youths (20), representing 61% of the responding youth (n=33), had no participation in decision making in the area of evaluation.

Table 4.12: Participation of gender categories in evaluation

	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	Score
Men	10	2	2	18	1	0.64
Women	8	2	2	19	2	0.71
Youth	20	3	3	7	0	0.30

Key: NI=Not involved, OS=Opinion sought, OC=Opinion considered, ID = Independent decision and JD = Joint Decision.

The last objective of this study was to assess various factors that enhance and impede women participation in various decisions making using the photo voice methodology as presented in section below.

4.4 Factors Limiting or Facilitating Active Participation of Women in Farm Decision Making Processes in Mzimba North.

Figure 4.4 depicts factors facilitating women participation in farm decision making processes that emerged.

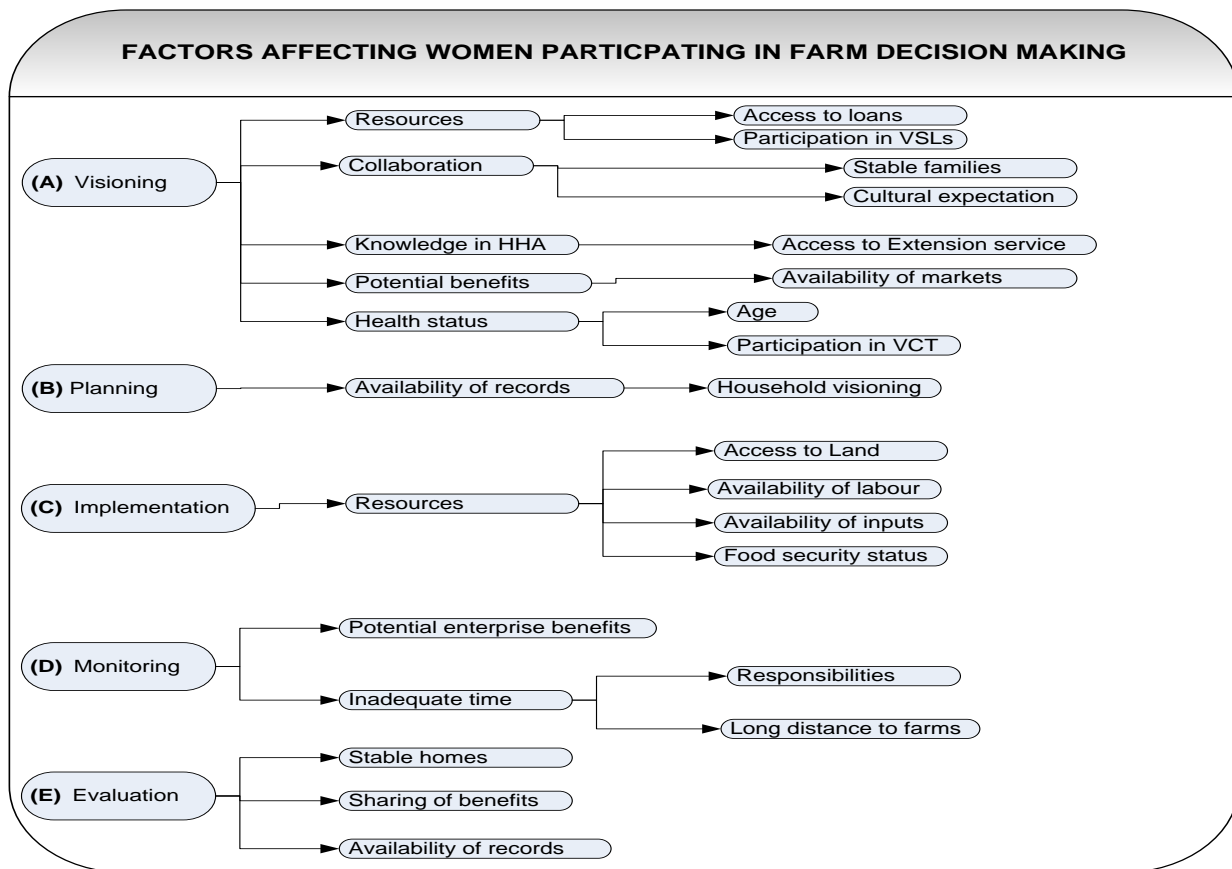


Figure 4.4: Factors facilitating the participation of women in farm decision making process

4.4.1 Factors facilitating women participation in visioning

4.4.1.1 Availability of resources to facilitate implementation of enterprise activities

Farming like any other business venture, requires investment capital. Respondents narrated that resource availability brings confidence in contributing to the vision. The following are excerpts on how availability of inputs facilitates women participation in visioning:

“How do you do visioning without an assurance of inputs? The money I realised from last season’s harvest and records helped me to effectively participate in visioning” (Female peer member, 33 years old, Euthini EPA)

“From last year’s harvest, we agreed as a family to partly buy inputs and we bought three bags in preparation of this season, this gives me strength to participate in visioning because most of our visions depend on agriculture and agriculture depends mostly on inputs” (Female peer member, aged 46 years, Emsizini EPA)

Sources of these resources ranged from livestock banks, having access to loan from cooperatives and village banks. Apart from livestock being slaughtered and used as relish, it can be sold to buy inputs and also, they help in provision of manure to supplement fertiliser as reported in following quote:

“When you have livestock, you benefit of relish and also, it gives you manure and you do not buy much fertiliser” (Female peer member, 48 years old, Mpherembe EPA)

Membership to agriculture cooperative by some women, guarantees their access to inputs like fertiliser and seed in form of loan from the cooperative which is recovered from part of the produce members sell through the cooperative. This is what one respondent had to say:

Availability of start-up inputs from companies like nyonga pack, gives us confidence to participate in visioning because we know we have a start-up of inputs for farming (Female peer member, Engucwini EPA).

Lastly, compared to men, most women participate in village savings and loan groups (See Figure 4.5), locally known as ‘gulu la masheya’. In these groups, they invest through shares and at the end of the year, they share the profits. It was narrated that deliberately they share profits at a time when inputs are required most. In some case they can access a loan to buy inputs, of course with an affordable interest charge.



“Women who are in village savings and loan groups, save and access money by borrowing from the village bank to buy fertilizer and seed”(Photo voice by Nabanda, age 47, female participant from Emsizini Extension Planning Area

Figure 4.5: Women participation in village savings and loans group as one way of saving money (Picture by Nabanda Tyongwane, photo voice participant, Emsizini EPA)

Availability of resources enhanced their confidence to participate in visioning because it gave them hope that they will have inputs for farming which is a major source of income to facilitate implementation of visions being made.

4.4.1.2 Collaboration among Peer Members

It was reported among women that collaboration among peer members creates a conducive environment for members to talk about visions. Collaboration was expressed in terms of stable homes depicted by firstly, peace in the family. This is what one respondent had to say:

“When there is peace in the family, you relax and talk over issues like household visioning” (Female peer, 51 years old, Engucwini EPA).

Secondly, collaboration was expressed in terms of unity of purpose among peer’s members (kukolelana maghanoghano pa vyakuchitika). This is important in the HHA approach because implementers are supposed to implement as a household not as an individual otherwise the essence of empowering all gender categories in the household is defeated.

Thirdly love among wife, husband, and children, and in some case it extended to mother in-laws, was said to be an indicator of collaboration. This is what one respondent had to say:

“I am in good terms with my mother in-law, this contributes to stability of my family and this encourages me to participate in household visioning” (Female peer member, aged 25 years old, Emsizini EPA)

In some farming households, mother- in-laws are part of their children’s family. In this particular case, relationship between mother and daughter in-law determines the stability of that family, if

there is no love between the mother and daughter in-law, it can affect the relationship between the husband and his wife which in turn also affects the way they could interact on a number of household agenda items. The figure 4.6 below depicts a family in a relaxed mood discussing issues. A thing which can happen if there is peace existing in the family.



“When there is peace in the family, you relax and talk over issues like household visioning” (Photo voice by a female participant age 32, Engucwini EPA)

Figure 4.6: A family discussing issues in a peaceful family environment (Picture by Patuma Kuwali, photo-voice participant, Engucwini EPA)

In some cases, homes can be stable but habits of some family members affect women participation in farm decision making processes like visioning. This is what one respondent had to say:

“Whenever I propose to my husband that we talk over some farm decisions, he just goes to drink as a result I also get demoralised and we do not sit down as a family, no time is found for us to sit and discuss and he says that is your business but men also ask, where do you get authority to rule over me – someone I married cannot have authority over me” (female peer member, 34 years old, Engucwini EPA). Being a patriarchal society, women are regarded as second-class citizens who have no power to lead hence the reaction.

Summarising collaboration as a factor facilitating women participation in farm decision making process, this is what one respondent had to say:

“If there is peace in the family, you agree on everything you intend to implement because there is unity in purpos”(Female peer member, 29 years old, Euthini EPA).

4.4.1.3 Inadequate Access to Extension Services

Unless one is trained in a concept, they may not know how to go about it. This requires one to access extension services through a number of channels. The dominant channel from which farmers get enlightenment on HHA is through extension workers and lead farmers. However, in the meantime, there are only a few farmers who have been reached with HHA as most sections are vacant as narrated in the quote below:

“Most farmers want to follow these new ways of farming so that they can achieve their visions, but extension workers are scarce” (Female peer member, 39 years old, Engucwini EPA)

HHA implementation adopted the lead farmer approach to mitigate issue of inadequate extension staff. Figure 4.7 depicts a local facilitator stressing a point during visioning at one of the peer homes.



“Accessibility to extension services from lead farmers and extension workers helps us to be cleared on what to do during visioning and this encourages us to go ahead and make visions together” (Photo voice by a female participant age 28, from Engucwini Extension Planning Area)

Figure 4.7: Peer home members receiving extension services from local facilitator (Picture by Joyce Vitendwe).

