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Erasmus

**Everyday life in Savelugu, Northern Ghana:
Groundnut, Gender and livelihoods.**

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Disclaimer:

This document represents part of the author's study programme while at the Institute of Social Studies. The views stated therein are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Institute.

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List of Acronyms

DOA	Department of Agriculture
FASDEP II	Food and Agriculture Development Sector Policy II
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GADS II	Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy II
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSGDA II	Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda II
GSS	Ghana Statistics Service
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for Semi – Arid Tropics
LI	Legislative Instrument
METASIP	Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Policy
MiDA	Millennium Development Authority
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MT/HA	Metric Tonne per Hectare
NGOs	Non – Governmental Organisations
PNDC	Provisional National Defence Council
RING	Resiliency in Northern Ghana
SARI	Savannah Research Institute
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRID	Statistics, Research and Information Directorate
SPRING	Strengthening Partnerships, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally
SRLA	Sustainable Rural Livelihood Approach
TL II	Tropics Legumes II
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VC	Value Chain

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Abstract

For the past years, linking smallholder farmers to market and helping them to be in a sustainable group of production have gained development recognition through value chain interventions. To grab full understanding of value chain production dynamics, this study seeks to understand how gender relations in rural Ghana affect women's participation and their ability to benefit from groundnut value chains. The study uses qualitative research methods to examine how actors relate to each other and what are their potentials and challenges. Specifically, it investigated how actors – especially women – are included or excluded from value chains, how productive resources are allocated, and how this allocation affects their livelihoods. Using theories around gender relations, the theory of access and the sustainable livelihood approach, the study focuses on the community of Diare and finds that the women's access to landed property is unequal because women do not traditionally own lands in Northern Ghana. This lack of access to productive resources causes an entry barrier in the participation of value chain activities. Furthermore, the study shows that the burden of women's reproductive work ('housework') also restricts their ability to fully take part in the process of production. This study recommends that, for gender equality to be achieved, government and development practitioners should acknowledge and enhance the contribution of women in development programmes in order to increase their employment generating potentials and their livelihoods.

Relevance to Development Studies

Productive resources such as land, access to credit available to women at the household level determines their participation in value chain of production. Understanding the dynamics of the value chain enables these women in production to know their roles and their various activities in the chain and also opens them up to several opportunities that help improve their livelihoods.

With the gender power relations in terms of accessing resources, recognising the various roles of both men and women at the household level, production and market should be considered as an applying factor for value chain actor's participation in interventions. In order to ensure equality in productive resources allocation, there is the need to acknowledge the contribution of women and men through gender specific projects and programmes. This also requires that development practitioners should make a good background checks on the potentials and challenges both men and women in value chain when designing developmental projects and interventions.

Keywords

Value chain, Gender Relations, Livelihoods, Groundnut production

Chapter 1 Background of Study

The everyday life in Savelugu is full of energy in the mornings where men and women having taking a common breakfast known as koko with kulikuli or maahsa ride their bicycles, motorbikes and tricycles to their respective farms. The men take the lead to the farm whiles the women prepare lunch to be sent to the farm. These women on arrival assist their husbands on their field or attend to their own farms. During the off-season, they celebrate funerals (usually postponed to this season) and the women also look for firewood in the forest for home activities and stock it at home. The evenings in Savelugu are often animated as a lot communal food sharing and family life take place.

1.1 Introduction

Groundnut production in Ghana is predominantly carried out at subsistence level by smallholder farmers of which majority are women (Ellen et al, 2017). A market linkage is an essential component of the commodity value chain. Linking smallholder farmers to the market and making the market work for the good of the poor has gained momentum in the development agenda of many developing countries over the last decade (Nakazibwe and Pelupessy 2014). The value chain approach is one of the main strategies being promoted by state and non- state actors as a way to link farmers to markets and groundnut value chain is one profitable chains which has the potential to raise household incomes and food security of smallholder farmers. However, it is widely recognized that smallholder farmers are not homogenous. They are differentiated in terms of class, gender, ethnicity, age, production capacities and many others (Bernstein, 2010). This gives rise to gender relations regarding the control and access to productive assets, which is a key issues that may affect women's participation and ability to benefit from the value-chain.

From a gender perspective, rural women in Africa often face gendered power relations in terms of access to resources with far-reaching implications for their livelihoods (Apusigah 2009; Tsikata 2009; Doss et al 2014). Accordingly, the ability of women and men farmers to partake in and gain from value – chains partly depends on existing gender power relations. This study aims to explore gender relations in the value chain of groundnut production in Savelugu-Nanton Municipality, and how this affects the livelihoods of women.

Broadly, Agriculture is the spine of the economy of Ghana. The activity is fundamentally responsible for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goal two of ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) has a mandate of ensuring and promoting sustainable agriculture. According to Agricultural Sector Annual Progress Report (MoFA, 2016), agriculture contributed 56.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Ghana in 2016 and serves as the country's key source of employment of about 80% of the total population. According to the same report, agriculture also serves as a basic provision of raw materials for the growth of industries in Ghana as a whole. Of the entire population of 80% of citizens involved in agriculture, women form a greater part of the total population engaged in agriculture (MoFA, 2016). However, the sector is under achieving its

goals in the country partly because of the constraints women face in agricultural sector which is derailing their productivity (MoFA, 2016).

Even though women form the highest percentage in terms of the engagement in agricultural activities, they face many challenges such as access to credit facilities, landed properties, extension services and many others (Duncan 2004). Traditionally, male counterparts are seen as those who prepare the land for cultivation and the growth of cash crops whereas women are engaged in activities after harvesting period (MoFA, 2016). Despite this, women are basically involved in every farming activity which includes planting of seeds, weeding, harvesting of produce and processing and adding value to the product and finally selling to the consumer. Their involvement in these activities helps to increase production at various levels. Their contribution still accounts for 70% of agricultural production from farming, processing and retailing of the produce to the final consumer (Duncan 2004).

Kaplinsky and Morris (2001: 4) define value chain as “the range of activities required to bring a product or service from the initial conception stage, through different stages of production to the final product that is delivered to consumers”. Women in this chain requires a lot of education to improve on their traditional knowledge, access to funds or credit to improve production and livelihoods which in most cases are not obtained by them. Gender power imbalances often, therefore, come into play resulting in differences in access to means of production, labour market and cultural standards that affect the contribution of women in decision making along the chain of production.

Women in agricultural production along the value-chain, encounter a high imbalance of power to that of their male counterparts. In terms of decision making in the household, what the household head says becomes final and in this case the man. This makes it problematic for women to appreciate the nature of the value chain. Conditions such as these mentioned above, therefore, threaten food security, as it causes a reduction in the participation of women in production along value chain and also the availability of food in the market. Women in this production, do not own land and decisions are taken by the household heads who are their husbands which makes it difficult for them to take advantage of the benefits from the value-chains.

Using the case of Savelugu – Nanton, which is one of the high groundnut growing areas of Ghana, this study aims to examine how women in the midst of inequitable access to resources and power relations, engage in and benefit from the groundnut value chain. Little attention has been given to the understanding power relations along the value chain of groundnut production as few studies have been carried out on who gains and losses from the trade along food chain (Nakazibwe and Pelupessy 2014). Thus, the study aims to add an empirical contribution to the works on the dynamics of gender power relations in agricultural value chains.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Groundnut is an essential crop in Ghana and a major source of vegetable protein for both home consumption and animal feed. In Ghana, about half of the production of this crop is concentrated in three Regions in Ghana namely, Northern, Upper East, and Upper West Region. These three administrative Regions

lie within the Savannah ecological zone, which annually experiences single farming season starting from early April to late October each year. Out of these administrative regions, the Northern Region leads high in terms of groundnut production. This is often carried out by small-scale farmers predominantly women farmers and thus, referred to as women's crop (Doss 2001).

This product is eaten in several forms; raw (fresh groundnut), boiled with salt seizing, fried, made into cakes and sweets which in all promote nutrition in the diet. Production of groundnut moves along a value chain from production, processing and retailing to the final consumer. A greater number of the producers (farmers) mainly women produce groundnut under the same condition of one rainy season going through all the processes of cultivation such as preparing the land, planting, weeding, harvesting and several others. Processing groundnut into several forms also requires resources such capital and financial support which most women do not have the same share of this productive resources at the household level. What is produced to the final consumer are therefore often determined by access to credit, capital, land ownership and availability of market for those engaged in the activity. Value chain actors both men and women therefore strive for land, capital, labour and others to allow them to partake in and benefit from their functions as actors in the nodes of production (Cole and Mitchell 2010). The complex nature of activities carried out by various players in the value chain makes it critical to look at the flow of goods to final consumer.

In northern Ghana, this social relation among men and women at the household level shapes these actor's ability to partake in and benefit from value chains. Men predominately bread winners in the household turn to dominate in decision making and are also been entrusted with productive resources (Agarwal 2003). Women, on the other hand, turn to benefit less from these resources as it is unlikely for women to own landed property. Approximately 80% of lands in Ghana are held in customary land tenancy arrangements (Tsikata and Golah 2010). This land ownership and property measures give directives to household members regarding who has access to profitable properties in which women are often excluded (Whitehead and Tsikata 2003).

This exclusion is a worrying phenomenon that has existed for many years. Without land, women are considered not credit worthy and make it difficult for them to access funds available to expand their business. Efforts of this women to improve their business is done through the use of simple and relatively low cost tools and equipment which does not improve production. In the process their livelihoods become affected as little can be sold from their produce when they need money to carry out necessary activities of life. Coupled with this, women are over burdened with household tasks like taking care of the children, preparing food for the family among others than their male counterparts implying a division of labour. This makes management of useful resources and decisions made by the family head in the process marginalize women, making them not to rip the benefits that are accrued in production (Coles and Mitchell 2011).

In the case of Savelugu – Nanton, existing gender inequality in accessing resources as mentioned above, has affected women's ability to take advantage of the commercialization of small - scale groundnut production (Tsikata and Yaro 2014). As the productive work of women are seen as non-reflective, they are usually seen working within the household level hence their productive work is often partly covered by what is considered unproductive work (Farid et al 2009).

The strong nature of this gender inequality among men and women in the community is a disadvantage to women, especially in value chain process, as it disempowers them not to be able to communicate effectively with customers and suppliers hence limiting their bargaining power. Value chain interventions often advocated also by Governments according to Jeckoniah et al. (2013) rather emphasize on commercial undertakings such as crop and animal products that have the potentials to increase the income and food security of the actors in the chain. Little attention is therefore given to gender roles and power relations in value chains and who really benefit from the participation of value chain interventions (Jeckoniah et al. 2013). The value chain actors become affected in one way or the other differently especially women in the communities since they are not homogeneous. Their everyday struggles, contributions, skills and challenges in production along the value chain becomes overshadowed by the nature of relations they have at the household level.

This makes it necessary to look into the various categories of actors in value chain of groundnut production and challenges they go through to improve household food security and livelihood. Furthermore, Savelugu – Nanton accounts for great value of groundnut production compared to other Districts in the Northern region. However, little attention is given to the women engaged in the value chain of groundnut production. Majority of the women in this District are illiterates and their source of education is through informal agricultural activity groupings. Women who handle the food chain activities in groundnut production in the District are 8,134 out of the total population engage in this activity (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014). This research in this area will help identify the gaps and suggest better interventions for production along the groundnut value chain that will be beneficial to marginalized women in the community to improve their household food security and livelihoods.

