



# Gender and NTFP chains in the Congo Basin

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**THINKING** beyond the canopy



# Aims

- Identify roles and benefits of men and women in nine NTFP value chains in Congo Basin
- Assess impact of chain interventions on gender
- Opportunities and constraints to enhancing women's economic empowerment



Cola (*Garcinia* spp. *Cola* spp)



Safou (*Dacryodes edulius*)



Raffia (*Raphia* spp.)



Apiculture (wax, honey, propolis) (*Apis mellifera adansonii*)

Eru/fumbwa (*Gnentum* spp.)



Bush mango (*Irvingia* spp.)

Pygeum (*Prunus africana*)



Bamboo (*Oxyantherea Yushania alpina*, *Bambusa* spp.)

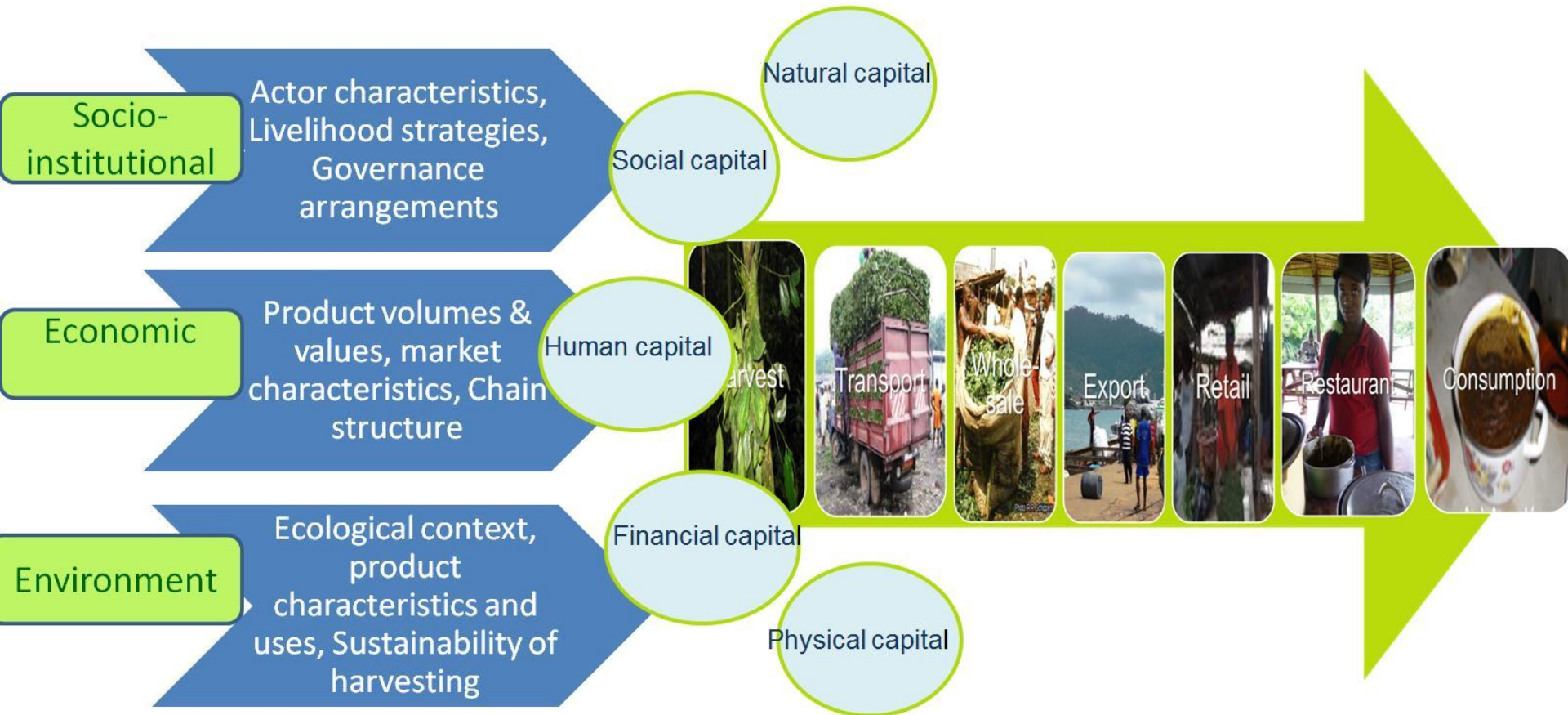


Gum arabic (*Acacia* spp.)



