

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



PROJECT TITLE:

Empowering women in agriculture: An exploration of the role of traditional governance structures in promoting women in agriculture. A case study of ward 8 Murehwa District.

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Vimbisio Yvette Deka, student number B213620B, declare that this report is my own work and nothing was taken from any sources without any acknowledging it.

Student signature



Supervisors' signature



Date

11 June 2025

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to Dr. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda and my family for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to attain this degree.

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I extend my deepest appreciation to the Bindura University of science education for giving me the opportunity to carry out this research study as partial fulfilment of my science honours degree in development studies.

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ABSTRACT

World over, the contribution of women in farming has now been significantly acknowledged. However, women in farming are still disproportionately affected by social systems which favour their masculine counterparts, a situation which necessitates the role of traditional governance structures in reducing such disparities. This study therefore examined how traditional leadership and governance structures affect women's agricultural empowerment in ward of Murehwa District. In particular, the study focused on assessing the social and economic barriers to women's participation in farming, the effect of traditional leadership on women's involvement in farming as well as opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers in ward 8 Murehwa District. The study collected both qualitative and quantitative data using key informants' interviews, focus group discussions and questionnaires from a sample of 43 participants. Data were analysed using quantitative descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) as well as qualitative content analysis. The findings revealed that limited decisions making power, limited access to resources, patriarchal systems, and limited knowledge among other socioeconomic factors affect women negatively from participating in farming. Traditional leadership was found to be playing a serious role in encouraging women's involvement in farming. Recommendations were made that traditional leaders need to collaborate and maintain the existing relationships with other stakeholders so that they can have diverse and collaborative minds in making decisions concerning the promotion of women in agriculture.

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 2.1 conceptual framework on land tenure securities for women
- Figure 3.1..... study area map
- Figure 3,2..... sample size
- Figure 4.1..... response rate
- Figure 4.2..... demographics of respondents
- Figure 4.3..... rate at which women are involved in agriculture
- Figure 4.4..... factors hindering women's participation in agriculture
- Figure 4.5..... factors hindering women's participation in agriculture
- Figure 4.6..... stakeholders collaborating with traditional leaders

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Interview guide for Traditional leaders
- Appendix 2..... interview guide for Women farmers
- Appendix 3..... Focus group discussion for Traditional leaders
- Appendix 4..... Focus group discussion for Women farmers
- Appendix 5..... Questionnaire survey
- Appendix 6..... Interview guide for MWACSMED
- Appendix 7..... Interview guide for MP & Councillor of ward 8

ABBREVIATIONS

GBV	Gender-Based Violence
MWACSMED	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
VH	Village Head
WEB	Women's Empowerment Bank
TIMB	Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board
RMT	Rozaria Memorial Trust
WLSA	Women and Law in Southern Africa

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1143
1.1 Introduction	1143
1.2 Background	1143
1.3 Problem statement	1345
1.4 Aim and Objectives	1345
1.4.1 Specific objectives	1345
1.5 Research Questions.....	1346
1.6 Significance of the Study.....	1346
1.7 Delimitations of the Study	1417
1.8 Definition of Key Terms	1417
1.8.1 Agriculture.....	1417
1.9.2 Gender equality	1547
1.9.3 Traditional governance structure	1547
1.9.4 <i>Woman</i>	1547
1.10 Chapter Summary	1547
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	1648
2.1 Introduction	1648
2.2 Theoretical Framework	1648
2.3 Conceptual Framework.....	1749
2.4 An overview of the socio-economic barriers to women’s participation in farming	1820
2.5 The influence of traditional leadership on women’s participation in agriculture	1921
2.6 Opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers.....	2022
2.7 Chapter Summary	2123
CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	2224
3.1 Introduction	2224
3.2 Research Design	2224
3.3 Research Study Area	2224
3.4 Target Population	2325
3.5 Sample Size	2325
3.6 Data collection and procedure.....	2426
3.6.1 key Informant Interviews	2426
3.6.2 Focus Group Discussions	2427
3.6.3 Questionnaire Surveys	2427
3.7 Data Analysis	2527
3.8 Obtaining Informed Consent.....	2527

3.9 Ethical Considerations	2527
3.10 Chapter Summary	2528
CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH FINDINGS	2628
4.1 Introduction	2628
4.2 Response rate.....	2629
4.3 Demographic characteristics.....	2729
4.4. Results of Objective 1: To assess the socio-economic barriers to women’s participation in farming in ward 8 of Murehwa District.....	2730
4.4.1 Social factors affecting women’s participation in agriculture.....	2830
4.4.2 Economic factors affecting women’s participation in agriculture.....	2932
4.5 Objective 2: To explore the influence of traditional leadership on women’s participation in agriculture	3033
4.5.1 The role of traditional leaders in agricultural practices.....	3033
4.5.2 The impact of traditional leadership on women’s empowerment in agriculture.....	3033
4.6 Objective 3: To explore opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers in ward 8 Murehwa District	3134
4.6.1 Successful initiatives that promoted women farmers	3235
4.7 Discussion of Key Findings	3235
4.7.1 Objective 1: To assess the socio-economic barriers to women’s participation in farming in ward 8 of Murehwa District	3335
4.7.2 Objective 2: To explore the influence of traditional leadership on women’s participation in agriculture	3436
4.7.3 Objective 3: To explore opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers in ward 8 Murehwa District	3537
4.8 Chapter Summary	3538
CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS.....	3639
5.2.1 Objective 1	Error! Bookmark not defined.39
5.2.2 Objective 2	Error! Bookmark not defined.40
5.2.3 Objective 3	Error! Bookmark not defined.40
REFERENCES	3942
APPENDICES	4447

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The chapter examines the role of traditional leadership and systems in promoting women's participation in agriculture using ward 8 of Murehwa District as a case study. Women play a very critical role in global food security and rural development but they face challenges related to gender disparities in agriculture. The traditional leadership is very influential in the agriculture sector since it has the control over land and also resource allocation and their involvement are essential in making sure women have access to such resources. By understanding and addressing these factors, the country can create an all-encompassing and resilient agriculture sector that benefits everyone. The study investigates how traditional governance systems influence women's empowerment in agriculture.

1.2 Background

The international day of rural women is celebrated on 15 October to honour and celebrate the important role that women play in progressing agriculture, rural development and the fight against poverty which goes hand in hand with the United Nations' agenda 2063 (sustainable development goals 1 and 2). Studies noted that rural women are heavily involved in agriculture and related fields such as horticulture, livestock production biodiversity conservation, post-harvest management and seed preservation. Food and agriculture Organisation (2023) noted that in developing countries, women provide from 60 to 70 percent of the labour needed in food production but however, limited access to resources for women farmers hinders them from increasing their agricultural production. According to the Food and agriculture Organisation, (2023), yields on women's farms could rise by 20-30% if women had access to resources, equipments and technologies needed to grow, process and sell food and this could increase the agricultural output by 2.5-4%. The United Bank for Africa (2024) states that empowering women in farming is not only a moral action but an economic necessity because women contribute significantly to food production and household income and closing the gender gap in agriculture could boost global GDP.

According to Man, Abdulmumini and Siaw (2024), rural women farmers benefit only 5% of agricultural extension information and 10% of facilities and this affect their participation resulting in more poverty and low agricultural practice knowledge. Lim et al (2019) noted that if women's agro-related activities are enhanced, it will boost their families' income through improving their access to resources and it will result in improved rural economic activities. Women's role in agriculture is important in today's world as they promote food security and

ensure its availability, stability, accessibility and utilisation (Buehren et al, 2019), since food production is threatened by climate change and global warming, (Hadley et al, 2023). Shahbaz et al (2022) articulates that for women farmers in rural development, their participation is a process that requires collaboration with all stakeholders including traditional leaders to influence women so that they can have control and full authority over resources, agricultural development initiatives and decision-making. Agriculture is very important in many African countries; their livelihoods and economic growth relies on agriculture.

Women participate more in agriculture than men and they provide up to 70% of the labour needed in farms but however they face challenges to access resources and decision-making power. In Sub-Saharan Africa, women add up to fifty percent of agriculture workers yet lack access to land, credit, technology and decision-making power (UN Women, 2019). Women are very crucial contributors to global agriculture and according to Omeje et al (2024), over 80% of small holder farmers in Nigeria handle 90% of food output and women have a substantial share of about 60-80% of this production. Women farmers contribute to the economy through their role in the food systems, rural development and agricultural labour force. According to von Maltitz and Bahta (2024), the combination of African family and inheritance resulted in giving women a key role in the agricultural system. This is a unique system in the region and is rarely found in other parts of the globe. It was noticed that failing to acknowledge and promote female labour activities in agriculture has resulted in to current problems of food supply but this can be solved effectively by working with women in agriculture.

