

The Gender Approach in the Production Projects of Irrigation Schemes in the High Basins Region of Burkina Faso

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Abstract: *The gender approach is an interesting theme and taking it into account in development actions remains an imperative for inclusive and sustainable development. This research aimed to assess the degree of application of the gender approach in the distribution of agricultural production plots in hydro - agricultural schemes, to assess the consideration of gender in the distribution of production inputs subsidized by the State and to assess the representation of men and women in the governance bodies of hydro - agricultural schemes. To do this, and in terms of methodology, surveys were conducted among producers and supervisors of irrigated areas and lowlands in the Hauts Bassins region. The results of the survey showed disparities (varying from one municipality to another and from one province to another) according to gender in the distribution of land on the developments in the Hauts Bassins region. In general, in the Hauts Bassins region, men have greater access to land in the schemes than women. The average rate of access of women to developed land is about 39% in the lowlands and 30% in the developed areas in the Hauts Bassins. This paper also reveals that women have poor access to agricultural production inputs on agricultural facilities in Burkina Faso. This constitutes an obstacle to agricultural productivity, with rates of 5% and 6% respectively for women's access to seeds and fertilizers in the Hauts Bassins region. This research shows that women are poorly represented in the governance bodies of the developments with a rate of representation of 2% and 4% respectively in the perimeters in the lowlands. In terms of the involvement of public policies, it would be interesting to take into account: (i) the integration of gender in the diagnosis and formulation of projects; (ii) integration of a gender monitoring mechanism; (iii) training of rural development agents; (iv) sensitization of the population on gender; (v) strengthening women's access to resources and services; (vi) the involvement of women in the decision - making bodies of agricultural production projects.*

Keywords: Gender approach, hydro - agricultural development, governance, upper basin, production project.

1. Introduction

Burkina Faso is a country with an agricultural vocation where the rural sector occupies a preponderant place in the national economy because it contributes around 30% to the gross domestic product (GDP) and occupies around 80% of the active population (Insd, 2019). The fight against poverty in general and particularly food and nutritional insecurity is the main battle of the authorities of the Burkinabè government. In Burkina Faso, the primary sector, which concentrates more than 80% of national poverty, contributes only 30.4% to GDP on average (IMF, 2012). This reflects the weakness of the creation of wealth per capita of the active population of the primary sector compared to other sectors. According to the Rural Development Strategy (Sdr, 2004), this sector employs more than 85% of the predominantly rural population. The development alternatives cannot therefore hide such a large segment of the population whose activity is the bedrock of the national economy. For Beaudoux and Nieuwkerk (1985), the promotion of rural development which implies an efficient organization of producers is vital. According to data from the general population and housing census (Insd, 2019), women represent 51.7% of the overall population compared to 48.3% of men. They have a large share of contribution to development activities. In the agricultural sector, women constitute 52% of the workforce and provide a large part of the labor force in both subsistence agriculture and cash crops. Indeed, rural women devote three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of their time to agricultural activities, thus contributing largely to food production (Provalab, 2020). According to Fida (2012), women are key actors in the agricultural sector, in household

food security and nutrition, and in the management of natural resources. They represent 43% of the agricultural labor force in all developing countries and up to 50% in East Asia and sub - Saharan Africa (IFAD, 2012). Women are more exposed to poverty because of their weak access and control to factors of production and resources. The country also suffers from a low level of human capital development, which is much more pronounced among women, resulting in low labor productivity, particularly in the agricultural sector, a source of employment and income for nearly 80% of the working population (Mpf, 2009). However, they do not benefit from conditions equal to those of men in access to and control of productive resources. The place of women in agriculture is influenced by the inequalities (gender) that exist in society as a whole (Cfsi, 2019) and their possibility of access to the best land and irrigated perimeters is very limited. Women generally only have a precarious right of use on plots that are often smaller than those of men and the proportion of cultivable land allocated to women is very low. They are also subject to inequality in decision - making within community organizations and poor access to production inputs. To overcome gender inequalities in activities, the gender approach has been developed and integrated into community actions in order to reduce inequalities and disparities in access to productive resources. The gender approach is based on the analysis and questioning of the processes and relationships of domination between men and women, based on the assignment of socially constructed roles according to sex. Gender is one of the guiding principles in Burkina Faso's National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES), and one of the expected effects of axis 2 "develop human capital" is to

