



## Gender perspective in agriculture value chain development in Kosovo

Emine DACI-ZEJNULLAHI

Department of Plant Production Technology, Faculty of Agribusiness,  
Haxhi Zeka University, Peja -Kosovo

Corresponding author: eminedaci@hotmail.com

### Abstract

Gender equality is a new process in Kosovo and requires stronger commitment of Kosovo society, including government institutions and civil society in particular. Gender equality affects all levels/ fields of society; the food value chain is touched especially. It can and should employ a large number of women. Development of the food value chain can contribute greatly to gender equality. This will be the object of this study and will focus on the participation of women in the development of food chain.

The study was conducted to determine gender based constraints and opportunities for women to participate in the food value chain, analyze the difference in power (positions) in the value chain governance. Main data of the study were obtained by a survey method from powerful persons of 30 different organizations, enterprises (producers, processors and traders). The secondary information consisted of relative statistics and related studies of the subject.

From this perspective it is argued that gender inequality has high economic cost and leads to wasting human resources, inefficiencies in the use of labor force and missed opportunities for development within the agriculture value chain.

It is important to mention that before the war (1998), the participation of women in the food value chain was considered satisfactory. The change of the economic system and the transition from the centralized system of economy to free trade economy resulted in major changes. It caused greater unemployment especially among women. Hence, as an immediate and urgent task is presented the integration of women in the food value chain. Such development will impact the economic growth of the country, and the improved position of women

**Keywords:** Food Value chain, gender equality, economic development, agriculture sector

### Introduction

Value chains have become a key concept in local and international discussions on development, in particular in relation to the effects of globalization on employment and poverty reduction in Kosovo. Content analysis of Value Chain was based on the Harvard Analytical Framework, which provides information relevant to the analysis of access to and control over resources and benefits by gender in each function of the chain, provides information useful for identifying business opportunities for women to strengthen their position in the agriculture chain.

Before entering into details on the gender perspectives of value chain development, I first summarize the meaning of value chain development. What is "Value Chain" In this paper, Value Chain (VC), is defined as an analytical as well as an operational model. The model takes up the

fact that a product is rarely directly consumed at the place of its production. It is transformed, combined with other products, transported, packaged, displayed etc. until it reaches the final consumer.

**Value chain actors:** The chain of actors who directly deal with the products, i.e. produce, process, trade and own them.

**Value chain supporters:** The services provided by various actors who never directly deal with the product, but whose services add value to the product.

**Value chain influencers:** The regulatory framework, policies, infrastructures, etc. (at the local, national and international level).

**Objectives of this research:** to determine the content analyze gender perspective in Agriculture value chain in Kosovo, select sensitive gender value chain sectors, and determine gender based

constraints and opportunities for women to participate in the food value chain.