Despite the significant contributions that women render in the agricultural sector, they face a lot of challenges for just being women. Pattnaik and Lahiri-Dutt (2020) as well as Ankara et al (2020) noted that women do not have adequate access to essential agricultural resources, decision-making power and credit. Tibesigwa and Visser (2016) noted that in South Africa, an estimate of 41.9% of families mostly in rural areas are headed by women and they have significant roles and impact on their families' nutrition, food security and economic wellbeing yet they are not being appreciated.

Research has shown that if women are empowered in agriculture, production will increase as well as food security and this will enhance overall wellbeing of people from household level. But however, there is a gap on literature on traditional leadership in promoting women in agriculture. Therefore, this study will explore the relationship between traditional leadership systems in empowering women in agriculture.

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1.3 Problem statement

The contribution of women in farming to food security and development cannot be overemphasized. However, cultural systems which are deeply embedded in patriarchal ideologies in traditional societies have persistently hampered effective participation of women in farming especially in rural Zimbabwe. According to FAO (2021) 80% of women live in rural areas and they make up the 61% of farmers and providing 70% of the labour in farms. According to Wekwete (2014), a lot of women are into agriculture as human resource providing labour in the fields but they fail to have access to land and other resources hindering their empowerment. This study explores how traditional leadership influence women's involvement in agriculture addressing challenges of inadequate access to resources like land, inputs and markets, the limited decision-making power for women farmers as well as their credit. The research seeks to explore the relation of traditional customs and systems in agriculture. How are traditional leaders bridging this gap and identify opportunities for empowerment of women farmers

1.4 Aim and Objectives

This research aims to explore the role of traditional leaders and systems in empowering women in agriculture.

1.4.1 Specific objectives

1. To assess socio-economic barriers to women's participation in farming in ward 8 Murehwa District.
2. To explore the influence of traditional leadership on women's participation in agriculture in ward 8 Murehwa District.
3. To explore opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers in ward 8 Murehwa District.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What are the socio-economic barriers that affect women's participation in farming?
2. How does traditional leaders influence women's participation in agriculture?
3. How are traditional leaders creating opportunities for promoting female farmers?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study can help in addressing gender inequality in the agriculture sector. It is known that women contribute more to the family's wellbeing in terms of providing food hence they should be empowered in agriculture. This study is significant for it will have an impact on different stakeholders.

Women farmers are the primary beneficiaries of the study, they have improved access to capitals, training and managerial roles and credit in the agricultural world. The study helped in identifying barriers that limit the participation of women in agriculture for example inadequate access to land, finances, and technology. Women have a very important role in leadership and innovation hence the study promoted gender equality in agriculture. Through this study, women's access to information was greatly improved which is usually limited because of lower literacy and education level. The study however helped in building trust within the community and this led to positive change in attitudes, behaviours and practices towards women.

Engaging the community in the promotion of female farmers helped in strengthening the resilience of the community as well as participation of women in agriculture. There will be improved agricultural productivity and economic growth.

The research provided evidence-based information that guided the traditional leaders in making informed decisions when it comes to promoting women's participation in agriculture. Leaders have been enlightened on how best they can support women farmers. This also created a foundation for traditional councils to formulate by-laws that will protect and empower female farmers

Research and Academia gained valuable insights and data for further research studies on agriculture, women and traditional governance. The research was able to challenge and change the primary social customs and stereotypes that hinder women's participation in agriculture. Therefore, this helped in identifying opportunities for women farmers such as improved access to agricultural research and extension services

1.7 Delimitations of the Study

The study only focused on the traditional leaders, women engaged in agriculture and a few listed stakeholders who connect traditional leadership and women that include the government ministry. This solely focused on traditional governance within ward 8 of Murehwa District. The study focused on smallholder, subsistence and semi-commercial farming that is common in Murehwa. The research adopted both qualitative and quantitative techniques in the data collection and analysis.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

1.8.1 Agriculture

The practice of cultivation, crop production and livestock keeping for food and other products (FAO, 2023). Harris and Fuller (2013) defines agriculture as a term that encompasses various

ways that crops and animals sustain the human population by producing food and other goods. This study defines it as the exercise of producing crops and domesticated animals for food and fibre and other produces at a small scale or commercial scale.

1.9.2 Gender equality

Gender equality is achieved when men and women are treated equally and have the same opportunities in all spheres of life. According to UNICEF (2017), it is a perception when women and men, girls and boys have equal environments, treatment and opportunities for contributing from economic, social, cultural and political development

1.9.3 Traditional governance structure

Systems of leadership and decision-making that are based on traditions, customs and practices of a community and are rooted in indigenous knowledge and practices (Olaopa and Ogundare, 2023). This study defines the traditional governance structures as decision-making systems that oversee the societal issues and affairs and maintaining traditional norms and beliefs. They include roles like chiefs, headman/village head, village elders, councils.

1.9.4 Woman

An adult female human. According to Buskmiller and Hruz (2022) a woman is a female human above the age of 18 years. This study defines a woman as an older female who plays a very crucial role in shaping the society by contributing to agriculture, arts and politics among other developmental initiatives.

1.10 Chapter Summary

This chapter examines the importance of traditional leaders in encouraging women in agriculture and sustainable agriculture development using Murehwa District as a case study. It shows the crucial role that women play in agriculture and rural development despite the challenges that they face on the way. Women lack access to resources like land, credit, technology and the decision-making power. This study aims to address gender inequality in the agricultural sector and highlight the pivotal role of women in promoting food security and household income generation. It also highlights that empowering woman in agriculture is an economic necessity.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The chapter seeks to give an outline of the theoretical framework, conceptual framework and related literature about the study topic: the role of traditional leaders and traditional governance systems in promoting women in agriculture. Considering that traditional governance structures are deep-rooted in cultural and social customs, they show a very central role in shaping women's participation and empowerment in agricultural activities. The literature on empowerment of women farmers by traditional leaders explores the different encounters they face from access to resources, land tenure issues, socio-cultural barriers among others. However, the roles of traditional leaders and traditional governance structures in this context is underexplored hence this review aims to explore the existing research studies on women empowerment in agriculture paying particular attention on the role of traditional governance structures and their impact. By examining different frameworks and case studies, this chapter gave a better understanding of the current position of the influence of traditional governance structures on women's involvement in farming and identify gaps that this study aims to address.

2.2 Theoretical Framework: Transformative Leadership Theory

The study adopted the transformative leadership theory (applicable to the post 1994) which talks about changing governance systems through challenging the existing norms and practices and ensuring inclusivity (Shields, 2021). Traditionally, Africa's leadership was widely vested in Kings, chiefs and headmen going down and this gave power to these authorities to an extent that other people were powerless and were exposed to abuses especially women. Transformative agriculture played a very crucial role especially for women farmers globally by breaking these challenges and making sure women have improved access to resources, managerial power and opportunities (Johnstone et al, 2023). Women have limited representation in agriculture despite the significant contributions that they give to agricultural development, however the gender approach help in making sure that the agricultural systems are more inclusive and empowering to women farmers. This highlight how important is the transformative leadership in ensuring that women are not only participating in agriculture but are serving significantly in agriculture and food production.