4.4.1.4: Availability of Agriculture Produce Markets

As illustrated in Figure 4.8, availability of markets facilitates women participation in decision making because they are assured that they will sell their produce hence they see the need to participate in visioning.



“Farming is a business, you cannot set a vision without a predetermined market, availability of markets encourages us to participate in household visions because we are assured of selling our products and realise our visions, otherwise it would just be doing business of visioning as usual”(Photo voice by a female participant , aged 41 from Engucwini Extension)

Figure 4.8: Hanged weighing scale, a sign of a marketing point in the village (Picture by Nasimango Phiri)

In an era of market liberalisation, as depicted in the picture, most of the markets are unstructured markets buying farmers at very low prices which make the farmer take time to attain their vision. Various initiatives are being implemented by the ministry in order to promote business insights among small holder farmers; this is what one extension worker had to say:

“Part of my duty is to train smallholder farmers on business management so that they can realise increased incomes key to improving livelihoods.”(Male extension worker, aged 44 years, Mzimba North district).

However, in most cases, our farmers venture into farming without finding market for their products first, then later after harvesting, they turn to extension workers to find markets for them as narrated in the following quote from one of the local facilitators who also happens to be a farmer:

“Farmers are very eager to produce different types of crops but the produce prices are low, try to find markets for the enterprises they venture into so that they can fulfil their visions”(Female peer, 42 years old, Engucwini EPA)

Also, from one of the peer members, this was what was narrated, *“We have carryover stock from last year, unsold, how do we buy fertiliser? Am pleading with the government to think of us cooperatives”*(Female peer, 51 years old, Engucwini EPA).

At the time of this study, one special interest group under interest had 101 metric tons unsold maize and this tonnage spilled into the second year and was pleading with the researcher to find a market for them.

4.4.1.5 Health Status of Family Members

Knowledge of one’s health status through voluntary counselling and testing boost women participation in visioning. This is what one respondent had to say:

“When you go for a blood test, you trust each other in the family, and in that way you become open to each other to talk over farming issues” (Female peer member, 45 years old, Emsizini EPA).

Apart from knowledge of one’s status boosting women participation in visioning, old age which is also linked to one’s fitness, was presented as a factor that reduces the zeal to participate in visioning as narrated in the following extracts:

“How I wish this approach came sometime back when I was strong, thinking about something and doing it requires energy which I do not have right now, I am also being looked after like a young child” (Female peer member, 59 years old, Mpherembe EPA).

4.4.3 Factors Facilitating Women Participation in Implementation

4.4.3.1 Availability of Resources for Production

Availability of resources aiding in implementation included land, labour, inputs and water resource.

Figure 4.10 is a picture depicting availability of land for implementation of activities.



“For one to implement all those plans, you need land, we have a lot of land which makes you plant as many enterprises as you want” (Photo voice by a female peer member age 33 from Engucwini Extension Planning Area)

Figure 4.10: Availability of land for farming operations (Picture by Mrs. Mlonyeni, photo-voice participant, Engucwini Extension Planning Area).

4.4.3.2 Availability of Labour Resource

Apart from access to land as a resource, availability of labour was also reported to facilitating women participation in implementation of most of the activities unfortunately; women are the major labour resource as narrated by one respondent below:

“The one who knows the real impact of hunger is a woman, she is the one who stays at home with the kids, so if she is lazy, she will have problems taking care of the children”(Female peer member, aged 47, Euthini EPA).

Availability of this labour was also reported in terms of physical fitness enhanced through their participation in VCT programmes. This is what one had to say:

“Knowing our status; helps us to stay fit in order to implement most planned activities otherwise you can just be down with diseases, in the process your activities remain idle” (Female peer member aged 45 years from Emsizini EPA).

4.4.3.3 Availability of Inputs

Some soils are so poor to the extent that without inputs, a person knows that they are just wasting their time venturing into farming, hence some decide right away not to implement certain activities if they know that they have inadequate inputs. If they have adequate inputs, implementation of activities goes flat out. This is what one had to say:

“I did not have adequate inputs, I prepared manure, though not enough, this made me not to participate in implementing some activities that I had planned and this has led to my household being food insecure” (Female peer farmer, aged 51, Mpherembe EPA)

4.4.3.4 Food Security Situation in the Household

When a household is food insecure, they waste time to look for casual labour instead of implementing their own activities, this makes households to fall into a vicious cycle of food insecurity. This is what one had to say:

“Even if you have a house, but if you do not have food, it is a problem, you go look for casual labour. If a household is food secure, they have time to concentrate on implementing their planned activities, in some cases, part of the same food is used to employ casual labourers who aid in timely implementation of planned activities”. (Female peer, 48 years old, Euthini EPA).

In other ways, food insecurity reduces the availability of labour per household more in particular women who claim to feel a strong need to feed their children as compared to the men.

4.4.4 Factors Facilitating Women Participation in Monitoring

4.4.4.1 Potential Benefits Envisaged from an Enterprise

The potential benefits from an enterprise gives one the energy to follow up. This is what one respondent narrated in the photo voice below:



“The way my crop stand was, gave me the energy to be frequently going to my farm because I knew that that was money” (Peer farmer, 46, Engucwini EPA).

Figure 4.11: Good crop stand encouraging monitoring visits (Picture by Naphiri Biliati, photo voice participant, Engucwini EPA)

4.4.4.2 Inadequate Time

This study found that women are also caught in a web of household chores which reduces their time to monitor farm activities. One respondent had this to say:

“Women’s household chores are not valued much, but they are too many to the extent that we are rescued by the setting of the sun” (Female peer 26 years old, Mpherembe EPA)

Responsibilities highlighted included, taking care of the home, cooking for the household, going to maize mills, drawing water, fetching for firewood, caring for the sick, washing clothes, attending to social obligation like visiki (friendships) and funeral, taking care of large families, kupelekela dango (leading initiation ceremonies) and political patronisation as seen in picture below (Figure 4.12).



“I most often go to political functions; this makes me not to have time to participate in monitoring” Photo voice by a female participant from Engucwini Extension Planning Area aged 45.

Figure 4.12: A woman preparing to patronize political functions (Picture by Molesi Chirwa, photo-voice participant, Engucwini EPA).

4.4.4.3 Long Distances to Farms

The issue of inadequate participation by women in monitoring was worse specially to gardens which are far from homes. This is what one respondent had to say:

“Most of where we do farming is in upland, hence not well patronised.”(Peer member, aged 48years, Mpherembe EPA).

4.4.5 Factors facilitating women participation in evaluation

4.4.5.1 Perpetual beer drinking reducing collaboration among family members

Lack of collaboration among peer members stemming from characters some family members display for instance perpetual beer drinking, that gives no room for discussions among peer

members as depicted in Figure 4.13, was narrated as one of the examples of inhibitors of collaboration in the family, affecting women participation in evaluation



“I fail to participate in evaluation because my husband is a drunkard, whenever I propose that we meet to evaluate, he says that is my business, he also questions, where I get the authority to tell him what to do”(Photo voice by a female participant from Emsizini Extension Planning Area aged 36)

Figure 4.13: Drunkenness- inhibitors of collaboration in the family (Picture by Rose Chikuse, photo voice participant, Emsizini EPA).

4.4.5.2 Availability of Records

In particular, household visions were mentioned as records that aid women participation in evaluation as narrated in the quotes below:

“Visions remind you where you are coming from, where you are, what you have accomplished so far, if you failed, why?” (Nyankhoma, female peer, 46 years old, Engucwini EPA)

4.4.5.3 Evidence of Tangible Benefits Realized

Accessing the benefits realised from farming was narrated as one of the factors enhancing women participation in evaluation. Figure 4.14 is a house showcased as a tangible benefit.



“We made our visions, as time progresses, we discover we are making progress. We have managed to build a house. This encourages us to participate in reviewing of plans because we see the benefits of our participation” (Photo voice by a female participant from Engucwini Extension Planning Area aged 46).

Figure 4.14: Newly built house-an example of tangible benefit (Picture by Mrs. Patsani Phiri, photovoice participant, Engucwini EPA)

On how tangible benefits encourage women to participate in review, below is a narration from one of the targeted participants.

“We grew maize, soya and tobacco as a family and we sold them. We realised some money. We saw importance of collaborating in the family and this has helped to give us strength to participate in evaluation.” (Female peer member aged 33 from Mpherembe EPA).

Some of the benefits narrated included sending of children to private schools, buying of household utensils like pails, baskets and plates. This is what one respondent had to say:

“We bought pails popularly known as Obama, baskets and plates, bought goats, wheelbarrow, motorcycle, fertilizer and cattle.” (Female peer member, Emsizini EPA aged 28 years).

This chapter presented results on the four specific objectives of the study: Assessing local facilitator’s knowledge of HHA, assessing implementation of Household Approach, determining

level of women participation in farm decision making processes and finally, assessing factors affecting women participation in farm decision making processes. In the next chapter, I interpret the results of my study and contextualise them into the existing literature and my conceptual and theoretical frameworks.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

5.0 Introduction

In chapter four I presented a description of the results of the study by scores, themes and categories that emerged from my data. These were supported by excerpts from participants' interviews, including their photo voice messages. In this chapter I reflect on the scores and themes that emerged, relating them to the existing literature and the conceptual framework that informed this study. In the process of reflection, I describe similarities and differences between my findings and the existing literature, and make inferences for the differences wherever possible. In discussing findings under the four stated objectives, this study puts a feminist lens on how processes and findings reflect inclusion, equity, sharing, transparency and empowerment which are participatory values under which HHA was implemented.