# Methods & conceptual framework

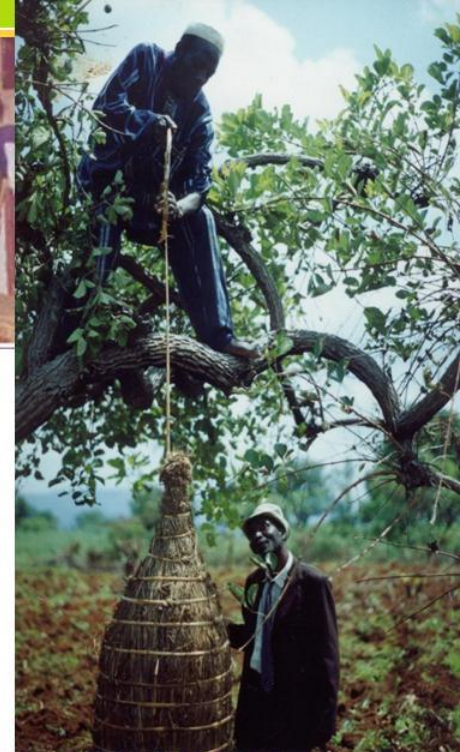
- Focus on sustainable livelihoods and chain to understand individual, household choices & chain arrangements & outcomes in 9 NTFP value chains in Cameroon and DRC



- Methods: Literature & policy review, 4,370 interviews, surveys 10 markets, 40 groups, 7 problem analysis workshops, price tracking in 5 markets

## Gendered products & chains

- Product characteristics, harvesting and processing techniques contribute to gendered chain activities
- Cultural norms determine chain activities (Gum, honey, cola)
- Customary norms dictate gendered tenure and access rights e.g. men own land and trees on farm and wild (bamboo, raffia, cola)