According to Ninh (2024) the migration of men due to the change of labour from agriculture to non-agriculture have led to the feminisation of agriculture. Women's participation and importance in agriculture especially small holder farmers (family farming) has grown because of different factors like the growth in non-agricultural jobs, population growth, change in

societal and cultural customs and the increase in agricultural production. Even if women’s participation in agriculture is increasing, small holder women farmers face challenges like limited of access to resources and markets, less power to make decisions, and the workload in fields and these are the greatest women’s disempowerment factors. According to Adegbite and Machethe (2020), women have limited chances of getting land, new technologies and even financial services and they also face mobility challenges unlike men that hinders their participation in markets, health and other services. Governance structures often increase these gender gaps due to high dominance of men and this causes the participation of women in agriculture to be underreported even if they are highly involved in all stages of development.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study explains the issue of women’s land tenure and their different securities. (figure 2.1)

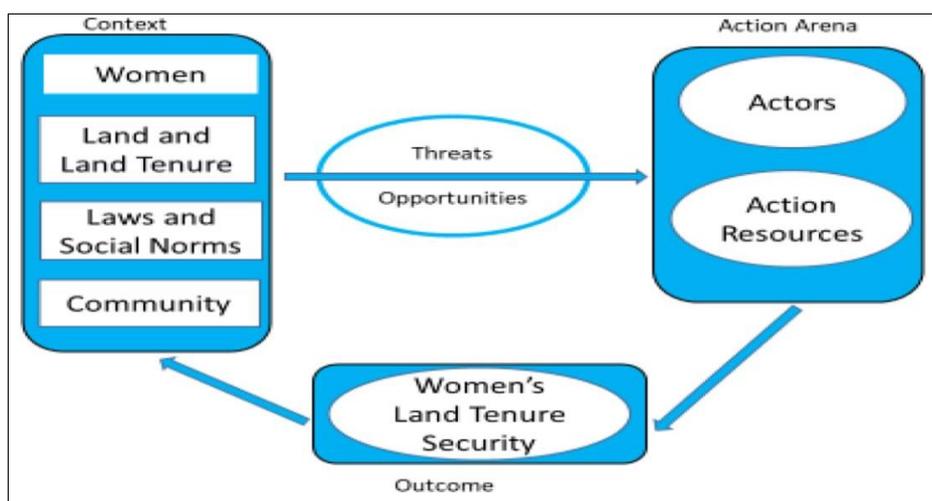


Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework on land tenure securities for women (Source: Doss & Meinzen-Dick, 2020)

The framework included issues of:

- Context – this is where the socio-economic factors fall under including the land itself, the history, norms and beliefs of the community
- Threats and opportunities to land rights for women
- The action arena – identify the stakeholders who have influence over women’s land tenure and these include the traditional leaders because they are the once who have

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power over land especially in rural communities. It also identifies the resources that the stakeholders use to influence the issue of land tenure and they include money, social status even networks among others (Ostrom, 2011)

This study has noted that there is a very big gap on literature about traditional leaders and traditional governance systems promoting women in agriculture. However, despite the gaps in literature, traditional leadership still remains very crucial and influential in the agriculture sector since it has the control over land and also resource allocation and their involvement are essential in making sure women have access to such resources and enhance their participation in farming.

2.4 An overview of the socio-economic barriers to women's participation in farming

Agricultural activities have transformed due to the rise of women as key contributors. According to Nagadeepa et al (2024), the rise in women's participation in agriculture showed that gender- disparities have and still continue to pose socio-economic challenges to women in India and across the globe and they include inadequate access to land, recognition, wages and technology among others. As states by Ibanez and Guerrero (2022), the limited participation of women in farming is often caused by having less political and formal support, access to economic opportunities and resources. Hernandez et al (2023) articulates that women consider themselves as incapable of carrying out full agricultural productions from the first stage to the last and rather focus on roles that are assigned to them by the society. He goes on to say lack of participation is believed to be linked to less empowerment and traditional typecasts which is about the gender roles that women are assigned to by the community.

Globally, research studies show most women are involved in agriculture as labour force and that rural women farmers benefit only 5% of agricultural extension information and 10% of facilities and this affect their participation resulting in more poverty and low agricultural practice knowledge (Man, Abdulmumini and Siaw, 2024). Buehren et al (2019) articulates that women's role in agriculture is important in today's world as they promote and maintain the four pillars of food security which are availability, stability, accessibility and utilisation, Hardley et al (2023) further states that since food production is threatened by climate change and global warming women remain crucial in agriculture. Women are very crucial contributors to global agriculture and according to Omeje et al (2024), over 80% of small holder farmers manage around 90% of food output and women have a share of around 60-80% of this production in Nigeria.

According to Ameylia and Dyah (2024) social norms directs women to less demanding activities while men have the power and influence to make decisions and this hinders women to reach their full potential and it limits their agency. Lacking of agricultural resources and amenities affect women's efficiency and their household food security as noted by Ojo and Obayelu (2025). According to the research by Ojo and Obayelu (2025), 93.4% of women are disempowered while for men it is 47.4% showing the parities that women face. In Uganda, agriculture create employment for over 70% of the population and the 50% of the employed population are women. Lack of collateral, less financial literacy and gender biased lending practices are serious problems that women face in trying to access financial resources.

Africa has been facing grave climate risks in agriculture which include famines, heat waves and floods, women as one of the marginalised groups lack managerial power over resources and hard work to adapt to these dangers (Trisos et al, 2022). The World Bank (2021) articulates that only 35% of women in Uganda have access to financial services and this exclusion of women in agriculture greatly affect their production.

Nkala, Khumalo and Baloyi (2018) noted that in the sub-Saharan Africa, females remain subordinated to men due to them being born, raised and natured in a patriarchy society and this increases gender inequality. Dodo (2013) articulates that Zimbabwe in specific has existed for a very long time under the traditional leadership systems largely ruled by men leading to women being deprived of the decision-making power and the right to own land and property

2.5 The influence of traditional leadership on women's participation in agriculture

Traditional leaders are very important in rural agricultural communities because they are the authorities that control agriculture from land to resources. Xu (2024) states that traditional leadership promote peace and stability in agrarian communities ensuring that land is in ownership of the community rather than being owned by the state or private institutions.

In Africa, traditional leadership is one of the governance systems that dominate the rural agricultural communities. The traditional governance system has its roots in customary laws and indigenous knowledge systems unlike the formal governance that operate through in bureaucratic institutions. According to Mengisteab (2019), the traditional leadership has stood strong even after colonialism and the modern agricultural problems, it has maintained its crucial roles in land stewardship, peace-making and community mobilisation. However, Mawere and Mukonza (2024) argues that, colonialism affected the traditional leadership

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structures by adopting state centric models that are literally failing to solve the current agricultural needs especially for women in farming.

Traditional leaders have the power on land tenure and they allocate land as well as distribution of resources. According to Chimonyo (2024), in Zimbabwe, traditional leaders have an important role in in agriculture but however the traditional governance system can discriminate and at the same time promote patriarchal norms that can hinder the participation of women in agriculture through access to property and capitals. In Murehwa, traditional leaders favour men especially those who own land and this forms a system of practices that affect female farmers (Chiweshe et al 2015).

2.6 Opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers

The traditional leadership system promotes sustainable agriculture and economic growth in rural agrarian communities. According to Wisemen et al (2022), traditional leaders are crucial in creating systems that ensure collaboration in making agricultural policies and ensure active participation of local people including women. Traditional leaders are the stewards of land and they have power in land allocation which they can use to facilitate women's land access which is very important in encouraging women's involvement in farming practices. However, despite the fact that traditional leaders have influence in land allocation, challenges of access to land continues because of the deep patriarchal beliefs and systems.

The traditional leadership helps in the promotion of women's agricultural leadership through empowerment groups. According to Vetrivel (2024), women's involvement in leadership is deeply connected with the farmer organization's inclusion and the sustainability of that kind of organisation is ensured by the traditional leaders allowing, women in agriculture the chance to take lead. Indigenous knowledge and farming systems/methods which women take seriously needs to be preserved and that can be influenced with the help of traditional leaders which in turn is an opportunity for women farmers to excel in their agricultural activities. This will also ensure community resilience and empower women farmers by acknowledging the contributions of women to food and traditional knowledge preservation.

Traditional leaders serve as the middlemen for women farmers to access resources and services like trainings. This help in minimising barriers related to access to resources and agricultural education and increase women's participation in agriculture. The participation of traditional leaders in advocacy campaigns can guarantee a change in the legislative and cultural norms that hinder women from fully participating in farming activities since they might be challenges

by the traditional leaders in such spaces. According to Matangi et al (2024), in Murehwa District, traditional leaders have helped in allocating land and other farming resources that support livelihood across the district. However, scholars debate whether traditional governance is sufficiently adaptive to modern agricultural challenges. Sukprasert and Phadungkit (2024) argues that traditional governance must integrate formal policy frameworks to enhance agricultural productivity and market access. Others, such as Pereira and Ruysenaar (2012), contend that traditional governance remains resilient, providing localized solutions that state-led agricultural programs often overlook.

2.7 Chapter Summary

The chapter highlighted and explained the theoretical and conceptual frameworks and other relevant literature on women's empowerment in agriculture. It highlights the importance of traditional leadership structures in encouraging the contribution of women in agriculture since they are entrenched in cultural and societal norms and they have power over resources. According to the reviewed literature, women face challenges like limited access to resources, land tenure and other socio-economic barriers. Despite these hinderances, there is a gap about how traditional leadership empower women in agriculture and through looking into previous studies on the impact of traditional leadership structures on women's empowerment in agriculture, this chapter aims to close the gap by examining different frameworks

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The chapter defines the research methods applied in this study project and the aim is to provide a detailed discussion of the research design, data collection methods, sample methodologies and the description of the research area. The section also addresses the ethical considerations and constraints of this research. The methodology adopted in this study is designed to discover the connection between traditional governance systems and the promotion of women in agriculture. Considering the unique social and cultural dynamics that are in ward 8 Murehwa District, the research integrates qualitative and quantitative methods to capture a deep understanding of the study. This mixed methods approach ensures that the study provide strong insights on how traditional governance systems influence the participation and empowerment of women in agriculture.