1.3 Justification of the Study

This study will reveal the various challenges women farmers face along the value chain of groundnut production and its impact on household food security and their livelihoods in Savelugu Nanton Municipality. It will also identify the situation of women in value chain and the various gender power relations that shape their activities. Having worked with the Regional Department of Agriculture in the Northern Region of Ghana for past five years, I have observed that women in groundnut production are often marginalized and restricted in terms of right to use of production assets like land, capital, inputs, extension services, etc. which reduce their ability to improve their production. This study presents various recommendations that will inform better policy and programmes towards shaping the gender relations.

Women in rural communities in the north depend on their husband's decisions and rely on a portion of their productive resources for production, which often do not really yield high benefits. The domination of men in the control of productive resources contributes to the less productivity of women engaged in groundnut production as sources of livelihood.

It is therefore essential to understand how the gender gap in the possession and control of assets reduces women in production along the chain's financial safety, social status and empowerment. This study will therefore enable policy

makers, development experts and Non-Governmental Organizations to get an understanding of production along the value chain of groundnut and how it will improve their productivity.

Additionally, it will help identify gaps and suggest better interventions along the groundnut value chain that will be beneficial to marginalized women and other rural women in production. This study further reveals the coping strategies of women in the value chain and what interventions will help empower them to improve production. Finally, this will help add more to existing literature into the role of women in value chain and the formulation of policies that will empower women in production and their livelihoods.

1.4 Research Objective

The main objective of this study is to gain an understanding of the extent to which gender power relations in rural Ghana influence women's participation and their ability to benefit from groundnut value chain.

Sub Objectives

1. To assess women's engagement in groundnut value chain.
2. To examine how women's role in groundnut value chain are negotiated at the household level.
3. To examine the effect of groundnut value chain on the livelihoods of women.
4. To understand the challenges faced by women along groundnut value chain.
5. To identify strategies employed by women to improve their productivity and livelihood.

1.5 Research Question

The main research question of the study is to what extent do gender power relations in rural Ghana affect women's participation and their ability to benefit from groundnut value-chains and in what ways?

Sub Questions

1. How and to what extent do women engage in groundnut value-chains?
2. To what extent and in what ways women's role in groundnut value-chains are negotiated at the household level?
3. How does women's participation in groundnut value-chains affect their livelihoods?
4. What challenges do women face along the groundnut value-chain?

5. What strategies do women in groundnut value-chains employ to improve their productivity and livelihoods?

Chapter 2 Study Area and Research Methodology

2.1 Study Area

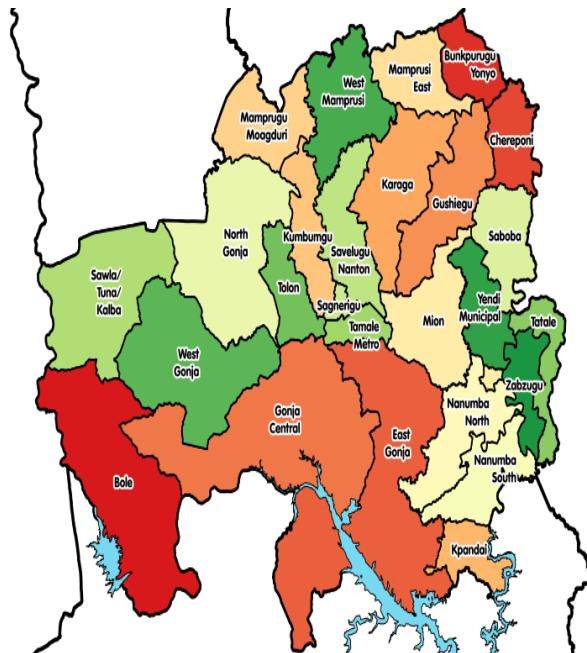
The district, Savelugu – Nanton Municipal is situated in the Northern part of the Northern Region of Ghana. It was carved out of a district Council under the PNDC Law 207 in 1988 and then replaced by the Legislative Instrument (LI) 1450 under the Local Government Act 1993 (Act 462). It became a Municipality in 2012 under the legislative instrument (LI) 2071 with a total population of 139,283 conferring from the 2010 Population and Housing Census with men constituting 48.5 % and females constituting 51.5% of the total population (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014).

The Municipality shares boundaries with West Mamprusi to the North, Tamale Metropolitan Assembly to the South and Karaga to the East and Kumbungu district to the West. It also has a total land area of about 20226 square kilometres and with a population of 68.9 persons per square kilometre.

The Municipality has a single cropping season. It receives an average yearly rainfall of about 600mm with erratic rainfall pattern yearly from April to September (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014).

The study community, Diare lies in the northwestern part of the district. The people are predominantly Dagombas constituting 88.4% of the total population and the rest are other minority tribes like Frafras, Ewes, Mamprusis and Gonjas. Islam is the main religion of the people just as other farming communities in Savelugu Municipal. The people in Savelugu – Nanton municipality inherit property through the patrilineal system of inheritance. This makes it unlikely for women to own properties such as land and other productive resources. They engage mainly in crop production with little livestock production and other income generating activities. The major crops cultivated in the community are Maize, Rice, Groundnut, Millet, Cowpea, Sorghum, Soybean, Cassava and Yam constituting 89.3% of the households in this activity (Ghana Statistical Service, 2014).

Figures 1 &2 below respectively illustrate maps of Ghana and Northern Region. The study district, Savelugu-Nanton Municipal is sited in the Northern part of the Northern Region of Ghana. In addition, figure 3 is the district map of Savelugu-Nanton Municipal. The study community Diare is found in the north west of the district capital, Savelugu. Majority of groundnut producers are located in this community, hence the selection for this study.



**Figure 1: Map of Ghana
Region of Ghana**

Source: www.ghanaweb.com

**Figure 2: Map of Northern
Region of Ghana**

Source: commons.wikimedia.org

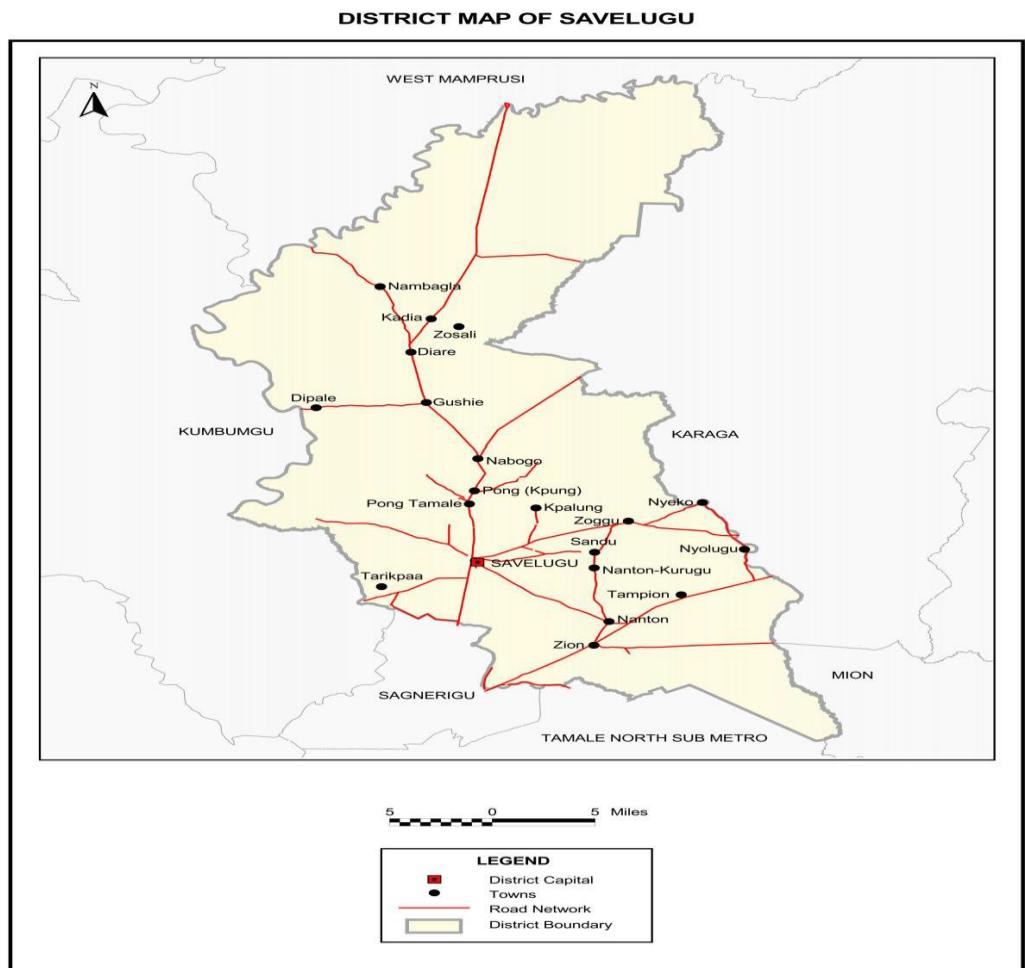


Figure 3: Map of Savelugu

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2014

2.2 Research Methodology

2.2.1 Sampling and Respondents selection

The sampling techniques used for the study are purposive sampling and snowball techniques. Purposive sampling was used to select Savelugu Municipal and Diare community. This is because these locations are known areas of high groundnut production in the northern region (MoFA, 2017). Furthermore, to identify actors engaged in the groundnut food chain both purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used. It is indicated, “individuals are selected because they have experienced the central phenomenon” (Creswell and Creswell 2017: 217). The target population for the study are women and men engaged in groundnut production along the value chain namely producers, processors and retailers in Savelugu – Nanton Municipality. A sample size of 54 respondents for both the interviews and focus group discussion was used. Snowball technique was specifically used to identify and locate the next actors in the value chain. This is because, most of the farmers were busy on their fields and the other actors in the chain of production were also busy with their respective businesses

since the period of the fieldwork was during the peak of farming season. It was therefore not easy to access the respondents, so identifying one actor lead me to the next person. Table 1 illustrates the sample size and a detailed distribution of the respondents.

Table 1: Sample Size and Detailed Distribution of Respondents

TECHNIQUE	TARGET GROUPS	RESPONDENTS	
		MALE	FEMALE
Semi-Structured Interviews	Individual Producers	4	6
	Individual Processors	3	7
	Individual Retailers	2	8
	Agricultural Officers	2	
Focus Group Discussion (A mixture of all actors)	All Men	6	
	All Women		8
	Mixed	3	5
TOTALS		20	34

Source: Field Survey, July 2018.

2.2.2 Field data collection

The study employed qualitative method of data collection. This helps to get “the understanding of people, places, culture and situations through rich engagement and even immersion in the reality being studied” (O’Leary 2017:272). The interview mainly started with planned questions but also engaged in a conservational style of interviewing the respondents to make the questions answered in a natural manner (O’ Leary 2004). Information on socio demographics such as age, level of education, land ownership and marital status were collected through semi – structured interviews.

