

International Tobacco Growers' Association

TOBACCO

COURIER



ITGA

ENGLISH

April 2022

Nº 82

to Women in Tobacco
A Tribute

Growers and
Climate Change

Abiel Kalima Banda
ITGA President

Market Survey
2022

Ivan Genov
ITGA Manager Tobacco
Industry Analysis

Women in
Tobacco : A Lesson
We Need to Learn

Mercedes Vazquez
ITGA CEO

Women Tobacco
Farmers
Interviews

Women in Tobacco
Women Tobacco Growers

ITGA Members
Country Reports

Latest Crop Data
ITGA Member Associations



WE ARE TOBACCO

ALL YOUR TOBACCO NEEDS IN ONE COMPANY

Universal Corporation is the leading global leaf tobacco supplier. Our modern production methods allow us the flexibility to quickly adapt to new ideas, customer requirements and industry trends. Universal has a diversified range of capabilities for value-added products and services that we can offer our customers, including:

- The formulation of tobacco blends, including shisha and ongoing blend maintenance.
- High-quality liquid nicotine that exceeds U.S. Pharmacopeia standards, and is extracted and purified in our cGMP facility.
- Laboratory facilities that are ISO 17025 accredited, and offer reliable analytical testing services for your tobacco, smoke, shisha, e-liquid and vapor product needs.
- Expertise in naturally reconstituted tobacco. We provide our customers high-quality filler, binder, wrapper, one-leaf, and tipping paper which can be tailored to their specific needs.



Universal is consistently looking for ways to serve our customers' current and future needs in the global market. Contact us to discuss how Universal can help you move ahead of the competition.

▶ **visit our website:**
www.universalcorp.com

Index

COMMENTS ITGA AND PARTNERS



FOCUS ON WOMEN IN TOBACCO GROWING



INFOGRAPHICS



ITGA MEMBERS' REPORTS



ITGA FOUNDATION 1984

Published by the International Tobacco Growers Association.
 ITGA Address: Av. 1º de Maio - 99, 1º Dtoº 6000-086 Castelo Branco - Portugal
 Contact: Tel.: 00 351 272 092 583
 Mail: itga@tobaccolleaf.org | Website: www.tobaccolleaf.org

ITGA MEMBERS

PARTICIPATING IN THIS ISSUE



MESSAGE FROM ITGA PRESIDENT



International Tobacco Growers' Association
Echoing Tobacco Growers' Voices since 1984

DEAR TOBACCO GROWERS AROUND THE WORLD,

2021 was not an easy year. A few developed countries have managed to reach high COVID-19 vaccination levels, thus, avoiding new deadly surges. However, the rest of the world is far from being protected against the current variants or from the new ones that may arise soon. A substantial part of the tobacco grower community belongs to the latter group and that could disrupt the production season.

For the last two years the anti-tobacco lobby was mostly quiet and growers were able to do what they do best, which is to contribute to maintaining high levels of employment and regular income to some of the poorest regions and countries in the world. However, 2021 was not only marked by COVID-19. It was also the year of COP26 of the UN Climate Conference, where the evidence for climate change was analyzed and a lot of immediate and medium term measures were discussed and approved to be implemented by governments in the near future.

Where I come from, cyclones are an unfamiliar term to many South-East African farmers, but of late it's something that is coming almost every rainy season and impacts heavily tobacco production. With a bird distance of less than 200km from the border to the Indian Ocean the hinterland countries of Zimbabwe and Malawi have, together with Mozambique

on the coast, been experiencing the effects of tropical cyclones with human lives, crop and infrastructure losses. This year alone, cyclones Ana and Gombe have hit the east coast of Mozambique causing devastating damage. All these are coming after another cyclone, Ida, caused very big damage to these same areas last year.

COP 26 summit tackled a lot of issues relating to farming and climate change. Apart from extreme weather conditions and drought there are other occurrences that are associated with climate change and impacting agriculture. Wildfires have become a common feature in the Americas, Europe and Australia. Rising costs of production also being recorded as a result of climate change effects.


The scope of climate change related initiatives is much wider than what was before considered under the umbrella of sustainability policy. Tobacco production is not in the best position regarding climate change. Its carbon footprint is heavy, namely in the use of pesticides, the transportation of inputs and tobacco, deforestation and the use of gas, coal and wood for curing tobacco.

Climate change is now a reality witnessed by millions of victims of extreme weather events and that will fuel a massive migration of funds, people, and organizations from previous marginal campaigns to climate change initiatives. Ultimately, they will meet us in tobacco production reinforcing

and diversifying some ideas that were already aired in the last two COP meetings of the FCTC.

There is a lot that needs to be done on the agricultural side to contribute more for a greener planet. With the creation of more forests, good management of wetlands and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) huge amounts of carbon can be sequestered. As tobacco farmers, we are used to these GAP requirements and the efforts should not sound new. However, we need to do more, take an active role in this fight to ensure a better world for the generations to come. But only with the full involvement of the sector working in a holistic way, this can be possible.

ITGA has made this call to partners and stakeholders and we are still to see what the answer to this call will be. ITGA and its members' associations are committed to do their part but we are also mindful of the limited impact our actions will have if other links in this supply chain do not take into consideration the difficult transition farmers' are subject to and avoid adding extra burden to the already overloaded cost on farmers' businesses.

It is high time to foresee how this new paradigm will affect tobacco production and vice versa. Our planning this year will employ the time and resources to bring climate change and other social and environmental challenges to the top of the sector's agenda and priorities. 

Abiel Kalima Banda
ITGA President



Abiel Kalima Banda, ITGA president.



WOMEN IN TOBACCO : A LESSON WE NEED TO LEARN



International Tobacco Growers' Association
Echoing Tobacco Growers' Voices since 1984

On this first report for our magazine as new ITGA CEO, these lines are meant to thank ITGA Members for their trust. I assume with respect and a great sense of responsibility the role that has been entrusted to me and I hope to live up to the expectations of the ITGA Members, as well as to the common interest of tobacco growers in general. Warm words of gratitude also go to my predecessor, António Abrunhosa, to whom we owe in great part, the pivoting role of our association at global level. I believe, we will all agree about that.

We have made this edition a small



We have made this edition a small tribute to women and their work in our sector. I have been lucky enough to meet many of them and they are all a source of inspiration in my work.

tribute to women and their work in our sector. I have been lucky enough to meet many of them and they are all a source of inspiration in my work. The interviews gathered, coming from different regions of the world, convey the realities of these women, what unites and separates them in their challenges and expectations. Thanks to this evidence we can have a global picture of the sector as seen through the eyes of these women. I have carefully read their answers fuelled by enthusiasm. However, there are still aspects overshadowing the work of these women. At large, their learning capacity is underestimated, relegating them to roles with little responsibility or none. They are also rarely placed in negotiations phases neither on leadership positions. They all express respect and gratitude for tobacco farming which is considered a livelihood pillar for their families. Some have dedicated their whole lives to the crop,

Mercedes Vázquez
ITGA CEO



and they all understand it as a family business. In some regions, decisions are made jointly, with both men and women having equal weight in the rollout of the business.

Another common demand is training and capacity building to improve their techniques and, in some regions, lack of mechanization makes the work burdensome. "Training" is repeated throughout the interviews as fundamental for the simple reason that allows them to apply appropriate techniques and thus grow and improve their performance. There is also a wide vision of the future to some extent, and it is through learning that they see this future as more promising. There is no fear of learning.



At large, their learning capacity is underestimated, relegating them to roles with little responsibility or none.



"Training" is repeated throughout the interviews as fundamental for the simple reason that allows them to apply appropriate techniques and thus grow and improve their performance.

In some cases, they feel that the current system exploits growers unnecessarily. There is also a lot of mistrust in the negotiation phase. Some of the women report a lot of stress in the price negotiations phases because, according to their own testimonies, they witness corruption carried by middlemen and a year of hard work ends up in an unfair deal, leaving them filled with frustration and dismay. Bureaucracy



It is heart-breaking to understand that, even though they experience hardship through their work to generate income, many of these women never have access to the crop's money.

and access to credits are not adapted to women and their role in society. It is heart-breaking to understand that, even though they experience hardship through their work to generate income, many of these women never have access to the crop's money. Men are the ones who control the benefits and women accept with despair these grievances in order to avoid family conflicts that often leads to the break-up of marriages. Yet women are all consistent in their responsibility and encourage each other to face challenges together fearlessly. To all of them, our sincere appreciation. But this is not enough, because without understanding their crucial role in their families, communities and our sector and without providing the right opportunities for them we will never succeed in unleashing their potential which will highly benefit their countries' economies as was recently



Our agenda at ITGA this year is strongly focused on strengthening our relationships with our members and partners.

recognized by study commissioned by the IMF. In ITGA, we will work to turn that potential into reality.

Our agenda at ITGA this year is strongly focused on strengthening our relationships with our members and partners. After two years of hardship and limitations due to the pandemic we now see with dismay the events of global catastrophic proportions in Ukraine. To the increasing number of market issues burdening our sector, global food security as explained in Ivan's piece and climate change, are two that will mandatorily need our collective attention. Instead, we witness distance between the future as pictured in our partners' sustainability



ITGA will be involved in as many dialogues as possible inside and outside our supply chain, bottom to top.

reports and the future as seen by the growers. An open question remains when we ask ourselves what it is being done to prepare growers in the transition that will lead them to that sustainable future, through sustainable farming, as depicted by companies in their reports. For the time being, growers see that sustainability at their cost or better said, at their loss and we witness an increasing number of growers demoralized, choosing to abandon the crop.

ITGA will be involved in as many dialogues as possible inside and outside our supply chain, bottom to top. We proactively want to learn more about our partners' view regarding issues with a common ground, such as the ones on the social and environmental agenda and we will promote discussion and open tables for debates. Our meetings will carry this year a very important mission, which is to convey to all entities related with our sector, namely our clients, the concerns, and expectations of growers all over the world. Particularly those linked to the biggest challenges growers are facing namely soaring cost of production and demands of sustainability programs. We will also insist on growers' view that the first and foremost sustainability they need, is the sustainability of their businesses without which all the others are irrelevant.

From ITGA we will do everything in our hands to make this year a meaningful one for our Members. ITGA is the only worldwide platform giving a collective voice to tobacco growers and advocating for the sector.

LEARN THE FACTS: RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Rural women ensure food security for their communities, build climate resilience and strengthen economies. Yet, gender inequalities, such as discriminatory laws and social norms, combined with a fast-changing economic, technological and environmental landscape restrict their full potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts.



Below are just some of these challenges and their consequences.