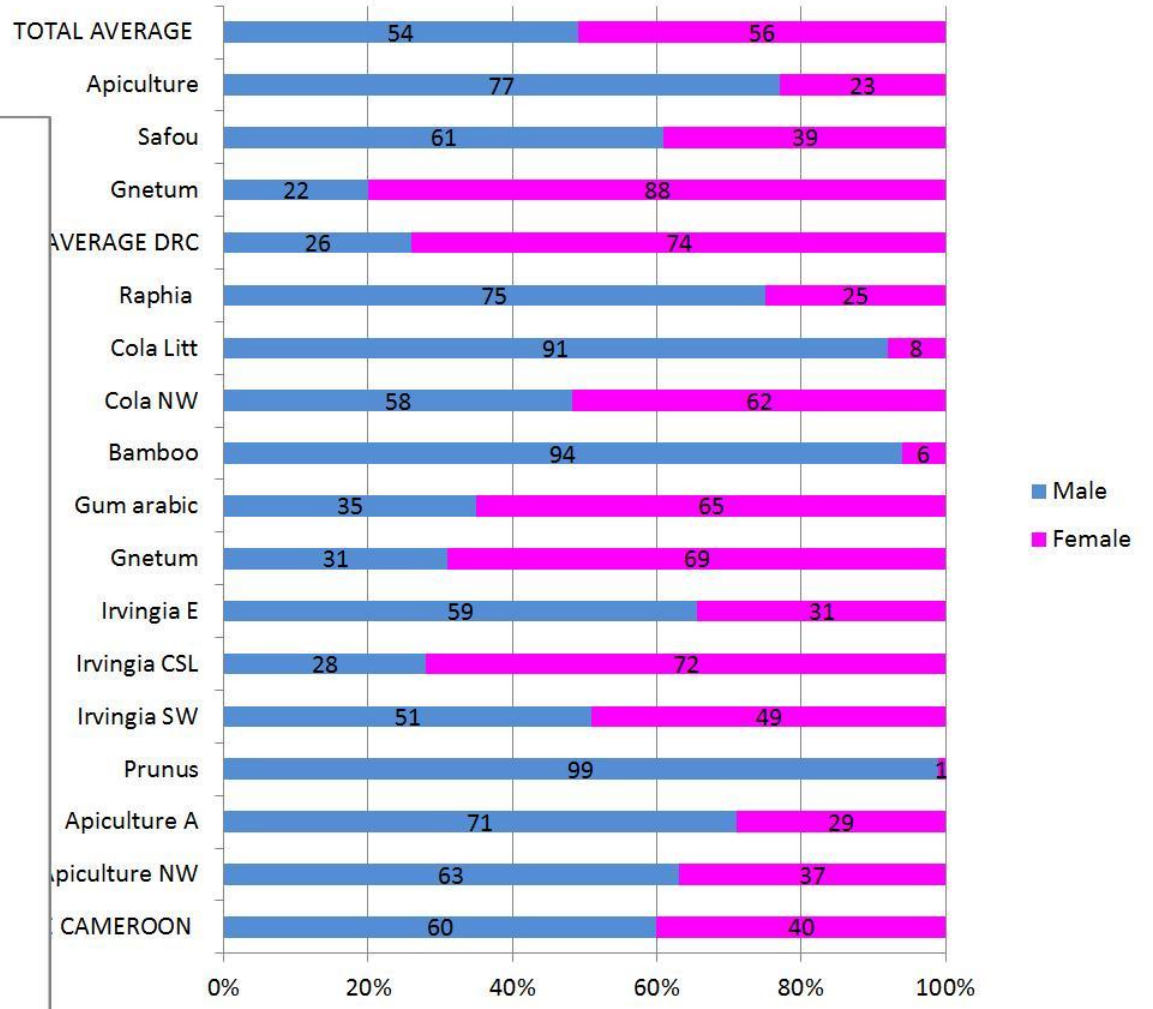
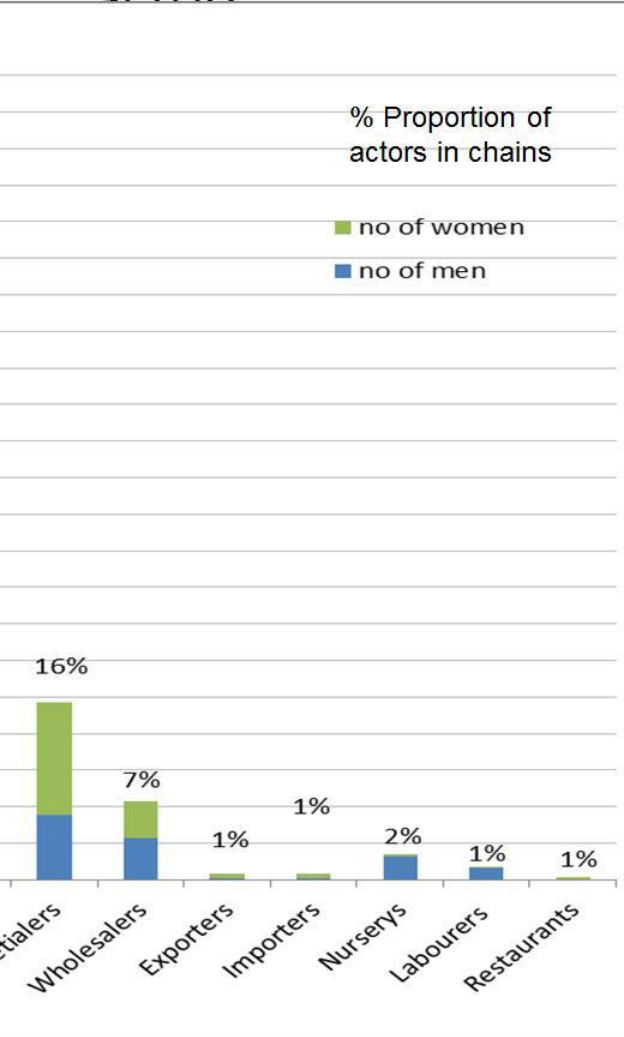