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reduce social inequalities and provide conditions in which men and women have equal opportunities to participate in decision - making fora and influence development in all sectors. Thus, in Burkina Faso, all development projects and programs must align themselves around the vision of the PNDES. Irrigation schemes are part of the structuring projects of the State which must mobilize all social strata of the country and in view of the issues surrounding agricultural production projects in Burkina Faso, we ask ourselves the following central question: is the gender approach taken into account in the management and operation of the facilities in Burkina Faso? The general objective of this research is to contribute to a better integration of gender in development projects in Burkina Faso. Specifically, it involved: (i) evaluating the degree of application of the gender approach in the distribution of agricultural production plots in hydro - agricultural schemes; (ii) assess how gender is taken into account in the distribution of production inputs subsidized by the State; (iii) assess the representation of men and women in the governing bodies of irrigation schemes; and (iv) propose solutions for better consideration of gender in development projects. The rest of this paper is mainly structured in three sections. First, the materials and methods are discussed; then, the results presented; and finally we proceed to the discussion of our results before concluding.

2. Materials and Methods

Presentation of the area: the region of the high basins

Located in the west of Burkina Faso, the Hauts - Bassins region is bounded to the north by the Boucle du Mouhoun region, to the south by the Cascades region, to the east by the South - West region and to the west by the Republic of Mali. It covers a total area of 25, 479 km² or 9.4% of the national territory. It includes the provinces of Houet, Kénédougou and Tuy, which have Bobo - Dioulasso, Orodara and Houndé respectively as their capitals. It has 3 urban communes, 30 rural communes, 33 departments, 483 villages and 45 sectors. Crossed by both the Abidjan - Niamey road axis and the Abidjan - Ouagadougou railway line, the region occupies a favorable geographical position for trade. Its capital Bobo - Dioulasso is a hub for trade in agricultural products with the rest of Burkina Faso on the one hand, and neighboring countries on the other. The Hauts - Bassins region borders the Cascades, Boucle du Mouhoun, Sud - Ouest regions and the Republic of Mali (Insd, 2022).

The resident population of the Hauts - Bassins amounts to 2, 239, 840 inhabitants (at the 5th Rgph) and is mainly composed of Dioula, Bobo, Sénoufo, Mossi and Fulani. It is made up of 1, 094, 100 men and 1, 145, 740 women. The Hauts - Bassins region has variable population numbers depending on the province. Indeed, a breakdown of population numbers at the provincial level gives 1, 510, 638 inhabitants for Houet and 399, 949 inhabitants for Kénédougou. More than a third (67.4%) of the population of the Hauts - Bassins region lives in Houet. As in the region, women outnumber men at the provincial level. Indeed, sex ratios indicate 95.7 men for 100 women in Houet; 93.5 men for 100 women in Kénédougou; and 96.9 men for 100 women in Tuy. At the regional level, this ratio is 95.5 men for 100 women. The structure by sex and age of the

population of the Hauts - Bassins region presents a predominantly young population like that of the country. Indeed, the average age of the population of the Hauts - Bassins region is 22.0 years and is the same for both men and women. The median age of women (19.7 years) is slightly higher than that of men (18.0 years). The median age is also higher among women than among men in rural areas, while in urban areas it is practically the same in both groups (Insd, 2022).