5.1 Local Facilitator's Knowledge of Household Approach

All local facilitators (100%) were in the category of (40% – 69%), indicating an average knowledge level of Household Approach among local facilitators. The mean knowledge score of participants was 54.73 (SD 7.92) with a range of 41-67%, indicating knowledge gaps in Household Approach among local facilitators. A further analysis of the distribution of scores for each type of knowledge revealed that on knowing what Household Approach is, from a possible mark of 5, the mean score was 4.36 (SE 0.96), indicating that some knowledge gaps on what Household Approach is, still exist among local facilitators. Knowing what Household Approach is, can be categorised as awareness knowledge, described as information on the existence of an innovation (Rogers, 1995). Roger (1995) argues that this type of knowledge motivates a potential adopter to learn more about an

innovation. According to findings of this study, workshops act as forums where local facilitators learn what Household Approach is. Gaps in this type of knowledge among local facilitators may limit their interest in knowing more about Household Approach as an innovation.

Importance of Household Approach can also be categorised as awareness knowledge. Local facilitators knowledge on importance of Household Approach also revealed gaps in this area as depicted from a mean score of 3.06 (SE 0.20) from a possible mark of 7. This may affect the use of HHA as an innovation as this information is important to encourage participants to adopt an innovation (Rogers, 1995).

From a possible mark of 10, the mean score on procedures of implementing Household Approach among local facilitators was 5.95 (SD 0.06), indicating some knowledge gaps also on procedures of implementing Household Approach among local facilitators. Procedures on Household Approach can be categorised as How- to knowledge. Rogers (1995), describes the how-to knowledge as the understanding of how much of the innovation to use and how to use it correctly. Knowledge gaps on this type of knowledge may result in underutilisation of Household Approach as an innovation.

Lastly, least mean knowledge score was observed on principles of HHA depicted by a mean score of 1.09 (SE±0.15) from a possible mark of 5. Rogers (1995) describes principles' knowledge as the knowledge that includes the functioning principles describing how and why an innovation works. Rogers argues that an innovation can be adopted without this knowledge, but the misuse of the innovation may cause its discontinuance. Least knowledge scores on principles of HHA may negatively affect practice of HHA among targeted respondents. This may be attributed to the way they were trained and I quote what one extension worker said:

“This training is supposed to have field work, we did not go out to the field but simulations were there. After learning, there should have been practice because during practice you see some discrepancies in terms of how people capture information and how they deliver so from there you could be able to guide them in case they meet a certain situation, they should deal with it in such, such a way” (Female extension worker, 43, Mzimba North district). This points at the need to organise refresher courses for the HHA implementers which has to include practical exercises.

After training in HHA, the lead farmers backstopped by frontline staff were tasked to sensitise communities on the approach and implement the rest of the HHA processes among peer households in the earmarked model villages and cooperatives. The following section discusses how HHA was implemented among the farming families.

5.2 Implementation of HHA in Practice

Agriculture cooperatives and model villages were used as interest group through which HHA was implemented in Mzimba North. The implementation of HHA in Mzimba North through the agriculture cooperatives and model villages is in line with HHA implementation guidelines outlined in Malawi Government (2015b) where use of a group of farmers engaged in a similar agricultural enterprise, qualified as a special interest group is recommended to be used for implementation. The guideline also recommends that where interest groups are not available, other farmer-based organisation like farmer business schools, farmer field schools and agriculture clusters can be used.

According to guidelines for implementing HHA (Malawi Government, 2015b), peer homes act as points of entry into a village when implementing HHA. Firstly, peer households were chosen based on their activeness. From the narrations, apart from one’s home where people appreciate one’s commitment, project work, model village and development activities act as forums where special

interest groups see how active one is and this determines if a household is to be chosen or not. This finding of choosing households to participate in HHA based on their activeness is in line with guidelines for implementing HHA (Malawi Government, 2015b), which stipulate that participating households must be active in farming.

Apart from being chosen by special interest groups, other peer households were chosen by the local facilitator based on their hard-working spirit demonstrated through the tasks assigned to them by local facilitator. Hard working spirit demonstrated on tasks assigned to them is a demonstration of cooperation hence their being chosen as peer households. This finding is also in line with guidelines for implementing HHA (Malawi Government, 2015b) where cooperative households are potential candidates for participation in HHA. However, when they are chosen by a local facilitator without involving the community members, acceptability of these peers to share concept becomes a problem because they may not get accepted by their fellow members due to some behaviours known to themselves but unknown to the local facilitator. This may hinder diffusion of HHA as an innovation among social groups as argued by Drake et al. (2017) that diffusion of innovations is faster among members who share common elements as human beings are social animals and they more frequently communicate and form relationships with individuals who are similar than those who are dissimilar—a construct known as homophily. Lastly, households become peers, through interest. Peer members are potential local facilitators in the making. Depending on their performance, they may be chosen to lead up scaling HHA among communities. This usually is on volunteer basis hence the need of managing their interest in HHA which may be the only driving force to participate in implementing HHA. As argued by Rogers cited in Sahin (2006, p. 3), the perception that the individual holds about the innovation is more relevant in determining his or her passage through the innovation-decision process.

As found out, the HHA approach in Mzimba North started with 20 local facilitators and 36 peer households. In this case an interest group was a cooperative. At the time of this study, there were 35 (14 women, 21 men) local facilitators and 118 peer households. An increase in number of peer households indicates that sharing as a participatory value was considered in implementation of HHA in Mzimba North as depicted by increased number of peer households where HHA was up scaled. A drop in number of local facilitators was due to one local facilitator who had relocated to South Africa for work. This is in line with the 2017-2022 M'mbelwa district socio economic profile which indicated that the district experiences emigration to South Africa and Zimbabwe to seek paid employment (Malawi Government, 2017b)

It was also reported that some peer households were chosen by an extension worker. This though not recommended, happens due to time constraints where an extension worker is tasked to identify peers but they do not have enough time to go through the normal process. Sometimes people are deliberately chosen because of their receptivity on new concepts and this makes them as blackboards where people can learn and adopt as depicted in the following quote:

“Each type of new farming technology that is being introduced, in most cases start with my home”
(Male peer member, age 48 years., Emsizini EPA)

This also saves the extension worker when they are supervised to have people who they can showcase their work. Chambers (1983) characterises this as person biases. This makes other members in the society envious and not able to be willing to learn from their fellow friend, retarding the rate at which this innovation is spread in the social system.

As regards challenges in HHA implementation, firstly, long time taken to finalise HHA orientation with one household was cited. Each peer household is expected to be oriented on all HHA tools;

however, implementers complained that this takes longer than expected. Firstly, this was attributed to low rate of grasping concept due to old age as they could repeat lessons. This finding is in line with what Merriam and Caffarella (1991), argues that adulthood goes along with major changes in our physical being and in particular a deterioration in our ability to see and hear, changes in central nervous system and changes as a result of major disease processes, affecting learning in adulthood. Low rate of grasping concepts was also attributed to illiteracy levels which necessitated use of symbols in teaching some HHA lessons. Low literacy levels among farmers were also reported by Masangano and Mthinda (2012) as a factor affecting Agriculture extension service provision. Guidelines for implementing HHA (Malawi Government, 2015b) emphasise the need for having at least two members who are literate and have numeracy skills in order for them to keep and translate records and other messages to other members of the household. Use of symbols in teaching HHA and repeating lessons much as they were reported as contributing to increased time taken to implement HHA, they are isolated as mechanisms of enhancing equity in participation of peer members in HHA participation. Equity is one of the values advocated under the participatory theory. Too much workload by implementers also affected the time they took to finalise orientation with peer households. Masangano and Mthinda (2012) also reported of a large extension worker-to-farmer ratio depicting too much work load for extension workers.

Noncompliance to action plans due to some unforeseeable circumstances which included sicknesses and funerals was also reported to contributing to long time implementers take to finalise HHA lesson with a household. Sicknesses and funerals from both the side of farmers and staff were also reported by Masangano and Mthinda (2012) to resulting in poor extension service delivery.

Secondly, inadequate resources were one of the issues reported to affecting implementation of HHA. Resources varied from farm inputs, business capital, mobility mechanism and inadequate training material. Farm inputs and business capital were reported among farmers as factors affecting implementation of HHA because fulfilment of household visions they make under HHA require a capital injection in farming which is a major source of livelihood. The finding on inadequate business capital was also reported by Mbakaya et al. (2017) as a major constraint affecting investment choices among smallholder farmers in Malawi. Inadequate training material was also reported by Masangano and Mthinda (2012) as a factor affecting extension delivery. The finding on mobility mechanism and inadequate training material was reported among extension workers and local facilitators to affecting delivery of HHA. This is in line with a report by (Malawi Government, 2000), where extension service provision in Malawi has been characterised by dwindling of public sector resources which negatively affect delivery of agriculture extension services. As a solution to inadequate resources, it was recommended that HHA be sold to other stakeholders in the district who can support it in one way or the other. This is what one respondent had to say:

“Without external support HHA it is so hard to implement, HHA it is expensive. HHA should be sold to other stakeholders we have in the district. I still think they can take it because what they want is to show farmers results quickly so they have something to show to donors and HHA does exactly that. Otherwise as an office it is so hard to implement without external support.” (Female extension worker aged 33, Mzimba North district)

Thirdly, inadequate knowledge, attributed to nature of HHA orientation, lack of access to extension services and also having unclear Household Approach procedures was also one of the challenges reported to affecting implementation of Household Approach. On unclear HHA procedures, this included some scenarios on how to deal with implementing HHA in a polygamous family, a family

with one gender group and a family which is dominated by small kids which implementers claimed that HHA implementing guidelines are silent. Inadequate knowledge was also attributed to nature of HHA orientation which they claimed was short hence time not enough for them to understand some concepts. Lack of access to extension services on HHA was also reported as a factor that contributed to inadequate knowledge. Use of local facilitators who are lead farmers in extension provision in Malawi comes in due to shortage of extension workers. Access to agriculture extension services among other factors, is worsened in cases like those reported in this study where a trained local facilitator who was teaching HHA migrated to South Africa. Inadequate agriculture extension staff was also reported by Masangano and Mthinda (2012) resulting in poor service delivery.