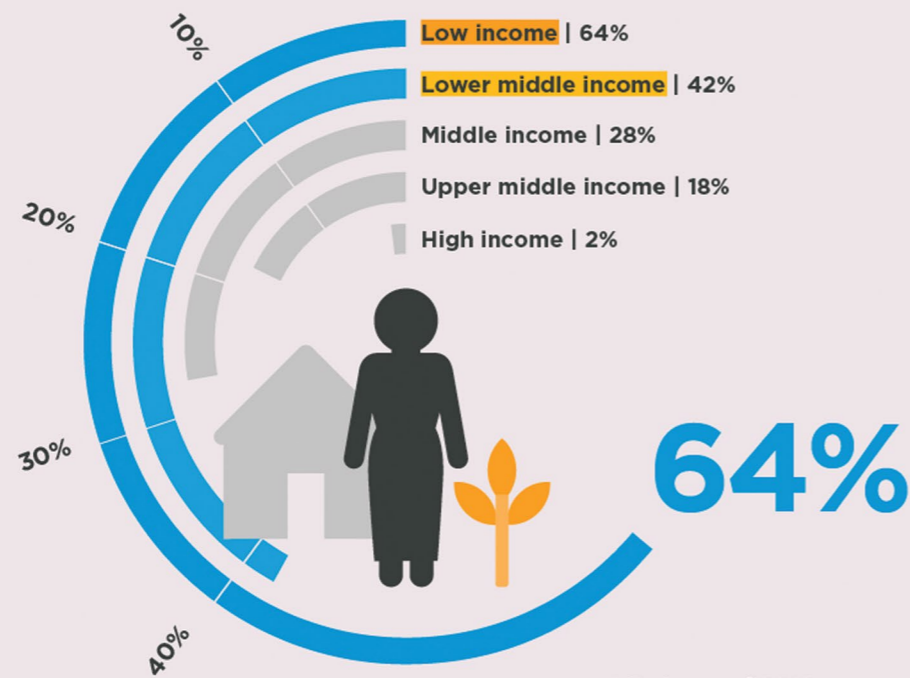
SOURCES

Report of the UN Secretary-General: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (E/CH.4/2018/7), UN ECOSOC, 2018; Employment in agriculture, female (% of female employment) (excludes ILO estimates), World Bank, 2023 (labour); The gender gap in land rights, FAO, 2018 (land rights); Delivery care, UNICEF Data, 2021 (reproductive health); Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, 2000-2020, WHO/UNICEF, 2021 (water); Taming promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Women, 2018 (child marriage); Global education monitoring report 2020: gender report, A new generation: 25 years of efforts for gender equality in education, UNESCO, 2020 (education); Measuring digital development: Facts and figures, ITU, 2020 (ICT).

UN WOMEN
unwomen.org
@un_women
fb.com/unwomen
@unwomen

LABOUR

THE SHARE OF WOMEN WORKING IN AGRICULTURE BY COUNTRY INCOME LEVEL



Agriculture remains the most important employment sector for women in developing countries and rural areas, a sector that largely falls within the informal economy with little or no social protection and labour rights.

CONSEQUENCES

Lower standard of living; poorer wages and health; limited access to social services; restricted upward mobility; lack of collective voice and agency.

LAND RIGHTS



Less than
15%
of agricultural landholders are women.

CONSEQUENCES

Less income security; less decision-making power in households and communities; inability to access credit to start a business or improve agricultural productivity.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Around
30%
of rural women
give birth without a skilled health worker present, compared to only
10%
of urban women.

CONSEQUENCES

Increased chances of life-threatening complications, severe bleeding, infection and maternal mortality.

ITGA Market Survey 2022: Current and Future Challenges for Tobacco Growers



In the beginning of 2022, ITGA conducted a market survey covering our wide member and partnership base. The questions focused on topics ranging from the Covid-19 disruptive effects on the sector to wider social and environmental challenges that impact tobacco growing. Shortly after we closed the survey, the war between Russia and Ukraine broke out. In addition to the big humanitarian disaster that is currently unfolding, the conflict will have a major impact not only on tobacco but to the wider agricultural context in general. The following paragraphs synthesize the insights from the answers we received, while also touching on the incoming challenges posed by the war.

The Global Pandemic

Covid-19 started leaving its mark on the sector during 2020, when we witnessed season interruptions and delays, traveling and transport restrictions, even bans of growers on participating during the sales process. In certain cases, there were very few attendees at sales days, while in others the disruption to adjacent service providers had a knock-on effect on the farming sector causing upward pressures on production costs, such as fertilizers and energy. In some markets there were shortages of labor force and in others the export operations were seriously disturbed. Luckily, a few associations have escaped the situation relatively untouched. However, the overall effects of disturbed supply chains and multiple crises building on top of each other will leave no one completely unaffected.

To battle the negative consequences of the pandemic our members and partners applied a variety of measures. Moderating access to allow for keeping social distancing, extensive use of masks and stricter hygiene standards were among the common procedures taken. In fact, ITGA in coordination with members and the ECLT Foundation, devised an awareness bringing campaign #TogetherWeCare targeting non contracted small scale farmers in particular. This involved activities such as translating educative materials to local languages and connecting with key UN agencies. In the case of Zimbabwe, decentralization of auction floors was done in order to give farmers an opportunity to be at the sales process as well as save on transport costs. In Brazil, problems were fewer as production and marketing suffered less, with business getting back to normal relatively quickly. Ultimately, this led to optimizing planning, improvements of quality and productivity in many regions.



Members have flagged that with further crisis and rising inflation the supply chain will feel more tension.

Ivan Genov
ITGA Manager
Tobacco Industry Analysis

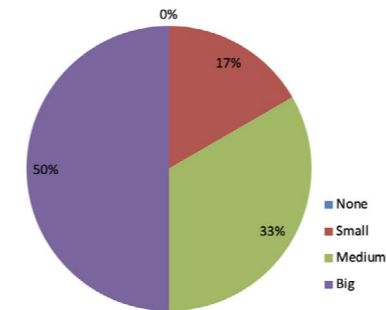


Nevertheless, as most growers have adapted to the difficult situation, the challenges for the immediate future remain firm. Members have flagged that with further crisis and rising inflation the supply chain will feel more tension. In some markets, like India, the supply base has shrunk and demand will be created naturally from now on. While Covid-19 remains an issue, in Zambia other illnesses like malaria are far more deadly. Finally, the expectations are for a return to a more normal way of work, but with increased focus on costs.

Environmental Issues

Apart from the global pandemic, other problems are also putting constant pressure on tobacco growers. Nowadays, environmental issues and climate change are leading causes of concern. For example, volcanic eruptions in Indonesia affected tobacco growers in the area, while high temperatures and drought impacted planting of late regions in Brazil. Tropical storm Ana, a deadly cyclone, passed through Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique leaving more than 100 dead. Deforestation is another major issue in Africa, and Zimbabwe in particular. Land degradation caused by fertilizer policies and increases in soil acidification were also flagged as pressing problems. In Africa, our members feel the need for farmers to be educated more often on causes and implications of such events, as well as giving incentives for those who keep the environment safe while penalizing serial offenders. In overall, the vast majority of respondents indicated that the impact of climate change to the sector is medium or big.

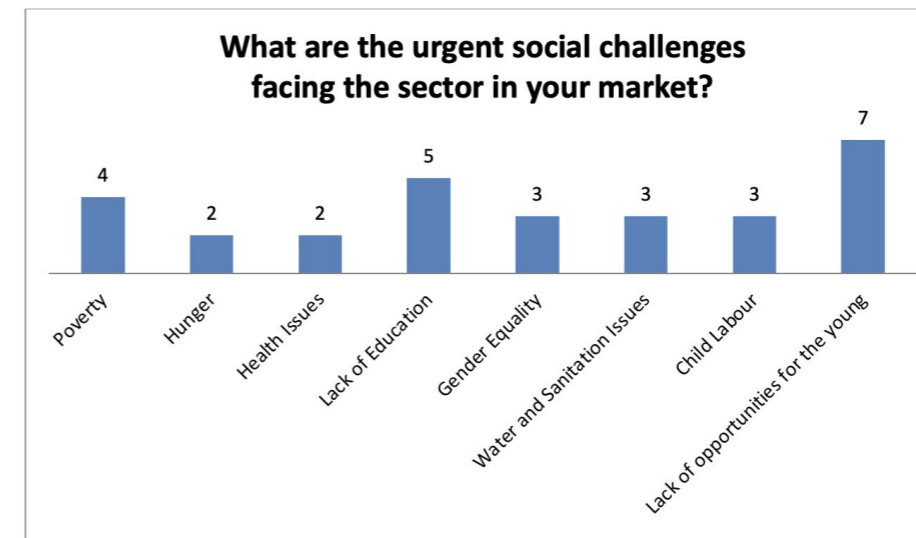
What is the impact of climate change on the sector in your market?



Source: ITGA Market Survey 2022

Social Issues

Social issues in most tobacco growing areas are also abundant. Child labor remains a significant problem. ITGA continues to work closely with the ECLT Foundation to combat its root causes around the world. In addition, the farmers' community is aging while young generations are not interested in agriculture leading to scarcity of labor. The lack of viable alternatives to tobacco and constant threats by NGOs are other major factors that have an effect on the long-term sustainability of the sector. Minimal involvement by local authorities to educate the rural population on improved agricultural practices was also flagged as a key concern. Ultimately, poverty is often the underlying cause of most issues. The vicious circle of low crop prices and the expensive school fees keep workers in tobacco unable to rise above the current levels- both in terms of education and skills building.



Source: ITGA Market Survey 2022

The Importance of Women in Tobacco

Bringing forward the role of women in tobacco growing will be a key priority for ITGA in 2022. The current edition of the magazine illustrates perfectly the massive contribution women are making to the sector. Our CEO Mercedes Vazquez has already emphasized the important and often overlooked role of women growers in interviews for Tobacco Journal International and Tobacco Asia. There she discussed women empowerment and her desire to see more female leaders in the sector. As a result, we are bringing this visibility now. Our survey respondents have shared that women often account for close to half of the sector and sometimes more among the field workers.

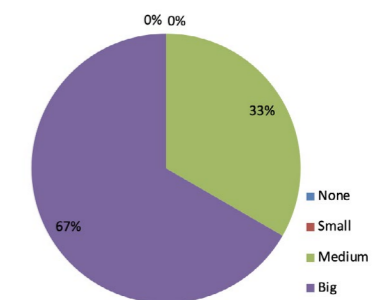


Most share the concern that prices of inputs are continuously increasing while pricing is not catching up quickly enough.

Cost of Production

Unsurprisingly, the rising cost of production has overwhelmingly been picked as a major concern impacting the sector by most survey respondents. Among the contributors to this dynamic are inflation, higher transportation costs, rising prices of fertilizers, and higher labor costs. Most share the concern that prices of inputs are continuously increasing while pricing is not catching up quickly enough. Corruption is also an issue in most developing markets. All this appears to form the perfect storm for immediate problems.

What is the impact of growing costs of production on your business?



Source: ITGA Market Survey 2022

War in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine adds one more worrying element to the already complicated global situation. Russia and Ukraine supply around a third of the global wheat exports, while Ukraine alone accounts for around 15% of all corn exports. Sunflower oil and seeds, barley, and colza seeds are other items with substantial share of global trade originating from the two countries. Most of Ukrainian shipments go through various ports on the Black Sea which are now closed for commercial activities. It has already been indicated that planting for 2022 will be disrupted. Russia is a major source market for fertilizers, which means that crop yields could be impacted. Since the start of the war, many key commodities soared in price. Such developments can boost the prospects of other key source markets for the affected crops, but the emerging new normal is likely to be more complicated. The current spike in Covid-19 cases in China, that led to strict lockdowns of major hubs such as Shenzhen and Shanghai means that supply chains will take even longer to normalize.

The economic sanctions put on Russia will have a major impact on tobacco multinationals. In fact, Russia is a major focus market for the big 4, accounting for between 10% and 20% of cigarette shipment volumes, while the country is also the second biggest heated tobacco market after Japan. Major manufacturers already

“ Russia is a major focus market for the big 4, accounting for between 10% and 20% of cigarette shipment volumes, while the country is also the second biggest heated tobacco market after Japan.