This gave me in-depth knowledge on the role women play along the groundnut value chain in the area, and how it improves household income and food security. Semi-structured interviews again were conducted to obtain from technical staff of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in the district on how they are dealing with training of actors along the chain through extension work to

improve the production of women and men and their livelihoods in the Municipality.

Semi-structured interviews according to O' Leary (2004) is neither really fixed nor free in questioning which begins with some form of structured question but rather later uses a form of conversation style of interviewing to get natural flow of information. This allows the researcher to build rapport and trust which provides the chance of non- verbal as well as verbal data from the respondent. However, having it at the back of my mind that without probing well, getting the right response from the respondent will be difficult.

For better understanding of gender relations in groundnut value chain and the collective view and improvement of the livelihoods of peasants in value chain, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted. FGD that involves a discussion in an interactive mood focused on specific issues with a pre-arranged group of people (Hennink 2013). This according to (Hennink 2013) involves a number between six to eight pre-selected participants who have similar contextual understanding of the situation at hand. It allows larger and diverse viewpoints of the area under study for discussion.

This study finds the use of FGD very important to unearth the in-depth knowledge in gender relations and role's women play in groundnut value chain and its impact on their household consumption and livelihoods. This technique was also used to collect information on opinions of both men and women group, only women group and only men group. This largely was used to collect information necessary for the realization of the study objective. The three actors in discussion namely producers, processors and retailers helped to gather a collection of challenges and coping strategies in the midst of gender relations in the value chain of groundnut production.

Picture 1: A cross-section of participants during one of the Focused Group Discussions



Source: Field Survey, July 2018.

Picture 2: Semi – Structured Interview with Groundnut Retailer/Marketer in Diare Community



Source: Field Survey, July 2018.

2.2.3 Ethnographic Orientation

Savelugu - Nanton Municipality, which is part of the twenty-six districts in Northern Ghana have a cultural background that, properties are inherited through the patrilineal system. Ethnography according to O' Leary (2004: 118) "Involves exploration of a cultural group in a bid to understand, discover, describe and interpret a way of life from the point of view of its participants". In ethnography, various methods are often integrated in the research of study includes focus group discussions, interviews and participatory observations. Research work carried out as a social interaction makes the researcher relate and engage in the issue under study through observing what the people practice especially how women in the production of groundnut are not able to access basic requirements of production such as land and credit and what they say about the issue at hand. This was used to study the culture – sharing behaviour and attitudes of the people of Savelugu-Nanton Municipality.

2.2.4 Sources of Data

Primary and secondary data was obtained and used for the research work. I employed semi-structured interviews to gather primary information from 30 women and men as well as staff of DOA in the district. I conducted three separate FGDs with men only, women only and mixed groups. These involve all actors engaged in the groundnut chain and the various gender relations. I further held an in-depth discussion with DOA technical staff who deal with smallholders in the district in respect of technology dissemination and training.

In addition, observation method was used to observe some situations in which both men and women farmers work under. This method offered me the opportunity to identify certain productive resources available to all actors and the mechanisms (social relations of production) used to access these resources. I also used the method to understand the various ways some actors along the value overcome certain challenges in the context of gender, and the gaps.

Through Secondary data collection, I review the relevant literature on groundnut production and value chain analysis in the region. I also collected relevant groundnut production figures for the Regional Department of Agriculture Office in Tamale. Data from online sources such as Ghana Statistical Services (Population and Housing Census Reports), Ghana Agricultural Annual Progress Reports, Statistics Research Information Directorate (SRID) of MoFA, articles published in high impact Journals, etc.

After the data collection, I transcribed all interviews and sorted out relevant information that address my main research objective. Analysis of the data was done qualitatively by matching the various themes as outlined in the objectives. Microsoft excel was also used to analyse regional groundnut production figures to understand the pattern of groundnut production in the region.

2.2.5 Scope and Limitations of the Research

In Research work, limitations are inevitable and since the study was conducted during the peak of the raining season in the Municipality, the farmers were busy on their fields. As a result, data collection was challenging since some interviews were held on farms. Another challenge was communication, as most of the re-

spondents had no formal education, thus communicating in English was a challenge. Even though I partially speak the local language of the people of Diare, interacting with them with an interview guide for the first time and bringing it to the understanding of the community members was difficult. I had to get an interpreter who was fluent in both the English and the local language to assist me where it was difficult for me to express myself. On ethical consideration, it was important to keep the information given to me confidential for the research work from the respondents along the value chain. Introductory Letter was obtained from my school (International Institute of Social Studies) as evidence of assurance to keep information given by respondents as confidential for only academic purposes.

2.2.6 Reflexivity and Positionality

Partaking in monitoring and evaluation of the performance of a project's up – scaling of groundnut in Northern Region as a crop with great nutritional component for home consumption and sales to improve the lives rural folks got me interested in this study area. Women on this intervention were found actively taking good care of their fields even though faced with a lot of challenges in relation to productive resources. This drew my attention to examine how gender relations within the household level have an implication on their livelihoods and their engagement in such intervention. I therefore choose Savelugu as a study area because majority of the populace leaving in the district are natives and also the highest growing area of groundnut and more of the women were engaged in processing of groundnut. I started making enquiries to assess where it will be suitable for my data collection. After some few enquiries I met the focal person of the community who also introduced me to the Assemblyman of Diare Community to communicate with him. Experience encountered from the field work was influenced by several identities but not limited to ethical consideration as also expressed by Huijsman (2010) that successive knowledge produced from data collection is often influenced by the social interaction and the position of the researcher.

The opportunity I had was that the focal person was from the Department of Agriculture who made the community entry easy and smooth. The people positioned me in a certain category of a foreign student but many commonalities such as my nationality, sex and ability to speak the local language though not so fluent enabled me to bridge the gap of that position over time. I have also worked closely with women groups also for the past five years under the Regional Department of Agriculture in the Region gave me the chance to build a rapport with them during my fieldwork.

Chapter 3 Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

3.1 Literature Review

3.1.1 Groundnut Production in Northern Region

Generally, groundnut is widely cultivated in all the twenty-six administrative districts in northern region of Ghana. It is an important nutritional crop due to its contribution to general household food and nutrition security (MoFA, 2017) and the overall contribution to the growth of the agricultural sector of Ghana. Additionally, groundnut grains can be processed into various forms of cakes that are sold for incomes (MoFA, 2017) and can be consumed together with other liquid foods. It plays a very important role in diets of most developing countries as reliable sources of protein and cooking oil (Awuah, 2000). Furthermore, groundnut can be eaten by boiling, roasting and in its raw form (McWatters and Cherry, 1982). The production of groundnut is thus essential in improving the livelihoods of the people when the entire value chain is exploited to the maximum.

Groundnut production is a very profitable venture in Ghana and is exported to other countries. In most countries in West Africa, it is called women crop due to the involvement of women in the entire value chain as producers, processors and marketers. “Like the other legumes, groundnut is a high-value crop with the potential of making immense contributions to the economies of these areas thereby improving standards of living of the rural poor especially women” (Ellen et al, 2017: 177). This is very essential to target policies towards the development of the industry.

Apart from its dietary needs for both humans and animals, groundnut production also maintains long-term soil fertility due to its nitrogen fixation capacity in the soil. The by-products from the shells can also be a reliable source of energy or fuel for domestic use (Ellen et al, 2017). This also makes it a very important crop for women in the Northern region in particular.

Northern region of Ghana leads all other regions in groundnut production. Data from the SRID of MoFA shows also that, the Savelugu Municipality leads in groundnut production in the northern region (MoFA, 2017). Table 2 below illustrates the pattern of groundnut production for the past ten years analysed from data collected from SRID Unit of the Regional Department of Agriculture in Tamale.

Table 2: Pattern of Groundnut production in Savelugu Municipal for the past ten years

Year	Production Figure (MT)	Area (HA)	Yield (MT/HA)
2008	20,250	11,250	1.80
2009	27,000	12,825	2.11
2010	27,526	10,880	2.53
2011	26,400	10,560	2.50
2012	26,050	10,420	2.50
2013	22,188	9,564	2.32
2014	22,010	8,598	2.56
2015	25,312	9,887	2.56
2016	18,685	6,556	2.85
2017	15,590	6,720	2.32

Sources: Field Survey, July 2018

In table 2 above, the evidence suggests that the production of groundnuts declined in 2016 and further in 2017 as against the high production in 2015. Even though the area under cultivation in 2017 is higher than 2016, the corresponding volumes of production in 2016 is high due to the high yield per unit area (2.85MT). This may be attributed to bad weather failures. One would expect the opposite due to the introduction of the government's flagship programme, ***'Planting for Food and Jobs'***.

3.1.2 Groundnut value Chain in Ghana

Production of groundnut in Ghana have seen a consistent level of increment in its production. Annual production has increased over the past four years from 409,000MT to 426,000MT since 2013 to 2016 with Northern Region having an increase in its production (MoFA 2017). Northern Region a notable area of growing groundnut in Ghana and the highest in terms of cultivation, has about 57% of its household engaged in its production (Ellen et al, 2017). Women as part of this household play the major role in its production, processing and marketing. Groundnut as compared to other legumes such as soybean and Cowpea have seen a major increase in area and yield in which household engaged in this activity engagement with the market of the produce also varies significantly (MoFA 2017). Marketing of groundnut in the country falls within the traditional marketing system. Actors engaged in groundnut production are often responsible for produce reaching the final consumer both in large quantities and smaller

quantities depending on their production levels. Production of groundnut are in smaller quantities in the rural areas and where it is mainly grown experiences unequal access to resources by men and women which reduces production levels. In addressing these issues, many poverty alleviation organisations such as Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING), Strengthening Partnership, Results and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi – Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is into promotion of groundnut, a strategy of improving the lives of the vulnerable especially women in Northern Ghana and reducing poverty levels in the Country have engaged in many rural people in value chain activities.

In recent years, private sector organisations interested in agricultural interventions in the Country have developed projects and programmes with its focus on groundnut production. The Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) as one of these strategic programmes established in 2009 assisted 3,000 to 4,000 farmers under a 3-year programme to expand their farms (Ellen et al, 2017). ICRISAT also in collaboration with Savannah Research Institute (SARI) in the Country have been engaged in an over 3 years' programme set to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in places prone to drought like Northern Ghana. Enhancing grain legumes such as Cowpea, soybean and groundnut inclusive in a project Tropical Legume II (TL II Phase 2) within the period of 2011 to 2014. This was also to increase yield per unit area and production of groundnut as these legumes are vital source of protein to a lot of people living in this part of the country.

Currently on – going is USAID Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) Programme to improve livelihoods and nutritional status of the vulnerable households targeting communities of 17 districts out of the 26 districts in Northern Region which Savelugu – Nanton Municipality is inclusive. Strengthening agricultural market and value chain, promoting gender sensitivity and equity and increase employment generating potentials. These various agricultural interventions by the government and private organisation have considered women to be the main linkage with the production of crops in a value chain. Government policies such as Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy (GADS) II having acknowledged the great contribution of women and men in production over a period of time developed and implemented projects and programmes. This have come in to address the needs of both men and women farmers in production in a chain especially women to ensure gender equity. This shift in policy towards value chain and private sector development by the Country's development policy have been aligned with the framework of the Food and Agricultural Development Sector Policy II (FASDEP II) and the Medium Term Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (METASIP) including the Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda II (GSGDA II). Helping to eliminate inequalities in accessing rights to productive resources, labour and income of production. Therefore, in achieving this, mainstream gender issues help to assist the vulnerable group to participate fully and deriving the benefits in value chain production.