The finding on migration of people in Mzimba to South Africa is in line with M'mbelwa district council socio economic profile report in which it reported that despite the large amounts of arable land in the district, a large proportion of men migrate to South Africa and other parts of the country in search of employment opportunities due to declining agriculture productivity and profitability (Malawi Government, 2017b).

Fourthly, negative attitudes towards implementers were also reported to affecting implementation of household Approach. As per the arrangement, local facilitators come from the same villages where they implement HHA. This study established that the local facilitators experienced negativity from fellow community members. They believe that their friend could not tell them something tangible without them going to a workshop on HHA. This is a demonstration of lack of confidence in local facilitators. Drake et al. (2017) also reports that while the interpersonal similarity of homophilious groups tends to ease intragroup relations, homophily is also associated with intergroup conflict and segregation.

Lastly, HHA requires participation of all gender categories, e.g., when it comes to visioning, each gender category is supposed to produce their own and then at the end, they merge. However as reported, it is either the man or woman only firstly developed interest in the approach, the beauty is that it ends up trickling to the whole household. This finding is in line with Rogers, cited in Kaine (2008), adopter categorisation of individual's innovativeness where individuals in a social system adopt technologies at different times depending on a number of reasons among which are the social economic characteristics which include ability to understand and apply complex technical knowledge and availability of resources. Despite the above challenges, peers realised the following benefits under HHA: Firstly, some peer homes registered improved coordination of household activities. This is an indication of enhanced transparency in the way things are done in the home. Malawi Government (2015b) also reports that HHA promotes transparency and accountability in the household undertakings thereby reducing suspicion and gender based domestic violence among the members. Secondly, improved access to resources and benefits

Farming being a form of a business requires a good capital investment. It is one thing to have resources in a home and it is another to access and utilise the resource. Improved sharing of household resources and having a newly built house was one of the benefits registered under HHA. Other assets included livestock, motor cycles and household utensils. Asset building, among others, was also reported under household methodologies by Farnworth and Munachonga (2010).

Men doing chores culturally meant to be done by women and women doing chores culturally meant to be done by men have been registered as one HHA benefits. These roles include helping each other carry some things when coming back from the farm, cooking, carrying a bundle of firewood and also carrying a baby. Farnworth and Munachonga (2010) also reported of men not being ashamed to doing women's roles after HHA implementation.

From the comments of one of the respondents, a positive impact of extension services in terms of improving their awareness on some technologies like manure making and some extension service like chicken rearing was registered as a benefit of their participation in HHA. Difficulty to assess extension impact is one of the challenges reported in extension provision (Malawi Government, 2000). Greater farmer involvement in the assessment of extension among others was proposed to be one of the ways which can help monitoring and evaluation of extension services as also demonstrated in this finding.

Participatory approaches are meant to empower the less privileged. Some peer household members reported that HHA has cultivated a spirit of self-reliance. Malawi Government (2015b) also reports that HHA creates a sense of responsibility and self-reliance by all household members due to their involvement in planning, implementation and review of the activities. This is an indicator of improved self-reliance among women in peer homes.

Summarising implementation of HHA in Mzimba North, model villages and agriculture cooperatives were taken as special interest groups. Efforts to train implementers were done through support from donor funded projects. A platform promoting inclusion for all gender categories to participate in HHA is given to all peer members through a number of strategies for example making of individual visions before making a consolidated household vision. The essence is to make sure each gender category expresses themselves without interference. Promotion of equity in decision making processes is happening through use of symbols in teaching HHA tools and also flexible times of meeting with peer households by local facilitators. From 36 peers, the HHA concept had been up scaled to 118 peer households. This is an indication that sharing of the concept is happening.

5.3 Level of Women Participation in Farm Decision Making Processes and Factors Affecting their Participation

To determine level of women's participation in farm decision making processes, this was done in relation to men and youth participation as discussed below.

5.3.1 Women Participation in Visioning and Factors Affecting their Participation

Most of the responding women (85.00 %; n=33), participated in joint decision-making during visioning. Apart from having most women participate in joint decision making in visioning, women had also a higher participation score (0.91) in household visioning compared to men and youth who had a participation score of 0.83 and 0.44 respectively, implying an enhanced participation of women in visioning as a farm decision making process. In addition, women's items appearing in individual visions were also found in the joint visions implying that their interests were also heard and accommodated in joint visions. Farnworth et al. (2017), also reported of women's preferences finding their way into joint visions suggesting that women's voice are being heard in household decision making.

A number of factors facilitated women participation in visioning, firstly, availability of resources. Farming like any business venture, requires investment capital. Women respondents narrated that resource availability brings confidence in contributing to the vision because most of their visions depend on agriculture and agriculture depends mostly on inputs which require resources. Apart from their access to livestock which provide manure as an input in production, their membership to agriculture cooperative, guarantees their access to inputs like fertiliser and seed in form of loan from the cooperative which is recovered from part of the produce members sell through the cooperative. Apart from women's access to livestock and loan in the cooperatives that enhances their access to

resources for buying inputs, most women compared to men, participate in village savings and loan groups locally known as '*gulu la masheya*'. In these groups, they invest through shares and at the end of the year, they share the profits. It was narrated that they deliberately share the profits at a time when inputs are required the most. In some cases, they can access a loan to buy inputs, of course with an affordable interest charge.

Secondly, it was reported among women that collaboration among peer members creates a conducive environment for members to talk about visions. Collaboration was expressed in terms of stable homes depicted by peace in the family and unity of purpose among peer's members (*kukolelana maghanoghano pa vyakuchitika*). This is important in the HHA approach because implementers are supposed to implement as a household not as an individual otherwise the essence of empowering all gender categories in the household is defeated. In addition, love among wife, husband, and children, and in some case extended to mother in-laws, was said to be an indicator of collaboration. In some farming households, mother- in-laws are part of their children's family. In this particular case, relationship between mother and daughter in-law determines the stability of that family, if there is no love between the mother and daughter in-law, it could affect the relationship between a husband and his wife which also affects the way they interact on a number of household agenda items. In some cases, homes were depicted as stable with reference to drinking habits of some family members which may affect women participation in farm decision making processes like visioning.

Thirdly, Knowledge in HHA was reported as another factor facilitating women participation in visioning as a farm decision making process. Unless one is trained in a concept, they may not know how to go about it. This requires one to access extension services through a number of channels. The dominant channel from which farmers can get enlightenment into how HHA is done is through

extension workers and lead farmers. However, in the meantime, it is only few farmers reached with HHA as most sections are vacant. Inadequate knowledge as a factor limiting women participation in agriculture was also reported by Shamma et al. (2018). HHA implementation adopted the lead farmer approach to mitigate issue of inadequate extension staff.

Fourthly, availability of markets. Fulfilment of visions requires resources which most of smallholder farmers get from selling their farm produce. Finding a market for the products before production is the song that is promoted among smallholder farmers. In an era of market liberalisation, as depicted in the picture, most of the markets are unstructured markets buying farmers at very low prices which make the farmer take time to attain their vision. However, in most cases, our farmers just go into farming without first finding market and then later after harvesting, they turn to extension workers to find markets for them. At the time of this study, one special interest group under interest had 101 metric tons of unsold maize and this tonnage spilled into the second year and was pleading with the researcher to find a market for them. Nation (2009) also reported agricultural marketing (limited business) as one factor that limits women's participation in farm decision making.

Lastly, physical fitness of a person. Physical fitness was expressed in terms of the age of a person. It was narrated that as ageing takes place, the strength to pursue activities which can lead to fulfilment of the vision deteriorates. This points out to the fact of promoting HHA among the productive age group. Shamma et al. (2018) also found out that 'age' was negatively correlated with participation of tribal women in agriculture activities. Apart from age which reduces the zeal to participate in visioning, knowledge of one's health status through voluntary counselling and testing boosts women's participation in visioning. Emerole et al. (2014) also found that status of health of household members was an important factor influencing participation of female heads of cassava enterprise households.

Contrary to findings by Farnworth and Munachonga (2010) where children were central to success of writing household visions, most youths, did not participate in visioning. This was attributed to the age of children where it was indicated that very young children are just asked or informed. In some instances, it was indicated that much as the youth could be available, discussions could be dominated by parents due to cultural expectations.

5.3.2 Women Participation in Action Planning and Factors Facilitating their Participation

In most cases (78.79 % of women; n=33) took joint decisions in action planning. Most men (69.69%; n=33) also took joint decisions. In terms of their participation scores, women and men had the same participation score (0.80). Joint decision making in planning between men and women as a result of Household Approaches were also reported by Farnworth and Munachonga (2010).

Regarding factors facilitating women's participation in planning as a farm decision making process, availability of records was given as one factor that aids them in planning. In particular, household visions were showcased as records that help them in planning.

Most youths (42.42%; n=33) respondents had no participation in decision making in the area of action planning. This was attributed to less consideration on opinions given by youths and also their absence from home.

5.3.3 Women Participation in Implementation and Factors Affecting their Participation

Women were mostly involved in shelling (participation score of 1.05), men were mostly involved in replanning with a participation score of 0.95, and youth in shelling also (0.68 participation score). Ibrahim et al. (2012) in their study on gender participation and decision-making role in agriculture

related economic activities among gender categories also found dominance of women participation in post-harvest activities.

Regarding types of decision taken by various gender categories, most youths (81%; n=33), were not involved in decision making compared to men (14%; n=33) and women respondents (2%; n=33) in the same type of decision making respectively. Most women respondents (80%; n=33), participated in joint decision making, compared to men respondents (74%; n=33) and youth respondents (64%; n=33). Over all, there were significant variations among their participation score in decision making in relation to maize enterprise production ($\chi^2 (2) = 40.282, p = 0.000$) with a mean rank participation score of 25.00, 39.94, 8.56 in men, women and youth respectively. This implies that much as implementation of maize production activities are jointly done with men, women still do a greater part of maize production work facilitated firstly by women's availability of resources expressed in terms of land. Being a patriarchal system, women do not own land but they have access to the land as long as they are still married to their husband. A report by Population and Housing Census Report Malawi cited in Malawi Government (2017b) also reported of idle land in Mzimba attributing it to its low population pegged at 70 persons per square kilometre, lower than the national figure of 139 persons per square kilometre.

