

## Gender Study/Executive summary

As women play an important role in agriculture and are thus actors in the agricultural Value Chains, Agro-BIG considers it important to know their position, the specific constraints that they encounter and the possible solutions to this.

The study analysed women's and men's participation, access to and control over and decision making power on the production, processing and marketing of onion and potato crops. As the programme is, for a start, focusing on Mecha and Fogera Woredas, the study also focused on these two woredas.

Although these days Ethiopian laws and regulations are increasingly taking into account the interests of women, traditions and cultural beliefs are harder to change. These affect women in particular and limit their changes to actively participate in, amongst others, (commercial) agriculture. As a result women have limited (if any) access to resources and benefits that are important for her as a farmer and / or actor in the VC.

Although women carry out a lot of activities, both in onion and potato cultivation, this is hardly recognised and she does not get the benefits from it. Those women that are involved in trade, are mostly selling small volumes at local, nearby markets. This is not very profitable. The existing extension services (DAs) are geared towards male farmers and largely exclude female farmers. For cooperatives the same applies. The idea that male farmers will pass on information to women in the household turns out to be off the mark.

Furthermore, the capacity of the institution as well as the staff of the main stakeholders of Agro-BIG to mainstream gender was assessed. In addition, the relevance and contribution of some institutions if included in the Agro-BIG management bodies was also assessed.

Based on the findings of the analysis, the report provides practical recommendations for the Agro-BIG programme on how to increase the integration of women in the programme's activities.