3.2 Theoretical Framework

3.2.1 The Theory of Access

The word ‘Access’ as mostly used by many property and natural resource analyst in academic literature is defined in several ways. Access according to Ribot and Peluso (2003:153) is “the ability to derive benefits from things” and this can be largely diverse in definition from property, which is “the right to benefit from things”. Access could also be “the ability to benefit from things including material objects, persons, institutions and symbols” (Ribot and Peluso 2003: 153). Property on the other hand, is right to claim an advantage from the usage of productive resource with the support of the society though laws and customs (Ribot and Peluso 2003). How people get access to properties depends on the relationship they have with those they inherit the property from. This is therefore done in consideration with how the property is shared appropriately, accumulated, transferred and distributed.

In relation to resources distribution, access to land, credit and others, are dependent on several historical issues and geographical balances of these areas that the resources need to be allocated. This is because some persons and institutions according to Ribot and Peluso (2003) control the resources and others gain access through those who have the right to the resource. In this regard, the theory of access seeks to discover who derive gain from a particular resource and how others who do not have the right also benefit from the same resources hence focusing on who does what, who get what to use, in what way and when (Ribot and Peluso 2003).

Access to arable lands for production and capital for processing of groundnut by women for instance is often determined by the same factors. Who controls the property (land), who get access to use it, is it both men and women in production? in what way, is it by customary law, gift or by force means and when. Access to these resources therefore becomes relational as individual’s access to the resources is normally influenced by households’ head decision and allocation of resources. Ribot and Peluso (2003) again stresses that the society made up of people and institutions rely on these resources and for them and also have misunderstandings over them in its use. Now focusing on production in a chain, value chain actor’s participation in the process and to improve production is dependent on the available resources at hand. Both men and women play major roles in this value chain. Therefore, inequalities among household members according to (Agarwal 1997) in respect to these factors put some household members at a weaker point of bargaining comparative to others. This gain according to (Agarwal 1997) also influences their capability to take part in contributions within the relationship.

To help do the analysis of the finding from this study, the focus will be on how women participate in the value chain of groundnut through determinants such as access to credit, land, capital and labour which is explained more in the findings under the constraints women face in participating in the value chain of groundnut. As access to these resources mentioned above are often embedded in several social relations at the household level that has an effect on women attaining the benefit that is attached to participating in the value chain.

3.2.2 Gender Relations

According to Pearson (2000), Gender relation refers to ways by which both men and women interact with each other in the society in terms of accessing resources for production and other economic activities. Gender relation also defined by Agarwal (1997: 34) is “a power relation that is seen between women and men in the community, the family, market and the state” which is not often seen as uniform across all societies and cultures since it is socially constructed. Gender therefore as a social construction within the social structure gives meaning to roles assigned to both men and women causing power relations. This is because men and women according to Eagly and Wood (1999) tend to inhabit different social roles which makes them become psychologically different in ways they live, that they turn to adjust to these roles. This consequently affects the way in which men and women interact with one another

Agarwal (1997) reveals further that, gender is not only division of labour and resources among men and women but rather the sense of belonging and giving credit to both sexes of their different capabilities, desires and behavioural patterns. In line with this, Lorber (1994) also argues that, gender becomes an institution where social processes of daily life and social groups becomes embedded in. In most part of Africa, in allocation of resources, the males have control over resources and this power is given to males and not females. In this form of ideology, it turns to shape the rights, control and responsibility of holding productive resources and their contribution in decision making process. This domination of men in decision making and rights to means of production in the society, makes women engaged in production process not able to develop the needed skills to add up to the traditional knowledge they have gained.

Paradoxically, females are recognized to be more engaged in farming activities than men in African countries of which Ghana is not an exception. Despite of the key part women plays in the economic growth, they experience much limited access to resources than their male counterparts in terms of access to land, agricultural extension services, education and accessibility of credit which all contributes to their controlled ability of improving their production and income.

To help do the analysis of the finding from this study, the focus will be on how gender relations within the groundnut value chain of production influence the livelihoods of value chain actor. The gendered nature of roles in the society have a trickledown effect on the allocation of resources as the institutions governing this relationship is embedded in this form of gendered ideology. This in turn, affect women at the household level attainment of the benefit that is attached to participating in the value chain.

3.2.3 Theory of Sustainable livelihoods

Reliable land access is an important element for sustainable rural livelihood for both men and women especially agrarian activities. This is because, smallholder farmers in the rural areas depend on these resources to making a source of living and livelihood. Livelihoods according to Chambers and Conway 1992 cited in Scoones (2015: 6) is: “A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets,

while not undermining the natural resources base” An approach to Sustainable Rural Livelihood starts with what people have in society and not what they do not have. This forms an essential part of the actor oriented approach which gives rights to individual agency. Capabilities, assets and provision of sustainable livelihood probabilities should be for both men and women in various ways. However, not everyone in the society benefit from the necessary resources and capabilities required to make a living.

Knowing what these rural folks have helps to aggregate the assets of the household level and also to understand how these assets make members in the household been positioned in the society. This is often achievable by means of various ranges of livelihood resources namely human, natural, social, financial and economic capitals that come together in meeting different livelihood plans especially the rural peasants. These capitals in themselves are an embodiment which takes a lot of time to accumulate and serve as a possible sources of profit gain and reproduction of itself in identity (Bourdieu 2010). In his view, the structure of the distribution of these capitals are at different levels and types over a given period representing the immanent structure of the social world.

Bebbington (1999: 2) also views assets as “vehicles for instrumental action (making a living), hermeneutic action (making living meaningful) and emancipatory action (Challenging the structures under which one make a living)”. Assets, which many people rely on for their livelihoods are very important to the rural poor, and serves as a source of identification. The ability of a person to function in society depends on the assets or capital one has. Besides women in the value chain of groundnut production bearing the responsibility of care giving at the home, also have capabilities. These capabilities such as handy works like crop production, retailing of groundnut to the market and processing the groundnut into various forms for consumption and sales. However, they are often limited to capitals necessary to help them improve their production and livelihoods.

Capitals are not merely resources that individuals make use of to develop their life, one’s capabilities to be able to function and act well in a society is also important thus, individual agency are also considered as assets (Bebbington, 1999). This draws to the attention of what he expresses “Thus, a person’s assets, such as land, are not merely means with which he or she makes a living: they also give meaning to that person’s world. Assets are not simply resources that people use in building livelihoods: they are assets that give them the capabilities to be and to act. Assets should not be understood only as things that allow survival, adaptation and poverty eradication: they are also the basis of agents’ power to act and to reproduce, challenge or change the rules that govern the control, use and transformation of resources” (Bebbington 1999: 2022).

Bebbington again relates these assets with Sen (1997) capabilities saying that, the rural poor in the society are possible agents of transformation; this is because not only one’s basic sustenance that makes them acquires sources of control. Their ability to show some skills and able act with them should be a requirement and an asset too. This shows that, the poorest of the poor in the communities and even within the household possess capabilities. This Research employed Scoones (2010) sustainable livelihood to show how sustainable the production of women along the value chain is even in the midst of the challenges women faced and how this influences their livelihoods. Coping and adaptation in situations such as this by the rural women in production has its own limits which has impact on especially the very poor and vulnerable ones who totally

do not have means of production. The everyday struggles, negotiations and bargaining of rural women in production of groundnut along the value chain therefore occur around gaining access to resources.

The application of the four agrarian questions “who owns what?” “Who does what?” “What gets what?” and “what do they do with it?” in Scoones (2010: 90) therefore becomes very critical in the analysis of the capabilities and well-being of the rural poor. As this introduces the discussions of right, access and possession for the women engaged in the value chain of groundnut and agricultural production in general.

Chapter 4 Findings and Discussion

4.1 The position of women in groundnut Value Chain

The purpose of value-chain interventions in many countries is to improve contributions to national economic development and reducing poverty and hunger. Thus, linking smallholder farmers to the market and the market to the people especially the underprivileged in the production chain (Nakazibwe and Pelupessy 2014). By this interventions, smallholder famers both men and women in the rural settings where majority of production is done get the chance to build up their trade and become competitive in the market. However, rural women constituting a greater number of poor and marginalized producers are not able to get a large share of surplus from their produce because of social and economic discrimination. Therefore, few of them can benefit from the opportunities this intervention brings due to their position in both the household level and trade. A study and discussion of the value chain actors are below;

4.1.1 Producers

Production of groundnut is a labour intensive business. It consists of a variety of processes such as land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting, transporting and storage before sales. Most of the farmers do not have sufficient labour, thus they frequently hire 'by day' workers if available and either paid in cash or in kind.

Both men and women are engaged in different groundnut production activities. Some activities are carried out by mostly men while other activities are carried out by women. Almost all activities at the production level are done by both men and women. However, some are referred to as women's or men's activities because traditionally such duties have been allocated to men and women. e.g. Preparing the land for men and planting, harvesting and storing for women. From the findings, all female respondents indicated that, they were doing activities that were sometimes considered men's duty as a result of lack of male support in their own production activities. Majority of the female respondents who were married emphases that, when they start and manage their own farms, they are obliged to carry out all the task required in the production. In addition to this, the women are expected to perform other household chores which also increase their workload.

Therefore, it was realised that, cultivation of groundnut was their main activity carried out yearly and growing of other crops such as maize was to supplement the other on the same land provided by their husbands. Producing groundnuts as one part of the value chain they indicated, was not enough for their livelihood support. Majority of them who have specific activity and responsibility along the chain were playing dual roles to make ends meet and improve their livelihoods as a result of the small nature of their fields. Surprisingly, it was also found out that, these women were not dependent solely on the production of groundnut but rather engaged in activities such as selling fried groundnut attached to farming to meet other needs. About 90% respondents (females) engaged in production cultivate groundnuts on an area of about 1 to 2 acres each and half of that same acre field was used for of vegetables or maize production.

Even though they produce in smaller acreages, it was found to be a source of livelihood for these women since this was carried out every year. Limitations to resources such as land and capital in the ownership of men however, makes it difficult for them to benefit from revenue making opportunities outside their domestic source of earnings. This is because, inequalities in accessing these resources according to (Agarwal 1997) put some household members at a weaker point of bargaining comparative to others.