The Hauts - Bassins region is made up of a succession of peneplains and plateaus, but also mounds and hills with altitudes that can vary from 250 to 700 meters. In its northwestern part in the municipality of Bama, there is an alluvial plain to which are added the plains of Banzon, Niéna and Dionkélé. They are vast and traversed by numerous backwaters which sometimes create marshy areas during the rainy season. For soils, several types are encountered there but the most important are sesquioxide soils and organic matter which are rich in iron oxide or manganese and come from the decomposition of tropical ferruginous soils that are little leached or leached and hydromorphic soils. In the Kénédougou, the soils are mostly deep (depth greater than 100 cm) with an average drainage capacity. They are rich in minerals and low in organic matter. They are suitable for cash crops such as sesame, cotton and groundnuts. With regard to the province of Tuy, a significant part of the territory 20% is occupied by ferruginous cuirasses, outcrops of rocks. These are areas unsuitable for agriculture. However, cultivable land represents 50% of the provincial area. On the other hand, in Houet, the soils are mostly hydromorphic on old armor and favorable to agriculture. The Hauts - Basin region is subject to a tropical climate regime of the northern Sudanese type and characterized by the alternation of two (02) seasons: dry and rainy. However, the effects of climate change are a reality in the Hauts - Bassins region, rainfall is irregular with an uneven distribution by campaign and from one campaign to another. The area is very rich in plant resources; it has sixteen (16) classified forests distributed between the provinces of Houet (09) and Tuy (07) offering opportunities for the exploitation of timber and services. Mention should also be made of communal and village forests as well as school groves. The Hauts - Bassins region has a large fauna made up of three main classes of animals: mammals, birds and reptiles. This wildlife potential is the basis for the development of hunting and booming vision tourism in the region. Fishery resources are not negligible but fishing is of the artisanal type. This last activity is highly developed in the departments of Banzon, Samorogouan and Sindo. However, this environment is changing. The main causes of this mutation are, among others, demographic pressure, inappropriate farming practices and bush fires. The particularity of the topography and the climate make it a real water tower and it is one of the most drained in Burkina Faso with its hydrographic network made up of the Mouhoun and its main tributaries (Dienkoa, Guenako, Kou and Plandi). Groundwater is relatively abundant and can provide high flow rates for boreholes.

Sampling and data collection methods

In order to facilitate the collection of information in the field, survey sheets were developed by integrating the

variables. These survey sheets which are essentially interview guides. The parameters and indicators used, with a view to dealing with the gender issue in the upper basins, concerned land occupation according to gender, the distribution of agricultural production inputs according to gender and the occupation of positions of responsibility in decision - making bodies in the facilities. Table 1 gives details of the parameters and indicators used. The interviews targeted the regional and provincial officials of Agriculture

in the Hauts Bassins, the zone heads, the heads of the developed plains and the members of the governing bodies. The data was collected from the people retained in the sample and on the basis of the interview guides previously developed and the data was collected by individual interviews because this technique has the advantage of avoiding the group effect and the interference of others on the answers given. Table 1 provides details of the sample selected.

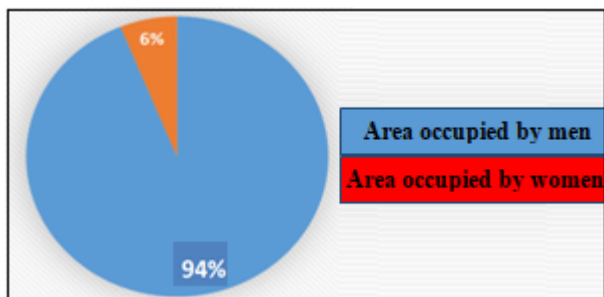
Table 1: Instrumental variables and sample summary

Concerned Indicators		Sample summary				
Axes	Indicators (variables)	Cooperative name	Number of lowlands		Number of irrigated perimeters	
			total	restrained	total	restrained
Land use on developments according to gender	The total area operated by all the producers	Province of Houet	90	12	1	1
	Number of operating men					
	Number of female farmers					
The granting of inputs on facilities according to gender	The nature of the inputs granted in the developments	Province of Kéné Dougou	57	8	2	2
	The rate of endowment of inputs for men					
	The rate of women's input endowment					
Positions in decision - making bodies	Number of positions available in the governing body	Province of Tuy	55	11	1	1
	Number of positions held by men					
	Number of positions held by women					
		TOTAL	202	31	4	4

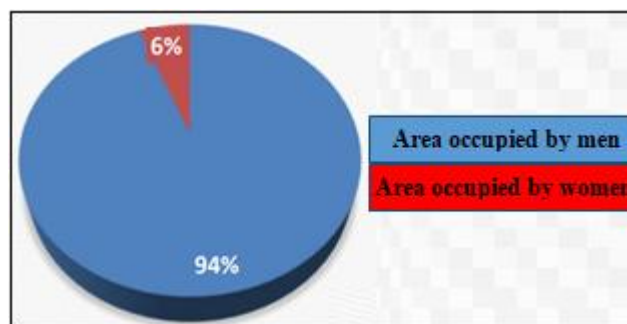
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3. Results