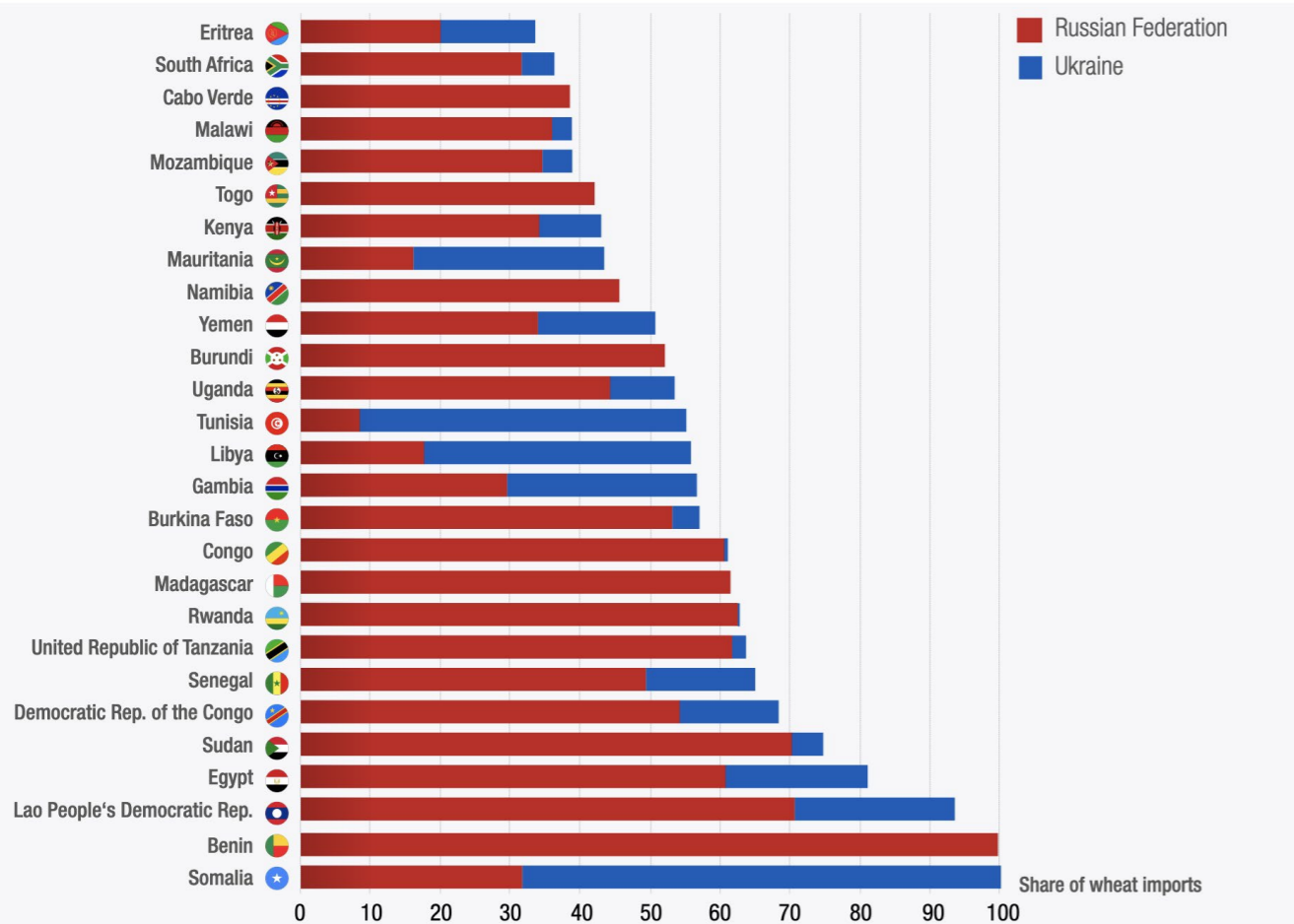
announced strategic directional changes. PMI shared the concrete steps it has taken to suspend planned investments and scale down its manufacturing operations in Russia. These include discontinuing a number of its cigarette products and reducing manufacturing activities, cancellation of all product launches planned for 2022, including the new IQOS device and cancelling the USD150 million investment for heated tobacco manufacturing capabilities. The company is also working on options to exit the market in an orderly manner. BAT has concluded that the ownership of the business in Russia is no longer sustainable in the current environment. The company has initiated the process to rapidly transfer the Russian business in full compliance with international and local laws. Upon completion, BAT will no longer have a presence in Russia. JTI suspended all new investments and marketing activities as well as the planned launch of its latest heated tobacco product Ploom X in Russia. Unless the operating environment and geopolitical situation improve significantly, JTI cannot exclude the possibility of a suspension of its manufacturing op-



What is certain is that tobacco and major food commodities will likely undergo changes in their usual path to market.

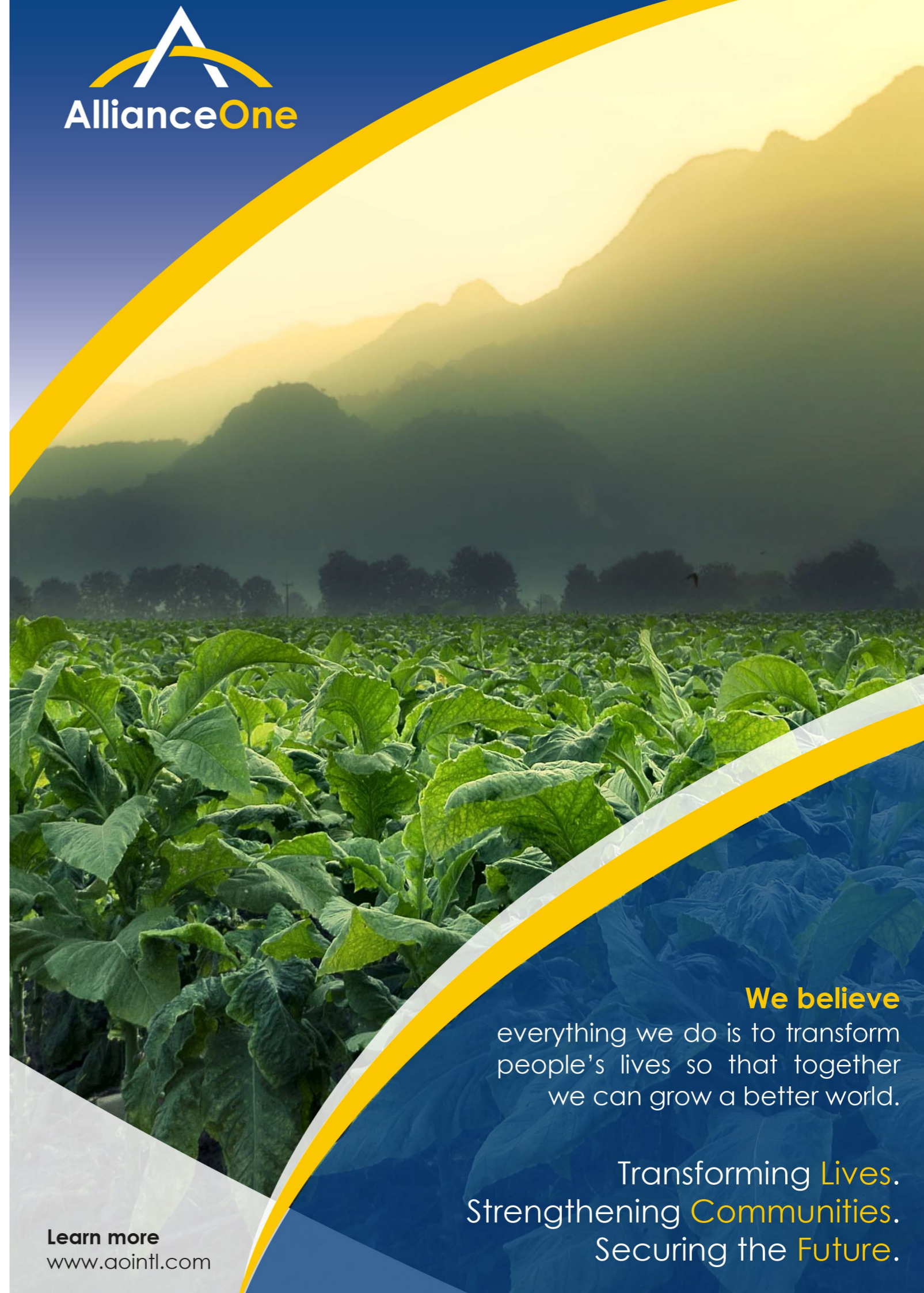
erations in the country. Finally, Imperial Brands have begun negotiations with a local third party about a transfer of its Russian assets and operations. Having in mind that Russia has the largest adult smoking population in Europe (around 35 million people) it remains unclear how the market will operate in the near future. What is certain is that tobacco and major food commodities will likely undergo changes in their usual path to market.

Figure 3. Wheat Dependence in African and Least Developed Countries
(Percentage)



Source: UNCTAD calculations, based on data from the UNCTADstat database (accessed 4 March 2022).

Source: https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/osginf2022d1_en.pdf



We believe everything we do is to transform people's lives so that together we can grow a better world.

Transforming **Lives**.
Strengthening **Communities**.
Securing the **Future**.

Learn more
www.aointl.com

Global Grains and Soybeans Supply, and Food Price Developments

Wandile Sihlobo
Chief Economist
of the Agricultural
Business Chamber
of South Africa
(Agbiz)



Since the Russia-Ukraine war started on February 24, the global grains and oilseed supplies have remained a major focus for countries across the globe. The prices of essential commodities such as maize, wheat, palm oil, sunflowers seed, and soybeans have increased notably over the past few months.

The price increases are due to ongoing worries about supply constraints and rising demand from countries that would have typically imported products from the war-ridden Black Sea region.

One organization that helps us get a sense of the size of the global grains and supplies is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through its monthly report of the [World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates](#). In the April 2022 update, the USDA left the 2021/22 global wheat production roughly unchanged from the previous month, at 779 million tonnes, which is marginally up from the last season.

About 14% of this harvest is from Russia and Ukraine. While a proportion of wheat from this region had already been exported by the time the war started, there were still supplies that weren't exported yet, which cannot be easily accessible by the global buyers currently. The destruction of infrastructure in Ukraine, the sanctions on Russia and higher shipment insurance premiums in moving grains to various export destinations are some of the limitations in importing grains from the Black Sea.

Because of the increase in global consumption by both human and animal feed industries, the 2021/22 global wheat

stocks are forecast to decline further from March onwards to 278 million tonnes, down 3% from the 2020/21 season.

This decline in global stocks, combined with challenges facing shipments in the Black Sea region, means that international wheat prices could remain elevated over the medium term, as has been the case since the days leading up to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Maize is also an important grain for human consumption and animal feed and has been a major focus since the Russia-Ukraine war started. Like wheat, the USDA has left the maize production estimate roughly unchanged from March 2022, at 1,2 billion tonnes.

Compared with the 2020/21 season, this is up by 7%. The expansion in area plantings in Brazil and Argentina has compensated for the yield loss. Thus, both



The prices of essential commodities such as maize, wheat, palm oil, sunflowers seed, and soybeans have increased notably over the past few months.

countries are set to have a larger harvest than the 2020/21 season despite the drier weather conditions experienced in the past few months.

Russia and Ukraine's production prospects are largely positive compared with the 2020/21 production season, and the data is unchanged from March 2022. Thus, the available maize for exports in both countries collectively accounts for 16% of the global maize export forecast of 200 million tonnes in the 2021/22 production season.

As with wheat, the limitations on exports of such a large volume of maize will continue to add upward pressure on prices as buyers continue to place higher bids for maize from other origins such as South America, the US and South Africa, amongst other vital exporters. Prices could remain slightly elevated despite the maize stocks having improved further from March to an estimated 305 million tonnes, up 5% from the 2020/21 season.

Moreover, Brazil and Argentina typically account for 50% of global soybeans production. As such, the reports of dryness in these countries since the season started and the frequent downward revision of the crop by the local analysts raised fears of the potentially lower global soybeans harvest and kept vegetable prices at higher levels since the start of the season. Fortunately, there was no significant adjustment from March estimates of these countries' harvest estimates in April. As such, the 2021/22 global soybeans harvest is at 350 million tonnes, down by four million from last month, a decline of 5% y/y.

These poor soybean production conditions, combined with expectations of lower exports of sunflower seed from Russia and Ukraine, which typically account for nearly 60% of global sunflower oil exports, will keep the global vegetable products prices elevated over the short and to medium term.

Overall, the global grains and oilseeds market conditions haven't changed much from the picture we painted last month. The Russia-Ukraine war is an added upside risk to prices; the pre-existing dryness challenges in South America and Asia and strong demand were the upside drivers of prices.



