Coffee Cooperatives and Women Empowerment in Rwanda’s rural areas

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Context

- In many developing countries in rural areas, Women are the poorest and most vulnerable groups;
- They are involved in Agricultural activities;
- Responsible for maintaining Household’s welfare;
- Coffee: Most important cash crops in Rwanda
- Women: Essential group to sustainable Coffee Supply chain in Rwanda.

Coffee Coop & CWS ➔ Empowerment & Employment (Women & Girls).
Coffee classifications

(1) cherries coffee => (2) Parchment => (3) Green coffee
Research Questions

• To what extent has KOAKAKA cooperative has contributed to Women Empowerment in Rwanda rural areas?

• Does Women Employment Impacted on socio-economic development of their families?
Methodology

- Data were collected by Questionnaire and Focus group discussions, 48 women purposively sampled in 6 zones of Karaba, Huye District.
- Interviews were also made from key respondents (Managers Coop & CWS).
Findings: Affectations of income

- Coffee: 21%
- Food: 15%
- Heath Insurance: 5%
- Education: 9%
- Cow/Dowry: 12%
- Agricultural inputs: 6%
- Housing: 14%
- Signs of revenue: 5%
- Shelter: 5%
- Festivals activities: 3%
- Saving: 5%
- Housing: 14%
## Cooperative as tool of Women Empowerment

- Acquire more strength & synergy 96.3%
- Job creation (Girls & Women 98.7%)
- Sustainable Market
- Income for Women (families 7.3%)
- Independance of women 58.1%
- Financial autonomy 68.7%
- Gender equality 61.2%
- Decision making 76.4%
- Mutual Exchange 67.4%
- Coop reduce Conflicts, Violence, discrimination against Women
- Self-esteem for Women
- Coop. Is a Tutor for Resilience
- Reducing socio-econ vulnerability
- CWS: No more burden for Women
- Saving time for other activities
- Peace Bascket
- Less Gender-based violence & woman exploitation
- Social trust,

=> **Job and Empowerment for GIRLS and WOMEN**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impacts of cooperative (CWS) to WOMEN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Good production, access to inputs, increasing revenue for family</td>
<td>Solidarity and social cohesion</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Negotiation power</td>
<td>- Sharing experiences,</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Employment, Bargaining power</td>
<td>- <em>Self-Resilience</em>, Social Capital</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Access to credit + Saving <em>Ibimina</em></td>
<td>- Unity and reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Account number possession</td>
<td>- Gender promotion,</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Entrepreneurship activities</td>
<td>- Children Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Management of household income</td>
<td>- Health Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Technology Transfer</td>
<td>- Assistance to vulnerable groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Electricity power, water</td>
<td>- Reduction of violence</td>
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<td>- Community services, <em>Etc.</em></td>
<td>- Joint solutions, Decision-making</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>=&gt; PAUVRETY REDUCTION &amp; SD</strong></td>
<td>- Sustainable Dvpt. Social WELFARE (Women’EMPOWERMENT)</td>
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</table>
CWS/Coop. vs Women/girls

- Employment (98.7%)
- Visa for credit (99.5)
- Reduction of works (98.7%)
- Women empowerment (78.6%)
- Exchange/Experience (98.6%)
- Socialization (78.6%)
- Social cohesion (84.3%)
- Conflict resolutions (76.3%)
- Unity and reconciliation (78.1%)
- Cup of excellence (87.3%)
Women’s Challenges

- Low level of education of women,
- External Dependence on men,
- Lack of total ownership,
- Ignorance of cooperative’s principles,
- Lack of self-confidence,
- Cultural problem of women,
- Competitions with private CWS, etc.
Conclusion

Cooperative & CWS: Women Empowerment

- Improving socio-economic wellbeing in households & Neighbors
- Family stability, Plan for the future
- Decision-making, joint solutions
- Culture of Enterprise, Income generating, Collective goals
- Gender equality & women independency
- Living & sharing experience
- Discussions, trainings, leaning by others
- Mutual support, self-resilience
- Women voice & Building Awareness
Thank you for your kind attention