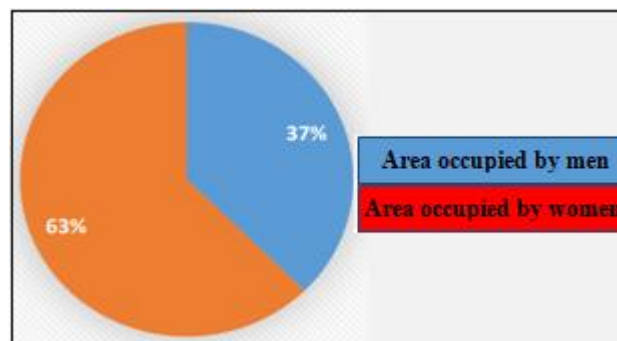
Our results show disparities in terms of gender in the occupation of land on the irrigated perimeter, the occupation of the developed areas of the lowlands, the distribution of inputs, the distribution of the allocation of seeds, the distribution of the allocation of fertilizers and accountability in the governing bodies of the developments. Indeed, the irrigated perimeter of Bama knew a beginning of realization within the framework of the cooperation between Upper Volta and the Republic of Taiwan in 1968; it has an area of 1, 260 hectares under cultivation and currently has 1, 300 producers distributed in accordance with figure 1 which shows a land occupation largely dominated by men at 94% against 6% for women. The Banzon plain (located in the province of Kéné Dougou) was developed in the 1960s and currently has 454 hectares exploited and 652 producers work there in all seasons (mostly made up of men) as shown in Figure 2. Like the irrigated perimeter of Bama, that of Banzon has a land occupation dominated by men; the occupation rate of land by men is 94% against 6% for women. The plain of Niena Djonkelé, in the province of Kéné Dougou (municipality of N'dorola) has an area of 1, 460 developed in 2001 and the total number of producers working on this perimeter is estimated at 800.



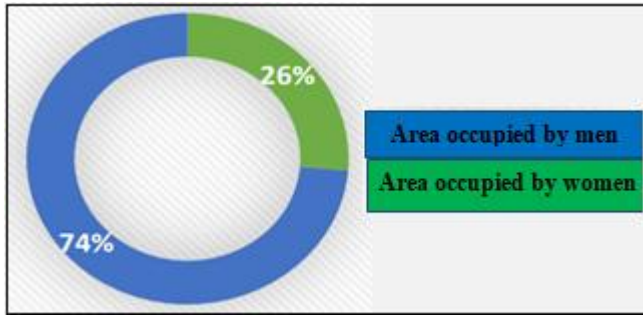
Graph 1: Distribution by gender of land occupation on the irrigated perimeter of Bama



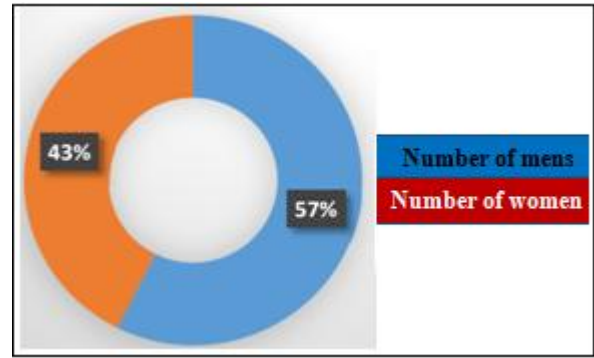
Graph 2: Distribution by gender of land occupation on the irrigated perimeter of Banzon



Graph 3: distribution by gender of land occupation on the irrigated perimeter of Niena Dionkelé.

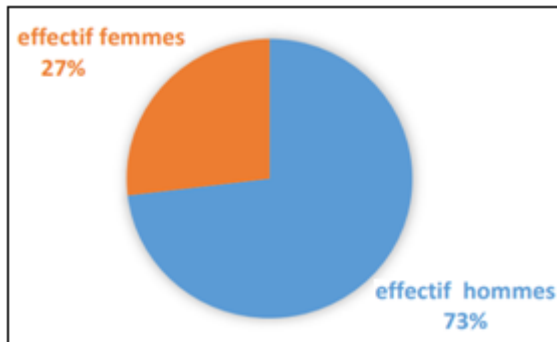


Graph 4: Distribution according to gender of land occupation on the irrigated perimeter of Haba



Graph 6: General distribution of lowland land occupancy rate by gender in the province of Kénédougou.