3.2 Research Design

This study applied a mixed method approach to examine the role that the traditional leadership plays in promoting women farmers in ward 8 of Murehwa District. According to Dawadi et al (2012), a mixed approach is a strategy that join both qualitative and quantitative study methodologies in a single study. This method aims to obtain a detailed grasp of the research by leveraging on the advantages of both methodologies.

3.3 Research Study Area

Murehwa is a rural district located in the Mashonaland East Province in Zimbabwe. The area consists of 25 villages and it is characterized by mixed small holder farming systems. Families in this area primarily rely on agriculture for their livelihood and wellbeing. The focus of the study was ward 8 of Murehwa District. Figure 3.1 shows the map of Murehwa and wards 8 of Murehwa District.

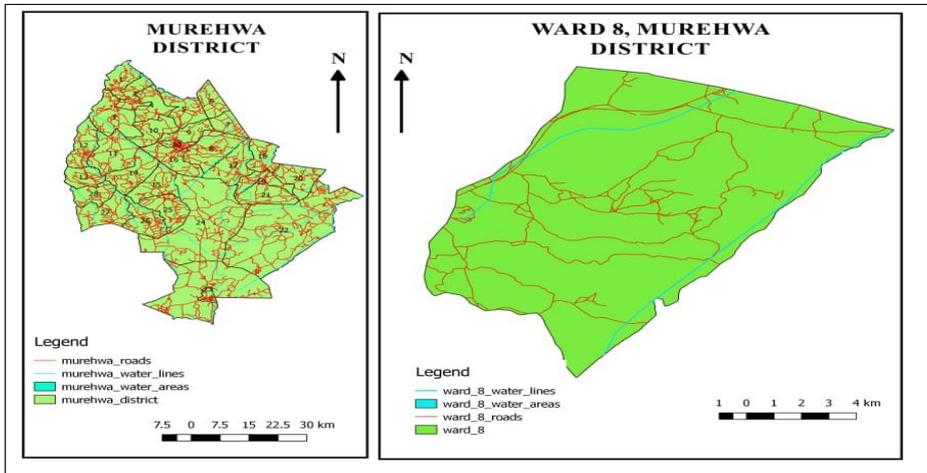


Figure 3.1: Map of Murehwa District and Ward 8 (Source: Author)

3.4 Target Population

This study targets women farmers within ward 8 of Murehwa District. According to the Zimstat census of 2022, the total number of women in ward 8 is 4 723 out of 8 827 people in Murehwa District. The study also targets all traditional leaders and members of the traditional governance system of ward 8. Roberts (2010) articulates that a target population can also be viewed as a group of people that share similar characteristics and interests to which the researcher would like to apply the findings to.

3.5 Sample Size

The sample size for the traditional leaders in ward 8 was calculated using the number of households to make sure that the participants will be representing the wide population of ward 8. This study employed the Cochran’s formula to calculate the sample size of participants from the 4 723 women in Ward 8,

$$n = \frac{z^2 \times \hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{\epsilon^2} \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

- Where;
- n** is the sample size
 - Z** is the Z score
 - P** is the population proportion
 - ε** is the margin of error

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For the women farmers, a sample size was calculated from 4723 women in ward 8 Murehwa District. A sample of 43 women who are into agricultural. Purposive sampling was also used to ensure that specific subgroups that are relevant to the study are represented and this helped to focus on different individuals who have the knowledge and experience of the study topic and they include the Ministry of women affairs, the member parliament and councillor of ward 8. Thirty-three (33) participants were picked to participate in focus group discussions to make a total of 76 study sample.

3.6 Data collection and procedure

The data was gathered using key informant interview, questionnaire surveys and focus group discussions. These methods focused on the participants' experience in farming as well as the involvement of traditional leadership in promoting women farmers. The data was gathered from the sample size extracted from the targeted population highlighted in section 3.5

3.6.1 key Informant Interviews

This is a way of gathering information from different people and according to Fleming et al (2022) the different individuals are generally considered to have more knowledge, data and experience about the problem at hand. This method allows a better relationship of the researcher and the participant and it is more friendly. Hence it helps in gaining trust of the participant. It also initiates a deeper understanding of the participant's perspective and experience

3.6.2 Focus Group Discussions

The discussions initiate deeper discussions through open ended questions that are guided. According to Akyildiz and Ahmed (2021), a group discussion is a discussion of a specific topic by small group of 5 to 10 people who have shared characteristics and interests with the guidance of a facilitator. This method helps in capturing different views from people with different experiences and opinions.

3.6.3 Questionnaire Surveys

A questionnaire is a structured technique that is used to collect data. Mcleod (2018) defines it as a research instrument that consist of series of questions for the purpose of obtaining information from participants. This study adopted a self-administered questionnaire where respondents answered without the guidance of the researcher. The questionnaires were distributed online (on email) to the respondents by the researcher after seeking permission

3.7 Data Analysis

The primary goal of data examination is to get new statistics from collected data. Alston (2013) articulated that data analysis is very important in research as it determines the relevance of the data to the research topic or question. In this study, SPSS version 25 and MS Excel were used to analyse both the quantitative and qualitative data obtained from the surveys, focus group discussions and interviews

3.8 Obtaining Informed Consent

Ensuring informed consent is a vital part of a research study. It means participants must fully understand the research, their role and the possible risks and paybacks of participating in the study. To achieve this, the following steps were followed during data collection

- Clearly explaining the research purpose to the participants
- Describe the methods used
- Discussed the potential risks and benefits of participating in the study
- Emphasised that participation is voluntary and withdrawal is allowed at any time
- Addressed participant's questions and concerns.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

The research study was conducted taking into consideration the principles of research which include informed consent, confidentiality, respect and cultural sensitivity among others. Beardsley et al (2019) explains that these ethics are standards of behaviours and a code of conduct to ensure effective research process. The research respects the cultural norms and values of the community since it was engaging traditional governance structures. Mengisteab (2019) cited that the traditional governance structures represent a collection of laws, beliefs, codes of conduct, and practices that form social behaviours and interactions. These ethics ensured that the research was non-discriminatory, beneficence and did not hurt the participants. They were crucial in this study because they allowed the researcher to protect both herself and the participants as well as adhering to the norms and values of ward 8 Murehwa District.

3.10 Chapter Summary

In summary, the research methodology effectively addressed the study's objectives providing a deep understanding of how the traditional leaders and governance structures affect women's participation in agriculture. The research was conducted taking into consideration the ethical values and standards of the community. The study contributes very crucial insights on the influence of traditional leadership and governance structure on women farmers and this can improve women's participation in agriculture.

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter gave a thorough examination and presentation of the results of this research. The analysed data was presented in form of charts, graphs and quotes for both the qualitative and quantitative data that was gathered. This chapter was mainly guided and focusing on the research objectives that aimed at exploring the role of traditional governance systems in promoting women in agriculture. These objectives are, to assess socio-economic challenges to women's involvement in farming, to explore the impact of traditional leadership on women's partaking in agriculture and to explore opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers in ward 8 Murehwa District. By exploring the relationship between traditional leadership and women farmers it also unpacks the issue of gender equality and sustainable rural development. The findings are intended to educate traditional leaders, women, community members and other important stakeholders on best practices to encourage and empower women in agriculture to advance the livelihoods and wellbeing of people and communities at large.

4.2 Response rate

Targeted sample size for this research was 76 participants and a total of 33 people participated through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and responding to the survey. The study had a response rate of 51.32% which is a good response to understand the role that traditional leaders and traditional governance systems play in promoting women in agriculture in ward 8 Murehwa District.