Previous studies have also revealed that these dynamics have a bearing on who benefit and how resources are used within household (Masamha et al 2018). These women producing in smaller quantities therefore do not really have specific retailers they sell to every year after harvesting. They therefore normally sell to the open market or sell to some few customers they have. The few who can cultivate about 4acres indicated they have some retailers they normally sell to but occasionally also sells in the open market when facing financial challenges. Due to this, they do not have a well define value chain system they follow but they are able to work with a few actors who purchase their products and who transform them into different forms. This was how one producer interviewed put it:

I grow both maize and groundnut on an acre field every cropping season. This land was given to me by my husband and it serves as a source of livelihood for me yearly. As a result of land issues, I have to intercrop the two crops in order to benefit from the land to use less fertilizer since if I grow maize on one side the following -season, grow the groundnut on that part of the land. There is no market available for my produce. This is because I do not have enough, so I sell my produce within the community and do not actually engage with other actors. However, at least the little I gain, I can buy some ingredients to support what my husband gives the family for food. Revenue gained from my production, part is kept for the next season and the little profit I often use to supplement what my husband gives out for the family up keep and to support the children school fees. I normally will collect 10 bowls of groundnut from a colleague producer to sell which can be difficult to pay back because there are little funds and no support from my husband. (Female producer interviewed on 19 – 07 – 18).

Even though most of these women do not fully engage actors in their activities, they are able to improve their work with their little effort in production. Agarwal (1997) again point out that, though women at the household are faced with inequality in resource allocation, they cannot be seen as inactive individuals but rather they are involved in strategies to improve their livelihood as compared to the men who have control over productive resources. This is because most of them already have some form of market for their produce in the community whenever they harvest. Therefore, they are able to get some money. However, it was also revealed that, in instances, where they experience lack funds to cultivate their fields, they get some resource from the retailers who buy their produce which they later pay back after harvesting. This self-help procedure between the producer and the buyer keeps them in business all the time.

Notwithstanding the limitations, the study suggests that, their productive activities has built up their capacity as women because they are able to get funds to support their husbands, household activities and themselves which makes them not solely dependent on their husbands. Empirical evidence from other studies reveals that, an increase of women's control of resources has a progressive effect on the household well -being and nutrition (Masamha et al 2018).

This revelation confirms my findings that, the roles of women at the household level in production have changed their lives as they are able to make income and savings for themselves and not just being mere care givers. Therefore, being able to partly take decisions together with their husbands, contribute in payment of children school fees and household food consumption as women within the household, is of great importance as both men and women may work together to bringing affluence into the family. One respondent shared her view as follows:

I grow groundnut every year on a 2 to 3 acres' land field. I sell my groundnut to a specific retailer except on some occasions where I need the money urgently then I sell in the common market. My customer sometimes supports me with funds when I do not have money for production. In times of need, she is able to give me money to purchase seeds which I pay back after harvesting. Being able to make some income, I am also able sometimes to take decisions in the family and also contribute to the paying of school fees, prepare food in the house. I sometimes send some of the money to family members who are far from me. Labour however is a big challenge faced in the production as most often I can have the money but no labour to work for me because it is at peak of the season and all the men are busy on their farms. Aside this issue, I sometimes cannot do anything on the farm without informing my husband. The limits me in certain activities which need to be done on my farm. At times I find it difficult dealing with some actors because my husband will not allow me but when I explain what it entails in their engagement then he allows me to work with them. Production on the land helps me to provide food for the house therefore our household consumption has not reduced and am able to attend social activities like funerals, weddings, naming ceremonies in my community. (Female producer interviewed on 19 – 07 – 18).

However, limitations regarding labour in production have an effect of the participation of women in and benefit of value chain production. This because value chain actors compete for assets such as land and capital to enable them participate in and gain from the value chain (Cole and Mitchell 2010). Poor incomes therefore become compounded by the heavy labour needed or lack of labour which reduces their ability to partake meaningfully in interventions that will improve their production. Issues such as labour has a particular consequence for women as they do not get assistance from their husband and as well as being unable to get people to engage in labour work. Women with few resources are not enhanced to be able to hire labour for their work coupled with burdened of reproductive responsibilities such as making provision for children fees and clothing ends in conflict with demand of production (Tsikata and Yaro 2014).

4.1.2 Processors

Groundnut produced in Diare Community undergo processing before they reach different final consumers and market places. Most of the processing involves turning the groundnut into paste, groundnut oil extracted also into cakes known as kulikuli a fried by – product of groundnut from the extraction of oil from the groundnut. Responses from the processors revealed that about 90% of women at their level were adding value to groundnut to improve their livelihoods. Men on the other hand were doing little in terms of processing of groundnut. This was found as knowledge building and empowerment for the women in their businesses because if they sell their product immediately, there will be a point where they will not have some to sell. Majority of the respondents

were processing of groundnut into kulikuli a by-product of processing groundnut into groundnut oil. Kulikuli is a traditional recipe in Northern Ghana that most of the local people enjoy with porridge in the morning. Processing of the kulikuli however was noted to be for the consumption of people in the community and Savelugu Municipal. Processed products are in smaller quantities and do not go beyond Savelugu market. Little benefit is therefore gained from the processing and does not really reflect a good value chain of groundnut production. These processors in an attempt to make ends meet with the limited resources available to them, play dual roles thus processing and selling the kulikuli themselves in order to meet the needs of the family and also to contribute to household consumption. This points out that all the women involved in Kulikuli production also eventually process groundnut for sale and home consumption. This was what was expressed by a processor in an interview on 19 – 07 – 18:

I process groundnut into kulikuli which serves as livelihood by selling for cash and also as food for the family. This activity is done yearly. People come to buy at home and I send it to the market but sometimes the children do the selling for me in the market. I also grow groundnut too depending on the season. I do not really engage with other actors because I buy groundnut in smaller quantities from farmers in the community. After taking out the cost of my production process, the rest is used to cater for the children school fees when my husband does not have enough. When the money is not enough, it makes it difficult to buy extra groundnut to supplement what I have to increase the processing. If I had credit it would have been able to increase my groundnut processing. However, even though am not able to process much, it has not reduced my family food consumption. I am able to do all these activities because the children are able to help me in the process before they going to school. (A processor interviewed on 19 – 07 – 18).

In relation to this, farming communities in Northern Ghana are known to be made up of compound composed of a male head, numerous sons and their spouses and children. Each person has a role in family provision as this is customarily precise and gendered. Men are considered as key providers, while wives and female children are expected to support the productivities of the men. The crucial responsibilities of women in household provision such as preparing meals and also processing of legumes for home consumption and sale are attached with little importance. Men on the other hand, are seen as the providers of the culturally accepted staples like millet, maize, sorghum and yam for the up keep of the home (Apusigah 2009). This separation of duty by sex according to (Farnworth 2011) means that neither men and women have a complete understanding of the whole production chain and how the roles and responsibilities of the various actors interconnect and interact at different points. Another possible explanation for this is that, the image of women's productive activities as procreative work stays and rationalises gender inequalities to productive resources as it discourages their participation in value chain production (Apusigah 2009). Therefore, processor putting the produce into several forms for both home consumption and sales are often given little attention and support. This brings to light the marginalisation of women's effort and also weakening of their participation in value chain interventions. Processing of groundnut at the local level are done manually which requires a lot of time, funds and support but the unequal distribution of productive resources makes it difficult to engage in large scale productivity of these processors. Agarwal (1997) further indicates that a

woman loss of resources which gives work to do, it worsens her fall – back position and reduces her income contribution in the family.

4.1.3 Retailers

Groundnuts are traded in different markets, such includes the local market in the community, the district market and the regional market and beyond. Each market usually represents different customers who need the produce. Retailing which is the third stage of the chain involves selling of goods to the consumer either wholesale or in smaller quantities. Retailers for that matter, would always make sure that their produce are in good condition and marketable at its best. However, not all seller or retailers in production have the ability and capacity to bring produce to the door step of consumers in production as a result of the different challenges these actors go through in the society. Retailers in their responses during the interaction reveals that retailing or selling of groundnuts especially shelled groundnuts was done by both male and females in the community. Men engaged in selling raw groundnuts did this both in small and larger quantities in addition to other crops like rice, maize, and millet. However, the eight women interviewed indicated that selling of raw groundnuts was their main source of livelihood and a source of support for the family as well.

Retailers sold their produce both in the community and beyond depending on the stock available to sell and funds available to send the produce to other towns like the District and the Regional capital. Sellers engagement with other actors along the chain like farmers (Producers) and processors was a yearly affair to keep them in business. Half of the respondents indicated they have specific buyers from both the community and outside the community. The other half revealed that they sell in smaller quantities (bowls) to the rural women in the community due to the little stock of produce they have to sell. The female retailer's engagement with others have transformed their roles at the household level to be able to contribute to children school fees payment, taking care of the home and buying of personal stuff for themselves. In a discussion with one of the retailers, this is what she expressed:

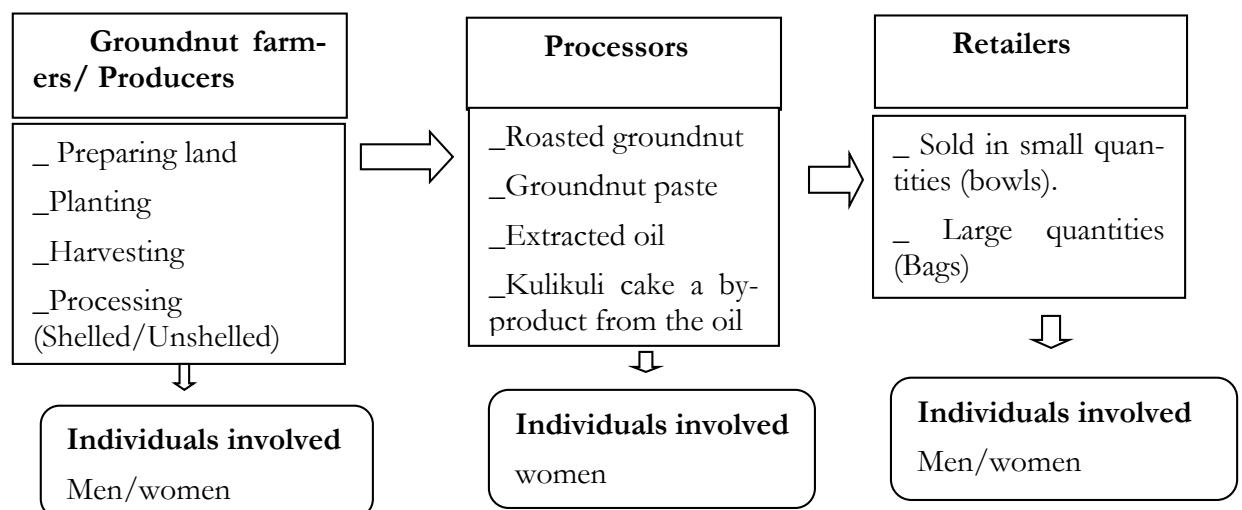
Raw groundnut retailing is my main work and it serves as a source of livelihood. I sometimes send it to Savelugu market on market days but some of my customers come to me directly at home to buy. This is done in bags (wholesale) and in bowls (retail) every year. I sell in the open market and do not have specific customers because there are others from different places. Engaging in this activity has helped me to be able to sell to a lot of people. Some help me when I face challenges. Retailing of groundnut have improved my life such that I am able to take care of the house and buy things for myself and even pay my children school fees. My work has influenced some women in the community as they often approach me for training, but they often lack funds to start theirs. To keep my business running, I save some of the revenue to purchase more groundnuts. Difficulties I face is lack of funds because farmers harvest a lot of their groundnut and call me to buy but can rather in small quantities hence I get small profit from this. To improve my business, I also do fish farming and I sell the fish to buy more groundnut. To meet the needs of my household and selling of groundnuts, I divide my days for this various activities. (This was narrated by a retailer interviewee on 20 – 07 – 18).