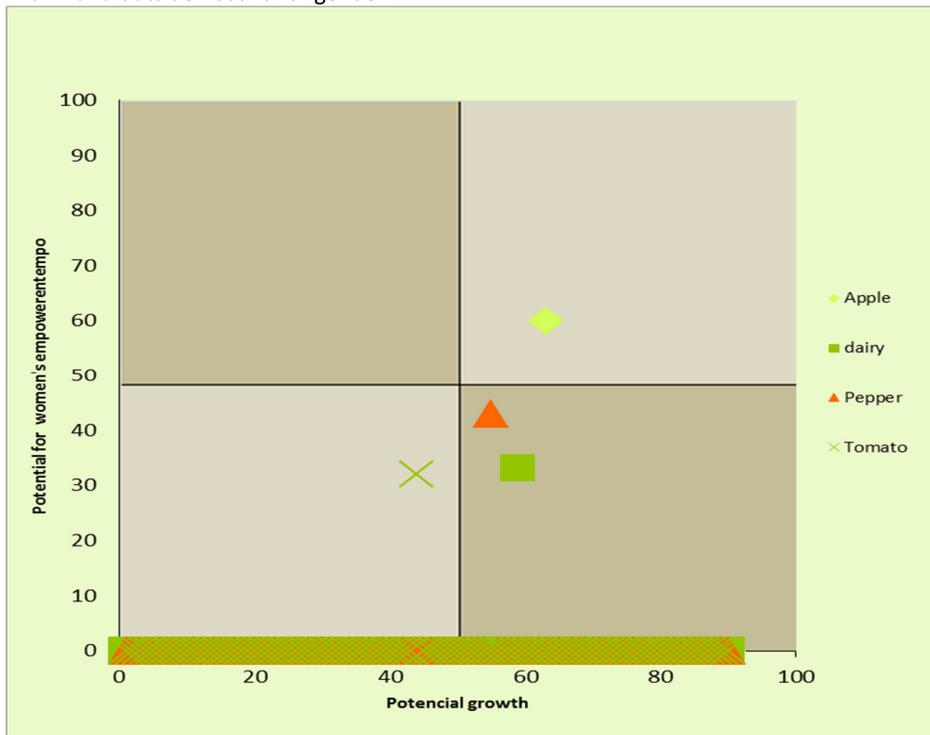
**Materials and Methods**

This research was carried out during 2014. Sites: The research was conducted in Kosovo through qualitative and quantitative data. Baseline data were gathered through the questionnaire for the second objective: Select sensitive gender value chain sector (see graph nr.2) and third: Determine gender based constraints and opportunities for women to participate in the food value chain. The network was established with 30 organizations (producers, processors, traders and institutions).The qualitative data were collected in different meetings with main stakeholders, institutions and donors. Also desk research was done through various research studies conducted within and outside Kosovo for gender.

**Results of research**

Therefore selected value chain(s) must have the potential to contribute to incensement women empowerment and gender equality; the chain must 'work for women' (By Vanderschaeghe, Lindo and Senders based on Oxfam GB and GIZ Value Links).

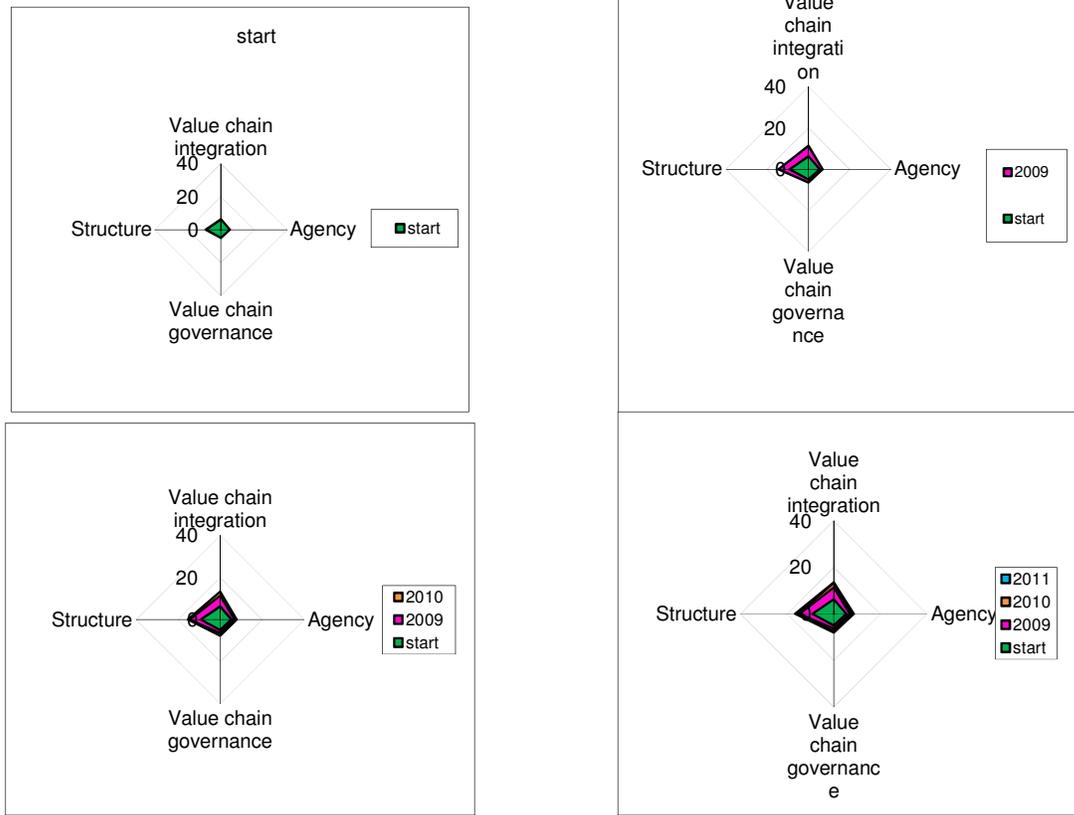
Based on these characteristics described above these chains were selected in targeted sectors: livestock, apple, tomato and pepper. The survey was conducted with 30 organizations (producers, processors, traders and institutions).The survey was designed in order to address the two issues: growth potential and representing gender equality for potential empowerment (Gender-sensitive value chain selection (Source: Vanderschaeghe et al., 2011).



