



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Gender equality in post-harvest management

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SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative
on Food Loss and Waste Reduction



Impact of Food Loss and Waste

- **Food Security**
- **Economy**
- **Environment**
- **Social**

Who is affected?

- Poor smallholder food producer - especially women
- Poor food insecure consumers



THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

- ✔ Magnitude of food losses in food supply chains
- ✔ Direct causes of food losses in food supply chains
- ❓ Importance of different causes and underlying reasons
- ❓ Impact and feasibility of solutions
- ✔ Beneficial effect of food loss reduction



Underlying Reasons of Food Losses

Direct Causes

- Technology
- Organization
- Infrastructure
- Skills/Practices
- Climate change

Underlying Reasons

- Investment climate
- Legislation policy
- Under-development
- **Socio-cultural and gender dimension**



Relevance of the Gender Dimension

Why it is important?



Why it is important to address gender?

- Women play a major role in first-stage post-harvest activities. Yet their work often remain invisible.
- Staple crops: drying, threshing, shelling etc.
Perishable crops: cleaning, drying, storage etc.
- Less access to resources and inputs, such as technologies and information.
- Work is typically arduous, time consuming and repetitive.
- Women's triple role, carrying out household chores, care for children and elderly and participating in their communities.

Gender inequalities limit women's potential and negatively affect the economic performance of the chain



FAO Food Loss Analysis: Causes and Solutions, Case Studies in the Small-scale Agriculture and Fisheries Subsectors

Through a VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS:

1) Screening, 2) Survey, 3) Load Tracking and 4) Synthesis.

Gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout the entire analysis methodology. This is essential to:

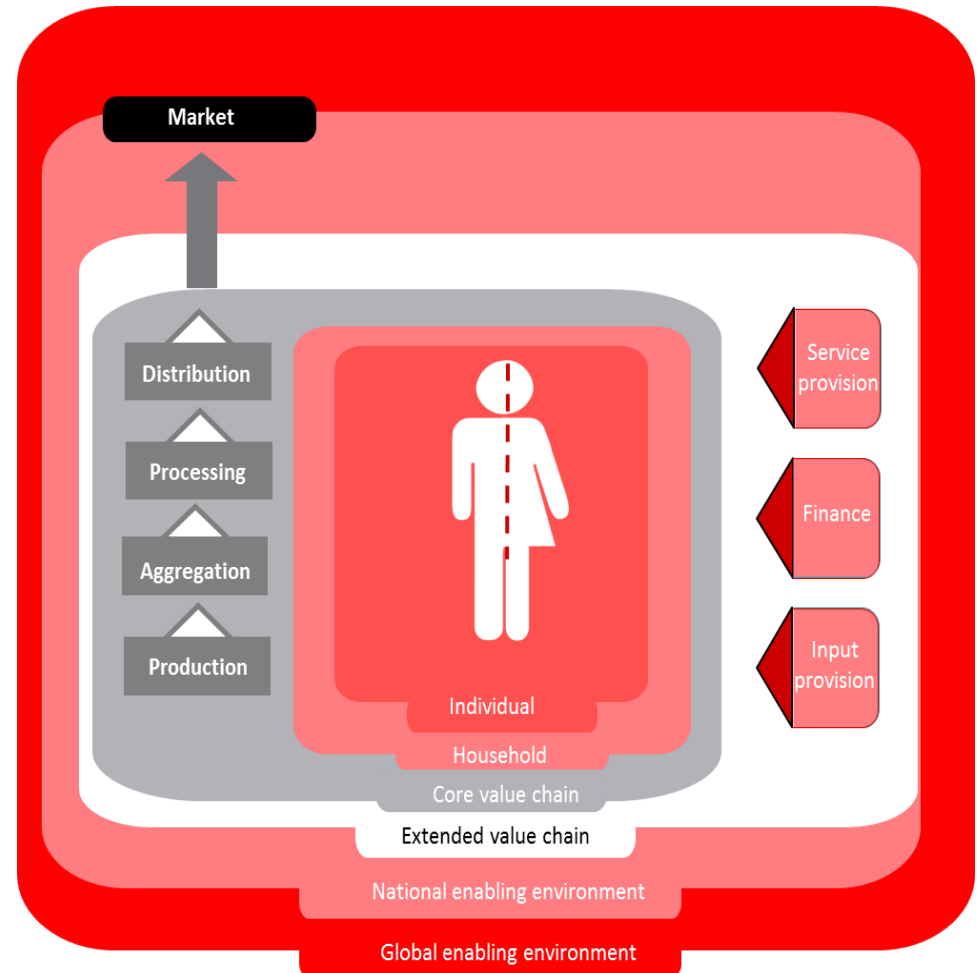
- Making women's work visible;
- Identifying gender inequalities that limit women's potential and negatively affect the performance of the value chain, generating FL;

Assess where are the Critical Loss Points (CLPs) along the VC and whether activities are male- or female-dominated, in order to implement appropriate strategies & solutions to reduce FL.