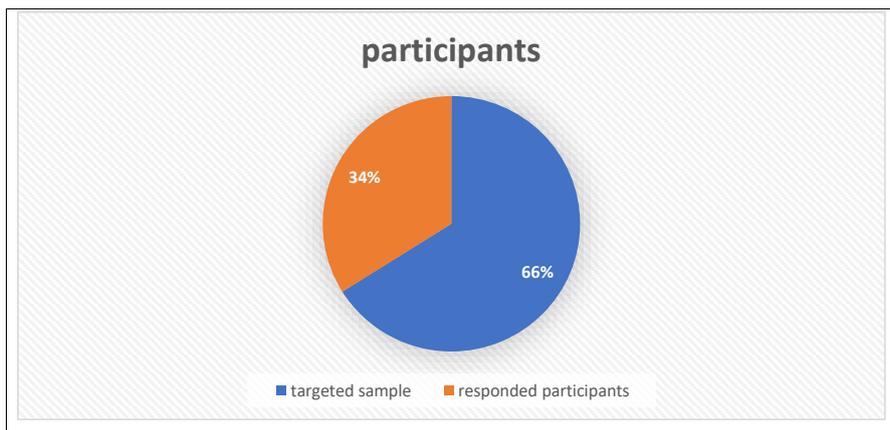


Figure 4.1: Responds rate of the study against the targeted sample size (source: Author)

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4.3 Demographic characteristics

The study used gender age and level of education for the people who responded to the survey to understand the position of and

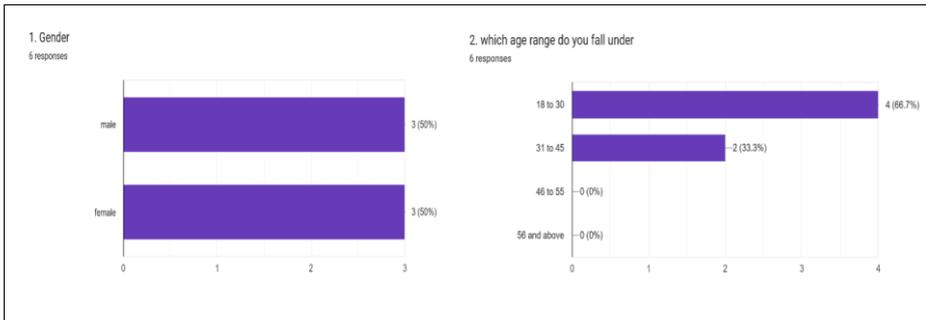


Figure 4.2: demographics of the questionnaire survey respondents (Source: Author)

This shows a fair distribution of the survey by the researcher

4.4. The social and economic barriers to women’s participation in farming in ward 8 of Murehwa District

This segment presents the results of the study focusing on the socio-economic issues disturbing women from participating in agricultural activities. The findings presented in two different themes that are social barriers and economic barriers and the data from interviews, focus group discussions and surveys was combined for better understanding of these factors. The participation of women of ward 8 in agriculture is relatively high (figure 4.3).

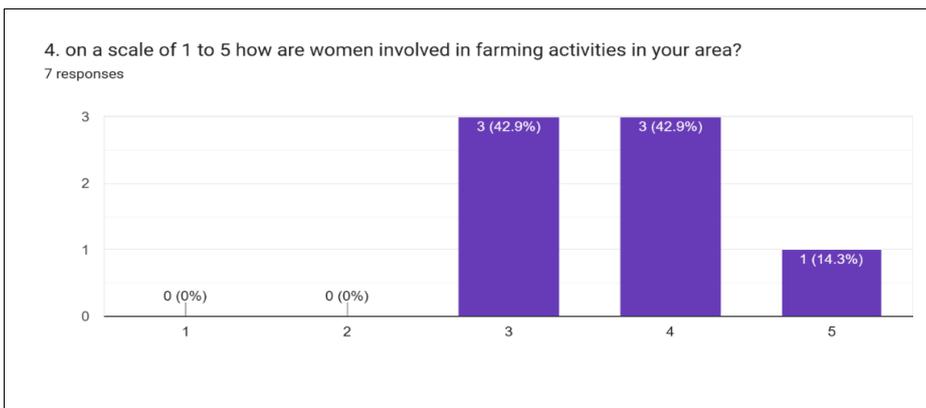


Figure 4.3: the rate at which women are involved in agriculture (Source: Author)

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According to figure 4.3, women actively participate in agricultural activities, their engagement is primarily for household's food security. This subsistence type of farming ensures a system of stable food supply in families and the community as a whole but it then limit their economic opportunities.

4.4.1 Social factors affecting women's participation in agriculture

This theme looked at the social lives of women farmers from household level to the communities that they live in. The theme unpacked the experiences that these women are facing in terms of getting support from their families and communities and how they are navigating through the traditional governance systems.

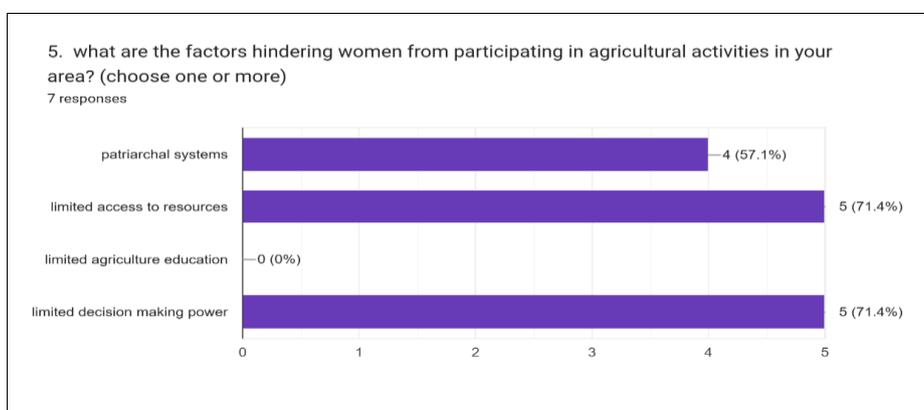


Figure 4.4: Factors hindering women's participation in agriculture (Source: Author)

As shown in figure 4.4, limited decision-making power with a high percentage is one of the aspects hindering women's involvement in agriculture and the limited decision-making power is a result of the patriarchal norms and beliefs (with 57.1 %) that women live in. These women are subjected to men hence men have the overall authority to authorise all the decisions needed to be made. Women wish are actively involved in farming the majority only produce for food though they wish to produce more and for selling. On of the women from a focus group discussion had to say:

"...my husband only gives me a small piece of land to plant my groundnuts and the rest of the land is for family use"

From the focus group with village heads, one of the village heads had to say

"... after selling their farm produces some women are being abused by their husbands because they do not want them to have money"

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In a patriarchal society, women are simply obeying what their husbands and families want for them to be safe and not to experience Gender based violence and this is also works as a hinderance to other women who want to do commercial farming.

Figure 4. also showed that agriculture knowledge/education is not a problem to women farmers as it is on 0%. This is because they already have the knowledge by simply being the labour force that do almost 70% of the work in farms

One of the interviewees had to say:

“...almost 90% of women in this village have gardens and they spend more most of their time in farms because that is our livelihood”

4.4.2 Economic factors hindering women’s participation in agriculture

This theme looked at the economic related challenges that women face as they try and navigate through the farming systems and traditional leaderships.

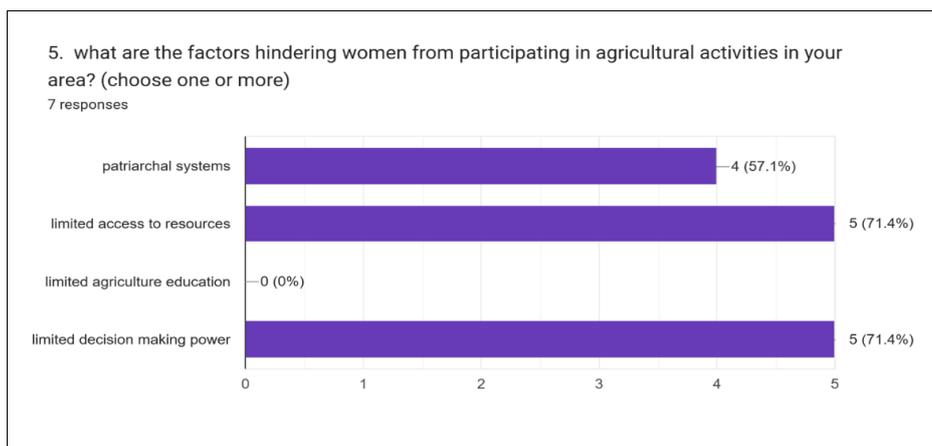


Figure 4.5: Factors hindering women from participating in agriculture (Source: Author)

Limited access to resources equals with limited decision-making power makes the biggest challenges that women in agriculture face. The major reasons being, lack of capital to start projects like poultry. Lack of ownership of land also limit women to access financial loans and agricultural inputs from donors as it was highlighted in the interviews and focus group discussions that some programs like the command agriculture which gives agricultural inputs to farmers is only for landowners hence women do not have access to such programs. A wife to one of the Village heads had this to say:

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“...there is no woman who personally owns land in ward 8, we either use our husband’s land (family land) or group land which is for the community”

The MWACSMED Murehwa District noted that, in the event that there are agricultural inputs being given to farmers, there is a challenge in the impartial distribution of these resources because women are more than men.

