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Analyzing the factors driving the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi

International Food Policy Research Institute, Lilongwe

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THE COST OF THE **GENDER GAP** IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda



Table 5.5. Work Time by Gender, Month, and Age According to the Categories of Time Recorded in the Survey, Malawi-National, 2004

	Cooking laundry, and cleaning	Collecting water	Collecting fire-wood	Agricultural work	Running non-ag. business	Helping for non-ag. business	Casual, part-time & ganyu work	Salaried work	Total work (mean)	Total work (median)	Working less than 10 hours	Working more than 70 hours
Adult males (age 15 and over), national												
March 2004	1.6	0.5	0.5	13.9	3.4	0.7	2.5	6.0	29.1	24.5	27.4	8.0
April 2004	1.9	0.6	0.5	13.5	5.4	0.7	2.5	6.3	31.5	30.0	18.0	7.3
May 2004	1.9	0.6	0.3	11.8	4.5	0.8	1.8	6.6	28.3	26.0	24.3	5.4
June 2004	1.9	0.9	0.3	10.9	3.8	0.7	2.5	8.5	29.6	30.0	22.0	4.7
July 2004	2.2	0.9	0.6	10.5	5.4	0.5	3.2	5.7	29.0	27.0	19.7	5.3
August 2004	2.4	0.7	0.3	10.7	5.7	0.4	2.5	6.0	28.6	25.0	21.8	5.4
Sept. 2004	2.7	0.8	0.4	10.8	3.9	0.4	3.0	9.0	31.0	28.0	19.6	7.7
Oct. 2004	2.2	0.6	0.3	13.8	4.1	0.2	3.4	6.4	31.1	30.0	17.7	6.5
Nov. 2004	2.6	0.7	0.4	15.8	3.0	0.2	2.7	8.9	34.4	34.0	12.3	7.6
Dec. 2004	1.8	0.6	0.3	20.6	4.2	0.3	3.2	5.7	36.7	36.0	6.8	6.5
Jan. 2005	2.4	1.0	0.3	18.5	3.4	0.1	2.5	7.6	35.9	35.0	8.8	9.2
Feb. 2005	1.8	0.7	0.3	15.6	3.1	0.2	2.2	6.7	30.6	30.0	16.1	4.5
March 2005	2.4	0.7	0.3	14.2	3.9	0.5	2.6	7.5	32.2	30.0	16.3	7.1
Adult females (age 15 and over), national												
March 2004	14.8	5.3	3.0	12.5	2.2	1.1	1.7	1.4	41.9	38.0	11.8	17.4
April 2004	14.0	5.1	2.1	13.0	2.5	0.6	1.2	1.2	39.8	37.0	11.8	12.9
May 2004	13.6	5.4	2.3	13.2	1.6	0.6	1.0	1.3	39.0	38.0	10.9	10.9
June 2004	15.0	6.1	2.3	11.0	2.3	0.5	1.7	1.5	40.3	38.0	10.7	14.4
July 2004	14.5	6.4	2.4	8.6	2.6	0.3	1.6	1.2	37.7	35.0	11.5	10.9
August 2004	15.3	7.0	2.3	9.6	3.0	0.2	1.0	1.1	39.6	37.0	8.1	11.6
Sept. 2004	15.2	6.9	2.1	11.0	2.5	0.4	0.9	1.2	40.3	38.5	9.6	12.8
Oct. 2004	15.3	6.9	2.1	14.6	2.0	0.3	1.0	1.6	43.7	43.0	7.7	12.1
Nov. 2004	14.6	6.7	2.0	16.4	1.6	0.3	1.3	2.3	45.2	45.0	7.1	14.6
Dec. 2004	13.6	5.9	1.6	20.2	1.6	0.2	1.7	1.0	45.9	45.5	6.3	12.2
Jan. 2005	14.2	7.8	2.0	17.4	1.0	0.5	1.2	1.8	45.9	46.0	7.4	13.1
Feb. 2005	14.1	6.4	1.7	15.1	1.3	0.2	1.6	1.2	41.9	41.5	8.5	11.3
March 2005	14.7	6.8	2.1	13.2	1.5	0.3	1.3	1.6	41.5	40.5	6.9	10.1

Source: Authors' estimation using 2004 HIS.