This decline in global stocks, combined with challenges facing shipments in the Black Sea region, means that international wheat prices could remain elevated over the medium term.

These supply and exports dynamics are mirrored in the surge in prices these past few months, with the FAO's [Global Food Price Index](#) averaging 159 points in March, up by 13% from February and at a new highest level since its inception in 1990.

This increase reflects new all-time highs for vegetable oils, grains and meat sub-indices, while those of sugar and dairy products also rose significantly. These developments are a global occurrence and are reflected in the South African market, which is interlinked to the world's food market. Hence, we continue to keep a close eye on such developments.



Photo by: wandilesihlobo.com

Women Tobacco Growers in Uganda



Darion Kyalisiima

ITGA: Self introduction, how long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/ job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Darion Kyalisiima: My name is Darion Kyalisiima, a resident of Busuuga village in Kyabigambire sub-county in Hoima district. I have been in tobacco growing for the past 10 years and it has contributed a lot to my life. I have constructed a permanent house, paid school fees for my 2 children and also bought a two acre piece of land. I have discovered that we can tap into many opportunities in tobacco growing if we are empowered by our leaders and tobacco growing companies. The challenge has been that the price of tobacco has not changed ever since I started growing it. If it was increasing of course we would benefit a lot.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Darion Kyalisiima: I wake up in the morning and clean my courtyard, prepare tea break for my school going children, take breakfast. There after I look for the feeds for my goats before I go to weed my cassava and sweet potatoes in the garden. There after I fetch water when I have gone to prepare my garden for the tobacco season. At around mid-day I return home launch preparation and rest for other remaining hours of the day.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Darion Kyalisiima: We are facing some challenges like, at first tobacco companies used to give fertilizers but nowadays a farmer has to struggle on his own buy fertilizers. The type of tobacco seedlings given to farmers in the last two years is not resistant to climatic change both in the garden and to-

bacco barn which is a very big challenge. The new seedlings too need a very big tobacco barn which is complicated for women to construct or even manage because the tobacco also needs good spacing to avoid rotting and other damages in the process of curing.

ITGA: What is the role of a woman in the decision- making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Darion Kyalisiima: Women sometimes discuss with their husbands to plan for the money obtained from tobacco at the end of the season. However, sometimes Women are denied a chance of accessing their money after being paid by the companies where husbands take it personal business and benefits away from the family.

ITGA: What do you think is the significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the significant barrier for you personally?

Darion Kyalisiima: First of all women are restricted from dealing in tobacco while they are pregnant or breastfeeding which is of course a long period away from participation. In tobacco farming,

Some women lose interest in the crop because it is a source of domestic violence after harvesting and selling. They feel it is not worth supporting since it is a potential breaker of marriage. Price fluctuation of tobacco without significantly rise year-by-year also discourages women from the crop. Lack of capital to buy requirements like fertilizer and transport that companies ceased to offer keeps many women away from tobacco growing.

I personally sometimes feel like leaving tobacco growing because tobacco farming company systems have completely changed. Farmers are no longer getting support from these tobacco companies both material wise and financially to invest in farming.

Transporting tobacco from their gardens to the main market without company support may force me to leave tobacco growing because the price remains the same without considering the transport costs.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Darion Kyalisiima: Companies should come on the drawing board together with farmers and listen to their challenges and solve them. They should look into streamlining tobacco leaf transportation to the market, provision of irrigation pumps, increase tobacco prices and provide financial support to farmers which helps them throughout the season.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Darion Kyalisiima: I became confident after seeing my neighbors earning a lot from tobacco than I did planting food crops. The price fluctuation in food crops was higher than in tobacco.


ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organization?

Darion Kyalisiima: We support each other through making SACCOs and money lending association to help each other in case of a need.

ITGA: What initiative would you like to improve the role of women in the industry/sector?

Darion Kyalisiima: Men should allow women to participate in decision making on how earnings from tobacco will be used to benefit the whole family. Women should also be given freedom to participate in the selling process for example at grading of tobacco.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young woman entering the industry/your profession?

The advice I would give to a young woman entering the tobacco farming is, prepare resources to invest in it because gone are the days the companies would fully support farmers. I would also advise her to enter the business knowing that the price of tobacco may remain constant for years or just reduce. I would also tell her that it calls for patience because it takes a full year for one to get tobacco money - different from food crops. I would also advise her to prepare enough manpower because tobacco is labour intensive and tiresome. I would also tip her to always consider panting on large scale to allow her benefit from it. I would also advise her to ensure she grows food crops alongside tobacco to avoid hunger since tobacco is not eatable. This is because some people focus on cash and forget about food which turns into lack of food for the family, yet children always look at women for food. 

Women Tobacco Growers in Uganda



Florence Nyangoma

ITGA: Self introduction, how long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/ job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Florence Nyangoma: My name is Florence Nyangoma a farmer and resident of Kigawa village in Kyabigambire sub-county, Hoima District.

I have been growing tobacco for the last five years. Tobacco growing has not contributed much to my life.

I see fewer opportunities in tobacco growing. This is because you put in more energy and money in growing tobacco but at the end, you cry after making loses as a result of your tobacco leaves being poorly graded in the main market.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Florence Nyangoma: I get up early in the morning and prepare breakfast for my family before I set off to my garden where I spend much of the time up to 7pm preparing to catch up with the season.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Florence Nyangoma: The main challenge women face is constructing a tobacco barn. This is because it requires one to climb up to the roof to thatch. Lack of enough money to employ workers to help in the processes is also a challenge. Money for procuring health kits required of tobacco farmers is another challenge

women face. Women have to wait for the whole year to get something from tobacco.

ITGA: What is the role of a woman in the decision- making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Florence Nyangoma: A woman does not have any role in decision making because when we get our money, sometimes our husbands turn against us since they are heads of families. We give up and let them use our money for fear of losing our marital families and leaving our children suffering behind in case we separate with our husbands due to misunderstandings propelled by money.

ITGA: What do you think is the significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the significant barrier for you personally?

Florence Nyangoma: The price per kilogramme of tobacco leaves automatically leaves women challenged yet they invest in a lot of money and labour but finally we end up having our product under graded. This kind of arrangement should change.

Spending more time concentrating on tobacco growing sometimes results in food insecurity in the family. It ultimately becomes hard for women to put something on the table for her family. Remember, if you don't have food to eat, you can't tend in this case, your tobacco garden.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Florence Nyangoma: I would like the price of tobacco leaves per kilogramme increased. This is because tobacco grow-

ing is a cumbersome work and poses a health risk to women especially expectant and breastfeeding mothers.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Florence Nyangoma: I gained confidence in tobacco growing after seeing my neighbours earn a lot from it. And after realising that prices of food cum cash crops fluctuated extremely abnormally, I decided to turn tobacco since its price was not as disappointing as the other ones.

ITGA: How can women support other women in their respective organization?

Florence Nyangoma: Women can support other women in their respective organisation through forming money lending groups and Saccos which can assist them to borrow money to meet their needs.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Florence Nyangoma: More irrigation schemes should be set in tobacco growing areas. The price of tobacco should be increased since engaging in it involves serious labour force compared to other crops.

Women should also be boosted financially to compete with men who are always more successful in the industry.

Also tobacco companies should change their way grading tobacco from worse to better in their market.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young woman entering the industry/your profession?

Florence Nyangoma: I would advise a young woman who still has a chance to study to continue with studies unless joining tobacco growing looking for school fees. I would advise the young woman to join tobacco growing but not become obsessed with it as a permanent income generating activity.

Women Tobacco Growers in Uganda



Robinah Katusabe

ITGA: Self introduction, how long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/ job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Robinah Katusabe: My name is Robinah Katusabe, a farmer and resident of Bulyango village in Kitoba sub-county, Hoima district. I have been in tobacco growing for the last 15 years.

I have managed to buy two acres of land, pay school fees for my three children up to senior four and institute level. I am now constructing a permanent house using the proceeds from tobacco growing.

I hope to buy cows, a motorcycle and to finish up my house using the proceeds from tobacco.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Robinah Katusabe: At the moment I wake up early in the morning, prepare breakfast at around 6am and prepare my children to go to school. At 7am I go to my garden to prepare our tobacco seedbed and other gardens for food crops.

At around midday, I come back home from the garden and start preparing lunch for my family. I rest for two hours after lunch; then at around 3pm I go back to the garden to catch up with the tobacco season. Late at 7pm, I go back home to prepare supper for my family.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Robinah Katusabe: Constructing tobacco barns is the main challenge to women in tobacco growing. This is because it requires one to climb up the roof to thatch which women especially here do not do. Sometimes women do not have money to pay men for this job which is typically designed for them in this area. Women procuring health kits like gloves and masks for women tobacco farmers is some-

times financially straining.

Women have to wait for the whole year to earn money from tobacco given the long processes the crop goes through up to the market.

As women we also meet a challenge of delayed payments and sometimes failure to be paid by tobacco companies yet we secure loans from money lenders for use in our tobacco gardens hoping to pay back after selling our product to the companies.

This results in losses since our money lenders confiscate our mortgages.

Sometimes we force our children not to go to school so they can help work in our tobacco gardens which are a source of school fees. However, this is risky to their health since they inhale the nicotine from the tobacco leaves.

ITGA: What is the role of a woman in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Robinah Katusabe: Currently, my husband gives me freedom to decide how to use my money contrary to the past when we could quarrel over it. This was solved when we sat and agreed on how to use money earned from tobacco sales.

I think other women face challenges in decision making since some of the husbands tend to turn hostile against their wives immediately after learning that they have been paid for their tobacco sales.

ITGA: What do you think is the significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the significant barrier for you personally?

Robinah Katusabe: Giving birth to children without proper spacing drives women out of tobacco growing because is a health danger for an expectant and breastfeeding mother to work in tobacco.

Poor yields, miscalculated targets and failed expectations also block us from engaging further in tobacco growing. It disheartens a woman, after injecting a lot of money and energy into growing tobacco and at the end you fail to achieve your expectations either due to natural disasters or companies' poor grading standards.

Tobacco companies' failure and or delayed payment to farmers also force us to lose interest in continuing growing tobacco.

Corruption among tobacco company staff also blocks us from continuing growing to-

bacco because it requires one to bribe them to have the farmer's tobacco graded better for better earning.

Personally, the under grading of tobacco leaves in the main market forces me feel like leaving tobacco growing because I dedicate a lot of time in tobacco growing but at the final day in the main market, the companies under grade my tobacco.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Robinah Katusabe: We are okay. We only need financial support from tobacco companies and the government should as well.

Tobacco company and government support to women engaged in growing tobacco is essential because it requires commitment to get to the final stage of selling the product in addition to attending to her family in a feminine capacity. This becomes too excruciating for a woman growing tobacco.

Tobacco companies should endeavour to employ experienced staff not because one is a graduate to avoid under grading our tobacco leaves since it is hard for graduates to know how tiresome it is growing tobacco.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Robinah Katusabe: I built confidence in tobacco growing when I saw that I was earning much little from growing other crops at the end of the season. This made me change my mindset and I decided to join tobacco growing because my friends could earn bigger in tobacco growing.

Low price and price fluctuation of other crops force me also to go into tobacco farming.

ITGA: How can women support other women in their respective organization?

Robinah Katusabe: For us, we don't help each other because we even have no groups in our areas. So, every woman minds about her business.

ITGA: What initiative would you like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

I would like the government to intervene and talk to tobacco companies to improve on the price of tobacco since it requires a lot of energy and labour in its process right from growing it up to harvesting.

More irrigation machines should be installed in certain areas in preparation for weather changes when farmers are hit by devastating dry spells.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young woman entering the industry/your profession?

I would encourage young girls entering the industry to concentrate on studies. First, it is because tobacco growing is tiresome and requires one to have financial capital, secondly, education is the key.