4.5 The influence of traditional leadership on women’s participation in agriculture

This section highlights the influence that the traditional governance system has on women farmers in ward 8 of Murehwa District. The influence that these traditional leaders have highlight their position on the issue of women’s empowerment through agriculture and gender parity in ward 8.

4.5.1 The role of traditional leaders in agricultural practices.

According to the findings of this study, traditional leaders and their governance structures empower women farmers. During the focus group discussions with women farmers, there was a highlight that traditional leaders help in distributing farming inputs like maize and beans and gardening seeds.

“...traditional leaders especially the village heads are promotng nutritional gardens for women in ward 8 by giving them seeds and building gardens”

The interview with village head Marumisa highlighted that the traditional leaders give first preference to women farmers when they are distributing the presidential inputs. He also noted that in his village, they give loans to women farmers:

“...in our village funds, we set aside a budget of \$1000 USD to loan to women farmers who want to do their projects and they return after selling their produces”

4.5.2 The influence of traditional leadership on women’s empowerment in agriculture

This theme highlight how traditional leaders are making a change in terms of promoting women farmers, leveraging the cultural beliefs and traditions as well as their power to ensure that women reach their full potential in agricultural practices. Traditional leaders promoting market gardening in ward 8 impacts greatly on the livelihoods of the people as it promotes food security hence encouraging sustainable development in the area. the councillor of ward 8 had this to say:

“...the village heads initiated a program to create market for women and we have collaborated with other wards across the district and created a platform for women to buy and sell their agricultural produces within the ward”

Considering the challenge that women in agriculture face when it comes to market access, this promotes market availability and access for women farmers in ward 8 and encourage more women to participate in agriculture.

4.6 Opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers in ward 8 Murehwa District

The study explored the opportunities that the traditional governance system in ward 8 is creating to promote female famers in the district.

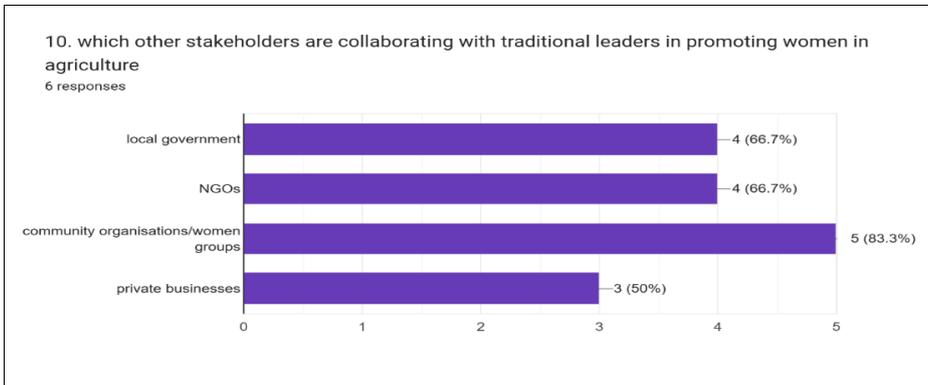


Figure 4.6: Stakeholders collaborating with Traditional leaders (Source: Author)

The traditional leadership in ward 8 collaborate with different stakeholders in promoting women farmers (Figure 4.6). According to the findings of the study, the biggest collaboration of traditional leaders are the women’s groups and community organisations. This is an opportunity for women farmers because it provides a platform for collaborative action and knowledge sharing among the women in agriculture. One of the participants stated that:

“...we are a group of 15 women and we have a project of Sasso chickens that we are doing to produce eggs and chicken meat and this is helping us to generate more income”

The traditional leaders are also advocating for land rights for women in collaboration with organisations like WLSA, and RMT and the local government. According to the Ministry of women affairs Murehwa District, the Chief (Mambo Mangwende) and his governance

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members work very hard to make sure that these women farmers have access to land. Chief Mangwende also has his court where he addresses the land issues that women face as well as abuse.

“...the program that the chief started has helped in making sure that the women farmers are protected and empowered.”

The collaborations that the traditional leaders are making also help in ensuring that women have access to monetary resources. As shown on figure 4.6, traditional leaders in ward 8 are collaborating with private companies and business. VH Jakopo highlighted that:

“...we are writing recommendation letters for women to be given loans and agricultural inputs from companies like the TIMB and the Women’s empowerment Bank (WEB)”.

4.6.1 Successful initiatives that promoted women farmers

According to the study, traditional leaders in ward 8 have initiated some programs that have been successful in promoting women farmers. The “Zunde Ramambo” program in Marumisa village has helped in empowering women and encouraging them to increase their production in farming. This program allows women to access land for their groups and it has helped in making sure that there is food security from household level to community level. The study also noted that cooperate gardening is making noise across ward 8 as many women are joining groups and working together. One of the interviewees highlighted that:

“...as groups we have better access to certain resources and now female tobacco farmers can now register their own grower’s number. When we are given inputs as a group, we also get herbicides to reduce labour which has helped in our production”

“Mikando” is also another initiative that the traditional leaders have been encouraging women to take part in. The program is a saving scheme for women where they come together and save money at the same time giving each other loans. According to the study, a lot of women farmers have been able to buy cattle for farming, buying the advanced ploughing machines and other farm resources.

4.7 Discussion of Key Findings

Basing on the wide range of literature on the role of traditional leaders and traditional governance systems in promoting women in agriculture, this study discussed the literature in

relation to the research finding. It pointed out the similarities and gaps on the role and influence of traditional leadership to women farmers.

4.7.1 Socio-economic barriers to women's participation in farming in ward 8 of Murehwa District

The research shown that women's involvement in agriculture is mostly affected by social and economic conditions which were presented even though they are actively involved in as labourers. This is linked to the study by Nkala, Khumalo and Baloyi (2018) who noted that in sub-Saharan Africa, females are subordinated to men due to them being born, raised and natured in a patriarchy society and this increases gender inequality. The study highlighted that there is gender inequality in agricultural practices in ward 8 that restrict women to access resources and being empowered in farming. High patriarchal systems is one of the hinderances to women's involvement in agriculture and according to the survey, the common challenge is limited decision-making power (Figure 4.4). According to Ameylia and Dyah (2024) social norms directs women to less demanding activities while men have the power and influence to make decisions and this hinders women to reach their full potential and it limits their agency and this aligns with the research findings. Male leadership dominates in women's agricultural practices and they decide on land use and other important decisions.

The research highlighted that due to the fear of GBV, women are left with no choice but to comply with the traditional gender roles and societal expectations. This prevents female farmers from attaining their full potential in farming and it increases a cycle of idleness and dependency of women. Ironically, women have vast agricultural knowledge and no one mentioned it as a barrier which means that their expertise is not valued. This indicated the weakness of the authorities and the gender partialities that hamper women's recognition despite the significant role that they play in farming practices.

Economically, lack of access to land and capital or financial resources limit women's participation in agriculture. These considerations are closely linked to decision-making power and women's registration or access to assistance programs like the command agriculture is undermined by their inability to own land since the programs give preference to land owners. Despite the fact that women make up the larger proportion of the farming population, this issue is worsened by the unequal distribution of agricultural inputs and as a result a lot of women are excluded from government-led and donor funded agricultural programs.

4.7.2 The impact of traditional leadership on women's participation in agriculture

Findings of objective two explored the part that the traditional authorities play in promoting women in agriculture in ward 8. Xu (2024) states that traditional leadership promote peace and stability in agrarian communities ensuring that land is in ownership of the community rather than being owned by the state or private institutions. However, according to the results of the research, traditional leaders perform a significant role in empowering women farmers through cultural influence and resource distribution, traditional leaders especially the village heads influence women's access to farming inputs and leaders in ward 8 Murehwa have made sure that female farmers have access to inputs like maize, beans and gardening seeds. By leveraging the local traditional leadership to achieve community wellbeing through the promotion of nutritious gardens in ward 8, this integrates the traditional leadership roles with the contemporary development goals and promote women's involvement in agriculture.