Source: Author



Graph 5: General distribution of the occupation rate of lowland land according to gender in the province of Houet.

Unlike other developments in the region, the land occupation rate is largely dominated by women as shown in Figure 3. The Haba irrigated perimeter located in the province of Tuy, commune of Koti has an area of 100 hectares. This perimeter was developed in 2018; it is operated by 95 producers of all genders and figure 4 above shows the land occupation rate by gender on the plain of Haba. As shown in the figure, land occupation is dominated by women with a rate of 74% against 36% for men. The results obtained, in the lowlands retained by our sampling, are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of land use on the irrigated perimeters of the Hauts Bassins region according to gender and Assessment of land occupation according to gender in some developed lowlands in Houet

Locality or municipality		Province or Village		Area		Workforce	
Locality	Municipality	Province	Village (site)	Locality	Municipality	Men	Women
Bama		Houet		1260		1300	85
Bazon		Kénédougou		454		614	38
N'dorola		Kénédougou		1460		300	500
Haba		Tuy		100		25	70
Total				3274		2239	693
	Bama		Diarradougou (Diarradougou)		64	80	25
			Toukoro (Namada)		147	245	60
			Tongogoma (Tongogoma)		60	100	20
	Bobo - Dioulasso		Dodougou (Dodougou)		65	95	8
			Moussobadougou (Moussobadougou)		50	30	20
	Dandé		Markabougou (Markabougou)		50	48	36
	Faramana		Koby (Koby)		38.5	106	46
			Siankoro (Siankoro)		102	125	125
	Karangasso Sambla		Tiara (Tiara)		40	67	45
	Karangasso Vigué		Déguelé (Déguelé)		60	100	75
	Satiri		Dorossiamasso (Dorossiamasso)		30	88	22
	Dande		Bakaribougou (Tago 1)		32	0	88
Total					738.5	1084	570

Source: Author

According to data collected from the Hauts Bassins Regional Directorate of Agriculture, the total area of developed and exploited lowlands is estimated at 2, 972 hectares on the date of the survey in the province of Houet. These developed areas of lowlands are mainly occupied by men, as shown in Figure 5. In the province of Kénédougou, the total area of developed and exploited lowlands is estimated at 2, 400 hectares on the date of the survey. These areas are mostly

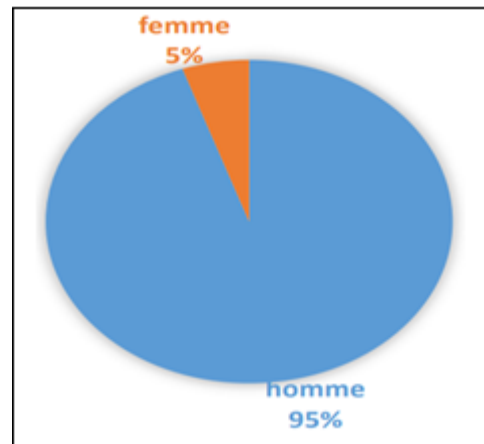
occupied by men, as shown in Figure 6. In the Tuy, the total area of developed and exploited lowlands is estimated at 922 hectares. The occupancy rate of these developed lowland areas is almost evenly distributed between men and women, as shown in Figure 7, which shows an occupancy rate of 51% against 49% for women. This is much higher than the rate observed in the other two provinces of the region.