However, notwithstanding the benefit derived from selling groundnut, women especially in the business are drown back with lack of capital. As a result

of these factors, what is often considered fitting for women and men in the society to do and to becomes are strongly connected to the social ideology of the people. Women who are more likely not to have assets in a patriarchal society turn to benefit and yield less with little funds and resources. But men on the other hand, sell more or get more resources to acquire more to sell as they hold productive resources by virtue of their position in the society.

The position of women in groundnut production to the final consumer was observed that, these actors were not fully participating in value chain and that enjoying the benefits that comes with it was reliant on the resources of the household. Their respective abilities as women in value chain and deriving benefit from it was therefore not homogenous. Even though they possess the required specialized knowledge to fulfil their tasks in production, they do not have a complete understanding of working on the whole value chain. This visualization of the differences and logics that exist in the community among the actors of groundnut production help to focus on the diverse contribution of women in production in terms of access to labour and control of resources.

Figure 4: Current groundnut production chain linkages in Diare Community.



Source: Field Survey, July 2018.

4.2 Access to Land

Another important finding was that, land ownership and tenure security among women is a challenge to their participation in value chain. This is because, majority of the female groundnut farmers interviewed cultivate less than four acres while the male producers had more than four acres. Socio – cultural factors such as men been the ones to inherit lands in the society were mentioned as a limitation to majority of the women inability to access essential resources such as land for production. Farming was found as the main activity for the people in the Community for both men and women which they largely depend on as their basic source of livelihood. However, not all members of the community have equal access to land in production. Women do not own arable land in Northern

Region, which made majority of women interviewed unable to get large acreages of land to expand their production and livelihoods. These Small – holder farmers particularly women basic source of livelihood depends on secured and equitable access and control over these land resources. However, access to land in the community by women is determined by one's relations in the family.

It was said from the data gathered that, when a woman is married in a family; it gives her a share of this natural resource to produce a crop of their choice. Marriage therefore becomes a means to ownership of land. Even if one is a widow and is still living in the family house of the husband is still entitled to the piece of land that was given to the wife previously. In this regard, all the women were given a piece of land by virtues of their marital status. Another mean to access land by women was their husbands to seek land elsewhere for them if he does not have. This according to Ribot and Peluso (2003) points out in the definition that, access to a resource can be in the form of relations, ownership, lease out to someone and also through free well. As narrated by an officer from the Regional Women in agricultural Directorate.

In cases where there is no land for the husband, he can seek a land somewhere for the wife by giving out 'Cola' and through negotiation every year which have to be accompanied by paying homage yearly to maintain the land acquired. Good relations therefore will give one access to land to farm. (Women in Agricultural Development Officer interviewed on 03-08-18).

A growing body of literature has investigated these issues in rural Ghana that, access to and control of landed property plays an essential role in shaping livelihoods and bargaining power of diverse group of people (Benneh et al 1995). The struggle for land therefore, becomes a very vital resource among varying interest group made up of both men and women in the communities as far as most of this people are engaged in land – based agricultural production. Access to and ownership of land continue to be in the domain of male family members and deeply rooted in the patriarchal system and culture of accessing resources in the community (Dery 2015). This makes it unlikely for these women to gain access to resource and also participate fully in production along the value chain.

This finding corroborates the ideas of Dery (2015) that, a large number of women in Ghana, access to landed property are predicted on the social relations with male household heads, husbands and brothers but when this relationship ends, the right to access is lost (Dery 2015). This again confirms the fact that, at any time a woman is separated, divorced or widowed and no longer stay with the family, the rights to access the land is lost (Dery 2015). This issues rather continuously marginalises women in development process and in the end prevents them from taking advantage of commercial interventions. Also, increasing their vulnerability and dependence on their male counterparts even for their basic needs.

Another important finding was that, a female producer (farmer) had 4acres land for production; the remaining female respondents had less than 4 acres of land from their husbands. Making the study evident that, the benefit of ownership of the land by women was not direct but rather gained through a social relation. Pointing out that, land an important resource for the survival of majority of the people in the Community and also a mean of subsistence for the women were unequal. Men on the other hand were noted from the field data to have abundant of lands handed to them by their fathers as by tradition, men in

the northern land inherit lands. Their ability to access to these lands had opened the opportunities for them to farm large acres of groundnut and also sell to the women in the production chain who are retailers. This was narrated by a male groundnut producer during an interaction:

I produce groundnut, maize, sorghum and little rice as a means of livelihood for my family. I grow 5 acres of groundnut myself and I have given my wife an acre field to also cultivate some groundnuts to help her up keep. This land was handed to me by my father who was also given the land by his father. I grow these crops on this land every year as a means of livelihood for my family. I sell my groundnut produce to buyers in Savelugu market and the Regional Capital Tamale market. I also sell to women in my community here in Diare both on credit and cash which on credit, they pay back later. The revenue gained from my production, half of that is ploughed back into the farming business and the rest to take care of the family and my extended family needs. My challenge in production of groundnut is how to transport my produce to the market centre. Most of the off – takers who come to buy my produce buy at a lower price. Due to no storage facilities, I have to sell my groundnut fast meanwhile I could have kept them down to sell later when the season is over at a higher price. These challenges reduce my ability to improve my production to improve the livelihood of my family. (Male Groundnut producer interviewed on 22 – 07 – 18).

Land accessible for these men had given them the right to a greater benefit that comes out of the large acreages. As this is not different from what Ribot and Peluso (2003) shares that several individuals derive benefit from the resources by who really controls the resources. Male respondents in the study revealed that, their challenge in production was transportation, no storage facility of their large acreages. Access to land as a basic determinant to gaining right to use other relevant resources was not an issue for the men. However, women as by tradition of the people in Northern Ghana do not own lands therefore their ability to access larger arable lands determines their ability to access other capitals to engage in the value chain of groundnut production.

4.3 Women's participation in decision - making

Men and women contribute greatly in agricultural production in which women often contribute a greater percentage of providing labour for the planting of the crops, harvesting, storing, processing and marketing of the produce. Men's domination in decision making over production and other activities, makes the voices and challenges of these women who are important in the production process not heard.

Data gathered from the field concerning who takes decisions at the household level in one's participation in a value chain of production revealed that, decisions were taken depending on who was involved in the activity. Majority of the women interviewed indicated that, they were able to make decisions concerning their production from cultivation to selling of the produce to the final consumer. This activity had to do with their own production and sales to also make a living out of it so they choose what to use the money for and how to use it to improve their production. This was narrated by a female groundnut processor interview:

My husband is aware that processing of my groundnut into kulikuli to sell to people who come to buy and also sending some to the market help me to also make a contribution to the household consumption. I take decisions on my own as to how much to process and how much of that can be consumed at home. I am able to support the children school fees and able to attend social gatherings like wedding ceremonies, funeral and others and make contributions. His decision at home therefore do not have an impact on my business. (Groundnut processor interviewed on 22 – 07 – 18).

This finding further support the idea of many studies that, men and women in Africa engage in diverse agricultural activities but yet they are not jointly managed (Doss 2001). Therefore, there is the need to treat individual production activities separated. This is because assuming that household members are a single unit in production makes some to be relegated to the background as that single unit have to set production and consumption decisions. The outcome of decisions made within the household will definitely have an effect on individual members bargaining power (Doss 2001).

Production process which had to do with both men and women together was the difficult moment for the women's voice to be heard. The domination of men in the decision making become evident as it prevent them to share their views and challenges in production. This shows that value chain intervention that has to do with value chain actors who are both men and women coming together, some will have an advantage over the other which mostly the women are the affected. These gender inequalities among men and women according to (Cole and Mitchell 2010) have a significant impact on the contribution of women in the nodes of groundnut value chain. This is evident in the findings that, such relation is often instituted and supported by the family of the people and culture which can be either cooperative or contradictory to their participation in the chain (Masamha et al 2018). In considering these factors, to improve women participation and a balance in the representation of value chain interventions, there is the need to acknowledge women's contributions. And also make sure that agricultural related gender inequalities in the sector be addressed.

In a focus group discussion further held solely for women revealed that, married women did not have final decision over the use of money earned from groundnut production for the family but they have to consult their husbands before final decision are made. On the other hand, these women are able to take their own decision on their production and business. Though in some sections of my work it was indicated that women involvement in decision making and handling of income accrued from the business and production was men dominated. It was however realised that, being able to take part in decision making concerning both production and other related issues becomes beneficial to men and women as they all depend on these activities for survival. In a focus group discussion session, this was what was expressed by the women:

We are able to take part in decision making process because if things do not go well in the family it affects all of us. So if the right thing needs to be done and said in production, processing our groundnut to add value to it and selling them, we add our voices to make it work for all of us own good. (Focus group discussion held on 21 – 07 – 18).

4.4 Intra-household and inter-household labour relations

It is observed from the findings that; women and children were the very people always active in giving unpaid labour to farm households and home activities needed to keep the family in shape. Labour relations within the household were determined by one's control of land and capital. Men who are entitled to owning lands in Northern Ghana were the ones in a position and able to hire labour outside the home to work on their fields for monetary considerations due to the large acreages they had for production.

However, women on the other hand interviewed were found experiencing lack of labour for their work due to the cost involved and also the small nature of their farm lands. Most of the men are normally working on their fields during the peak of the season which makes it difficult for the women to get labour to weed their lands. Large concentrating is put on the large farms mostly for the men in the family. This situation worsens when the children who give little assistance especially the females are in school or moved to other cities to make a living. The women tend to be overburdened than their male counterparts which indicates that, allocation of domestic duties to women becomes part of a prevailing division of labour pattern traditionally assigned to men and women. This compounds women with a burden of combining both domestic and reproductive work to make ends meet hence the control over labour for women is therefore realized through conjugal contract. This is what an interviewee shared in the interview:

I produce groundnut every year with at least a 4 acres' land size in which I engage in seed production. This land was given to me by my husband. I sell this groundnut to farmers for planting. The challenge to this production is labour because most of the men in the community are farmers hence difficult to get labour very high thereby increasing cost of production. My children are very little and cannot help me in my work. My husband does not assist me in my farm because he told me that it is because I feel I have the strength to work that is why I am farming so he need not help me. (Groundnut seed producer interviewed on 21 – 07 – 18).

A number of studies have shown that, intra – household and inter – household labour relations have a direct link to the control of land in agriculture in African especially for women as it limits their ability to livelihood opportunities and empowerment. This is because, scarcity of labour for women in agricultural production influences of the small nature of their farms hence contributing to lesser productivity (Tsikata 2009). For instance, if one finds it difficult to get labour with or without money, they are not encouraged to increase their production if even they are given the rights to additional lands. As this was also revealed that, many of the women had to abandon the weeds on the farm since they are not able to get labour to weed their fields which in the end, also reduces the yield of their production of groundnut. Other women who have the funds to pay for labour still do not get labour as a result of the busy nature of the farming season.