**Fig 1 Gender sensitive Value Chain selection sectors**

According to statistical analysis the targeted value chains have the different potential growth. The apple value chain has the highest growth and potential for women empowerment and gender equality with average (63:63, 60) following by dairy sector (59:59, 33), pepper (55:55, 43) lowest potential was the tomato value chain (44:44,

32).From the survey regarding Gender value chain empowerment we come up with these results:



**Fig 1 Gender Value Chain empowerment**

**Value chain integration:** The extent to which the activities of women add value, through e.g. increased productivity and/or higher quality of the product was increased progressively starting with (6.3%), 2009(11.4%), 2010(13.3%), 2011(13.6%),

**Value chain governance:** The level to which women farmers are involved in the management of the Value Chain. Starting from (5%), 2009(6.4%), 2010(7.4%), 2011(8%) had slower growth,

**Agency:** % to which women farmers are empowered, become skilled, are self-conscious increased from starting 5.4%), 2009(6.9), 2010(7.8%), 2011(8.6).

**Structure:** the extent to which structures at family, community and societal level become more favorable for gender equality has shown the progress from starting point (6.3%), 2009 (11.4%), 2010(13.3%), 2011(13.6%).

Based on qualitative data which were collected during the interviews with main actors in agriculture value chain, the most important gender based constrains were identified, the factors which contribute to constrains and Opportunities for addressing the gender constrains.

The most important gender based constraints	Factors contributing to constraint	Opportunities for addressing the gender constrains
1. Lack of access to service providers (farmers' association, input suppliers, business support agencies)	1. Demand of integration on the value chains 2. Lack of access to service providers	1. Increase involvement of women through increase the quality and quantity of product delivered to producer association 2. Increase awareness of service providers about importance to have service for non-membership, conducting

		trainings for them and organize sale also.
3. Land ownership	3. Social attitudes	3. Raise awareness and advocate in land ownership rights
4. Lack of access to finance	4. Women lack of assets that can serve as collateral	5. Work with lending institutions to design business loan instruments
6. Social barriers	6. Most of the cases the women in rural area lack self –esteem and confidence	1. Encourage businesses for gender –sensitive practices and policies, increase formal and informal education and employment

### Discussion

Since 1999 Kosovo has made significant important steps towards building a democratic society but these changes have not equally affected men and women. Despite rich legal framework and mechanisms in place women in Kosovo continue to be at a disadvantage in many aspects which similar to this research<sup>2</sup>. Patriarchal norms and practices that dominate Kosovo society are considered as main causes of discrimination based on gender<sup>3</sup>(Prime Minister’s Office, 2008). Women’s unemployment rate is twice higher comparing to the men largely due to attitudes, culture, labor market inflexibility and the skills required. Employed women are at a disadvantage also on top management positions, which could be explained with them being less educated which in turn is a result of a traditional mindset and the role that woman has played in the past. Poverty is higher in households headed by women; women are less likely to own property, participation of women in public, political and leadership structures is lower than that of men.

Based on different researches done by donor agencies and the local institutions the gender inequality is described as bellow which:

- According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2010), Kosovo scores 0.76 on the Gender Development Index, which is the lowest in Balkan.
- Out of 47,401 private businesses registered in Kosovo, it is estimated that only around 6% of these are owned by women (SMS)<sup>4</sup>

- Nevertheless, women are legally equal before the law to inherit the land. However, legislations and conventions have often little impact on widespread traditional practices of registering property in men’s name and inheritance system that favors men.
- A main particular problem for women is the limited access to land, property rights and inheritance (e.g. in Kosovo, only 8 percent of real estate is owned by women)<sup>5</sup>which complies with this research according to the main challenges.

### Conclusion

- The Agriculture remains the main sector for employment of women in rural areas in Kosovo.
- Gender equality of opportunity and women's empowerment are essential for economic growth
- Gender differences and inequalities operate at all levels of the value chain, affecting not only women's rights, but also pro-poor development goals in general.
- Gender mainstreaming requires addressing many interlinked and mutually reinforcing dimensions (economic, social and political levels (individual, household, community, national, and international) on which inequality operates within the value chain
- The most important gender constrains are; social barriers, lack of finance, land ownership, lack of access to service.

<sup>2</sup> Gender Study 2012, Kosovo Chamber of Commerce

<sup>3</sup>Prime minister office Agency for gender equality

<sup>4</sup> Agency for Business Registration in Kosovo, 2013

<sup>5</sup> Färnsveden U, Qosja A, Country Gender Profile, April, 2014 Kosovo

- According to the research for gender sensitive value chain selection and potential for women empowerment the apple sector in Kosovo has the higher potential following by dairy, pepper and tomato.
- Difference between the four target value chains sectors is not big. They operate under the same business environment and social barriers and they influence each other in positive or negative manner.

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