Table 3: Assessment of land occupation according to gender in some developed lowlands in Kéné Dougou

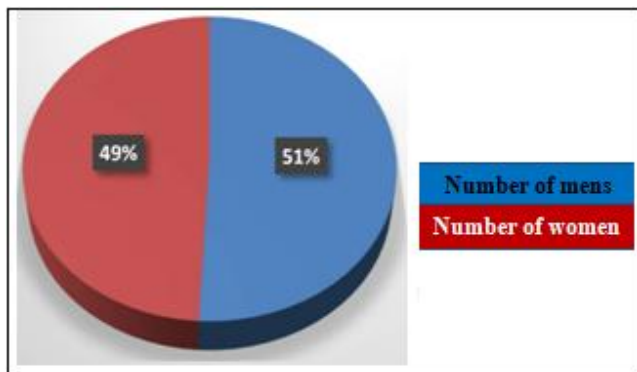
Province	Municipality	Village	Site name	Total area	Number of men	Number of women
Kéné Dougou	Banzon	Danfinkan	Danfinkan	40	209	24
		Fofara	Fofara	30	92	20
	Kayan	Dionkele	Site PAPSA	15	20	100
		Dionkele	Lêkayan/PRP	30	22	285
	N'dorola	Dingasso II		40	120	40
	Samoroguan	Kongolikoro	Kongolikoro I	40	79	57
	Samoroguan	Kongolikoro	Kongolikoro II	100	242	120
	Morolaba	Temetemesso	Site PADL/CLK	193	372	400
Tuy	Békuy	Bassé	Bassé	80	249	62
	Béréba	Popioho	Popioho	26	75	25
	Boni	Mamboué	Mamboué	30	54	38
		Karaba	Karaba	45	55	25
	Houndé	Boho - kari	Boho - kari	40	75	31
		Koumbia	Vahoun	83	56	34
	Koumbia	Dougoumato II	Dougoumato II	45	3	94
		Founzan	Yerfing	Yerfing	21	111
	kovi		founzan	30	70	130
	Koti	Kayao	Kayao	30	45	39
		Koti	N'tjoubou	30	6	100
	Total				948	1955

Source: Author

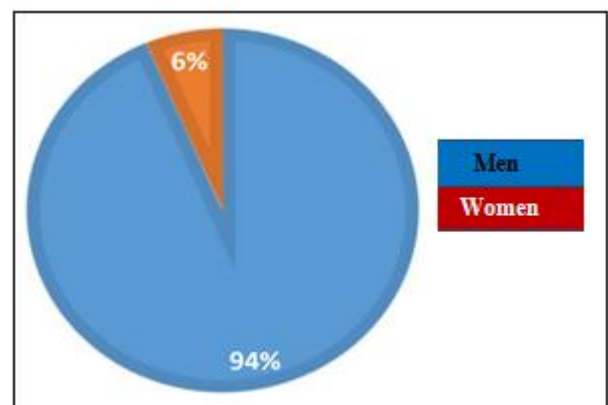
At the level of irrigated perimeters and lowlands, rice is the main crop recommended and encouraged by the technical services of the State. The main inputs made available to producers are mainly rice seeds, NPK fertilizer and urea. With regard to rice seed, during the 2021 - 2022 wet agricultural campaign, the average distribution by gender on the irrigated perimeters in the Hauts Bassins region is as shown in Figure 8. Figure 9 shows a seed endowment rate of 95% for men against 5% for women. The most widely used fertilizers in landscaping are mainly chemical fertilizers composed of NPK and urea. These are fertilizers subsidized by the State and granted to producers. During the 2021 - 2022 wet campaign, the situation of the distribution of fertilizers in the facilities is as shown in the following figure. The results of the study show a rate of fertilizer endowment of 94% for men against 6% for women.



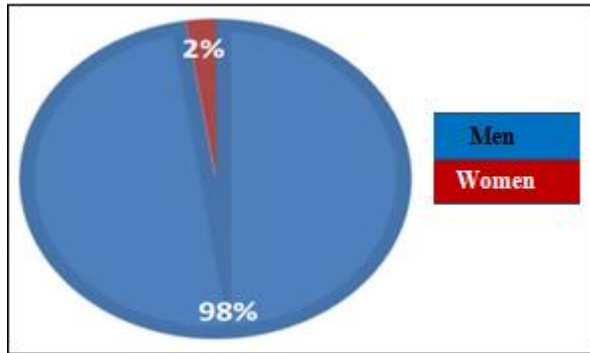
Graph 8: Distribution of seed allocation by gender in the irrigated perimeters of the Hauts Bassins region