Women Tobacco Growers in Uganda



Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi

ITGA: Self introduction, how long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/ job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: My name is Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi a farmer and resident of Bulyango village in Kitoba sub-county, Hoima district.

I have been growing tobacco for the last nine years.

Tobacco growing has greatly contributed to my life since I have managed to buy two motorcycles which are now my source of income to fend for my family.

I have also managed to buy a piece of land on which I am constructing my permanent house in addition to paying school fees for my children in S.6, S.5 and S.4. Others have graduated using the proceeds from tobacco growing.

I see other opportunities in tobacco growing because I have hope of completing building my permanent house and paying school fees for my children up to university level using money earned from tobacco growing.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part in at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: I get up early in the morning at around 5am and start preparing breakfast for my family. I prepare children to go to school and at around 7:30am I start my journey to my garden where I work till midday. Thereafter, I go to work to another garden in which I grow food crops.

I go back home to prepare lunch after which, I rest for 2 or 3 hours then I go back to the garden up to 7pm.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: Under grading tobacco in the market is the main challenge that

women in tobacco growing meet yet they inject in a lot of money expecting to reap relatively bigger.

Transporting tobacco leaves from the garden to a barn and from the barn to the main market is a challenging moment to women because currently, tobacco companies do not provide transport to farmers like they used to do in the past.

ITGA: What is the role of a woman in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: Women don't have any role in decision making because when we get our money sometimes our husbands tend to turn against us since they are heads of families. We give in and allow them to use our money for fear of losing our marital families and leaving our children suffering behind after separating with our husbands because of misunderstandings caused by money.

ITGA: What do you think is the significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the significant barrier for you personally?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: Family pressure is a barrier barring women from engaging in tobacco growing. A woman is the overall person in the family responsible for providing food and other basic needs. It becomes hard for her to take part in tobacco activities since the crop needs a lot of care and time.

Poor yields block us from engaging in tobacco growing. Someone injects in a lot of energy and money but at the end the crop fails to yield to one's expectations due to weather changes and poor grading standards by tobacco companies.

Tobacco companies' failure to pay farmers and also delayed payments force us not to pick interest in tobacco growing.

Corruption is overwhelming among staff members in tobacco companies. This bars us from growing tobacco because you need to bribe some staff in tobacco companies in

order to be favoured and have your tobacco leaves graded better.

Personally, under grading tobacco leaves in the main market forces me feel like leaving tobacco growing because you inject in a lot of time but during the final day in the main market, the companies under grade your tobacco leaves.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: Companies should come on the drawing board together with farmers and listen to their grievances and solve them once and for all.

Transport challenge should be also tackled to reduce use of casual labour in transporting tobacco. Providing sprinklers, tobacco price which has been constant for years should be increased and farmers should be given financial support in form of loans to improve manpower in all tobacco growing processes.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: I gained confidence in growing tobacco after my friends advised me to join the industry. They told me how they were earning big from tobacco growing compared with other crops. For the first time of growing tobacco, I earned a lot and I decided to continue growing it every season.

ITGA: How can women support other women in their respective organization?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: Women can support other women through forming SACCOs. This can assist each woman in the tobacco growing industry to be boosted financially in their organisation.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: Women we should be given a special package in the time of preparing seedbeds so that they can be able to catch up with men's capability. This can be in form of financial support to help women hire manpower since there are activities that women can't managed to do. Some of the instances include thatching roofs of tobacco barns and carrying heavy tobacco loads among others. Educating us how to control tobacco pests should also be considered.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young woman entering the industry/your profession?

Scovia Biingi Nyamaizi: I advise a young woman to concentrate on education first because tobacco is so labour intensive and requires a lot of energy. This is not good for a young woman to practice at early age.

Women Tobacco Growers in Uganda



Tumusiime Martha

ITGA: Self introduction, how long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Tumusiime Martha: My name is Martha Tumusiime, a farmer and resident of Bulyango Village in Kitoba Sub-county, Hoima District. I have been growing tobacco for the last four years and it has greatly changed my life positively. It is through growing tobacco that I managed to construct a permanent house, buy a plot of land, pay school fees for my children in boarding section and also buy three cows. I see other opportunities in tobacco growing because since I started growing it my life changed completely.

At first, my husband could stop me from planting tobacco but after seeing what I reaped from it, he allowed me to continue growing it. When I get my money from tobacco sales, I sit down with him and we plan for it with intent to develop ourselves further. We work together as a family and I can assure you that tobacco is more paying compared with other crops.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Tumusiime Martha: At the moment I wake up early in the morning at around 5am and start cleaning at home, prepare breakfast for my husband and school children before going to the garden preparing to plant food crops. I then return home at around midday to prepare lunch for my family and rest for two or three hours. In the evening, I go back to my garden to plant my tobacco and retire back home at 7pm to join my children to prepare supper.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Women in tobacco are challenged by high competition from men in the same sub-sec-

tor. Men inject a lot of money to bribe officials in the tobacco companies to favour and give them good tobacco grades.

Women lack enough land to plant tobacco. This forces us to hire land far away from our homes putting our tobacco at risk of being stolen since we don't sleep in our gardens guarding the crop especially when it is ready for harvesting.

Women risk being raped by men when they sleep in barns guarding their tobacco leaves against thieves.

ITGA: What is the role of a woman in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Tumusiime Martha: My husband gives me freedom to use the money I get from tobacco sales to relatively satisfy my needs.

ITGA: What do you think is the significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the significant barrier for you personally?

Tumusiime Martha: Some women don't have adequate land on which to grow tobacco which coerces them to hire it in distant places. This makes it hard for them to tend to gardens at home and also give much time to look after their families since both tobacco and a family need much time to care for them.

Lack of required money to hire pieces of land and labour sometimes fail women to join tobacco growing.

Women are the main providers of food for their families. So, sometimes it becomes difficult for us to participate in tobacco growing since the crop needs much time dedicated to tend to it.

Women are less energetic than men. They are always slower in their tobacco growing activities than men. When it comes to seedbed preparation, women don't do it as their counterpart gender does it. This is for instance evidenced in watering the crop while in the seedbed, thus, barring them from engaging in the activity.

Personally, when I am pregnant, I feel like quitting tobacco growing because when I give birth, I become weaker yet tobacco growing needs someone with a lot of energy since it is laborious.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance

your skills?

Tumusiime Martha: Women need to be trained in producing good quality tobacco leaves right from the garden and in the barn. Expectant and breastfeeding mothers should be trained how to tend to our tobacco gardens amidst our condition without overstretching ourselves.

We need the government and tobacco companies to install garden hoses to save farmers from fetching water from distant sources for sprinkling the tobacco crop while in nursery beds and during the dry spells propelled by the currently experienced ever weather changing patterns in the country.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Tumusiime Martha: My confidence became deep rooted in tobacco growing, when I saw how my neighbours were getting much more money from tobacco growing than I who was engaged only in growing such crops as beans and maize that suffered frustrating price fluctuations.

This changed my agriculture practices and I decided to join tobacco growing so that I could also earn big like them.

ITGA: How can women support other women in their respective organization?

Tumusiime Martha: Women can support other women by forming money lending groups and Saccos to aid them access money from their formations in case of need.

ITGA: What initiative would you like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Tumusiime Martha: Irrigation skills should be imparted into women right in their villages and the price of tobacco should be increased since it needs more labour intensive technology compared with other crops.

Tobacco companies should improve their grading benchmarks to enable women farmers earn relatively better money once their tobacco leaves are sold.

Women should be accorded special consideration by tobacco companies in accessing seeds, fertilizers and loans.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young woman entering the industry/your profession?

Tumusiime Martha: I would encourage new young women interested in joining tobacco growing to be patient and hardworking, tell them the dangers of working in tobacco while pregnant and breastfeeding and also advise them to be ready for losses caused by either natural calamities, thieves and unfavourable grading.

IF YOUR IDEA IS TOBACCO YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT US



TOGETHER WE GROW

Check on 2022 Opportunities

www.tobaccoleaf.org/membership/

[@TobaccoGrowers](https://twitter.com/TobaccoGrowers)

www.tobaccoleaf.org

[ITGA org](https://www.youtube.com/ITGAorg)

Phone: + 351 272 092 583

E-mail: itga@tobaccoleaf.org

ITGA
International Tobacco Growers' Association
Echoing Tobacco Growers' Voices since 1984

Av. 1º de Maio, 99, 1D
6000-086 Castelo Branco,
Portugal

Zimbabwe Country Report



SEASONAL OVERVIEW

In September 2021 all indications were for an average to above average rainfall season. How peculiar has the season turned out. The main drivers of the seasonal rainfall has been the influence of cyclones, which in itself are very hard to predict. Though seasonal totals are normal the distribution pattern in the districts has been uneven. The trend towards a later start for our seasons was evident once again with a very hot and dry December with most areas receiving their first significant rain on 21st December. This was followed by a very wet January with some areas receiving 70-80% of their annual totals in one month, especially in the North. February again flipped the season on its head with very limited rain in most areas and hot, dry conditions. The recent rains in March and April have brought some relief but may be too late to make any significant difference. The result is a very difficult growing season for farmers. The hot / dry December and late start forced many small-scale growers to either replant or only plant their crops late in December, some into January. The commercial irrigated crop grown in these conditions presented curing challenges especially in the middle reappings. Irrigated qualities are good where growers were able to irrigate through December and yields slightly down on previous years. The following very wet January caused a lot of the dryland crops to be leached, both small scale and commercial. This has affected yields across the board but quality for the dryland crop is looking very good.

Hail also caused a significant loss for a large number of growers. This is going to put increased costs on growers going forward as insurance premiums are set to rise due to the high loss ratios this season.

The outcome of the above challenging season has meant that total production will be down. TIMB estimates a crop of around 200 million kgs, but many other industry estimates put it lower at around 185 – 190 million kgs. The quality overall should be comparable if not slightly better than last year.

Curing fuel, in the form of sustainable wood sources, especially for the small-scale growers remains a critical impediment to the

sustainability of that sector. In a number of districts there is very limited natural curing fuel left and growers are turning to alternative crops. Although coal, is being supplied to some in the sector, a lot more needs to be done to alleviate the pressure of deforestation. The phasing out of coal by some contractors to meet their commitments to their customers will be coming into effect in the next few years, and this can only result in further pressures on the limited wood resources.

VIABILITY AND COP

As farmers we are all feeling the reality of increasing COP in our businesses. This is not limited to Zimbabwe but is having an impact on growers' viability across all regions.

With the recent Russia – Ukraine war, costs are estimated to increase even further. The recent fuel price increase alone has seen the local cost of flue cured production rise by 8.3%. Prices of various fertilizers have almost doubled, with chemicals marginally rising. Labour costs will naturally increase as will overheads. Tobacco has become a very expensive crop to produce!

A recent comprehensive analysis of COP by ZTA has indicated an increase of a staggering 30% this coming season to USD13,000 / ha for commercial tobacco. Small scale costs also set to increase by 20% to almost USD5,000 / per ha. This urgently requires the attention of all contractors to ensure growers are adequately funded for the coming season and for the TIMB to review the minimum contractors support levels. Average prices for this season and the next have to reflect these increased costs of production.

The war will see countries dependent on food crop imports e.g. wheat from the two countries having to increase local production of the food crops by offering higher incentives and prices. This may see a further drop in flue cured production in 2023 as ably resourced growers reduce their tobacco hectares in favour of the attractive food crops. This could be an option for growers in Brazil, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In 2022, demand will exceed supply for the first time since 2016. There are significant supply declines in the producing coun-

Zimbabwe Tobacco Association



tries in the southern hemisphere while in the northern hemisphere production is estimated to remain relatively stable, with minimal increases. Demand will increase as countries replenish stocks as the industry recovers post COVID. China's demand from its major source countries will not significantly change as supply chains remains sufficient. Overall, flue cured production for 2022 is estimated to fall by 9% to 1,700 million kgs, just below the recorded lowest production of 2016. With the significant drop in production, reduced uncommitted stock levels and a post COVID recovery in demand, prices will be firmer this season and next. While there may be minimal upward movement in top leaf prices, especially China grades, there will be strong demand for the middle and bottom plant positions. This is good news after an increasing number of seasons of mediocre growers' prices.

