



iDE CASE STUDY

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture: Justino Kasapato

BACKGROUND In order to better understand how the FBA model is contributing to improvements in women's empowerment, iDE Zambia carried out a series of ethnographic interviews related to women's empowerment in the Lusaka and Northwest provinces of Zambia. The ethnographic interviews closely followed the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey instrument, developed by IFPRI and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), to be used in USAID's Feed to Future Initiative. The WEAI measures the roles and extent of women's engagement in the agriculture sector in five domains: (1) decisions about agricultural production, (2) access to and decision making power over productive resources, (3) control over use of income, (4) leadership in the community, and (5) time use. It also measures women's empowerment relative to men within their households. The WEAI allows us to identify areas that our projects will have potential impacts on and to understand how to increase autonomy and decision making in key domains related to empowerment.

CASE STUDY Justino moved to the Mutokoma village in 1998 from a nearby village after getting married to Mr. Banda. She stopped going to school after grade seven because the distance was just too far – often taking over an hour walking each way. She quickly says that her older daughter attends the same school, but that she has access to a bicycle which makes her ongoing school attendance possible, and that she fully expects her daughter to go to school much longer than she did. She has six children, two of which climb all over her during the

course of the conversation. She is busy wiping the young childrens' noses and asking for her older daughter to help with the two younger brothers who are acting up in the background. From the onset, she seems happy with their current situation, she says that her neighbors are good people, and when they have time they do like to visit one another assist each other with farm-related tasks. At the time of the interview, Mr. Banda was in the field managing the tomato crop by harvesting some of the late-season tomatoes for household consumption.

Justino and her husband decided to break up the responsibilities for the garden plot between them. Justino has been allocated a piece of the plot that is hers to manage, including what to grow, when to plant, when to harvest and where to sell.

She claims that she has direct responsibility for the management of this plot but that she does like to make decisions with her husband since he has been the one to primarily receive agricultural trainings from the FBA.



They discuss the opportunities that they have, as well as the risks, and make the decision on what to grow together.

During the course of the conversation a number of goats meander past us and she points out that 3 of the 10 goats that walk past are hers, while the other 7 belong to her husband. She purchased the goats with money that she earned from charcoal burning. She has since sold off a number of goats to purchase a single cow as well, which stands in an enclosure on the other side of their home from where we are sitting. She gets to decide whether or not to earn money from them through milk sales, or to sell them for slaughter. According to Justino, she is happy with the amount of responsibility that she has regarding crop production and livestock production – and that she enjoys the economic freedom she has with the money she earns from her garden plot and goats.

The male FBA that works with their household does not interact with Justino directly, as they both believe this would be culturally inappropriate. Both Justino and Cephus (the FBA) confirm this later – followed by some uncomfortable

laughter. Instead, Cephus sells inputs and provides technical support for their tomato and rape production directly

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to Mr. Banda. Justino does go on to clarify that her husband will return from trainings and summarize what they talked about with her. She is also able to ask him questions about the training material when she is confronted with a problem on her personal plot.

Prior to working with an FBA, Justino and her husband did produce some garden vegetables. She is much more confident in their decisions around scaling up household production now. Before Cephus started working with them she would worry about the risks of growing something new, but she believes that they can continue to grow their gardens and earn additional money from their land. As she says this, a smile creeps onto her face.

Similar to decisions related to agricultural production, Justino and her husband share most decisions related to the purchasing, ownership and sale of household assets. They try and include their children in this exercise by giving each of them specific chickens, where each child is fully responsible for them, including when to sell them and what to do with the money. She quickly points to one of the little boys that is now building a small car out of bent bicycle spokes and, while shaking her head, says that he always spends his money on sweets. In Justino's view, the most valuable asset their family has is their land, because it is what gives them money and opportunity.



ZAMBIA

When we ask her what her most valuable personal asset is, she takes some time to carefully think about it and responds by saying that her goats are the most valuable thing to her because they provide her with the most money that she has personal control over. She and her husband make many of the decisions on major agricultural related purchases jointly by consulting with her about what would be best for their family. She does go on to say that she is not as involved in the final decisions regarding agricultural inputs, and that he husband primarily makes these choices. She makes decisions for household goods like plates, pots and pans. She goes on to walk us over to their primary house where she proudly shows us the shelving unit that she saved money to purchase where they store all of their cooking supplies,

TV, radio and other valuables. She laughs to herself and says that she would rather buy this stuff anyway.

Neither Justino or her husband have taken out any credit or loans from anyone other than the government-funded FISP program, which provides farmers with an in-kind fertilizer loan each year. She and her husband look at their savings each year and decide whether or not they need the in-kind loan or not. She is uncomfortable with the prospect of borrowing money, and says that she doesn't really think they need it at this point in time.

The amount of time that Justino spends on farming and domestic tasks leaves her exhausted at the end of the day. By the time she and her husband finish

their work they are both extremely tired – especially during the peak seasons of their crop production. She would like to have more time in the day for her and her husband to earn more money, and so that she can spend some additional time with her friends and neighbors learning about new agricultural techniques and marketing strategies. They are both active in their church community, where she serves as a treasurer, and she would like to have more time for this as well. In her opinion, men and women should both be spending time in their gardens earning money like her and her husband are doing. She thinks that the way they spend their time and the way that they make decisions about how to earn money are balanced and fair, and should be modeled by other people in their village.



FBA PROFILE

Cephus Mahongo originally worked with iDE as a lead farmer for the RPI2 project that finished in 2014. He was trained on farming as a business, how to best engage with clients, agronomy and pest management, selling strategies to smallholder farmers, irrigation techniques and output marketing strategies. He was born in Zimbabwe and has lived in the community for over thirty years. He currently works with approximately 35 different smallholder farmers in his area. Justino and her husband have known Cephus for many years, and began receiving formal agricultural support from him prior to the last crop cycle. Cephus primarily focuses his efforts on providing agricultural services, such as weed spraying – earning in excess of 120 USD since becoming an FBA. Cephus has not yet begun earning a commission on the output marketing or credit support that he is providing to his clients.

LINKING NAMES TO NUMBERS

DIMENSION	SUB-INDICATOR	SCORE
DECISION MAKING	Input in productive decisions (1/5 weight)	1
RESOURCES	Ownership of assets (1/15 weight)	1
	Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets (1/15 weight)	1
	Access to and decisions on credit (1/15 weight)	1
INCOME	Control over use of income (1/5 weight)	1
LEADERSHIP	Group member (1/10 weight)	1
	Speaking in public (1/10 weight)	1
TIME	Workload (1/10 weight)	1
	Leisure (1/10 weight)	0
5DE SCORE	Total cumulative score	0.9

According to the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index, Justino is empowered (scoring a .9 out of 1 on the 5DE component of the index) and has achieved parity with her husband. They make decisions together and are both working hard to provide for their family. Justino's empowerment is affected by the way that she and her husband seem to make decisions together, although the magnitude of her contribution to decision varies. Her empowerment is not heavily affected by the FBA, aside from the fact that they have begun scaling up their garden production, which leads to additional decision-making and income opportunities for both Justino and her husband. The area where Justino does not feel empowered, leisure time, is not likely to change with additional support from the FBA.

iDE creates income and livelihood opportunities for poor rural households across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. iDE works in a range of sectors, including agriculture, water, nutrition, sanitation, and rural marketing. www.ideorg.org www.ide-uk.org