Graph 7: General distribution of the occupation rate of lowland land according to gender in the province of Tuy



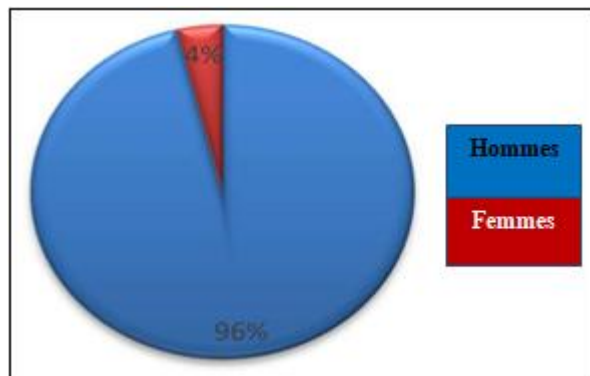
Graph 9: Distribution of fertilizer allocation by gender in the irrigated perimeters of the Hauts Bassins region



Graph 10: Rate of representation by gender in the developed areas of the Hauts Bassins region

Source: Author

The Management Board of the Union of Rice Cooperatives of Bama (UCRB) has ten (10) members and 3 members for the Control Committee. Among these ten members making up the office of the governing body, there is only one woman. The Bazon Producers Union includes rice farmers grouped in a simplified cooperative society. In the governing body of the cooperative society, no woman is represented. Despite the large number of women among the producers of the plain of Niéna Djonkele, no woman is in the office of the governing body of the plain.



Graph 11: Representation rate by gender in developed lowlands in the Hauts Bassins region

Source: Author

Overall in the Hauts Bassins region, the rate of representation of women in the governing bodies of the irrigated perimeters is around 2% and 4% in the developed lowlands. It should be noted that no woman is president of a union of rice producers' cooperatives except the cooperative in which they are members and of which all the members are women. Figures 10 and 11 present the rate of representation according to gender respectively in the perimeters and in the developed and exploited lowlands. This rate of representation of women in the governing bodies of cooperatives and unions of producers is respectively 2% in the perimeters and 4% in the lowlands.

4. Discussion

The results of the survey showed a gender disparity in the distribution of land on the developments in the Hauts Bassins region. This rate varies from one locality (municipality or village) to another and from one province to another. In general, in the Hauts Bassins region, men have

greater access to land in the schemes than women. The average rate of access of women to developed land is about 39% in the lowlands and 30% in the developed areas in the Hauts Bassins. This was confirmed by Ouoba et al. (2003), their research has shown that tenure security is a major constraint for the vast majority of rural women. In most societies, the issue of "women and land" generally arises in terms of access to fertile land and security on allocated land. According to Souratié et al. (2019), in terms of developed land, only 8% of this land is exploited by women and the average area of land exploited by women is 1 ha against 3 ha for men. This low rate of women's access to land is mainly the result of customary rules. The land is owned by men and women only have usage rights. The results of Maaha (2019a) showed that Women's access to secure land is increasingly reduced; over the period 2010 - 2019, the acquisition of land is increasingly done by borrowing to such an extent that the weight of land under borrowing has increased from 30% to 70%, an increase of 40 points in ten years. Thus, in 2019, nearly two - thirds (2/3) of the area farmed by women is acquired by borrowing and only 12% is obtained by inheritance and 17% by donation or bequest. According to data from Maaha (2020), the proportion of area farmed by women increased slightly (1 point) between 2010 and 2019 with a peak in 2012 followed by a sharp decline in 2013 and 2014. In 2019, it was up compared to 2018 and the five - year average. The highest proportion is in the Center (34%) and the lowest in the production basins of the country such as the Boucle du Mouhoun (9%), the Cascades (9%), the Hauts - Bassins (8%) and the South - West (7%). Women's low access to land, even in developed areas, is influenced by socio - cultural and traditional factors. Traditionally, land tenure does not guarantee land security for women. This regime prevents them from having control over the land they cultivate. (Media Terre, 2022). Yet, according to Provalab (2020), in developing countries, women are responsible for 60 - 80% of food production and own 10 - 20% of the land. According to Fida (2012) agricultural growth is stronger when both men and women have the opportunity to participate fully in economic activity when their time, especially that of women, is freed from arduous and repetitive tasks and when they are motivated by an equitable share in the fruits of their efforts. Women also have low access to agricultural production inputs on agricultural facilities in Burkina Faso. This constitutes an obstacle to agricultural productivity. Access to inputs is a factor promoting the sustainable adoption of technologies and from this point of view, the facilitation of access to inputs (seeds, fertilizers and appropriate phytosanitary products) and to suitable agricultural equipment in combination with other technologies constitute an important factor in the adoption of technologies (Koudougou and Stiem, 2017). According to Ouoba et al. (2003), women's access to and control over resources and factors of production are limited and they therefore cannot always enjoy the benefits of their work, which can directly influence women's productivity and production, and therefore family farming in rural areas. According to the National Strategy for the Promotion of Female Entrepreneurship (SNPEF), although access to land, credit and subsidies for agricultural inputs including fertilizers, seeds and new technologies (especially agricultural equipment such as ploughs, tractors, etc.) are considered key factors in ensuring the food and

