

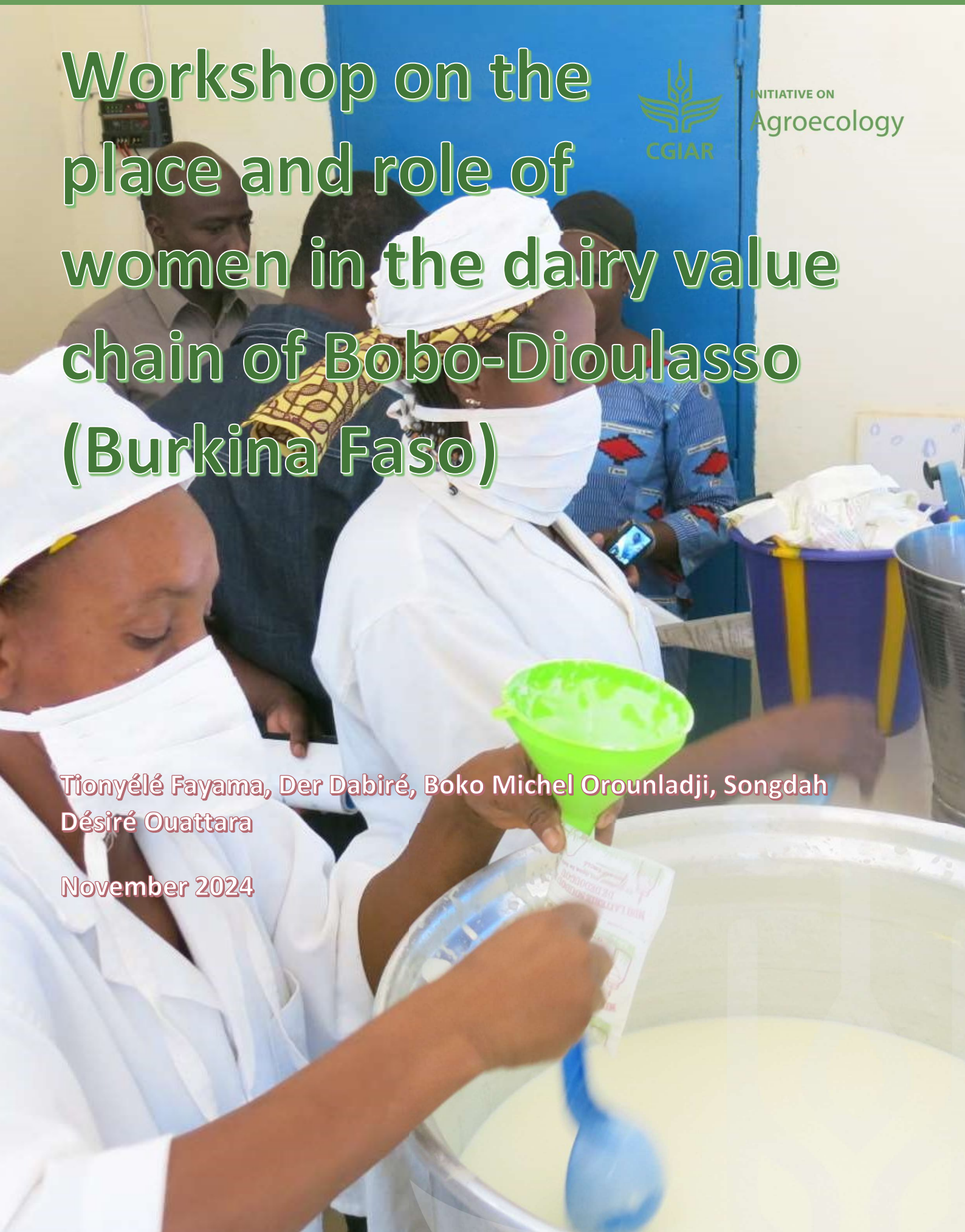
Workshop on the place and role of women in the dairy value chain of Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)



INITIATIVE ON
Agroecology

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Workshop on the place and role of women in the dairy value chain of Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)