Apart from access to land as a resource, availability of labour facilitated women participation in implementation of most of the activities unfortunately; women are the major labour resource as narrated by one respondent below:

“The one who knows the real impact of hunger is a woman, she is the one who stays at home with the kids, so if she is lazy, she will have problems taking care of the kids” (Female peer member, aged 47, Euthini EPA). This implies that women are driven by productive obligations.

Availability of this labour was also reported in terms of physical fitness enhanced through their participation in VCT programmes. This helps them to know their status and strategize on how to keep fit.

Resource availability was also expressed in terms of availability of inputs. Some soils are so poor to the extent that without inputs, a person knows that they are just wasting their time venturing into farming, hence some decide right away not to implement some activities if they know that they have inadequate inputs.

Food security situation was narrated also as a factor that facilitates women's participation in implementation as a farm decision making process. It was argued that when a household is food insecure, they waste their time looking for casual labour instead of implementing their own activities, this makes the household to fall into a vicious cycle of food insecurity. In other words, food insecurity reduces the availability of labour per household and in particular women who claim to feel a strong need to feed their children than men.

5.3.4 Women Participation in Monitoring and Factors Affecting their Participation

In most cases, 72.72% of the responding men (n=33) and 54.55% of responding women (n=33), took joint decisions. Compared to men, women had a lower participation score in monitoring. This was attributed to a web of household chores in which women are caught in, this reduces their time to monitor progress. This implies that despite these gains in joint decision making with men in monitoring, it is clear that women's reproductive burden is still high. Responsibilities highlighted included, taking care of home, cooking for the household, going to maize mills, drawing water, fetching for firewood, caring for the sick, washing clothes, attending to social obligation like visiki (friendships) and funeral, taking care of large families, kupeleka dango (leading initiation

ceremonies) and patronisation of political meetings hence the need of emphasising the gender balanced tree tool to boost sharing of roles. This finding is in line with Shamma *et al.* (2018) where he reported ‘social participation’ having a negative and significant correlation with participation of tribal women in farming activities. This is because, their active participation in social activities, reduces their time to participate in agriculture activities. The finding on high women’s reproductive burden even after Household Approaches intervention were also reported by Farnworth and Munachonga (2010). Most youth respondents, 20 (n=33) had no participation in decision making in the area of monitoring. Among the factors that facilitated women participation in monitoring is expected benefits from an enterprise. The potential benefits from an enterprise give one the energy to follow up. Emerole *et al.* (2014); Nation (2009) and Shamma *et al.* (2018) also reported of economic benefits as a factor enhancing participation of women in agriculture activities.

The issue of inadequate participation by women in monitoring was worse specially to gardens which are far from homes. This is what one respondent had to say:

“Most of where we do farming is in upland, hence not well patronised.” (Peer member, age, 48, Mpherembe EPA).

Distance of the field from the home was one of the factors Rahman (2008) and Sisay (2018) reported to affecting women participation in agriculture. Walking long distances to farms was reported to be reducing women’s reproductive time which could create problems in their family.

5.3.5 Women Participation in Evaluation and Factors Affecting their Participation

In most cases, 54.56% of the responding men (n=33) and 57.56% of the responding women (n=33) took joint decisions. However, women had a higher participation score compared to men and

women. Most youths, 60.61% respondents (n=33) had no participation in decision making in the area of evaluation. This implies that reflecting on their visions as husband and wife is happening but with no input from youth. Factors that facilitate women participation in evaluation as a farm decision making process are, firstly, collaboration. Collaboration among peer members was narrated as one of the factors that influence women participation in evaluation. Perpetual beer drinking by husbands, was one of the factors mentioned that gives no room for discussions among peer members. Secondly, availability of records was reported as a factor facilitating women participation in evaluation. In particular, household visions were mentioned as narrated in the quotes below:

“Visions remind you where you are coming from, where you are, what you have accomplished so far, if you failed, why?” (Nya Nkhoma, female peer, 46 years, Engucwini EPA)

Mbakaya et al., (2017) also reported of a significant relationship between use of some farm management decision tool and availability of records.

Thirdly, evidence of tangible benefits realised was reported as a factor facilitating women participation in evaluation. Accessing the benefits realised from farming was narrated as one of the factors enhancing women participation in evaluation. On how tangible benefits also encourages them to participate in review, below are other narrations from targeted participants.

“We grew maize, soya and tobacco as a family and we sold. We realised some money. We saw the importance of collaborating in our family and this has helped to give us strength to participate in evaluation.” (Female peer member, aged 33 from Mpherembe EPA).

Some of the benefits narrated included sending of children to private schools, buying of household utensils like pails, baskets and plates. Nation (2009), also reported of: access to and the returns to capital investment as a factor influencing women participation in farm decision making processes.

This chapter discussed results on the four specific objectives of the study: Knowledge of HHA among local facilitators, assessing implementation of household approach with a participatory lens, determining women participation in farm decision making processes and finally, assessing factors affecting women participation in farm decision making processes using the photo voice methodology. Systematic mainstreaming of participatory values was noticed on the way HHA was implemented and how some issues affecting women were addressed and this contributed to the way they participated in farm decision making processes. The next chapter presents conclusions made on each objective of study and the suggested recommendations.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

Informed by a pragmatic philosophical underpinning and an embedded mixed method study research design, this study aimed at exploring the potential of HHA in enhancing women participation in farm decision making processes. The study was guided by participatory perspective and feministic theoretical framework. Set in four Agriculture Extension Planning Areas of Mzimba North, Malawi, this study involved 33 peer households, 33 local facilitators, 11 frontline agriculture extension officers and two subject matter specialists. Specifically, this study addressed the following research questions

1. What is the local facilitators' knowledge of HHA?
2. How is HHA implemented among targeted farming households in Mzimba North?
3. Among peer households in Mzimba North, what is the level of participation of women in farm decision making processes?
4. What factors limit or facilitate active participation of women in farm decision making processes among peer households in Mzimba North?

Section 6.1 below, provides a summary of the main findings followed by recommendations by each objective, theoretical and methodological contributions, limitations of the study, areas for further research and finally, being a study that joined the conversation on development agenda, a section on how the findings have contributed to the advancement of the sustainable development agenda has been incorporated. In the previous chapter, I discussed how data from interviews, focus group

discussions and photo voice was subjected to my analytical framework, and how I went about generating the themes and categories and knowledge scores. In this chapter, I present findings of the study by knowledge scores, themes and categories, supporting it with direct quotations and visual representations from my participants. In the presentation, I maintain the photo essays as originally constructed by my participants. As alluded to earlier, the scenes in the photographs were staged by participants and permission was granted for them to be used in the thesis.

6.1 Summary of the Findings

6.1.1 Local Facilitators' Knowledge of HHA

Local facilitators have an average knowledge in HHA. An analysis of each examined area revealed knowledge gaps especially in principles of HHA. This study recommends that local facilitators be refreshed on the HHA concept with a special emphasis on principles knowledge.

6.1.2 How HHA is Implemented Among Targeted Farming Households in Mzimba North

Mzimba North uses agriculture cooperatives and model villages to implement HHA. This is done with the help of extension workers and lead farmers, with technical support from subject matter specialists. This was done with support from government of Malawi and donor funded projects. Much as agricultural cooperatives and model villages are used as special interests' groups to implement HHA, this study recommends that HHA be implemented through agricultural cooperatives because fulfilment of household vision depends on availability of resources which mainly come from farming business households are involved in. Unlike model villages which mainly focus on mobilisation of services to members and are dormant, the objectives of an agricultural cooperative directly support this business component because they aim at promoting

business hence in a good position to spearhead progress of households towards their visions however there is need for proper alignment of cooperative vision at a macro level and household visions of members at micro level for the visions to be talking to each other. When micro and macro visions feed into each other, it taps on relevant generative themes and this ignites energy for continued participation in farming business.

Regarding criteria for selection of peer households, some were chosen by fellow community members, local facilitators or extension workers depending on their commitment. Depending on their performance some peer members become local facilitators. This study recommends that the community should be the one selecting peer households for acceptability in the communities where they work. Some joined out of interest in the HHA concept. Those joining out of interest is a plus in adoption process hence they should be encouraged.

The HHA tools which were mostly known and practiced by participants is household visioning and action planning. This study recommends that all tools in the HHA package be equally emphasised because they complement each other.

The biggest challenge noticed was inadequate resources for implementation. This study recommends selling of the HHA concept to other stakeholders who can support it so that there is cost sharing in the cost involved in implementing the HHA concept.

6.1.3 Level of Participation of Women in Farm Decision Making Processes

Like men, women took joint decision making in all the farm decision making processes, however women had higher participation scores in household visioning, planning, implementation and evaluation compared to men and the youth. When it came to monitoring, women had a lower

participation score in monitoring than men but higher than the youth. Their low participation was due to multiple roles the women have. This study recommends that sharing of roles be encouraged among peer households.

6.1.4 Factors Limiting or Facilitating Active Participation of Women in Farm Decision Making Processes among Peer Households in Mzimba North

Factors that facilitate active participation in farm decision making include: Availability of resources, time, markets and records, knowledge in HHA, health status, food security status, stability of homes, sharing of benefits, potential enterprise benefits, long distances to farms and collaboration among peer members.