financial empowerment of women, very few of them have access to these resources (Mpf, 2015). Indeed, only 8.2% of women are individual landholders against 45.5% for men. According to Provalab (2020), through better access to quality agricultural inputs and appropriate financing, women and young people will have better economic opportunities and better economic benefits from their activities. If women had equal access to factors of production, estimates the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), yields on farms run by women would increase by 20% to 30% and total agricultural production by 2.5% to 4% in developing countries (Maaha, 2019b). In fact, the result would be a 12% to 17% drop in the number of hungry people in the world, or between 100 and 150 million people (IFAD, 2012). The representation of women in the development management committees is very low. However, they are decision - making and planning bodies for agricultural production activities for all cooperative members. The few women who participate in decision - making bodies have a very low level of influence on the decisions to be taken and they suffer most of the decisions made by men during general assemblies. According to Fida (2012), development programs are more relevant and more sustainable when both women and men can participate in rural institutions and bring their own needs and priorities to decision - making bodies. Women's participation is not only their statistical representation, but also their ability to be heard and to exert influence. For the UNDP (1994) women must not only "be present" in the decision - making mechanisms, they must express their points of view, propose their choices, negotiate, advance their projects and influence the decision, just as men do.

5. Conclusion

Our research aimed to assess the degree of application of the gender approach in the distribution of agricultural production plots in hydro - agricultural schemes, to assess the consideration of gender in the distribution of state - subsidized production inputs and to assess the representation of men and women in the governing bodies of hydro - agricultural schemes. The results of the study show that women have very little access to developed land from one locality to another, given certain cultural factors specific to each area. The access rate of men to land is much higher than that of women. The results also showed women's low accessibility to production inputs, which limits their production capacity and considerably increases food insecurity. The development management bodies that constitute decision - making frameworks have a low representation of women compared to men and this situation does not allow women to influence actions for the development of agricultural production. In short, gender is not always sufficiently taken into account in agricultural production projects in Burkina Faso, except perhaps in projects totally or with an exclusive component on disadvantaged groups. Addressing gender inequalities and empowering women are key to meeting the challenge of improving food security and nutrition and lifting poor rural people out of poverty. In perspective, it would also be wise to analyze the gender approach in agricultural production projects excluding development in order to ensure that

gender is fairly taken into account in sustainable and inclusive development actions in Burkina Faso.

The gender approach is nowadays an interesting theme whose importance is well established. Taking it into account in development actions is imperative if we want to have inclusive and sustainable development. Indeed, in order to facilitate the integration of gender in development projects and programs in Burkina Faso, we propose the following actions: (i) the integration of gender in the diagnosis and formulation of projects by putting in place mechanisms that promote the consultation and participation of target groups in the formulation and implementation of development projects; (ii) integration of a gender monitoring mechanism; (iii) training of rural development agents (key players in the implementation of agricultural production projects) on the gender and development approach; (iv) sensitization of the population on gender because promoting gender equality is a difficult undertaking, especially in conservative and patriarchal societies; (v) strengthening women's access to resources and services for a better distribution of factors of production; (vi) the involvement of women in the decision - making bodies of agricultural production projects for equitable participation of women in governance mechanisms and better consideration of women's needs.

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