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Introduction

Study background and objectives

Burkina Faso has the potential to produce milk thanks to its large herd of cattle (Corniaux et al., 2014). Today, the dairy sector is organized around several interdependent links, such as production, processing, distribution and marketing, forming a veritable value chain. This value chain mobilizes both women and men, although their involvement varies according to context. Vall et al (2021) propose a three-level classification that highlights the disparities in the distribution of roles within this sector. Among pastoralists, milk production is a secondary economic activity for the whole household, but benefits women directly in 60% of cases. By contrast, among agro-pastoralists, where milk plays a more significant economic role, the proportion of women benefiting from the income generated falls to 40%. In these contexts, milk production becomes a key economic activity, the income from which is predominantly controlled by men (82% of cases). This study also highlights that women tend to be progressively excluded from the economic benefits of milk as this activity develops commercially within households. According to Schneider et al (2007), there is a growing trend towards "de-feminization" of the dairy value chain, particularly in small-scale processing units. Women, mainly concentrated on home production and processing, are increasing their workload with the intensification and commercialization of dairy products. As a result, they are gradually being marginalized and men are taking control of the marketing chain. The latter also dominate other links in the value chain, occupying roles such as milk sellers, animal health agents, artificial insemination service providers and extension agents. Despite the policies put in place to promote the inclusion of women, results are slow to come. These initiatives aimed to strengthen their participation in the management of dairy cooperatives and improve their access to credit and training (Vall et al., 2021).

Women continue to face restricted access to opportunities, particularly in knowledge and market outlets, while facing more constraints. These constraints include increased difficulties in accessing natural resources, knowledge, as well as social and economic levers, compared with their male counterparts, whether agro-pastoralists or mini-farmers. This situation considerably reduces their scope for initiative (Vall et al., 2023). According to this study, women involved in the dairy economy are thus subject to more constraints and more limited opportunities, which restricts their capacity for action compared to male socio-economic groups.

At the same time, income from milk sales, traditionally attributed to women because of their significant role in milking and milk processing, has been profoundly affected, even though men generally own the animals. As a result, some women have found themselves deprived of this source of income, as new entrepreneurs have taken over local dairy markets (Fokou et al. 2011; Schneider 2007).

Women are often excluded from managing income from milk sales when this activity acquires economic importance within the household. Among the Peulh, income generated by milk is traditionally reserved for women. However, this dynamic seems to change when the milk is destined for a dairy. This phenomenon is not limited to Burkina Faso or West Africa. In East Africa, Herego (2017) and Umuzigambeho (2017) have highlighted that, although women are in the majority in milk value chains, they are frequently marginalized in value chain governance and deprived of economic benefits. Thus, women play a central role in almost every link of the milk value chain, but benefit far less from the financial spinoffs. This paradox raises questions about the real place of women in the dairy sector and the reasons for their systematic exclusion from revenue-sharing. Can we hope to reverse this trend?

Against this backdrop, the present research project, initiated as part of the WP5 activities on "Understanding and influencing changes in partnerships and behavior", focused on the role and place of women in the dairy industry. The data collected during the study led by Fayama et al (2024), on women's place and role in Bobo Dioulasso's dairy value chain, was presented and discussed during a workshop held in Bobo-Dioulasso in November 2024. The proceedings of this workshop are presented in this report.

Workshop objectives

This workshop aimed to share the summary of the results of the study conducted by Fayama Dabiré on the place and role of women in the Bobo-Dioulasso dairy industry (Fayama et al. 2024) with stakeholders in the dairy industry, especially the Plateforme d'Innovation Lait (PIL or Dairy Innovation Platform in English), which is expected to play a transformative role in dairy promotion.

Specifically, this involved :

- Present the results of the study to the stakeholders who took part;
- Encourage exchanges to confirm or deny information content;
- Suggest ways to better account for women and young people in the dairy industry.

Expected results

The expected outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

- The results of the study are presented to the players who took part;
- Confirmations and denials were exchanged on the content of the information;
- A number of ideas are put forward to take greater account of women and young people in the dairy industry.



Photo 1. Family photo of workshop participants

Methodological approach

The workshop took place in the training room of the Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Élevage en zone Subhumide (CIRDES) according to the schedule presented in Appendix 1, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation session in plenary and group work in World café around two themes:

- Theme 1: Suggestions for ways to take greater account of women and young people in the dairy value chain;
- Theme 2: Identifying, assessing and managing the potential negative effects of changes brought about by the AE initiative.

Some interventions may have undesirable effects on certain community groups. With a deeper understanding of social and cultural roles, norms and dynamics at the household and community level, some of these effects may become clearer. For this specific point, group discussions were guided according to the outline presented in Appendix 2. The changes in practices brought about by the initiative can be linked to the following actions:

- Integration of a forage plot and manure pit on farms
- Advising of dairy farmers on management of farm co-products (to increase fodder storage, manure production) and dairy cow diets (balanced and affordable diets)
- Diversification of milk collection center services:
 - Services for dairy farmers: advices on coproduct management and dairy cows diets, forage seed store, feed concentrate store
 - Services for dairy processors: milk quality control
- Diversification of dairy products (yoghurts flavored with natural extracts of non-wood forest products; milk-based cosmetics).