The 2021/22 marketing season started on the 30 March 2022 and early indications are that prices will be up on last season, but need to improve much more. The USD sales retention which has been increased to 75% is a significant improvement from the 60% last season, is still below our cost models requirements of 87%. The growing disparity between the now moving official rate and market rate is still a significant concern.

As of 08 April 2022 a total of 9.9 million kgs has been sold at 2.71/kg compared to 13.4 million kgs at 2.49/kg sold same time last season.

SUSTAINABILITY

The regulatory body, TIMB, has recently formed a sustainability unit within their structures and this unit will be responsible for driving sustainable and compliant tobacco production practices in the industry.

ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

The industry with the much valued support of the ECLT Foundation has had significantly progress in formulating strategies and programmes in the elimination of child labour on tobacco farms, some of which could be implemented mid to late 2022.

Women Tobacco Growers in Zimbabwe

Maiwepi Jiti

President of the Zimbabwe Integrated Commercial Farmers Union (ZICFU), ex primary school teacher, full time farmer. Took over running of her farm after the passing away of her husband Golden Jiti.



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Maiwepi Jiti: Tobacco and tobacco production has been like our daily bread. My husband's specialty was tobacco, maize, cattle, wheat and different types of vegetables but tobacco being the biggest crop. When he passed away in 2004 I inherited tobacco production since I had learned a lot about the crop from production, curing, grading and baling ready for marketing. Tobacco production is labour intensive but pays well if you have quality leaf. This means that I have been in tobacco production

for more than 18 years single handed and over 26 years together with my husband. Before 2004 tobacco production used to be a combined effort between my husband and myself. Since August 1996 tobacco has been our major production crop. Before buying our farm, that is before 1996, my husband was a farm manager for 17 years, producing over 200 hectares tobacco, 200 hectares maize and almost 2000 beef cattle annually.

Tobacco has contributed a lot, economically, socially, educationally and lifestyle hence towards my success story in farming winning several trophies on quality along the years. There are a lot of untapped opportunities in tobacco industry. Value addition being another lucrative investment

which needs exploring. Companies export raw materials, or unprocessed or even semi processed raw tobacco thus starving our local population of the much needed business opportunities and employment. When we export raw materials we are also exporting jobs hence women economic inclusion in tobacco industry.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Maiwepi Jiti: As the President of Zimbabwe Integrated commercial farmers union, a business woman in agriculture as well as a mother, I have a huge responsibility on my



day to day schedule. As President, farmers look upon me for agricultural businesses guidance and advice as well as all the Provincial, Districts and Wards leadership. The Secretariat who run the National office and mane the runnings of all Provinces and District structures also look up to me for the smooth running of the office and I also take care of the financial obligations as we are not yet capacitated. With my agribusiness, I have to be available as well so as to run my business profitably as that is my livelihood compiled with my family duties. This keeps me on my toes twenty four seven. My day starts very early in the morning and usually ends late at night.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Maiwepi Jiti: Tobacco being a challenging and labour intensive crop hence expensive to grow is a great challenge to especially incapacitated women and especially young and upcoming women.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Maiwepi Jiti: Very limited number of women are involved in decision making processes in the tobacco sector in my country due to lack of information, exclusivity of women on policy making limited economic empowerment, unfavourable gender policies or might be good but lack implementation strategies, pandemics hindrances like outbreak of Covid 19, poverty as well as climate change which destroys their projects as well as corruption where decisions are made by those who are politically connected.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Maiwepi Jiti: Lack of financial resources as most women are poor. Most are just primary producers and never venture into Value addition hence opportunities on credit facilities or economic skills education to venture into agribusiness. They also lack confidence as fear of the unknown discourages then hence male dominance makes them fear even more. (scared of competing with male counterparts and scared of failing) My significant barrier being financial institutions Shan farmers or who charge exorbitant interest rates that is if you are lucky to even get the loan to venture into pro-

cessing of Tobacco. Our Financial institutes due to Land tunure and private parastutals are not keen to assist ordinary citizens hence corruption being a major challenge in the country where accessibility to funds depends on who you know not your capabilities. Some stringent and bottlenecks in the whole system makes it impossible to penetrate in the agribusiness as machinery for use is all imported. Research being key in the industry is limited hence far from the farmers.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Maiwepi Jiti: If we had the financial capac-



ity I would buy machinery that would make it easier to venture into Value addition to increase incomes on Tobacco industry from primary production to processing, branding and marketing.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Maiwepi Jiti: As the President of a newly founded Union, Zimbabwe Integrated Commercial Farmers Union I had to come in with different approach from other existing Unions who have been mainly focusing on lobbying and advocacy, ZICFU is focusing mainly on fusing farming and commerce to come up with businessmen and women of the sector within and beyond the borders.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Maiwepi Jiti: I am fighting for maximum uniformity amongst farmers and lob-

bying for their rights observing gender mainstreaming in line with the Constitution of the country as well as coming up with training programs that adapt to ever-changing technological economy, environmental degradation, climatic smart issues and sustainability being major concerns.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Maiwepi Jiti: My main thrust at ZICFU is increased productivity and profitability hence partnering with all inputs suppliers, mechanisation players, irrigation and water development players, financial in-

stitutions, Agritex, service providers and off-take markets to come up with sound tailor-made programs that will see our farmers move away from dependency syndrome and become self - sustainable businessmen and women in a stable future.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Maiwepi Jiti: As a leader of ZICFU I am coming up with programs that will assist in eliminating child labour in tobacco hence improve the livelihood of farmers and be able to hire labour for tobacco production in their fields as well as working towards a stable economy with social, environmental and sustainable conducive framework. Building a better Zimbabwe where every citizen regardless of gender, is given an opportunity to excel in business as well as a healthy environment.

Women Tobacco Growers in Zimbabwe

Shyleen Mberi, franchisee at Macheke Post Office, A2 farmer, business woman, Chair for ZICFU Mash West province



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Shyleen Mberi: I have been in tobacco farming since 2004. Which is almost 18 years in production.

- Being in the tobacco family, there are so many opportunities, for example farmers can get assistance from the onset to tobacco floors from tobacco companies.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Shyleen Mberi: I became a large scale, with the lump sum, I get I managed to refurbish my barns, buy a reliable vehicle, brand new tractor and harrow.

- For you to get good results end of day, you have to be a good manager. No sleeping, I remember a day I slept at the barns, because I did not trust the guys who were on curing duty that night, to make matters worse the weather was bad, but because I wanted quality product I had to endure the pain.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Shyleen Mberi: Challenges

- Expensive inputs.
- Labor, at times difficult to get experienced workers.
- Very strenuous, always on your feet, following up, applying chemicals etc, in fact tobacco crop demands attention.

At the floors I always pray for best prices.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Shyleen Mberi: I feel women are not yet taken seriously in the tobacco industry, we are left queuing with men, whether pregnant, old or whatever complication. There should be some priority.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Shyleen Mberi: Lack of capital and implements lack of skills stamina in a male dominated environment Personal barrier.

- Traumatized by law prices.
- Grippped by fear each time I think of demands of the tobacco industry.
- Developed high blood pressure. Sleepless nights etc.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Shyleen Mberi: Need training, information through seminars and workshops to gain experience.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Shyleen Mberi: Have to research widely.

- Need the support of other farmers, Government departments like Agritex, Tobacco Companies.
- Readily available markets.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Shyleen Mberi: A few women, due to negative attitudes towards each other. The mentality of men are better.

- Lack of confidence.
- Ignorance.
- Background and beliefs.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Shyleen Mberi: Need sponsorship inputs and implements to start with.

- Build confidence.
- Emancipation of women, that is equipped with knowledge
- Have human resource.(labour)
- Provision of better markets, to cover costs and remain with enough to carry on and also develop.
- Favorable working conditions

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Shyleen Mberi: Must be well equipped with knowledge.

- Must be persistent, never give up.
- Share ideas and information with other farmers in the same industry, team spirit.
- Have good connections, interaction.
- Then the new farmer will have a good start.



Malawi Country Report



TAMA
Farmers Trust



CROP EVOLUTION:

- Malawi is currently at reaping, curing and grading stages.
- Rainfall pattern has been good despite the fact that Malawi had delayed onset of the rainfall season to as late as January instead of November/December. Some parts of the country especially the lake

shore and the lower valley of Shire river which is the outlet of Lake Malawi experienced floods. These did not have any adverse impact on tobacco production since most of the affected areas are non-tobacco growing.

TABLE A: Growers data, hectares cultivated and volumes- 2021 versus 2022

ORDER	ITEM	CROP YEAR 2021 YEAR					CROP YEAR 2022 (ESTIMATES ONLY)				
		BURLEY	FCV	DARK FIRED	DARK AIR	2021 TOTAL	BURLEY	FCV	DARK FIRED	DARK AIR	2022 TOTAL
1	GROWERS	40,788	3,173	1,064	0	45,025	34,147	3,004	1,315	0	38,466
2	HECTRAGE	52,125	6,926	1,696	0	60,747	41,7	6,234	1,357	0	49,291
3	VOLUME (TONS)	104,218	16,758	2,678	0	123,654	138,896	18,198	4,712	0	161,806

Source: Tobacco Commission

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

TABLE B: Average cost of production per tobacco type – 2021 versus 2022

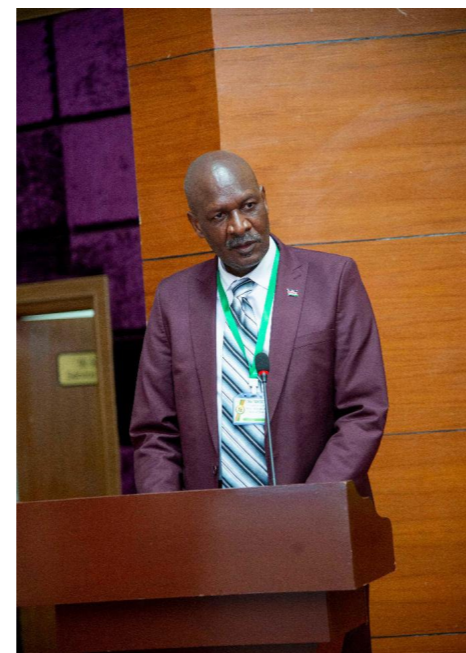
TOBACCO TYPE	2021 SEASON (US\$/KG)	2022 SEASON (US\$/KG)	%AGE CHANGE
Burley	1.48	1.74	18
FCV	2.24	2.30	2.55
NDDF/SDF	1.73	1.81	4.48

Source: Tobacco Commission

TABLE C: Average price for the current season and last seasons:

ORDER	ITEM	CROP YEAR 2021 YEAR (US\$/KG)	CROP YEAR 2022 (US\$/KG)
1	BURLEY	1.49	n/a
2	FCV	2.23	n/a
3	DF	1.61	n/a
	AF	0	n/a
AVERAGE		1.59	n/a

Source: Tobacco Commission



Mr Lobin Lowe, Honourable Minister of Agriculture of Malawi at TAMA Farmers' Trust AGM 2021. Credit: TAMA Farmers' Trust

Women Tobacco Growers in Malawi

Grace
Nkusankhoma



ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Grace Nkusankhoma: I would prefer training in modern technologies in nursery management, mechanization, efficiency drivers in tobacco production, grading and presentation as well as financial literacy.

ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Grace Nkusankhoma: Tobacco has been part of my life for over 20 years, I started growing tobacco since I was young by shadowing my late father. When I attained the age of 18 it became my full time job as I was being given responsibilities and in a few years' time I was managing my own tobacco field. Since then tobacco has contributed a lot to my life including paying my daily basic bills, my children's education, personal infrastructure development and other social economic needs are met by tobacco farming. With a few changes in the marketing process and improvement in production as well as cost of production, I have a strong belief that tobacco production can retain its glory days among farmers whom I feel the current system set up is exploiting.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Grace Nkusankhoma: Currently I am involved in reaping and curing as I have just finished topping and suckeride application. My typical day starts addressing my workers on that day's task then I start arranging sticks for hanging tobacco (Burley) and (FCV) in preparation for reaping. Then I organize Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all workers such as gloves to protect them from Green Tobacco Sickness (GTS). Then together with the workers we embark on reaping ripe leaves at least two leaves per plant. From there for Burley, the reaped leaves are sown and packed in sticks in a barn and

the Flue Cure Virginia (FCV) is sown with twine on sticks and set in a curing barn ready for firing to cure.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

- Grace Nkusankhoma: The challenges include
- Gender bias towards men in leadership and decision making positions
 - Land tenure issues when it comes to land ownership for women
 - Dominance by men over tobacco proceeds
 - Unequal opportunity for women to participate in other tobacco production improvement activities such as loans and contract farming.
 - The processes and hustles in stages of marketing tobacco are too complex for women and consume a lot of time which women don't have

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Grace Nkusankhoma: Their role is very limited and they are mostly involved in production only and not the marketing process and decision making for policy formulation and change.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Grace Nkusankhoma: The bureaucracy and processes involved in production and marketing of tobacco does not suit women and their roles in society. Personally my significant barrier has been access to production inputs, loans and contracts for marketing tobacco.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Grace Nkusankhoma: I have managed to build confidence because that the only available economic crop that I can grow to survive and use of training on importance of gender equality principles to defeat my inferiority complex rooted among a lot of women.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Grace Nkusankhoma: This can be achieved through formation of groups, clubs and associations to strengthen each other on how to build confidence and have an equal voice as men to participate in pertinent issues that affect women and the entire tobacco production process.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Grace Nkusankhoma: Women empowerment through provision of training and access to production inputs for tobacco production such as mechanization machinery and fertilizers.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Grace Nkusankhoma: To brace for complex and dynamic industry where women do not take part in many aftermarket processes. But to remove the inferiority complex and build courage and confidence to make a difference through voicing out concerns and matters affecting their lives and production. The industry is lucrative and rewarding.

Women Tobacco Growers in Malawi

Alice Mulikiti Sande

Lady farmer based in Mayaka, Zomba District, Malawi



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: Worked in tobacco farm for 14 years as a farmer since 2008. Tobacco is paying for my children school fees, I constructed a house where I live with my family, I diversified into animal husbandry through proceeds of tobacco. I now own pigs, goats and a cow. Each year, I am always hopeful that tobacco will reward me and will bring me opportunities.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: At the moment, we are reaping the leaf and hence we are at the pick and critical point of our activities. It is the time when we need to hang all the leaves that we have harvested and hence knocking off time is subjected to finalizing of the task. Normally, harvesting starts from 7 am after the dew is gone. However, other than this pick period, I normally work up around 6:30 am, plan for the day, undertake household chores, supervising and engaging in field work until noon when we come for lunch. The rest of the day is spent based on the crucial and available activities either for the community or my household.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: In my country women meet a problem of being left out during the marketing season. All decisions after getting the tobacco proceeds are made and executed by the male counterparts.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: Major role is on ensuring that the tobacco calendar is followed to the book. I am saying this because our male counterparts sometimes engage in some en-



Tobacco is paying for my children school fees, I constructed a house where I live with my family, I diversified into animal husbandry through proceeds of tobacco.

tainment activities a thing that most women don't. Women always cover up for the gaps that men create due to other engagements including community responsibilities.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: Male chauvinism and gender stereotyping are major contributors to the less participation by women in tobacco. At times, married women are left to handle other crops other than tobacco and tobacco is branded a male crop in that sense. On my personal perspective, lack of formal education restricts my active participation in major tobacco activities.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: The only way out is to implement the 60:40 Gender policy in the sector. Malawi Government approved that policy and if the tobacco sector also uses that in all its activities, women will easily be fully engaged. There is need to stop the gender stereotyping.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: I am personally convinced that I am able woman. I am a Zone leader for Tama Farmers Trust in my area a position dominated by men in other areas. I know given time and a leveled playing field, I would be able to stand the pressure.


ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: For rural women, they should encourage one another to join loan savings groups on top of encouraging one another to do tobacco farming themselves and join established farmer groups such as Tama Farmers Trust.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: Deliberate actions to involve women in decision making positions be it at governance level or corporate level.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Alice Mulikiti Sande: First thing to consider is age. Not every young woman can start tobacco production. She must be over 18 years of age. After that they should not be on their own but belong to a group of farmers like cooperatives and farmer groups. Tama Farmers Trust is ready for the young women of age and they welcome so that they in the shortest time possible become prolific and compliant tobacco farmers. 

Women Tobacco Growers in Malawi

Enelesia Kamazinda



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Enelesia Kamazinda: I have been a tobacco grower for 30 years since 1992. In 1997 I managed to buy my first car from tobacco proceeds and sold it in 2007. I built my first house in 1999 from the tobacco proceeds. Other than that I also managed to buy land where I constructed several houses for renting out. I see real opportunities in tobacco mainly when I think of how I manage to pay school fees for my children. Whenever I withdraw from tobacco production I face challenges in planning for school fees for my children. As at now I have not found a better alternative crop or income generating activity to tobacco.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Enelesia Kamazinda: I am now into reaping of tobacco leaf and ferrying from the farms to tobacco sheds. I wake up early in the morning and start with sweeping the sheds floor. After that I make sure I have prepared my children ready for school. This includes making sure they have warm water for bathing and have porridge for their breakfast. There after I go to the farm to start reaping the leaf and stack it for transporting to the sheds. We transport the leaves using oxcart. While back home with the load, we stack them in the shelter ready for sowing. Before the sowing begins, I usually go back to the field to look for vegetables for the day's relish so that children should find some food as they come from schools. In the afternoon I begin the sowing exercise and followed by putting the sowed leaves into curing sticks in the shed. My day ends with preparing for supper.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Enelesia Kamazinda: The main problem is greediness on the part of our male counterparts mainly our own husbands. We don't face challenges during this time of farm activities but during marketing season. Women do not have equal access to proceeds of tobacco sales. This is also going into other crops like soya where a woman can go to the field and harvest soya back home. She dries and peel it off and put it in sacks. Once she leaves for another errand, the husband comes and collects the bags of soya, sell them and mismanage the proceeds without any explanation. This is an anomaly that needs to be dealt with. Women are also human beings.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Enelesia Kamazinda: I am a living example. I am the 1st Alternate Councilor for Tama Farmers Trust for the past 9 years. I was once a full Councilor for a term. With my position I am able to contribute to policies that are being effected in the sector. No tobacco issues can be discussed in my area without my presence. Similarly, many other women are being involved in the sector on different roles. Tama Farmers Trust has cooperatives in which some leaders are women.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Enelesia Kamazinda: Our culture has dictated for some time now that a man is the one who must fend for the family while a woman must cook in the kitchen. Now that tobacco is a money making crop, men tend to brand it as their game. For this reason, if there is anything to do with tobacco it has to be under his name. Personally, I have met resistance among men to accept that I can make it as a front liner. It is a struggle that I face it head on.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Enelesia Kamazinda: Being in groups like cooperatives is the best thing to do in order for women to be able to withstand the heat. In unity we stand and divided we fall.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Enelesia Kamazinda: I make decisions for my work. I have my own license to grow tobacco under my own names. Because of this I am invited as an individual and not a proxy of a certain farm or estate.


ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Enelesia Kamazinda: I reiterate that let women come together in small groups. It is in those organized groups that good advice and technics will come. Women can support one another as they continue following guidelines set in their groups.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Enelesia Kamazinda: Let the industry have an affirmative action towards breaking the bias. Some regulatory framework favour men. It becomes hard for women to follow through.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Enelesia Kamazinda: Young women entering the industry must be brave and ready to fight for their own economic freedom. Tobacco is our gold and if we say let's empower women economically and we don't give them access to tobacco production and marketing then all is a fallacy. 

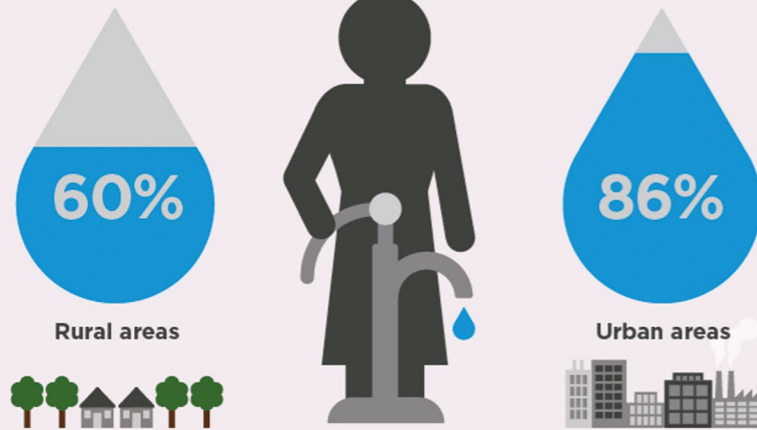


Ms. Enelesia Kamazinda, Madisi, Dowa, Malawi

SOURCES
 Report of the UN Secretary-General: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (E/CN.6/2018/2), UN ECOSOC, 2018; Employment in agriculture, female (% of female employment) (modeled ILO estimates), World Bank, 2021 (labour); The gender gap in land rights, FAO, 2018 (land rights); Delivery care, UNICEF data, 2021 (reproductive health); Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, 2000-2020, WHO/UNICEF, APR, 2021 (water); Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Women, 2018 (child marriage); Global education monitoring report 2020: gender report. A new generation: 25 years of efforts for gender equality in education, UNESCO, 2020 (education); Measuring digital development: Facts and figures, ITU, 2020 (ICT).

WATER

POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER



Women and girls are often responsible for fetching water in rural areas.

CONSEQUENCES

Barriers to education and employment; more unpaid domestic work; higher risk of maternal mortality and violence; psychosocial stress.

LITERACY



Only 2%
 of the poorest rural women in low-income countries complete upper secondary school.

CONSEQUENCES

Barriers to employment and decision-making; lower income; lower-quality jobs; increased health consequences; decreased individual and social well-being.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Girls from poor rural households are significantly more likely to be married before the age of 18 than girls from wealthy urban ones.



In some countries, over 50%
 of girls from poor rural households will be married as children.

Empowering rural women and girls requires:

1. Decent work and social protection
2. Education and training
3. Sustainable energy and technology
4. Clean water and sanitation
5. Eliminating violence and harmful practices
6. Including women in decision-making and leadership
7. Increasing women's climate-resilience



CONSEQUENCES

Barriers to education and employment; greater risk for intimate partner violence; early pregnancy; maternal complications; vulnerability to STDs, including HIV.

ICT



Most of the 3.7 billion
 people not connected to the internet tend to be poorer, less educated, and rural women and girls.

CONSEQUENCES

Limited means of getting new skills, information and knowledge; decreased livelihoods, wellbeing and resilience; limited economic opportunities.

Zambia Country Report



CROP EVOLUTION

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY- PLANT, HARVEST, OR DELIVERY (CONTRACT AND/OR AUCTIONS)?

From the figures in the field, we see many small scale tobacco growers taking up tobacco farming seriously as a business. In view of this, it is evident that the current status of tobacco production in Zambia is good. In view of the above, we expect a good tobacco season in Zambia. Tobacco so far has done well in Central province, Southern province, Western province and partially in Eastern province.

