



Farm Typologies in Tanzania and Malawi

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Abstract

Africa RISING (AR) Sustainable Intensification (SI) Interventions may not benefit all the farmers to the same extent. It is therefore crucial to distinguish different typologies of project participants in order to evaluate their specific needs and better plan scaling activities. Taking advantage of the detailed data collected in the AR Baseline Evaluation Surveys (ARBES), we define and identify statistical typologies across the five SI domains: productivity, economic, environment, social, and human. The methodology used is a combination of factor and cluster analysis, which allows to define groups based on a wide range of different dimensions consistent across all the AR countries.

In Tanzania we obtain four groups. The first is mostly composed of female-headed households with low educational attainment and endowments. The second defines relatively younger households with medium endowments. The third includes vegetables producers who frequently use intercropping and are medium endowed. Finally, the fourth contains livestock breeders and legumes growers who seem to be better-off. The four groups are not homogeneously distributed across space: the first is highly concentrated in the Kongwa district; while the third and fourth groups are more widespread in the Babati and Kiteto districts. In terms of SI performance, the third and fourth groups are by far the most productive, with the fourth dominating in terms of economic endowments. In the human domain, the first group lags behind while the others perform similarly. On the other hand, the first and the fourth group are the best performers in terms of social and environmental aspects while groups two and three are struggling in these areas.

In Malawi we again obtain four groups. The first is mostly composed of female-headed households with low educational attainment and endowments. The second defines relatively older households with medium-to-low endowments. The third includes highly productive households who are medium-to-high endowed. Finally, the fourth contains households that mostly breed small ruminants and are highly endowed. The four groups are not homogeneously distributed across space: the first group is highly concentrated in the Mtakatika Extension Planning Area (EPA) while the fourth group is more widespread in the Lobi and Nsipe EPAs. In terms of SI indicators, group three and four are by far the best performers in the economic, productivity and human domains, with the fourth group performing similarly in the social aspect. In terms of environmental conditions, group one is lagging behind, group two and three show the best soil conditions, while group four engages in soil conservation practices the most.

We use the group-specific strengths and weaknesses from this characterization to propose targeted intervention recommendations in each country. These typologies are now ready for field validation and testing, and can be used as a useful tool to plan the scaling phase.

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