For example, at visioning and implementation, availability of resources was reported to facilitating women's participation in farm decision making. One of the ways in which HHA is implemented is through cooperatives. Apart from offering inputs on loan, cooperatives offer loan services as a way of facilitating availability of resources among its members. The HHA approach does not just end at making sure resources are available to its members, it also incorporates a farming business element in its members in order to build the financial sustainability for its members. Secondly knowledge in HHA as a factor that facilitates women's participation in farm decision making processes is done through targeting all household members for HHA training, creating a deliberate inclusion of women to participate in HHA trainings. Thirdly, health status of household members was reported as a factor also that facilitates women participation in farm decision making processes. One of the ways in which good health status was reported to be reinforced by HHA among farming households was through encouraging household members to go for voluntary counselling and testing. Knowledge of their status encourages them to participate with hope that there is a future for them

wealthy to be envisioned. Lastly collaboration among household members was expressed through sharing of resources realized from previous seasons and peace in the family.

Availability of records was also reported as another factor that facilitates women's participation in farm decision making processes, especially at planning and evaluation. Among the many types of records households targeted with HHA are encouraged to have is the household visions and according to this study, visions were the dominant records found among households targeted with HHA. It was reported that visions encourage women to participate in planning and evaluation as farm decision making processes because they help them remain focused on a future planned for. However much more needs to be done to encourage women to keep other records needed in farming business.

Lastly, it was also reported that inadequate time affect women participation in farm decision making processes especially at implementation. HHA encourages sharing of roles among household members through promoting administration of gender balanced tree tool. However according to this study, apart from this tool not been internalized and practiced much among local facilitators which affects the intended outcome of this tool, the tool directly tackles the unequal gender roles and plans for intervention for sharing of responsibilities which seem to challenge culturally established norms, hence the resistance which translates into perpetuating unbalanced role performance among gender categories.

These factors require a holistic response among stakeholders, however the current situation is that apart from agriculture staff, other stakeholders are not involved in HHA implementation hence a strong need of selling HHA by the Government of Malawi- Agriculture extension experts, to other stakeholders for their participation in implementation.

6.2 Significance of the Study

6.2.1 Theoretical Contributions

Most of the reviewed studies were skewed towards assessing women's participation in implementation of agricultural activities and factors affecting their participation. However, if rural communities are to transform, there is need of engaging farming families beyond just women involvement in implementation and this is just what this study did: looking at women participation in visioning, planning, monitoring, evaluation and factors affecting their participation with a participatory perspective and a feminist lens as outlined in the following section.

As participatory values, inclusion was taken into consideration through production of individual household visions where family members (men, women and youth) could first of all come up with individual visions, and then thereafter, from individual visions, a consolidated vision for the whole household could be made. This was done so to make sure needs and aspirations of all family members are included in the household vision. Inclusion was also promoted through targeting of household for HHA implementation. Much as a household is targeted for implementation of HHA, this targeting is based on interest of a family member to implement HHA or selecting a household based on commitment of a member of a household. This implies that there is need from moving from a committed or an interested individual in a household to tapping on generative themes that can ignite interest in all household members if households are to be transformed under the HHA. Summarising inclusion in Household Approach, this study has established that inclusion of women in HHA is not a problem hence the need to scale up inclusive aspects for enhanced participation of women in farm decision making.

Empowerment as a participatory value was operationally measured in this study by examining level of women's involvement in farm decision-making processes. Women participation score in most farm decision making processes was higher than other family members. Reasons that enhanced their participation include: Availability of resources to implement activities leading to realisation of household visions, potential enterprise benefits, stable homes, sharing of benefits in the household, knowledge in HHA, availability of records. If we are to continue seeing women participating in farm decision making processes, the outlined factors have to be considered apart from just making them physical participate in process activities of HHA at household level.

Promotion of equity was noticed in a way where all family members are trained on Household Approach with the essence of giving an equal chance of participation. Equity was also promoted through use of symbols so that those who were illiterate are not left behind. In addition, technical direction is also given when making plans, also flexible times of meeting with peer households by local facilitators. Summarising equity initiative in HHA, this study has established that equity initiatives enhancing women participation in farm decision making, are incorporated hence need of up scaling these initiatives.

From 36 peers, the HHA concept had been up scaled to 118 peer households by incorporating committed individuals to become peer members. Apart from choosing committed individuals to become peer members, this study has established that interest to participation of community members can also evolve from the output of an intervention which is sustainable because it comes from within an individual and this interest should be cultivated and managed.

On promotion of transparency and accountability, HHA has a mechanism that encourage household members to have periodic reviews on their plans, this encourages women to participate in farm

decision making at visioning and evaluation because they feel their voice is heard and this should be further promoted in HHA implementation.

6.2.2 Methodological Contribution

Methodologically, I argue that this study further lends support to the fast-growing body of knowledge about photo voice as a method of research, particularly so with women participation in agriculture. Using the participatory approach, this study has shown that issues related to inclusivity, equity, sharing and empowerment can be addressed, and this could be a very good approach in subsequent studies for those people who want to study how participatory values are taken into consideration in HHA, anyone to go by this route, will be guided by these tenets.

In addition, this research was more or less action research, photo voice participants were able to explore their own environments and identify what factors facilitate or impede their participation to farm decision making processes. Through photo elicitation, knowledge production was facilitated as opposed to knowledge gathering, as is the case with other methods, consequently, this particular study has contributed towards practice in implementing HHA. In addition, using HHA, which promotes participatory approaches, it has helped to understand how women are encouraged to participate in farm decision making processes, apparently from my findings now, using photo voice methodology, women have shown that they are now participating more than ever before in farm decision making processes.

Finally, the unintended outcome of this study has been the empowerment of my participants. I say unintended because as I had indicated in my focus that the purpose was to explore the potential of HHA in enhancing women participation in farm decision making processes. Yet remarks like, “*We can now teach HHA at Natural Resources College*” indicate how photo voice empowered them.

6.3 Contribution towards Sustainable Development Goals

By 2030, all nations are working towards achieving zero hunger for all according to Sustainable Goal number two. Malawi is one of the countries that committed itself to working towards achievement of sustainable goals. Recently, Malawi launched the National Agriculture policy which envisages Sustainable Agricultural Transformation with consideration of increased engagement by women, youth and vulnerable groups in agriculture policy processes and programs which also contributes towards realisation of Sustainable Goal number five of achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Findings of this study will inform policy makers on how best they can promote engagement of women in programme processes thereby contributing towards agriculture transformation.

6.4 Limitations of the Study

This study was a case of Mzimba North district. Methodology used can be applied to other settings however findings cannot be generalised beyond the selected case study.

6.5 Recommendations for Further Research

Transformation is a process, implying that the only way gains in Household Approach can be sustained, is through empowering youth who will take on the farming mantle from their parents, but the way things are, there will be intergeneration attrition of gains being registered under HHA which will slow down the planned transformation of the agro based economy of Malawi due to low participation of youth in farm decision making processes as found out in this study. This study proposes further research surrounding factors limiting youth participation in agriculture so that interventions are planned for accordingly by all service providers in the agriculture sector.

6.6 Final Reflections

The major objective of this study was to explore if HHA enhances participation of women in farm decision making processes. This study has established that inclusion, equity, sharing, transparency and accountability participatory values incorporated in the Household Approach, were able to address most factors facilitating women participation in farm decision making process thereby enhancing their participation in most farm decision making processes.

Lastly, the zeal to participate in farm decision making processes, naturally exist in women, driven by their reproductive roles as mothers as epitomised in the quote below:

“The one who knows the real impact of hunger is a woman, she is the one who stays at home with the kids, so if she is lazy, she will have problems taking care of the kids” (Female peer member, aged 47, Euthini EPA).

This inner zeal can be used to drive the implementation of multi-sectorial interventions required to promoting women participation in farm decision making processes.

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Appendix 1: Interview guide for assessing implementation of Household Approach with subject matter specialists and front-line extension workers.

Demographic Information

- Name of Interviewee
- Age
- Designation
- Sex
- Education levels

Implementation of Household Approach

- Have you ever implemented the household approach?
- If yes, how is it being implemented in your area
- How long have you been involved in implementation of household approach?
- How many local facilitators/peer households do you work with by gender? Local facilitators (___m___f), _____peer households (___m___f)
- What are the opportunities you had in implementing HHA and how did they help you in implementing HHA.
- What challenges did you encounter in implementing HHA and give recommendation for each challenge?
 - If not implementing household approach, give reasons.
 - Do you practice household approach at your household?
 - Share your evidence of your practicing household approach at your household (document

evidence)

- What benefits did you notice in practicing HHA?
- If no practicing HHA, why do you not practice HHA at your household?
- Have you ever been backstopped on HHA.

(i) If yes how often?

(ii) No

- Do you think it is worthwhile promoting HHA among farming families? Yes/No-
Justify your answer
- Do you have any suggestions on how this instructional technology would be up scaled?

Appendix 2: Interview guide for assessing implementation of Household Approach with local facilitators

A: Demographic Information.

- Name of Interviewee (Dzina)
- Age (Vyaka)
- Sex (Mwanalume/Mwanakazi)
- Education level (Masambiro yinu)

B: Implementation of Household Approach

- Have you ever implemented the Household Approach? (Kasi mukutolapo nawo lwande pa vya Household Approach?)
- If yes, how is it being implemented in your area? (Pala ni nthena, kasi Household Approach mukwendesya uli mdera linu?)
- How long have you been involved in implementation of household approach? (Mwatola nyengo yitali uli mukwendesya Household Approach?)
- How many staff/peer households do you work with by gender? (Kasi ni walangizi walinga panji ma peer households yalinga ayo mukugwila nawo mulimo wa Household Approach? __walangizi (__m__f), _____ ma peer households (__m__f).)
- What are the opportunities you had in implementing HHA? (Ni vinthu ngati nivichi ivo yikamuvwilani kuyendesya Household Approach?)
- What challenges did you encounter in implementing HHA and give recommendation for each challenge? (Ni maunonono uli awo mukusangana nawo pa kwendesya Household Approach? Pelekani masachizgo yinu pa ivo vingachitika kumazga masuzgo ayo

mwayowoya)

- If not implementing Household Approach, give reasons. (Pala mukutolapo lwande yayi pa vya Household Approach, pelekani vifukwa?)
- Do you practice household approach at your household? (Kasi vya Household Approach mukuchita panyumba pinu?)
- Share your evidence of practicing Household Approach at your household? (Tionesyaniko ukaboni wakuti vya Household Approach vikuchitika pa nyumba pinu?)
- What benefits did you notice in practicing HHA? (Mbuweni uli uwo mwausanga pakutola nawo mbali vya Household Approach?)
- If not practicing HHA, why do you not practice HHA at your household? (Pala mukuchita yayi vya Household Approach, kasi ntchifukwa uli?)
- Have you ever been backstopped on HHA? (Kasi mulikuchisyikapo pa vya Household Approach?) If yes how often? (Pala ni nthena, nkhanandi uli?)
- Do you think it is worthwhile promoting HHA among farming families? Yes/No. Justify your answer. (Kasi kulutisya panthazi Household Approach nkhwakukhumbikwa? Mbuni?)
- Do you have any suggestions on how this instructional technology would be up scaled? (Munamasachizyo umo masambiro ya Household Approach yangalutila panthazi?).

