

Tool 2: Access and control

Objectives	- Analyse gender dynamics in the value chain: identify who has access and control over resources and decision-making in the value chain. - Understand the different perceptions that men and women have about the same resource and its value. - Raise awareness (and start of a process of change) within a community.
For whom	- Farmers, producers, cooperatives and other actors in the value chain (both men and women)
Activities	Plenary and focus groups
Time	1 – 1.5 hours
Material	Flipcharts and markers

Use the following table:

Resources and benefits	Access		Control	
	Men	Women	Men	Women

Facilitation:

- ✓ Explain the concepts of resources, access and control:
 - Ask the group for a few examples of resources that are necessary to produce and/or process the commodity. Think about resources like land, tools, seeds, crops, credit, medicine, livestock, technology, etc. Include benefits of these resources such as income, prestige.
 - Explain the difference between access and control, using one resource (e.g. land) as an example:
 - Access: can men and women use the resource? For example, in the case of land, do they always have the right to enter and use the land?
 - Control: can men and women decide about the use of the resource? For example, in the case of land, can they take decisions how to use and when to sell the land? In whose name are the land titles? Are there differences between women (e.g. class, age) or does control change with certain circumstances (e.g. inheritance)?
- ✓ Organise men and women into separate focus groups. If people represent various actors you could organise more groups, but make sure you separate men and women.
- ✓ Ask them to write the resources in the first column of the table.
- ✓ Ask the focus groups to indicate whether women or men have access to resources and whether they control the resource or the benefits. Indicate YES or NO in the table.
 - Use the guiding questions:
 - Who (male, female) uses the resource and who owns it? Is it in their name and can they sell the resource?
 - How is the resource used? Who decides over its use?
 - How are income and other benefits from the resource, used? Who decides on the use of income?
- ✓ Each focus group reports back after 20 minutes.
- ✓ Conclusions: develop one table combining answers, and discuss when there are different opinions in the group.

Samburu example				
Resources and benefits	Access		Control	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Livestock	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Credit	No	No	No	No
Training	Yes	No	Yes	No
Milk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Income from livestock trade	Yes	No	Yes	No

Adapted from: **Gender in value chains**

Note: this is a bigger document containing more tools.

Alternative mode of facilitation:

- ✓ Ask two focus groups (men and women separately) to list all resources and the benefits.
- ✓ Ask them to write down the names (or draw if you can) on cards. Make two cards of a different colour for each resource.
- ✓ In plenary: ask the participants to draw three large pictures, one of a man, one of a woman, and one of a man and a woman standing together. Place the pictures on the ground in a row with adequate room between them, or tape them to the wall.
- ✓ Give every participant a resource card and ask them to take turns in placing the card under the three large drawings, depending on who uses the resource, women, men or both. Each participant explains why he/she puts the card there.
- ✓ Repeat the exercise but this time focus on who has control over or takes major decisions about each resource.

Note: the second part of the exercise is in plenary, so only do this if women are vocal enough to speak up so you are sure you will hear their perspective. The women's perspective might be very different from the men's.

Based on: **Towards Gender Equality in Your Organisation**, a practical guide on how to mainstream gender in improving the performance of your organisation, Elvia van den Berg, 2001, SNV Botswana.