

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
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Title of Entry	: Using Experiments to Understand Gender Influence on Intrahousehold Decision Making for Investment in Rice Varietal Trait Improvements
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	<p>: Farming households, like any other households, are faced with multiple decisions on tasks and activities. Empirical evidence from previous studies suggests that farm production decisions, including adoption, are decided within a household with the participation of both husband and wife. In this study, we examined household decision making on investment in future rice varietal trait improvements (VTIs) using an experimental investment game methodology. In the investment game, couples from rice farming households had to select, first individually and then jointly, a replacement rice variety to improve. They were asked to allocate a research endowment fund to specific traits that they would like to see improved. Specific objectives were to examine (i) how a couple's joint decision relates to their individual decisions with respect to the choice of a replacement variety and investment in VTIs, and (ii) which factors increase wives' intrahousehold decision-making power with respect to the choice of VTIs. For 72% of the households, the replacement variety selected by the husband and wife in the individual round was the same as the replacement variety they selected in the joint round. Total agreement in replacement variety choice was more likely if the wife was working on-farm and was a member of an organization. Agreement was less likely if the wife was the sole decision maker or dominated the decision-making process with respect to storing and marketing rice. The wife had more influence on the joint decision on VTIs if she was employed off-farm and if she considered future trends in prioritizing traits for improvement. The findings have implications not only for variety development but also on the importance of considering gender roles in technology adoption decisions and extension programs.</p>

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