Appendix 3: Interview guide for assessing implementation of Household Approach with peer households

Demographic Information.

- Name of peer household (Dzina).
- Household headship (Mutu wabanja)
- What is your main source of livelihood in order of priority? (Kasi pa umoyo winu wa zuwa na zuwa mukugomezga vichi kuti muvwirike?)
- Household size (Unandi wa wanthu mu nyumba yinu).
- How did you become peer households? (Mukasankhika uli kukhala a peer household?)

Implementation of Household Approach

- Have you ever implemented the Household Approach? (Kasi muli kutolapo lwande pa vya Household Approach?)
- If yes, share your evidence of your practicing household approach at your household? (Tionesyaniko ukaboni wakuti vya Household Approach vikuchitika pa nyumba pinu?)
- If yes, how is it being implemented in your household? (Pala vya Household Approach vikuchitika pa nyumba yinu, longosolani umo mukwendesyela)
- How long have you been involved in implementation of Household Approach? (Mwatola nyengu itali uli mukwendesya Household Approach?)
- How many staff/ local facilitators do you work with by gender?(Ka ni walangizi walinga panji ma local facilitator walinga awo mukugwila nayo vya Household Approach?_____ local facilitator (___m___f), _____peer households (___m___f).
- What are the opportunities you had in implementing HHA? (Ni m`wayi uli iyo yikamuvwilani kuyendesya Household Approach?)
- What challenges did you encounter in implementing HHA and give recommendation for each challenge? (Ni maunonono uli awo mukusangana nawo pa kwendesya Household Approach? Ndipo mukuona kuti mungayamazga uli?)

- If not implementing Household Approach, give reasons. (Pala mukuchita yayi vya Household Approach,kasi ntchifukwa uli?)
- What benefits did you notice in practicing HHA? (Mbuweni nguni uwo mwaunapo pakutola nao luwande vya Household Approach?)
- Have you ever been backstopped on HHA? (Kasi mulikunjilikizgikapo pavya Household Approach?) If yes how often? (Pala ni nthena, kanandi uli?)
- Do you think it is worthwhile promoting HHA among farming families? Justify your answer. (Kasi kulutisya panthazi Household Approach nkhwakukhumbikwa? uli?)
- Do you have any suggestions on how this instructional technology would be carried up scaled? (Munamasachizyo umo Masambiro ya Household Approach yangalutila panthazi?)

Appendix 4: Interview guide for determining the level of participation of women in farm decision making processes of priority enterprises

- Evidence of availability of individual and joint household visions. (Umboni wakuti muna masomphenya yakulembeka pa pepala ya wana, wamama, adada naya mose.)

	Availability of vision (Kusangika kwa mboniwoni yakulembeka pa pepala)	Details of Vision (Ivo vili mumboniwoni)
Men(Wadada)		
Women(Wamama)		
Youth (Wana)		
Joint (ya Mose)		

- How about your participation in joint household visions. Use the following scores in your rating; 1 = not involved; 2= opinion sought; 3= opinion considered; 4= joint decision; 5= independent decision. Langulukanipo pakutolapo lwande kwinu pa mboniwoni ya mose aya mwantheula. 1 = pala mukatolapo lwande yayi, 2 = pala masachizgo yinu yakafumbikapo, 3 = pala masachizgo yinu yakateyelezgeka nakuwikikapo, 4= pala mukapangila lumoza, 5= pala mukachita mwekha.

	Men/wadada	Women/wamama	Youth/wana
Level of participation in household visioning. Mlingo uwo mukatolelapo lwande			

- Cite cases of your rating above. Longosolani kutolapo lwande kwinu uko mwayowoya pachanya apa pakupeleka viyelezegelelo.
- Evidence of availability of farm household action plans. Umboni wakuti muna ma dongosolo la ulimi wa panyumba pinu
- How about your participation in development of farm household action plans-. Use the following scores in your rating; 1 = not involved; 2= opinion sought; 3= opinion considered; 4= joint

decision; 5= independent decision. Langulukanipo pakutolapo lwande kwinu pa kupanga dongosolo la ulimi pa nyumba pinu 1 = pala mukatolapo lwande yayi, 2 = pala masachizgo yinu yakafumbikapo, 3 = pala masachizgo yinu yakateyezgeka nakuwikikapo, 4= pala mukapangila lumoza, 5= pala mukachita mwekha.

	Men/wadada	Women/wamama	Youth/wana
Level of participation in formulation of farm household plans Mlingo uwo mukatolelapo lwande			

- Cite cases of your rating above. Longosolani kutolapo lwande kwinu uko mwayowoya pachanya apa pakupeleka viyelezgelo.
- Which are your priority enterprises in order of priority? Pa ulimi winu, mukudalila maulimi ngani?
- How were they decided? Mwayowoyelachi kuti ndiyo mukuyagomezga?
- How about your participation in implementation of activities in relation to priority enterprises in the household action plan. Cite activity of an enterprise and your participation Use the following scores in your rating; 1 = not involved; 2= opinion sought; 3= opinion considered; 4= joint decision; 5= independent decision. Langulukanipo pakutolapo lwande kwinu pa kuchita ntchito za ulimi winu uwo mukugomezga wakwamba mwantheula:

Enterprise/ ulimi	Activity of an enterprise/ ntchito	Who decides/ ninjani wakuda ngilila	Participation by male respondents/kutolapo lwande kwa wadada					Participation by female respondents/kutolapo lwande kwa wamama					Participation by youth respondents/kutolapo lwande kwa wana					
			NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	

Key; NI (not involved)=no kutolapo lwande, OS(Opinion sought)/masachizgo yinu yakafumbika, OC(masachizgo yinu yakateghelezgeka), JD(Joint decision)-mukachitila pamoza, ID(Independent decision- mukachita pamwekha

- Do you think it is worthwhile participating in implementation of enterprise activities? Yes or no, explain your answer. Mukuona kuti ntchakwenelera kutolapo nao lwande pa kuchita milimo ya ulimi winu?
- Do you have suggestion on issues (if any) of your participation in implementation of activities related to selected enterprises? Munamasachizgo pa vinthu ivo vikumuphinjani kutolapo lwande pa milimo ya ulimi winu?
- How about your participation in monitoring activities in relation to priority enterprises towards household action plan. Cite activity of an enterprise and your participation Use the following scores in your rating; 1 = not involved; 2= opinion sought; 3= opinion considered; 4= joint decision; 5= independent decision. Langulukanipo pakutolapo lwande kwinu pa kuchita kalondolondo pa ulimi pa nyumba pinu 1 = pala mukatolapo lwande yayi, 2 = pala masachizgo yinu yakafumbikapo, 3 = pala masachizgo yinu yakateyezgeka nakuwikikapo, 4= pala mukapangila lumoza, 5= pala muchita mwekha.

Enterprise /ulimi	'Monitoring' activity of an enterprise/Ntch ito ya kalondolondo	Who decides/wa kuchisya	Participation by male respondents/kutolap o lwande kwa wadada					Participation by female respondents/ Kutolapo lwande kwa wamama					Participation by youth respondents/ Kutolapo lwande kwa wana					
			NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	

Key; NI (not involved)=no kutolapo lwande, OS(Opinion sought)/masachizgo yinu yakafumbika, OC(masachizzgo yinu yakateghelezgeka), JD(Joint decision)/mukachitila pamoza, ID(Independent decision mukachita pamwekha

- Do you have any evidence of monitoring activities done? Yes or no. If yes, share the documentation. Ka muna umboni wakutolapo lwande kwinu pa kuchita kalondolondo? Pelekani umboni?
- Do you think it is worthwhile participating in monitoring of enterprise activities? Yes or no, explain your answer. Mukuona kuti ntchakwenelera kutolapo nao lwande pa kuchita nao kalondolondo wa ulimi winu?
- Do you have suggestion on issues (if any) of your participation in monitoring of activities related to selected enterprises? Munamasachizgo pa vinthu ivo vikumuwezegelani kumanyuma kutolapo lwande pa kalondolondo wa ulimi winu?
- How about your participation in evaluation activities in relation to priority enterprises towards household action plan. Cite activity of an enterprise and your participation. Use the following scores in your rating; 1 = not involved; 2= opinion sought; 3= opinion considered; 4= joint decision; 5= independent decision. Langulukanipo kutolapo lwande kwinu pa kuwonaso umo ulimi winu wayendela mwantheula:

Enterprise/ Ulimi	'Evaluation' activity of an enterprise/mlimo wa kuonaso	Who decides/ Wakuonaso	Participation by male respondents/kutolapo lwande kwa wadada					Participation by female respondents/ Kutolapo lwande kwa wamama					Participation by youth respondents/ Kutolapo lwande kwa wana					
			NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	NI	OS	OC	JD	ID	

Key; NI (not involved)=no kutolapo lwande, OS(Opinion sought)/masachizgo yinu yakafumbika, OC(masachizgo yinu yakateghelezgeka), JD(Joint decision)/mukachitila pamoza, ID(Independent decision -mukachita pamwekha

- Do you have any evidence of evaluation activities done? Yes or no. If yes, share the documentation. Ka muna ukaboni wakutolapo lwande kwinu pa kuona umo ulimi wayendera? Pelekani ukaboni?
- Do you think it is worthwhile participating in evaluation of enterprise activities? Yes or no, explain your answer. Mukuona kuti ntchakwenelera kutolapo nao lwande pa kuona umo ulimi winu wayendera?
- Do you have suggestion on issues (if any) of your participation in monitoring of activities related to selected enterprises? Munamasachizgo pa vinthu ivo vikumuwezelani kumanyuma kutolapo lwande pa kuonaso omo ulimi winu wayendela?

