

The impact of Climate Change on women in Agriculture in Uganda

Women constitute the majority of the world's population living in poverty and are more reliant on natural resources for a living than men are; this is also true in Uganda, particularly in rural communities. Climate-related issues, such as extended dry seasons and floods, are becoming more common, endangering agricultural livelihoods and food security. Women are disproportionately affected because of their critical role as food security enablers.

There is an urgent need to develop gender-sensitive strategies and understand the gendered effects of climate change on food systems, and we need to act sooner rather than later.

In Uganda, agriculture provides a living for a large proportion of the population (70% according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics), and women outnumber men in the agricultural workforce (by 77% according to the Uganda National Household Survey). Women, particularly in rural areas, face discriminatory gendered social norms, insufficient and unequal access to essential resources, limited mobility, and underrepresentation in decision-making. All this makes many women extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts and undermines their capacity to adapt to double pressures associated with climate change and their ability to generate income and secure food to guarantee nutrition-feeding needs for their families.

Despite the social, economic, and political barriers that limit their capacity, it is critical to recognize that women can take on the challenges posed by climate change and are better actors in terms of mitigation and adaptation. A study by Sundström and Mccright (2014) found that women are more concerned about the environment than men. The research shows women are more prone to embracing environmentalism over time, whereas men's environmental views are more complacent and prone to climate denialism.

To effect transformative change and prevent these issues from exacerbating inequalities, we must recognize and address gender differences in vulnerability and economic resilience. There are several critical steps to address food insecurity while supporting women as food producers:

- To identify the existing gender differences in climate adaptation.
- Provide Gender-inclusive digital services, such as mobile money and money transfer services.
- Capacity building, and training to equip women in Uganda with business management skills and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Provide market access and improved information flow that focuses on women's activities and outputs.

Pearl Capital Partners' intervention strategy is based on its impact investment objectives, which consider female entrepreneurs (the percentage of company shares owned by women), the number of female farmers supplying investee companies, and other factors.