Closing the gender gap in Malawi



The “conditional” gender gap is bigger:

- * a gender gap in agricultural productivity of 31 per cent;
- * closing it would increase crop production by over 8.1 per cent
- * increasing agricultural GDP by 6.7 per cent
- * and total GDP by US\$110 million

The “drivers” of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi:

1. that women's plots do not have access to enough male family labour
 2. that men produce higher value crops
 3. that men have better agricultural implements than women
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3. is a technology. So female-managed plots make different cropping choices and face different technological constraints in their farming

District	Mzimba
Village	Kajawasoko
No of households	77
No in focus group discussions	23
Farm size range	2 – 5 acres
Key crops	maize, tobacco, groundnuts, beans
Distinguishing features	Detailed awareness of climate change
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid contributing farm labour on land they do not operate for themselves
Third most important driver	Economic consequences of gender-based violence
Village	Engucwini
No of households	43
No in focus group discussions	43
Farm size range	1 – 4 ha
Key crops	maize, groundnuts, soy, cassava, beans, tobacco
Distinguishing features	Producer co-op chaired by a woman
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid contributing farm labour on land they do not operate for themselves
Third most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide cash to meet household needs
Village	Chitumbilidi
No of households	65
No in focus group discussions	21
Farm size range	1.5 – 3 ha
Key crops	maize, groundnuts, soy, tobacco, cassava
Distinguishing features	Women process soy milk for sale
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide cash to meet household needs
Third most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid contributing farm labour on land they do not operate for themselves

District	Salima
Village	Matonga East
No of households	1164
No in focus group discussions	29
Farm size range	.04 ha
Key crops	maize, groundnuts, soy, cotton, cowpeas, chillis
Distinguishing features	Matrilineal society but with extensive male gender-based violence
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households, as well as an “intersectoral” gender gap
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid contributing farm labour on land they do not operate for themselves
Third most important driver	Economic consequences of gender-based violence
Village	Chindoole
No of households	55
No in focus group discussions	40
Farm size range	0.4 ha
Key crops	maize, groundnuts, cotton, cowpeas
Distinguishing features	Matrilineal society but with extensive male gender-based violence
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Economic consequences of gender-based violence
Third most important driver	Lack of male labour for senior wives in polygamous and female-headed households
Village	Chizuwi
No of households	2500
No in focus group discussions	43
Farm size range	0.4 ha
Key crops	maize, groundnuts, cowpeas, soya, cassava, rice, cotton
Distinguishing features	Matrilineal society but with extensive male gender-based violence
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Economic consequences of gender-based violence
Third most important driver	Lack of male labour for senior wives in polygamous and female-headed households

District	Nsanje
Village	Jimu
No of households	632
No in focus group discussions	26
Farm size range	0.2 ha
Key crops	maize, groundnuts, sweet potato, sorghum, millet
Distinguishing features	Waged labour most important source of income
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Economic consequences of gender-based violence
Third most important driver	Lack of male labour for senior wives in polygamous and female-headed households
Village	Alufasi
No of households	37
No in focus group discussions	28
Farm size range	1 ha
Key crops	sweet potato, maize, millet, groundnuts, beans, sorghum
Distinguishing features	Women openly discuss gender-based violence
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide cash to meet household needs
Third most important driver	Economic consequences of gender-based violence
Village	Chikhawo
No of households	200
No in focus group discussions	20
Farm size range	1 ha
Key crops	millet, sorghum, sweet potato, maize, beans
Distinguishing features	Respondents probably pre-coached in their answers
Is there a gender gap in agricultural productivity?	Yes, in polygamous and female-headed households
Most important first driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid care and domestic work
Second most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide cash to meet household needs
Third most important driver	Women's responsibility to provide unpaid contributing farm labour on land they do not operate for themselves