Family unit in Northern part of Ghana depend on shared and personal resources produced mostly from agricultural activities (Bacho 2005). Therefore, inability of some section of the unit in the family especially women not being able to acquire the necessary resources for farming and processing of their produce, it has a lot of implications on the family livelihoods. Many of the members

of the household play specific roles individually towards household provision, and without assistance which reduces their ability to benefit and participate in any value chain intervention for small –scale farmers like women both in production and processing. An individual's bargaining control according to Dolan (2001) is conditioned by many factors but however mainly lies in the strength of the women fall – back position in the society.

4.5 Intra-household power relations impact on productivity

Intra – household power relations continue to nature how the household is modelled. It further determines 'who does what' at the household level. Household chores is perceived to be done by a specific group of people or gender which is not so different from what is observed in the study area Diare community. These household activities such as cooking, cleaning of the house, washing of clothes, preparing the children for school and others were seen to be traditionally assigned roles for the mothers and female children. Men at the household level, play the role of making provision of money for the family up keep and other necessary requirement like payment of the children school fees. Male children on the other hand at the household level do not also assist their mothers in household chores. They spend their time on their father's farms after school whiles the female children assist their mothers in selling their processed groundnut in the market. This makes the women and female children over - burdened and this affect the time spent on their productive business and school work respectively. Interviewing a producer, she narrated how she is battling with intra – household power relations:

Working on an acre field of producing groundnut, help me to take care of myself and also to support the family. I also have the responsibility of preparing the food at home and all that is required for a good home. My husband only does his farming activity to bring back home money to keep the family running. With no labour for weeding of my field, no access to credit, I still have to combine these challenges with taking care of the children at home. My daughters assist me to take care of the younger ones however, my sons will rather work on their dad's farm because they want to pick up farming from their father as they will definitely have a share of their father's land. The nature of combining this with my production prevents me from meeting my dream target of production hence reduces the income would have had from an effective production. (Female groundnut producer interviewed on 03-08-18).

The patriarchal system within the household has brought about this gender asymmetries having effects on women. This is because, according to (Eagly and Wood 1999), a society division of labour among men and women is an instrument of differentiated behaviour of both sexes as this often outlines the constraint's they go through in life. In this regards, when it comes to who gets access and control of landed property, the gender discriminations forces negotiations within the household and through social groupings (Tsikata 2009). Women especially when they get the opportunity to partake in intervention come to negotiation with their male counterparts which makes them already disadvantaged as a result of the cultural setup. Their bargaining becomes not far reached meanwhile, women in production wage labour has always been able to assist in payment of children fees and other home expenses.

4.6 challenges women face in participation in Value Chain

Women encounter greater entry obstacles to value chain especially because of lack of control on productive assets which form an important part for up – scaling from subsistence to market production. Some of the issues emerging from this finding relate specifically to what majority of the women expressed that, they have an interest in improving their groundnut production at the various stages. However, constraint by inadequate land, labour for their production, lack of capital and access to credit which denies them the opportunities to tap these livelihood opportunities the community can benefit. A respondent narrated how this key issue of access to resources have an implication on their livelihood improvement:

The land is the issue, so I grow groundnut and maize which gives me source of living to carry out my daily activities. Every year I grow these two crops on the same piece of land, but I grow more of groundnut. I sell to the middlemen then also sell to the processors in my community as well. Money gathered from the production is used to take care of the children and the household food consumption. However, the major challenge to improve my production is labour for my work. When there is no labour, you must do the weeding yourself or leave the weeds on the field. It therefore makes it difficult to really continue production. I wish I had more lands for the production, but I know I will still not get this if I ask for land. I have access to just an acre field size. (Female Producer interviewed on 20 – 07 – 18).

Limitation to these resources mentioned above, reduces the participation of women in value chain especially as they turn to occupy the weaker nodes within the value chains. This marginalisation of women in agricultural value-chain represent a basic challenge with wide effect on food security and economic performance (Njiraini et al 2018). This is because the effort of women in production and in entrepreneurial work keep the family in shape as there is always good nutritious food and other basic needs provided by the women. As men and women both collaborate to bring wealth into the family. This gender gaps in control over productive resources and benefit of opportunities suppresses agrarian inventions and also weakens the growth of value chains, thus a contributory factor to the performance of African agricultural sector (Njiraini et al 2018). Many poverty alleviation programmes in these rural communities in recent times are into improving the lives of the vulnerable through value chain interventions but due to unequal access to resources, it reduces women's participation.

Some expressed the desire of more lands however, it is difficult to acquire the lands for production. Because their husbands feel they wouldn't be able to handle a large plots of land. Some of these women who have the capabilities and able to access labour to work on large area but however denied accessibility to benefit from large acreages due of their position as women in the society. Even though some benefits are derived from engaging in groundnut production, their access to capital, land, credit and others are being constrained. This therefore limit women participation in the value chain as it reduces their engagement with other actors along the chain of production.

4.7 Gender gaps in accessing credit and financial services

The findings of this study indicates that, women access to credit and financial support are dependent on the kind of activity carried out by both men and women in groundnut value chain. Accessing funds from financial institutions was commonly low however, all actors along the chain of groundnut production producers, processors and retailers' access to informal credit thus from friends, family members and customers was very high. Women in the community depend on each other along the chain to help improve their business and livelihood. Getting support from another actor was easier for them than to go for a loan since they produce in smaller quantities. Selling of groundnut after production through to the final consumer was done bowls and bags due less production. To increase their production and to always stay in business, borrowing from a friend, relative, customers, and even their husband for groundnut and money to do other business was to increase their income for production. This issue was narrated by one of the respondent:

I sell raw groundnut in Savelugu market which I use to support myself and the family as well. I have specific people who come to buy my groundnuts to Savelugu too however, others come to me to buy. There are times the prices of groundnut go high and other times it falls so the market fluctuates. I have to sometimes reduce the prices in order to sell my produce to the buyers because I also need the money to take care of the family. My only problem is to get money to be able to continue my business always so in some circumstances I have to loan some of the groundnut from friends to sell and after that I give their money to them after sales. Revenue gathered from the selling is put into a Village Savings and loan facility in my Community which I also put some of the money back into my buying of groundnut to sell and part to support the family up keep. I combine these activities of house chores with selling of my groundnut by assistance from people leaving within my household especially the female ones. (Female Retailers interviewed on 20 – 07 – 18).

Women often have little to save due to the lower earnings and also because they devote much of their earnings on family meals, health issues and schooling (Rubin and Manfre 2014). Within these households, the husband who is the head, after making provision of a piece of land for their wives, and also gives them a bag of grain (e.g. Maize), the woman is left to make provision of the other ingredients needed to make a meal. Therefore, benefiting less in production, little would be saved as much of what is gained are channelled back in taking care of the home. During the peck of the season, where they have exhausted their produce, many of the children within the household do not get three square meals in a day since what is provided at home is not enough for a complete meal at home.

Evidence from the findings further shows that, female farmers and businesswomen definitely count on informal financial mechanism such as self - help or through group help to gain funding, which avoids these women from investing in value-chain activities that requires huge investment (Ngigi et al 2017). In instances where they are capable of gaining formal credit, they have to travel long distance in order get to access the facilities as many of the roads are not accessible. These challenges such as mobility of women further impede their

accessibility to such facilities even if they are situated further away from them (Quisumbing et al 2010).

4.8 Strategies women employ to handle responsibilities and workload

Another important finding was that female actors along the value chain of groundnut spend much time on their reproductive and domestic work at the same time. They combine these activities with several supportive mechanisms to make ends meet for them as individuals and the family and also to participate in value chain production of groundnut. To them, family duties such as care given, preparing food for the family and making the home comfortable for living is their responsibility which they cannot escape from that duty. In accordance with the present results, previous studies had demonstrated that women have accepted this social role given to them in a social construction and they turn to adjust psychologically with the duties and responsibilities it comes along with (Eagly and Wood 1999). These are socially constructed norms which is a common phenomenon for people from a patrilineal system as males do not do household chores, but rather meant for females at the household level. In as much as they want to make the home comfortable, they must empower themselves as women by combining this household activity with their businesses. In a discussion with female producers, processors and retailers in groundnut production revealed that, they all rise up early to prepare the family before they leave for their businesses. This was gathered from the interview:

I most often wake up early in the morning and do all the necessary house chores, prepare food and leave to do my business. My Children assist me in taking care of the younger ones at home. The children also help me in the selling of the processed kulikuli in the market after school so that I can attend to other needs of the family. (Female processor interviewed on 20 – 07 – 18).

Some get assistance from their children. The older ones look after the younger ones at home whiles the mothers attend to their business both at home and the open market. This activity carried out by the females in the family sometimes have an implication on their education. Some of the daughters will have to lose out of school in order to assist their mothers in their businesses especially during the peak of the season where more hands are needed. It was further pointed out from the focus group discussion for all the actors that, persons from the Muslim community are allowed to marry more than one wife. They rotate duties at home such as cooking for the family in order to reduce the burden of home activities on their businesses. However, with those in a single marriage they do not have any option than to combine these activities. Considering the time spent on both activities, which are all equally important is often difficult to combine. As a result of their productive and reproductive duties, much of the time is consumed hence less time to engage in large processing and marketing of their produce. This also contributes to the inability for the females partaking intensively in value chain. This was how it was narrated by a woman part of the FGD interview:

My husband has two wives and we leave in the same compound, so we do share of activities. There are days her rival will be cooking for the family then I get the ability to carry out other business like selling her produce full time.

Then she also takes over the cooking when it is her turn to do so. (Retailer interviewed in FGD 21 – 07 – 18).

4.9 Livelihoods Outcomes

Literature on livelihoods reveals that, poor households normally rely on numerous economic activities for their subsistence and growth through food production, off – farm activities and also migration remittances of some household members (Bolwig et al 2010). This diversification in the process by household members normally creates a great stability of income and efficient use of household resources. And also by mean of making members within the household to participate in multiple value chains. Most rural women get involved in subsistence agriculture, to contributing meaningfully towards family food production and food safety (Agarwal 2003). Interestingly, these women see agriculture production as a means to household food safety, hence cultivating these food produces from their small piece of land will enable them also contribute considerably to this goal (Murugani et al 2014).

During the data collection process, most of the value chain actors (Producers, processors and retailers) interviewed, working in their specific function in the production of groundnut were engaged in other economic activities such as growing of other crops, adding value to their product in a smaller way just be in business throughout the whole year. Engaging in these other activities by the actors according to Bolwig et al (2010) gives them the possibility for profits gotten in one value chain to be invested in another. However, all the chain competes for the same household resources available. Talking about the issue an interviewee said:

I do processing of kulikuli as a source of livelihood activity all the time except days I am not feeling well. Selling this local food in my community though in smaller quantities as a result of less funds, have improved my daily life as I am able to contribute to the payment of the children school fees, buy clothes for myself, buy ingredients for our which my husband does not do and also contribute during occasions. (Processor interviewed on 21 – 07 – 18).

