

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
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Keyword 1	: Structural barriers to social equity
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Title of Entry	: A gendered perspective on technical efficiency in rice farming in Tanzania
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	: The paper aims to assess how intra-household women empowerment affect technical efficiency of the household in production first by investigating the level of women empowerment using the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and second, using the estimated WEA in the assessment of technical efficiency. The study uses data collected from 200 households in a survey conducted in August 2016 from 5 villages in Kilombero district, Tanzania. The index considers women empowerment in five domains (5DE) namely input in production decisions, resource ownership, control over income, leadership and workload, and the gender parity in empowerment within the household (GPI). The determinants of women empowerment were also assessed using the ordinal logit analysis with three different levels of empowerment (scores below 40 % the weighted domains, from 40-60 % and, 60 % and above). The estimated WEAI is 0.55 with a 5DE sub-index value of 0.51 and the GPI sub index of 0.86 indicating low empowerment attainment in the five domains but a larger percentage of households within which men and women enjoy relative gender parity. For women in the study site, key domains contributing to disempowerment are workload, resource ownership and restricted inputs to productive decision making. These factors serve to depress women's achievements in terms of technical efficiency especially given the fact that rice farming is labour intensive and there are few labor saving technologies which women are usually unable to access in time for such activities as land clearing weeding and harvesting. There is need to increase investment in labour-saving technologies especially for rice production. Farmers can also be encouraged to form groups to pool together capital to purchase such technologies. It is important to note that when men were assessed using the same indicators, they too reported disempowerment; this can be attributed to the fact that men are also exposed to disempowering factors which bear cross-class, cross-generational and cross-gender dimensions. Hence trainings to raise awareness about importance of joint input decision making are also needed. Moreover, engaging men as change agents can help in dealing with patriarchal systems that are disempowering to both men and women.

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