## Un-gendered uses

- NTFP revenues mainly used for general household needs, few gender differences
- At end of chain also re-invested
- All NTFPs form part of multiple household livelihood strategies for men and women

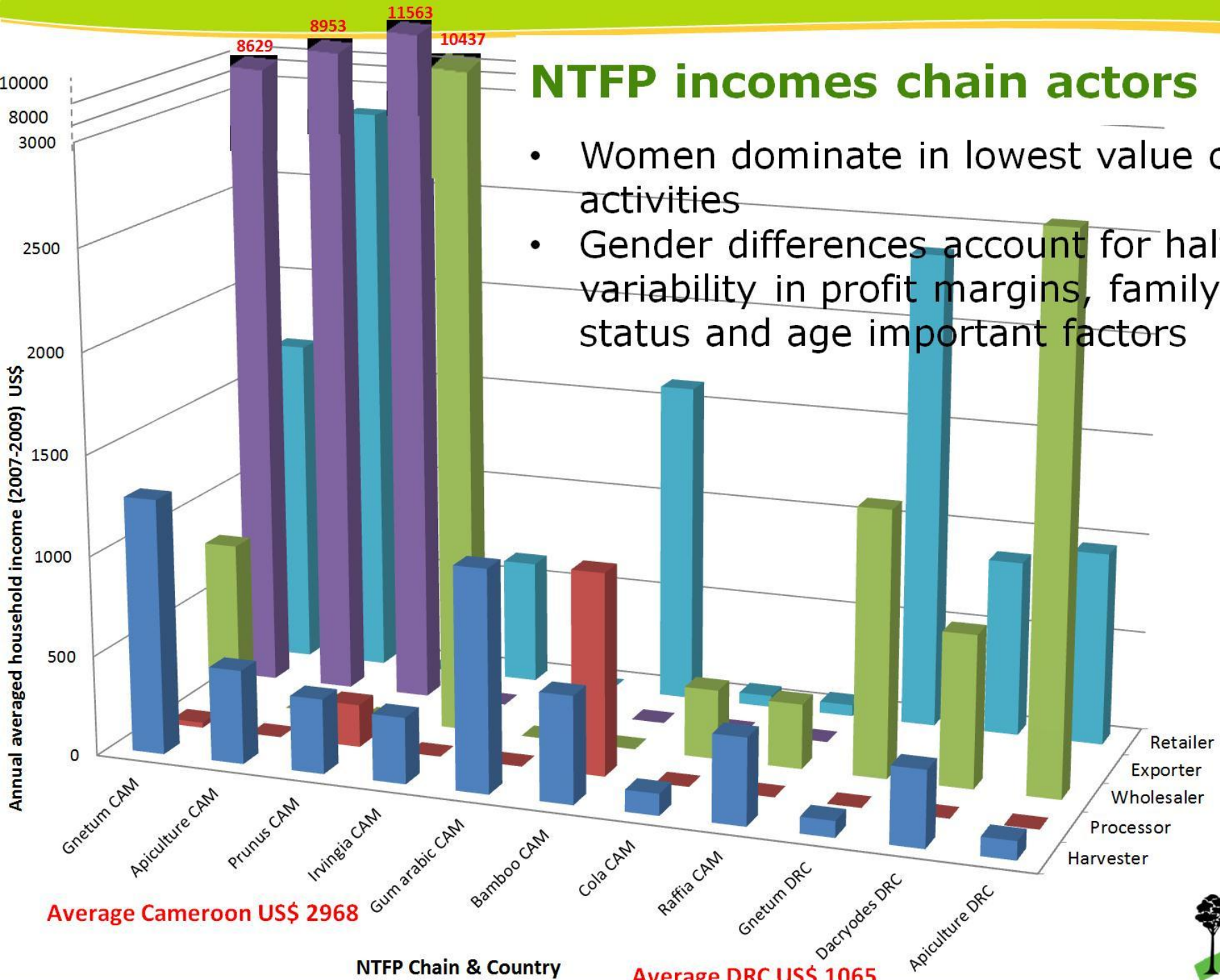
# Gendered products and chains

- Women slightly predominate 56% actors



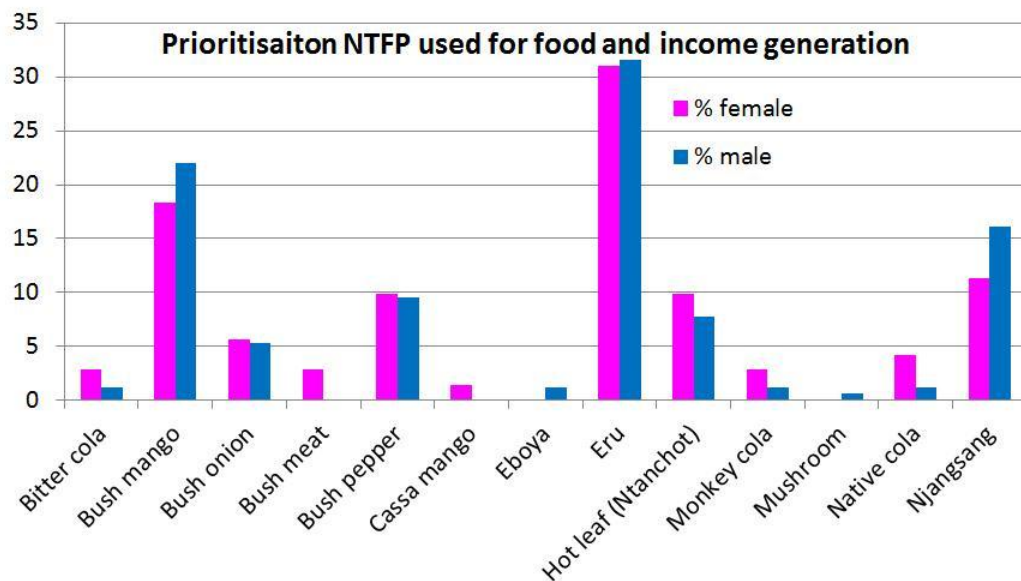
# NTFP incomes chain actors

- Women dominate in lowest value chain activities
- Gender differences account for half of variability in profit margins, family status and age important factors



# Gendered access & revenues

- Women 20% more restricted access than men
- Women travel further to harvest (1.2km) and sell (0.4 km)
- Women support more people from NTFP revenues
- Men generate 11% higher profit (volume and buyer)
- Female focus on fuel & food (double used for own consumption than men) than cash generation, men vice versa and focus on different products



# Impact of interventions & changes on gender

- Technology can change roles (honey)
- Increasing product value = increase in male harvesters over time (eru, bush mango)
- Promotional role of female role models (honey, eru)
- Out of forest onto farm = domestication & cultivation role (eru)
- Processing provides new opportunities for women (wax soaps, bush mango, dried eru)





# Barriers & Opportunities

- Customary ownership only of crops & wild harvested, not trees
  - Access to credit
  - Not knowing what's possible
- Women = farmers, critical role in cultivation
  - Value adding through processing
  - Collective action



**Maintaining a vibrant NTFP sector is important in diversifying livelihoods, providing subsistence and cash revenues.**

Enhancing women's benefits may be possible by:

- Recognising the informal and invisible nature of chains, gendered products and activities and source of gender differences
- Improving processing and value adding opportunities and technologies
- Supporting collective action to increase women's bargaining power and economies of scale
- Aiding to access to credit for processing and up-scaling
- Target training and interventions to women's needs - requires gender disaggregated analysis
- Encouraging pilots and role models "what is possible"

## Conclusions



# Thank you !



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