The research noted that traditional leaders in ward 8 directly address one the challenges faced by women farmers which is market access. These traditional leaders have established a platform where women farmers can engage with other wards in the district and buy and sell their produces which help in reducing market problems. However, Mawere and Mukonza (2024) argues that, colonialism affected the traditional leadership structures by adopting state centric models that are literally failing to solve the current agricultural needs especially for women in farming hence highlighting the gap in literature and the actual work on the ground. Ward 8 traditional leaders are promoting gender equality by defying patriarchal norms and instilling a culture that that women can do more in agriculture and they should be recognized. Their influence promoted acceptance of women farmers in the community. According to Chimonyo (2024) however, in Zimbabwe, traditional leaders have an important role in in agriculture but however the traditional governance system can discriminate and at the same time promote patriarchal norms that can hinder the participation of women in farming through access to land and resources. In Murehwa, traditional leaders favour men especially those who own land and this forms a system of practices that affect female farmers (Chiweshe et al 2015). Therefore, this unpacks the gap in the written or published literature as it portrays traditional leaders as authorities that do not value women's empowerment but however practically according to the research findings, traditional leaders are advocating for women's empowerment and are making a change to make sure that women participate more in agriculture.

4.7.3 Opportunities created by traditional leadership for promoting female farmers in ward 8 Murehwa District

The study has emphasized the important role being played by traditional leadership in ward 8 in promoting women farmers by using their social influence and power to promote women in agriculture. This is in contrast with scholars like Chimonyo (2024) who argues that traditional governance systems promote patriarchal norms that further restrict women from participating in agriculture. The traditional leaders have also developed a platform for collaborative action and knowledge sharing through joining alliances with a range of stakeholders in Murehwa district including women's groups, community organisations and NGOs. This collaboration allows women to work together and increase their produces and share knowledge.

The leadership of Chief Mangwende support women's land rights and guarantee that women have access to land and this is through collaborating with other organisations. This gives women a chance to get justice and defend their land rights thereby creating a safe environment for women farmers in ward 8.

4.8 Chapter Summary

The findings on the role of traditional leaders and governance systems in promoting women in agriculture were presented. The presentation was based on the data collected from ward 8 Murehwa District. Key findings include, inadequate access to land and other capitals is the leading factor hindering women from participating in agriculture as well as the fact that traditional leaders do not engage with women farmers directly but rather, they engage as partners of other stakeholders like the local government and non-governmental organisations.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The research focused on the role of traditional leaders and governance structures in promoting women in agriculture in ward 8 Murehwa District. It specifically examined the socio-economic barriers to women's involvement in farming in ward 8 of Murehwa District, to explore the impact of traditional leadership on women's contribution in agriculture, as well as to explore opportunities for promoting female farmers in Murehwa. These objectives were in line with the main aim of understanding the role of traditional leaders and traditional governance systems and develop recommendations for traditional leaders, women farmers and the community at large to enhance effective participation of women in agriculture. Data was gathered through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and a survey as a way to gather information from the primary sources being the traditional leader, women farmers, and the councils. Some graphs and quotes were used to present the research findings highlighting how the traditional leadership and governance structures influence women's contribution in farming and identifying the socio-economic barriers and opportunities for females participating in agriculture. The study findings aimed to give valuable and deep insights for traditional leaders, councils and women farmers to enhance the participation of women in agricultural practices ultimately leading to improved livelihoods of women and their families especially those in rural areas.

5.2 Summary of key findings

The primary challenge hindering women from participating in agriculture is not lack of knowledge but rather are the social and economic disparities. The patriarchal norms affect women and hinder them from making decisions and accessing land and the economic exclusion also affect them from reaching their full potential. The study highlighted that the for women to participate more in agricultural activities, there is need for legal reforms of land tenure, financial support or subsidies and agricultural policies that are gender sensitive as well as challenge negative traditional and societal norms that restrict women from participating in agriculture.

The traditional leaders in ward 8 greatly impact women's involvement in agriculture through providing financial assistance, market access and other agricultural resources. They are transforming the societal norms and beliefs on women's role in farming allowing women to be recognized through the significant work they carry in agriculture and beyond.

The traditional leaders are making a change in ward 8 by advocating for women's land rights and allowing them to access crucial agricultural resources. They have created a platform for inclusive agricultural practices that benefit women and the whole community. This initiative increases women's participation in agriculture thereby promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development.

5.2 Conclusions

The study gave a thorough evaluation of the contribution of traditional leaders and governance structures in promoting women in agriculture in ward 8 of Murehwa District. It clarified the underlying issues that hinder women's partaking in agriculture. Factors that result in less participation of women in agriculture include things like limited of access to resources for instance land, patriarchal systems and norms, limited decision-making power and agricultural knowledge. Traditional leadership has a very crucial role in improving women's participation in agriculture through resource distribution, land allocation, advocacy for equal opportunities in agriculture between men and women. Advocating also for legislative and policy change as a way to reduce and end cultural beliefs and practices that hinder women's involvement in farming. By supporting female farmers, it will help in improving their participation in agriculture as well as improve their livelihoods and those of their families. The study demonstrated the influence of traditional leadership in women's participation in agriculture through pinpointing different opportunities for enhancing women's participation. Focusing on women's participation in agriculture and skills training works hand in hand with international initiatives to address gender inequality and improve development since it appreciates the vital role that women play in promoting food security.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the results of the study, some recommendations can be given to traditional leaders and community of ward 8 Murehwa District.

- It is essential to create programmes (in all villages across ward 8) that promote women's participation in farming activities for example cooperative market gardening and irrigation schemes. This also include providing skills training and other forms of support that will help women farmers to prosper in their farming activities. Such programmes are easily accepted by a lot of women and this will be successful in obtaining the intended results of promoting women's participation in agriculture. These

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programmes require monitoring to determine whether they are effective or not as well as if there are any improvements needed to maximise women's participation.

- Traditional leaders should formulate by-laws that help in promoting women's access to resources such as land and inputs as well as advocating for the removal of some cultural norms that say women are men's properties which deprives them the right to own land and other resources.
- Traditional leadership structures should improve women representation in their councils to enhance inclusive decision-making in farming activities so that women can also have a say on what they are doing.
- Traditional leaders need to collaborate and maintain the existing relationships with other stakeholders so that they can have diverse minds and views and collaborate in making decisions concerning the promotion of women in agriculture. These other stakeholders will help in creating markets, improving agricultural technology for women in ward 8. Collaborating with other stakeholders will be an inspiration to women and they will learn the power of working together and supporting each other.
- There is also need for communities to document the experiences of women farmers and this will help as a source of information, lessons and inspiration to other women who want to venture into farming. By doing this, it will result in the rising of females in farming and the improvement of livelihoods for women farmers in ward 8.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Interview Guide for Traditional Leaders

My name is Vimbisoy Dekka from Bindura University of Science Education, presently studying for a bachelor honours degree in Development Studies. I am doing a research on The Role of Traditional Governance systems in promoting women in agriculture focusing on ward 8 of Murehwa district Zimbabwe.

By participating in this interview, you are consenting to that this information will only be used for the research and academic purposes. kindly note, given information is confidential hence it will not be shared to anyone

Interview questions:

1. How do you see the issue of women participating in agriculture?
2. What initiatives are you taking as a traditional leader to promote women farmers?
3. What challenges are you facing in carrying out those initiatives?
4. Any collaborations are you making in your village to promote women farmers
5. Any other issues?

Thank you

Appendix 2: Interview Guide for Women Farmers

My name is Vimbisoy Dekka from Bindura University of Science Education, presently studying for a bachelor honours degree in Development Studies. I am doing a research on The Role of Traditional Governance systems in promoting women in agriculture focusing on ward 8 of Murehwa district Zimbabwe.

By participating in this interview, you are consenting to that this information will only be used for the research and academic purposes. kindly note, given information is confidential hence it will not be shared to anyone

Interview questions:

1. How is your participation in agriculture like and how about other women in your area?
2. What are the challenges you are facing as women farmers?
3. What support are you getting from the traditional leaders in your area?
4. What do you think should be done by traditional leaders to promote your participation in agriculture?
5. Any other issues you would like to share?

Thank you

Appendix 3: Focus Group Discussion Guide for Traditional Leaders

Introduction

I welcome you all to this meeting. My name is Vimbiso Y Deka from Bindura University of Science Education, presently studying for a bachelor honours degree in Development Studies. I am doing a research study on The Role of Traditional Governance systems in promoting women in agriculture focusing on ward 8 here in Murehwa district. The purpose of this focus group discussion is to get and understand the diverse views and experiences of traditional leaders in ward 8 about their influence in promoting women in agriculture. By participating in this discussion, you are consenting to that this information will only be used for the research and academic purposes. kindly note, given information is confidential hence it will not be shared to anyone

Guiding rules

- We need to respect each other's opinion and give each other time to speak.
- Every answer is correct
- We speak through the facilitator

Participants introduction

- Can you introduce yourself and briefly describe your role as a traditional leader in ward 8.