Appendix 5: Photo voice prompts

No 1 (Pakwamba)

“Jambulani vithuzi (nambala yili yose): vya vinthu ivyo vikumuvwilani /vikumutondesyani kuti mutolepo lwande kuwa nawo pa vidumbilano vya mboniwoni ya ulimi munyumba yinu”.

Wonesyesyani ichi: Pambele mundajambule chithuzi, pemphani dankha chizomelezgo kwa wanthu awo mukukhumba kuwajambula.

Jambulani chithuzi:

Pelekani mutu wa chithuzi:

Kufuma pa chithuzi icho mwajambula, niwuthenga uli uwo mukupeleka kwa wanyinu pa vinthu ivo vikukhwasya wazimayi kutolapo lwande pakukaka fundo za ulimi?

Signature ya chizomelezgo kutola chithuzi:_____

No 2 (Kachiwiri)

“Jambulani vithuzi (nambala yili yose): vya vinthu ivyo vikumutondesyani /kumuvwirani kuti mutolepo lwande kupanga nawo ndondomeko (action plan) yakukwanilisisya mboniwoni ya ulimi mu nyumba yinu”.

Wonesyesyani ichi: Pambele mundajambule chithuzi, pemphani dankha chizomelezgo kwa wanthu awo mukukhumba kuwajambula.

Jambulani chithuzi:

Pelekani mutu wa chithuzi:

Kufuma pa chithuzi icho mwajambula, niwuthenga uli uwo mukupeleka kwa wanyinu pa vinthu ivo vikukhwasya wazimayi kutolapo lwande pakukaka fundo za ulimi?

Signature ya chizomelezgo kutola chithuzi:_____

No 3(Kachitatu)

“Jambulani vithuzi (nambala yili yose): vya vinthu ivyo vikumutondesyani/kumuvwirani kuti mutolepo lwande kupanga nawo kalondolondo(monitoring) wa zintchito za ulimi pa banja pinu”.

Onesyesyani ichi: Pambele mundajambule chithuzi, pemphani dankha chizomelezgo kwa wanthu awo mukukhumba kuwajambula.

Jambulani chithuzi:

Pelekani mutu wa chithuzi:

Kufuma pa chithuzi icho mwajambula, niwuthenga uli uwo mukupeleka kwa wanyinu pa vinthu ivo vikukhwasya wazimayi kutolapo lwande pakukaka fundo za ulimi?

Signature ya chizomelezgo kutola chithuzi: _____

No 4 (Kachinayi)

“Jambulani vithuzi (nambala yili yose): vya vinthu ivyo vikumutondesyani/kumuvwirani kuti mutolepo lwande kuunika (evaluation) umo ulimi pabanja pinu wayendela”.

Onesyesyani ichi: Pambele mundajambule chithuzi, pemphani dankha chizomelezgo kwa wanthu awo mukukhumba kuwajambula.

Jambulani chithuzi:

Pelekani mutu wa chithuzi:

Kufuma pa chithuzi icho mwajambula, niwuthenga uli uwo mukupeleka kwa wanyinu pa vinthu ivo vikukhwasya wazimayi kutolapo lwande pakukaka fundo za ulimi?

Appendix 6: Letter seeking informed consent from participant

Dear Madam/Sir,

RE: REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT

You are kindly invited to participate in a research study I am conducting as part of my PhD degree (Transformative Community Development) at Mzuzu University under the supervision of Doctor Ndengu. You have been chosen as one of the key informants in this study. The title of my research

is, 'Exploring the potential of household approach in enhancing participation of women in farm decision making processes'. Specifically, this study aims to assess implementation of Household Approach, determine extent of women participation in farm decision making processes and finally, identify factors affecting or facilitating women participation in farm decision making processes.

With your permission, the interview will be audio recorded to facilitate collection of information and later transcribe for analysis. Participants' anonymity and confidentiality throughout the project, as well as in the reporting of the findings is assured.

Participation is purely voluntary hence you at liberty to withdraw from the study at any time if you so wish and no harm will befall you. For any further information, I enclose the contacts of my supervisor below.

I trust that my request is acceptable

Yours sincerely

Beatrice Mbakaya (0888554405)

(PhD-Candidate- TCD)

E-mail: mbatemwa2@gmail.com

D. M. Ndengu (PhD) - Major Supervisor - 0888395596

Email: ndengud@gmail.com

DECLARATION

(To be completed by participant)

I _____ (full name of participant) hereby confirm that I understand the contents of this document and the nature of the research project, and I consent to participating in the project and the use of data for research purposes.

CHIZOMELEZYO CHA WAKUTOLAPO LWANDE

KUSANTHULA UMO HAUSI HODI APULUCHI YIKULIMBIKISYILA WA MAMA KUTOLAPO LWANDE PA FUNDO ZA CHITUKUKO CHA ULIMI MU MZIMBA NORTH

Mukumanyiskika nakupempheka kutolapo lwande pa kafukufuku uyo wakuchitika na a Beatrice Mbakaya awo wakuchita masambilo yawo (mu vya kulutisya panthazi chitukuko) pa Mzuzu University mwakulongozgeka na a sambizi wawo a DR Ndengu.

Chakulata cha kafukufuku uyu ni kuona umo household approach yikulutiskila panthazi kuchisya wamama kutolapo lwande pa fundo za chitukuko cha ulimi. Nkhani zose zakukhumbikwa pakafukufuku uyu, zifukulikenge kwizila mu ivo walimi wokusungwa(records), ivo walimi wajambulenge (maphoto), na vidumbilano. Kafukufuku uyu wavwilenge kulutiska panthazi chitukuko cha vya ulimi.

Munawanangwa kuleka kutolapo lwande pa nyengo yili yose kwambula dipo. Vidumbilamo vyose vitolekenge na kusungika mwa chisisi.

Pala mungawa na mafumbo yali yose, mungakhwaszana na : Dr D.M Ndengu, Mzuzu University or mungawalembela ku mail bokosi iyi: Email: ndengud@gmail.com or Mrs Mbakaya pa foni iyi: 0888554405 or walongozgi wane pa foni iyi: 0888395596

Yewo chomene apo mukuwonesya khumbiro kutolapo lwande pa kafukufuku uyu.

Msambiri: Beatrice Mbakaya_____

Nduvyo pa maganizo yinu

(Awo watolengepo lwande)

Ine _____ (Zina na Chiongo chinu)

nkhuzomelezga sono kuti napulikiska vya pempho ili na umo kafukufuku wachitikilenge.

Nkhuzomelezga kutolapo lwande nakuti ma lizati ya kafukufuku uyu yakagwire ntchito pa ndondomeko ya kafukufuku uyu. Napulikiska kuti nina ufulu kuleka nyengo yili yose pala nakhumba.

Siginecha yawakutolapo lwande: _____ Deti: _____

Phoni nambala yinu: _____

Appendix 7: Knowledge test on HHA and Marking guide

What is household Approach?

1. An extension approach- 1 mark
2. promoting- 1 mark

3. power relations-1 mark
4. among adult and youth household members- 1mark
5. in order to promote equitable access and control over resources, assets and benefits- 1 mark

What are the principles of household approach?

6. Regular and consistent individual household visits by the local facilitator- 1 mark
7. Involvement of all adult and youth household members -1 mark
8. Guidance by the extension worker in the implementation of the approach -1 mark
9. Accountability of the household in the implementation of the action plan -1 mark
10. Well trained local facilitators on the approach. -1 mark

What are the objectives of Household Approach?

11. Promotes transparency and accountability in the household undertakings thereby reducing suspicion and gender based domestic violence among the members. -1 mark
12. Creates a sense of responsibility and self-reliance by all household members due to their involvement in planning, implementation and review of the activities. - 1 mark
13. Encourages the household to operate as a unit in its undertakings thereby generating confidence in each other's contribution. - 1 mark
14. Ensures equitable access to and control over resources, assets and benefits among household members. - 1mark

15. Reduces the risk of HIV infection in the family due to increased knowledge and transparency in the acquisition and utilization of resources and benefits. - 1 mark
16. Enables ownership and continuity of farming business in the event of death, divorce or absentee spouse as a result of collaborative planning and implementation of activities among husband, wife and children. - 1 mark
17. Provides role models for the community. -1 mark

What is the procedure for implementing Household Approach?

18. Step 1: Awareness meetings on the Household Approach for local leaders.1 mark
19. Step 2: Awareness meetings for farmers from the special interest groups or any identified farmer-based organization on the Household Approach in collaboration with some local leaders and extension providers if available -1 mark.
20. Step3: Selection of peer households. - 1 mark
21. Step 4: Orientation of the selected peer households on the approach. -1 mark
22. Step 5 Training of the peer households on HHA- 1 mark
23. Step 6: Collection of household baseline data. -1 mark
24. Step 7: Vision setting. -1 mark
25. Step 8: Identification of issues at household level. 1 mark
26. Step 9: Consolidation and prioritization of Issues for Action Planning. 1 mark
27. Step 10: Household Action Planning.1-mark