Results

Validation of study results

The workshop began with a brief opening ceremony and a presentation of the study results. The presentation made by the researchers covered the following points: (i) socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, (ii) organization of the dairy industry in the Hauts-Bassins region, (iii) social attributes of women in the dairy industry, (iv) women's contribution to the dairy industry, and (v) power relations and decision-making on income from dairy activity in households.

All participants confirmed the study's results. The distribution of income from the sale of local milk was the only point of discussion between participants. In this respect, all participants recognized an unequal sharing of income between men and women, the reasons for which are linked to the increased costs of maintaining dairy cows.

Identifying ways to better take gender into account in the dairy industry

Discussions in the small groups led to the following proposals for strengthening gender mainstreaming in the dairy industry. They are as follows

- Establish a frank dialogue/concertation between heads of household and their wives and children to define the role of each;
- Involvement, empowerment and motivation of women and young people in carrying out activities;
- The definition of income-sharing grids to motivate women and young people;
- Encouraging empowered women to be more dynamic in order to encourage greater inclusion of women in the dairy industry;
- Awareness-raising/information and training for LIP players on taking gender into account in the dairy sector.

Identifying, assessing and managing the potential negative effects of changes brought about by the AE initiative

At the end of the small-group discussions, the participants identified the possible adverse effects of changes induced by AEI activities and the target groups concerned and mitigation measures (Table 1).

Table 1. List of potential negative effects of Agroecology Initiative actions and mitigation measures

Activities	Actors involved	Minority groups concerned	Potential negative effects of actions	Risk level	Protection/mitigation measures
Integration of a forage plot and manure pit on farms	All family members except those still suckling	Children under 7	Proximity to concessions can be a source of disease due to mosquitoes, increased workload, unripe compost attracts termites to fields + reptiles	Low to medium	Avoid the participation of the very young (under 8 years old) in heap or mold composting. Use of protective equipment (gloves, boots, etc.)
Management consulting (co-product management and cow ration management)	All family members except those still suckling	Young people, children under 7 years of age	Stems can injure, increase workload	If work is not organized, risk of drop in production. Low risk	Taking responsibility for tasks. Use of protective equipment (gloves, boots, etc.).
Producer services: management consultancy, seed store, feed store	All family members except children under 7	Children aged 0 to 7	CLEAR	Medium risk	Reinforce safety, store products properly
Services for processors: milk quality control	All family members except under 15	The elderly	CLEAR	CLEAR	CLEAR
Diversification of dairy products (yoghurts flavored with natural extracts of non-wood forest products; milk-based cosmetics)	Women and young people	Young men	Workload	CLEAR	CLEAR

Conclusion

All in all, the workshop took place in a convivial atmosphere, enriched by courteous exchanges and pertinent proposals to reinforce gender mainstreaming in the local dairy value chain.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Workshop agenda

Schedule	Activities	Manager
9h-9h30	Opening Round table of participants Amending & adopting the program	Dr Souleymane Sanogo
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Presentation of the results of the study on the place and role of women in Bobo's dairy industry Discussion to amend and validate results	Dr Tionyéle Fayama & Der Dabiré
10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Coffee break	Dr Michel Orounladji & Désiré Ouattara
11am-12pm	Group work in world coffee : Theme 1: Identifying ways to better take gender into account in the dairy industry	Dr Michel Orounladji & Dr Tionyéle Fayama
	Theme 2: Identification and assessment of the negative effects of project activities on women, young people and the elderly	Der Dabiré & Désiré Ouattara
12h-13h30	Lunch break and prayers	Participants
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Restitution of group work	Group leaders
	Farwell	Dr Sanogo Souleymane

Appendix 2: Discussion outline for theme 2

Activities	Players involved	Minority groups concerned	Potential negative effects of actions	Risk level	Protection/mitigation measures
Integration of a forage plot and manure pit on farms					
Management consulting (co-product management and cow ration management)					
Producer services: management consultancy, seed store, feed store					
Services for processors: milk quality control					
Diversification of dairy products (yoghurts flavored with natural extracts of non-wood forest products; milk-based cosmetics)					

Appendix 3: Some photos of the workshop



Photo 2. Participants in a working group



Photo 3. Participants in a second working group



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