Discussion guide:

Section A (socio-economic barriers)

Can you share the social-economic issues affecting women's involvement in agriculture

1. Do women in ward 8 have access to land?
2. How does domestic work affect women's farming practices?
3. Are there any training programs on agriculture. Are they accessible to women farmers?

Section B (Influence of traditional leadership to women farmers)

What is the role that traditional leaders play in promoting women participation in agriculture?

4. What is the role being played by traditional leaders in farming activities?
5. How do they support women in agriculture?
6. Are there any traditional customs or practices that affect women farmers?

7.How do traditional leaders resolve land disputes?

Section C (Opportunities for promoting women in agriculture)

How do traditional leaders create opportunities for women in agriculture?

8.What programs or initiatives created by traditional leaders that promote women farmers?

9.What other stakeholder collaboration are being made by traditional leaders that help in supporting women farmers?

10.Are women included in the decision-making processes regarding agricultural activities?

11.What are the successful initiatives designed by traditional leaders in promoting women in agriculture?

Section D: closing

12.What do you think should be done by traditional leaders to promote women in agriculture?

13. Any other issues or recommendation?

Thank you all for taking time to take part in this discussion. Your inputs and insight are greatly valued and appreciated

Appendix 4: Focus Group Discussion Guide for Women Farmers

I welcome you all to this meeting. My name is Vimbiso Y Deka from Bindura University of Science Education, presently studying for a bachelor honours degree in Development Studies. I am doing a research study on The Role of Traditional Governance systems in promoting women in agriculture focusing on ward 8 here in Murehwa district. The purpose of this focus group discussion is to get and understand the diverse views and experiences of women farmers in ward 8 about the influence of traditional leaders in promoting women in agriculture. By participating in this discussion, you are consenting to that this information will only be used for the research and academic purposes. kindly note, given information is confidential hence it will not be shared to anyone

Guiding rules

- You need to respect each other's opinion and give each other time to speak.
- Every answer is correct
- We speak through the facilitator

Participants introduction

- Can you introduce yourself and briefly describe your participation in farming here in ward 8.
- What type of farming do you focus on?

Discussion guide:

Section A (socio-economic barriers)

What are the social-economic issues affecting women's involvement in agriculture

1. Do women in ward 8 have access to land?
2. How does domestic work affect women's farming practices?
3. Are there any training programs on agriculture. Are they accessible to women farmers?

Section B (Influence of traditional leadership to women farmers)

What is the role that traditional leaders play in promoting women participation in agriculture?

4. What is the role being played by traditional leaders in farming activities?
5. How do they support women in agriculture?
6. Are there any traditional customs or practices that affect women farmers?
7. How do traditional leaders resolve land disputes?

Section C (Opportunities for promoting women in agriculture)

How do traditional leaders create opportunities for women in agriculture?

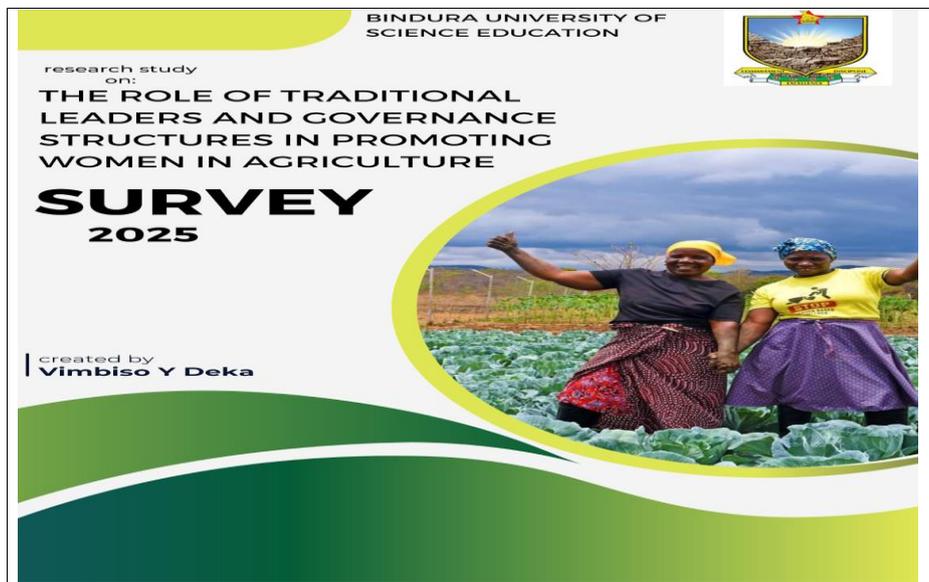
8. What programs or initiatives created by traditional leaders that promote women farmers?
9. What other stakeholder collaboration are being made by traditional leaders that help in supporting women farmers?
10. Are women included in the decision-making processes regarding agricultural activities?
11. What are the successful initiatives designed by traditional leaders in promoting women in agriculture?

Section D: closing

12. What do you think should be done by traditional leaders to promote women in agriculture?
13. Any other issues or recommendation?

Thank you all for taking time to take part in this discussion. Your inputs and insight are greatly valued and appreciated

Appendix 5: Questionnaire Survey



Form description

My name is Vimbiso Y Deka from Bindura University of Science Education, presently studying for a bachelor honours degree in Development Studies. I am doing a research on the role of traditional leaders and governance systems in promoting women in agriculture focusing on ward 8 of Murehwa district Zimbabwe.

By completing this survey, you are consenting to that this information will only be used for the research and kindly note that all the given data will remain anonymous.

Section 1 of 3

Demography

1. Gender

Female

Male

2. which age range do you fall under

18 to 30

31 to 45

46 to 55

56 +

3. Education level

Tertiary level

Secondary level

Primary level

Other

Section 2 of 3

About women's involvement in agriculture

4. from 1 to 5 how are women involved in farming activities in your area?

1

2

3

4

5

5. what are the factors hindering women from participating in agricultural activities in your area?

(choose one or more)

Patriarchal systems

Limited access to resources

Limited agriculture education

Limited decision-making power

Other

6. what do you think can help in promoting women farmers?

(choose one or more)

Improve access to technology

Improve access to resources, markets and credit

Formulation of by-laws and policies to support women farmers

Integrate agricultural education in communities

Other

7. what is one of the successful initiatives that women have done in your area to increase their participation in farming activities?

.....
.....

8. what is your recommendation to women farmers

.....
.....

Section 3 of 3

About traditional leaders and governance system

9. how are traditional leaders promoting women farmers

.....
.....

10. which other stakeholders are collaborating with traditional leaders in promoting women in agriculture

Local government

NGOs

Community organisations/women groups

Private businesses

Other

11. what is your recommendation to traditional leaders in terms of promoting women farmers

.....
.....

Appendix 6: Interview Guide for the MWACSMED

My name is Vimbiso Y Deka from Bindura University of Science Education, presently studying for a bachelor honours degree in Development Studies. I am doing a research study on The Role of Traditional Governance systems in promoting women in agriculture focusing on ward 8 of Murehwa district Zimbabwe.

By participating in this discussion, you are consenting to that this information will only be used for the research and academic purposes. kindly note that all the given data will remain anonymous.

Interview questions:

1. How is the overall participation of women in agriculture in Murehwa District?
2. As the ministry that oversee women's issues in Murehwa, what support is being rendered to women farmers by the traditional leaders?
3. How is your engagement with traditional leaders in ward 8?
4. Any other issues?

Thank you

Appendix 7: Interview Guide for the Member of parliament and Councillor of ward 8

My name is Vimbiso Y Deka from Bindura University of Science Education, presently studying for a bachelor honours degree in Development Studies. I am doing a research study on The Role of Traditional Governance systems in promoting women in agriculture focusing on ward 8 of Murehwa district Zimbabwe.

By participating in this interview, you are consenting to that this information will only be used for the research and academic purposes. kindly note that all the given data will remain anonymous.

Interview questions:

1. What are the encounters faced by women who venture into agriculture in this ward?
2. What are the initiatives being done by traditional leaders to support women farmers?
3. Is there any collaboration with the traditional leaders in ward 8 in trying to promote women in agriculture?
4. Any other issues?

Thank you