Women are therefore not ‘powerless’ within the structures and system of patriarchy. They are actors who work their way throw to access resources vital to the sustenance of their livelihoods, farms and soil (Verma 2001). Processing of groundnut into several food products such as kulikuli in community as a key livelihood strategy contributes in reducing their vulnerability. Processing of groundnut and other activities enable them as women to gain a source of revenue, improve on their skills and also grow their social linkages. According to Chambers and Conway 1992 cited in Scoones (2015: 6) “A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resources base”. Fundamentally, livelihood is about the ways and means of creating a living. It has to do with people, their resources and what they do with them in order to make a living. This also has to do with creativity and embracing new opportunities. Women in general, have been undertaking several livelihood strategies to lift their families and community out of poverty and hunger. In spite of

their optimum effort, they are faced with unequal access to productive resources which makes them underprivileged than their male counterparts who by virtue of patriarchal system hold lands and other resources. These assets according to Bebbington (1999) are not just mere assets but that, people make use of these to improve their livelihoods. Without resources in production of groundnut along the value chain, they become incapable to be and act as value chain actors.

It can therefore be assumed that, women empowerment through access to and control of landed property is not an end in itself according to Kabeer (1999). This is because, the source of empowerment which are assets improve their livelihoods, their figure, style of living and their self - esteem in both individually and the larger community.

Chapter 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

The everyday economic life of women in Savelugu is characterized by preparing the family food, assisting on their husband's fields or working on their own farms as well as taking care of the children. They run all these activities throughout the day with little assistance. They retire to bed late after these activities as all requires a lot of time and commitment. This reduces their ability and time to engage in any other intervention that will be of benefit to them in the community.

Summary

The objective of the study was to examine gender relations within groundnut value chain in the Savelugu-Nanton Municipality, and how this shapes women's participation and ability to benefit from groundnut value-chains. The study also examined the factors that determined women access to productive resources linking it to how this will enable them to participate in the value chain of groundnut production. This was aimed at addressing the main research question: How gender relations within the groundnut value chain of production influences the livelihoods of value chain actors in the Savelugu – Nanton Municipality in Northern Ghana. In answering the research question, responses of value chain actor's producers, processors and retailers and officers from the Department of Agriculture were analysed through the theory of access, gender concept and sustainable livelihood approach. It was revealed that men have control of resources such as land by virtue of their position (Household head) in the family and also the traditional culture of patrilineal inheritance in Northern Ghana. On the other hand, women's access to these resources were through social relations within the household.

From the findings, it was shown that, women's participation in and benefit from value-chain of groundnut production was determined by their ability to access productive resources, decision making, access to financial services and control over their own income. Women engagement in value chain activities were determined by gender relation at the household level and the workload of women on domestic activities. Gender relations at the household level have been constituted and shaped by the family and the culture of the people. The separation of tasks according to the tradition of the people meant that both men and women do not have a complete understanding of the nodes in value chain. And also do not have an understanding of how the roles and responsibilities of the various value chain actors intersect and interact at the various stages.

On the other hand, women's unpaid household care roles over burden them hence consume considerable time resulting in little time for production, processing and marketing their produce. Therefore, both factors combined together determine the involvement of men and women in value chain production and who really benefits in the process.

Conclusion

To conclude, the study has revealed some pressing issues related to the participation of women in Groundnut value chain which when resolved will be a panacea in alleviating a lot of women from the economic hardships and empower them for better livelihoods which will also have a replica effect on the whole community. Thus, this will also be in line in achieving Sustainable Development Goals two of ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition.

The productivity of these women can be leverage and they can be subsequently empowered in society financially, formation of groups or cooperatives through which they can access credit from savings and loans to expand their business. Interaction with them revealed that, working as a group can leverage them and help improve on their bargaining power to have strong access to market for the products and also reduce their vulnerability at the household level. Interactions with the respondents gain revealed that the problems caused by customary laws prevents them from getting access to production resources and not considering the contributions of these women which add up to the development, increases Food insecurity in the community and Savelugu Municipal.

To empower the women, it is important to have enough resources allotted to women just as their male counterparts and this will be a good way in reducing gender inequality in the Groundnut value chain. This is because a person's access to capital according to the view of Ribot and Peluso (2003) can also influence the chance to access other opportunities and productive resources.

Recommendations

There is, therefore, a definite need for change in the allocation of resources which often bring about gender inequality between men and women in production. This is because, both sexes are equally important in production process and even women play major roles. Investing in programmes and interventions that will lift up women is of great importance to their income, livelihood and participation in value chain. Therefore, policy makers, development practitioners, NGOs and Government sponsored projects and programmes should take into consideration the contributions of women in production and involve them in decision making process when coming up with interventions so that it will reduce their vulnerability at the household. In doing this, their voices will be heard and their challenges will be brought to bear for developers to draw good programmes that will be beneficial to both men and women.

This study adds up knowledge on gender power relations within agricultural value-chains of which little attention has so far been given to reduce the vulnerability of farmers in the agrarian areas in Northern Ghana. Further studies in this field would be of great help in other commodity chain in these areas where the majority of the production is done.

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1

SEMI – STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

This interview guide will help to identify the potentials and the challenges women along the value chain of groundnut face in production and its impact on their livelihood and household food security. This is an academic work for a Master of Arts in Development Studies at the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Name of the Respondent.....

Name of community.....

Location (urban, peri urban, rural)

Status (Single, married, divorced, widowed)

Interview guide for Producers

Research Question	Interview Guide
6. How and to what extent do women engage in groundnut value chain?	Is groundnut production your main activity and do see this as a source of livelihood?
	Do you cultivate this crop every year and how large is your production?
	Which group of people do you sell this groundnut to?
	How often do you engage in production with other actors (middlemen, processors, retailers)?
7. To what extent and in what ways women's role in groundnut value chain are negotiated at the household level?	How has your engagement with other actors in groundnut production transformed you now?
	How has this change transformed your role as a women in the family and your contributions to household activities?
	Has this transformation influenced other women in the community?
	What happens with the revenue gained from the production?
	How is the profit from the sale groundnut used?
8. How does women's participation in groundnut value chain affect their livelihoods?	What difference do you see in your livelihood when you add value to your produce before you sell?

	What benefits do you gain in engaging value chain activities compared to women who do not engage in value chain activities?
9. What challenges do women face along the groundnut value chain?	What are the main difficulties you face in the production of groundnut?
	Does the decisions of the household head and your exclusion in decision making process have an influence on your production?
	Has this change reduce your level of engagement with other actors in groundnut production to the final consumer?
	How has your inability to own a land affected your production and under what conditions are you given a piece of land?
	Has this reduce the household consumption and your engagement in other social activities?
10. What strategies do women in groundnut value chain employ to improve their productivity and livelihoods?	What are your tactics and strategies to improve your production?
	How will you manage to combine household activities and groundnut production to improve your livelihoods?

Interview guide for Processor

Main Research Question	Interview Guide
1. How and to what extent do women engage in groundnut value chain?	Is processing of groundnut your main activity and do see this as a source of livelihood?
	What form processing do you engage in and how often do you engage in this activity?
	Which group of people do you sell this processed groundnut to?
	How often do you engage with other actors (middlemen, producers, retailers)?
2. To what extent and in what ways women's role in groundnut value chain are	How has your engagement with other actors in groundnut processing transformed you now?

negotiated at the household level?	
	How has this change transformed your role as a woman in the family and your contributions to household activities?
	Has this transformation influenced other women in the community?
	What happens with the revenue gained from this processing?
	How is the profit from the sale of processed groundnut used?
3. How does women's participation in groundnut value chain affect their livelihoods?	What difference do you see in your livelihood when you add value to your produce before you sell?
	What benefits do you gain in engaging value chain activities compared to women who do not engage in value chain activities?
4. What challenges do women face along the groundnut value chain?	What are the main difficulties you face in the processing of groundnut?
	Does the decisions of the household head and your exclusion in decision making process have an influence on your processing?
	Has this change reduce your level of engagement with other actors in groundnut production to the final consumer?
	How has your inability to access credit and other funding affected your processing of groundnut and under what conditions are you given credit?
	Has this reduce the household consumption and your engagement in other social activities?
5. What strategies do women in groundnut value chain employ to improve their productivity and livelihoods?	What are your tactics and strategies to improve your production?
	How will you manage to combine household activities and groundnut processing to improve your livelihoods?

Interview guide for Retailers

Main Research Question	Interview Guide
1. How and to what extent do women engage in groundnut value chain?	Is retailing of groundnut your main activity and do see this as a source of livelihood?
	What form selling do you engage in and how often do you engage in this activity?
	Which group of people do you sell this groundnut to?
	How often do you engage with other actors (middle-men, producers, processors, retailers)?
2. To what extent and in what ways women's role in groundnut value chain are negotiated at the household level?	How has your engagement with other actors in groundnut production transformed you now?
	How has this change transformed your role as a women in the family and your contributions to household activities?
	Has this transformation influenced other women in the community?
	What happens with the revenue gained from selling groundnut?
	How is the profit from the sale of processed groundnut used?
3. How does women's participation in groundnut value chain affect their livelihoods?	What difference do you see in your livelihood when you add value to your produce before you sell?
	What benefits do you gain in engaging value chain activities compared to women who do not engage in value chain activities?
4. What challenges do women face along the groundnut value chain?	What are the main difficulties you face as seller of groundnut?
	Does the decisions of the household head and your exclusion in decision making process have an influence on your selling?
	Has this change reduce your level of engagement with other actors in groundnut production to the final consumer?
	How has your inability to access credit and other funding affected your processing of groundnut and under what conditions are you given credit?
	Has this reduce the household consumption and your engagement in other social activities?

5. What strategies do women in groundnut value chain employ to improve their productivity and livelihoods?	What are your tactics and strategies to improve your ability of sales?
	How will you manage to combine household activities and sales of groundnut to improve your livelihoods?

Appendix 2

Interview Guide for the Focus Group Discussion

Women engagement in value chain

1. What contribution has of groundnut added to your life and do see groundnut production as a source of livelihood?
2. How is production, processing and retailing done (individually in the group or as a group)

Empowerment of women through groundnut value chain production

3. How has your engagement with other actors in groundnut production transformed you now?
4. How has this change transformed your role as women in the family and your contributions to household activities?
5. Has this transformation influenced other women in the community?
6. What happens with the revenue gained from this production?
7. How is the profit from the sale of production of groundnut used?

Impact of inequalities in accessing means of productive resources among women in the community

8. What are the main difficulties you face in the production of groundnut?
9. Do the decisions of the household head and your exclusion in decision making process have an influence on your production?
10. How has your inability to access credit and other funding affected your production of groundnut and under what conditions are you given credit?
11. Has this reduce the household consumption and your engagement in other social activities?

Coping strategies to improve their livelihoods and Household food security

12. What are your tactics and strategies to improve your production?
13. How will you manage to combine household activities and groundnut production to improve your livelihoods?

Appendix 3

Interview Guide for Department of Agriculture Staff

1. How does the Department of Agriculture engage with women in Groundnut production?
2. What specific strategies are carried to improve and promote production of groundnut by these women at the household level?
3. What level of value chain activities do the department in collaboration with the Government to involve these women to increase production of groundnut at all stages? How is it done?
4. What trainings are offered to these women in production and their livelihoods?
5. What are the challenges encountered in working with women groundnut production?
6. In your view, what are the strategies which can improve the livelihood and household consumption?