A deeper level of analysis

To identify underlying reasons of food losses, two additional levels of analysis of the value chain are needed:

- ✓ Household
- ✓ Individual



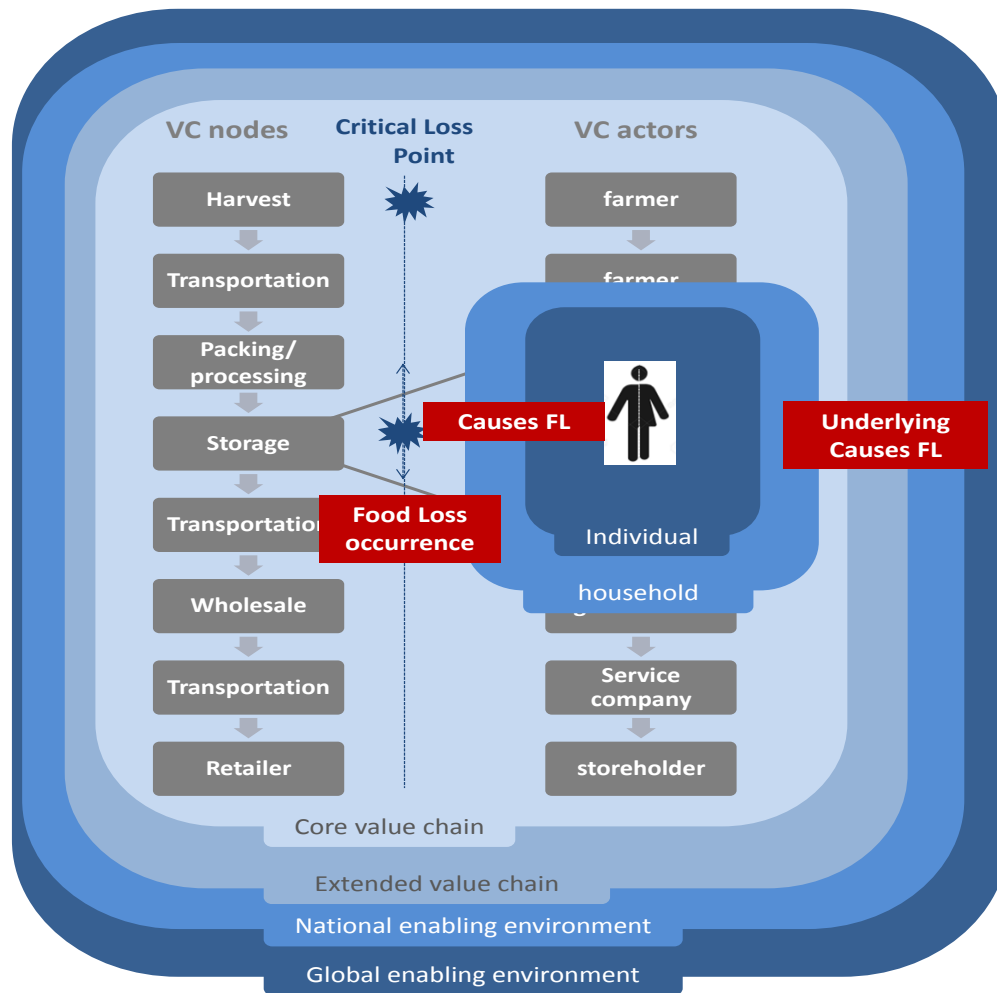
Gender-based constraints

Access to productive resources



Agency and power



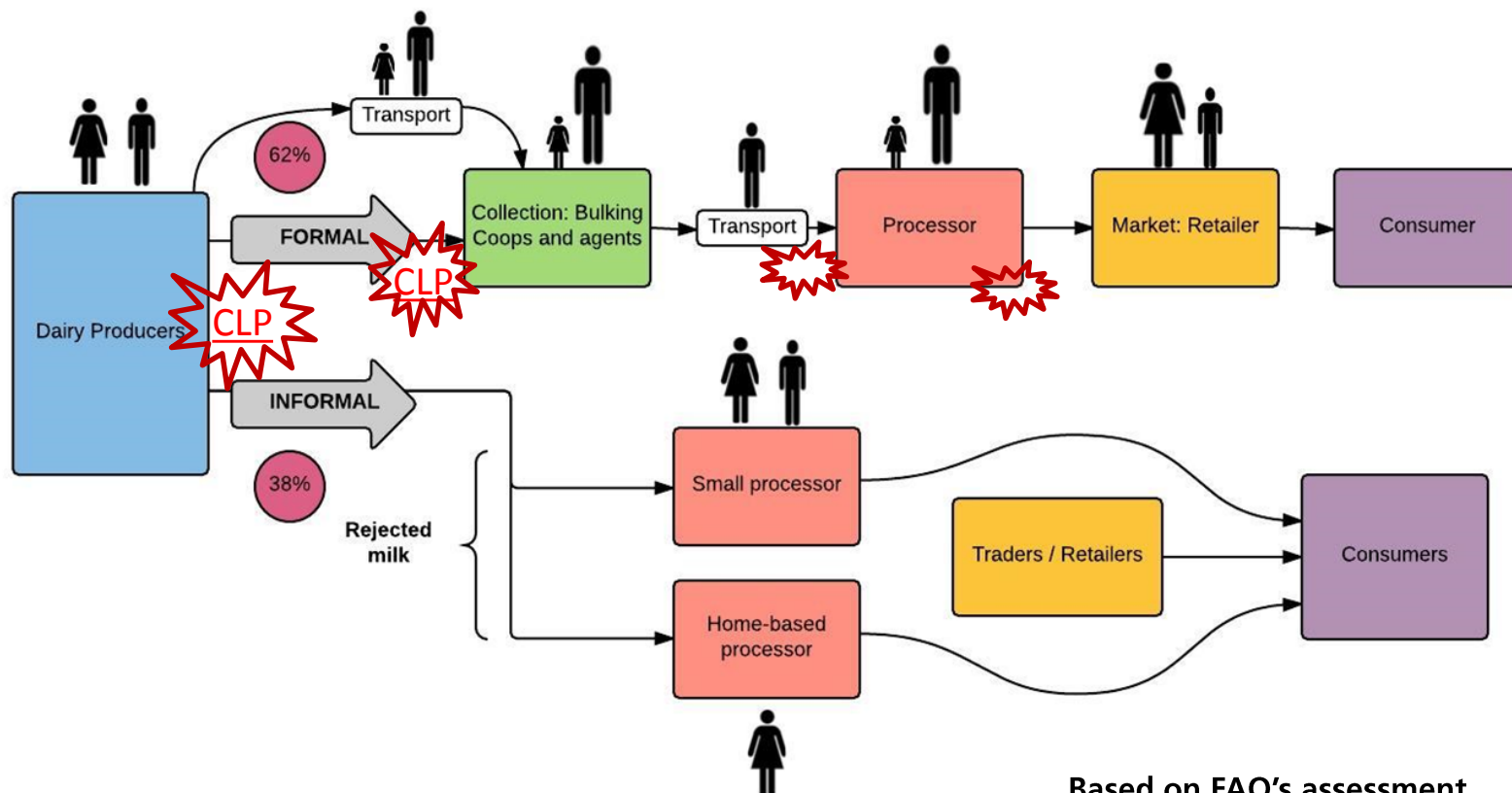


- Women’s and men’s activities in the FSC;
- Different access to resources and services;
- Power and Agency;
- Cultural practices and social position.



ADDRESSING FOOD LOSSES WITH GENDER LENS

Gender-sensitive map of the dairy VC in Ethiopia





KEY MESSAGES

- Recognize gender inequalities as one underlying cause of FL.
- A deeper level of analysis (importance of individual and HH level in VC analysis – gender dynamics).
- Gender-sensitive technologies and practices to reduce FL are more likely to be adopted - use of participatory approaches - .
- Once CLPs are determined, identify socio-cultural dimensions influencing constraints faced by individual/household in the VC
- Gender-responsive national/regional/global strategies for FLW reduction.



THANK YOU

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