Farmers are eager and they are very busy reaping and curing their tobacco. Grading of tobacco will soon start as the markets are about to open.



Most of the tobacco produced in Zambia is under contract at the moment. Contract farming of tobacco is at 95% and we have 5% tobacco produced by the small-scale farmers without confirmed contracts. Delivery of tobacco to the tobacco marketing floors is by appointment through the booking system run by Floor managers licensed by the regulator, Tobacco Board of Zambia and the tobacco buyers.

RECENT WEATHER PROBLEMS/ CHANGES:

During the current season that is 2021/2022 season we had a dry spell in the months of October, November and partially December when it was critical for farmers to transplant their tobacco into the field, especially our small-scale grower's dependent on rain feed production.

However, from mid-December, we had received the rains and farmers were able to complete their tobacco planting. The rains that come in December really revived the tobacco plants that had been planted

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF GROWERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON?

Percent Change Year on Year	2021	2020
	20,073 12% increase	17,521

Tobacco Association of Zambia



during the dry months as indicated above, and the mid December rains this tobacco. In some areas floods ensued and badly affected some crops as hail accompanied these rains

But for the irrigated crop usually transplanted in September/October, this crop looks good and the curing and reaping activities are going on well

Overall, the crop looks good, and we are hopeful of a good season, looking forward to the start of the 2022 Marketing Season scheduled to start mid-April

HOW MUCH IS THE AREA PLANTED IN HECTARES- CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON

Percent Change Year on Year	2021	2020
	23,198 20% increase	18,349

VOLUME OF TOBACCO PRODUCED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Percent Change Year on Year	2021		2020	
	FCV	BURLEY	FCV	BURLEY
	31,231,398	5,653,258	25,691,965	4,821,063

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASON			
Category	Average yield per ha (Kg)	Average cost per hectare US\$/Ha	Average cost US\$ per kg
Small scale (Burley)	1,300	2,376.47	1.83
Small Scale (Virginia)	1,500	2,914.63	1.94
Large scale	3,000	9,879.28	3.29

AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

Percent Change Year on Year	2021		2020	
	FCV	BURLEY	FCV	BURLEY
	2.65	1.64	2.50	1.64

Brazil Country Report

Original text provided in Portuguese



Afubra



WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY (THREE SOUTHERN STATES):

Missing harvest: 6% on 2/28/22
Missing to market: 80% on 2/28/22

Harvest 2021/2022
- 128,448 producing families
- 603,190 people
Harvest 2020/2021
- 137,618 producing families
- 646,200 people

estimated crop = 504,182 tons AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASON:

2020/2021 crop
- Virginia R\$22,554.48

Harvest 2021/2022
- Virginia R\$ 27,270.72

RECENT WEATHER PROBLEMS/ CHANGES (NUMBER OF CROPS HIT BY HAIL AND A BRIEF REPORT ON WEATHER DAMAGE):

We have until (02/28/22) 19,428 producers with hail damage.

As for the climatic problems, we had a severe drought that according to our research will cause a crop failure of approximately 11% in the South of Brazil.

HOW MUCH IS THE AREA PLANTED IN HECTARES- CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Area harvest 2020/2021 = 273,317
Area for the 2021/2022 harvest = 246,590

AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON (SO FAR) AND LAST SEASON:

Average price harvest 2020/2021 = R\$ 10,54
Average price for the 2021/2022 estimated harvest = R\$ 15,63

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF GROWERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Production crop 2020/2021 = 628,489 tons
Production for the 2021/2022



EXPOAGRO 2022 IN NUMBERS

(ORGANIZED BY AFUBRA SINCE 2001)



180 THOUSAND PEOPLE VISITS

61% MORE THAN IN 2019

Generated
R\$ 220 MILLION
in BUSINESS 215% increase
from 2019

R\$ 1,491,000.00
IN BUSINESS at the FAMILY FARMING PAVILION

64 STANDS
in its 1st EDITION (2001)

OVER 400 STANDS
in 2022 EDITION

1 R\$ = US\$ 0.21 (April 2022 exchange rate)

ITGA
International Tobacco Growers' Association
www.tobaccoleaf.org

Women Tobacco Growers in Brazil

Original interview carried in Portuguese

Inês Regina Hintz

39 years old, Municipality of Vale do Sol,
State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil



I've always liked the countryside, agriculture, so I've always planted tobacco. When I was at home, I always helped my parents and continued in the tobacco business, and we like it. So, I think what attracts women is the cost, associated with the profit that it gives, as the tobacco sector on small farms generates a well-compensated value during the year.

ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Inês Regina Hintz: I have been growing tobacco for 18 years, I started growing tobacco around 2002/2003. Tobacco is very important for us because everything we have conquered on the farm, in our house, everything we have comes from tobacco and that is why tobacco is very important here in our region.

from 11:30 am until 1:30pm and we start again at 1:30pm until the afternoon. We are doing this service at the moment since it is the tobacco grading season in our region, and we do it at home in the gallop.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Inês Regina Hintz: The challenges on the farm, in the tobacco sector, are many because the tobacco sector requires a lot of manual work and is a lot of heavy work. So, there are many challenges for the women here, but we are managing to do the job.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Inês Regina Hintz: The role of the woman is fundamental along with that of the husband because here the work is family-based, basically family work, and therefore decisions are taken jointly by the husband and the wife. Generally, the decision has the same weight, usually the husband and wife take the decision together. Hardly anyone makes a decision alone, the couple reaches a consensus on the decision, on the farm, this is how it has been here in our region, in Rio Grande do Sul.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Inês Regina Hintz: I don't know what the barrier is, the trade is very competitive. So, in the employment sector, women's salaries are very outdated. In my opinion, that's it, since I never had a job,

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Inês Regina Hintz: I would like several things to improve in agriculture. I would like it to be easier for us to study, to go to university to train in agronomy for example, since the situation is already quite advanced, through distance learning, but it's still not easy, I would like there to be more mecha-

“

I would like it to be easier for us to study, to go to university to train in agronomy for example, since the situation is already quite advanced, through distance learning, but it's still not easy.

nization, more technology in the field with more access to values, technology with a more affordable price and I would like the government to give more incentives to tobacco growers since the Brazilian government does not encourage tobacco growers, the government needs to encourage the tobacco sector.

“

In the employment sector, women's salaries are very outdated.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Inês Regina Hintz: This year is an atypical year in our region, here in tobacco. It's a year that is being marketed differently, so my day is like this: We are in the tobacco grading season here on the farm, so we have the florescent bulbs, we have a table and a cardboard box where we put the foreign material for example dirt. So, we spend the day there grading tobacco, classifying it by grade, by color and then we put it in the box, making it ready to be marketed by the company. So, we spend the day doing that. We start in the morning until noon, then we take a break

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Inês Regina Hintz: We get confidence in the sector by being honest. I think the entire tobacco sector attracts not only honesty but also confidence by paying the company we plant, Afubra and all the debts correctly. By taking insurance, selecting the tobacco, and selling the tobacco correctly to the company, everything builds confidence in the tobacco sector and that's how we get to a good level.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Inês Regina Hintz: Not only in the tobacco sector, but in all sectors, one woman mirrors another. In our region I plant tobacco for BAT so there are already several women who are mentors and come to guide us, giving support to the people who grow tobacco. We look up to them as employees, but in our culture, we also look up to our neighbors since in our region all the neighbors are tobacco growers and therefore one mirrors the other and we help each other on the farm. We

combine all the best qualities of each one of us and we improve all the sectors.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Inês Regina Hintz: Firstly, we would really like the government to support the tobacco sector in Brazil more and to finance more material goods for the


“

The advice

I would give to a young woman who is entering the tobacco industry is to be her own boss.

growers since the grower doesn't have a credit line in the banks or anywhere else. This is the main factor since the government is very much against the tobacco sector in Brazil if the government supported the tobacco sector more it would already be a great achievement. Secondly, the price of tobacco, the value that is being marketed in this atypical year and is being difficult to deal with, and the value of the products that we use such as fertilizer, are not compensating each other and therefore it would have to be a better value.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Inês Regina Hintz: The advice I would give to a young woman who is entering the tobacco industry is to be her own boss. That's the great advantage of the tobacco grower. She sets her own hours, she has her good days, she has her bad days, but this is not only in the tobacco sector, it is part of all sectors. I advise her to work properly, honestly, as the company asks and the good days will come, there will be difficult days, but there will also be good days. 

Women Tobacco Growers in Brazil

Original interview carried in Portuguese

Amanda Tessmer



Deise Tessmer



Dienifer Tessmer



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Dienifer: Tobacco has been part of my life since I was born and it started to be my job four years ago. We feel that there are real opportunities in this sector.

Amanda: It started to be my job three years ago and like other crops and tending this step, we opted for tobacco because it has the right markets.

Deise: And to me, almost two years ago, it started to be my job.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Deise: We participate a lot in the tobacco activities, including the harvest currently. We wake up early to go to the fields, we harvest, return at noon for lunch and rest a little, then we continue our work where we staple the tobacco and put it inside the greenhouses. After afternoon coffee, the harvest follows and at night we return home to unload the cargo and take it inside the greenhouse.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Deise: Because we are more sensitive about physical strength, we are not able to do the heavy work at a faster pace.

“

I would like to see women who are capable of holding high positions in the industry.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Amanda: The role of women in decision-making processes depends very much on the capacity of each woman. Often it is not the women who make the decisions.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Amanda: The most significant barrier to attracting women to tobacco is the work with the tractor that requires physical labour. For me the most signif-

icant barrier was when I was eighteen years old, I started helping my parents in tobacco production and I was finishing high school.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Dienifer: The modernization of agricultural implements.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Dienifer: At the beginning I didn't believe it much because I don't have the technical training but as time went by I saw that it was possible to have a good income through experiences and to follow my parents' example.


ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Dienifer: Through exchanges of ideas.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Deise: I would like to see women who are capable of holding high positions in the industry.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Deise: Not all years are the same as in all professions there are ups and downs. 



Brazil Celebration of World Tobacco Growers' Day 2021 (Afubra and Sinditabaco in this photo both members of ITGA) Credit: Afubra

The Female Voice of the Countryside that Echoes in Southern Brazil

Original text provided in Portuguese

Iro Schünke

President-director of the Growing Up Right Institute. (Also president of the Interstate Tobacco Industry Union – SindiTabaco)



Reflections on issues linked to the female condition in the countryside and of young people living in rural regions are the goal of the We For Them Programme, developed since 2017 by the Growing Up Right Institute.

April 2022 – To value women’s leadership, develop and train young women who have graduated from the Growing Up Right Institute’s Learning Programme to multiply the reflection on the gender issue in their communities. It is with this goal that, since 2017, the Institute has promoted the We For Them Program - The Female Voice of the Countryside. Since then, five editions have been held with the training of 36 young people, all prepared to be multipliers of sensitive themes to the reality of women in the countryside. The first three took place in the structure of the Communication course of the

University of Santa Cruz do Sul (Unisc), a partner of the initiative. In 2020, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, a special edition was held entirely online. In the fifth edition, in 2021, the young women tried out the hybrid format, with good results. Another class is planned for this year.

With the mediation of an educator from the Institute, the girls get together and decide which topics will be studied. The research becomes the elaboration of scripts and the recording of newsletters with journalistic resources, such as interviews. In these five years of the programme, the participants have discussed relevant topics such as: psychological violence against women; women and aging; sorority; female self-esteem; learning in the pandemic; autonomy and documentation; women and education; female leadership and entrepreneurship; women in the labour

market; teenage pregnancy; child labour; violence against women; women’s role in society.

[Listen to the newsletters produced by the young women participants of the We For Them Programme](#)

“Offering opportunities to young people in the countryside is the main goal of the Growing Up Right Institute, through the Rural Professional Learning Programme. Within the context of the ESG, the Institute also seeks a world with more respect for women and this is the central theme of the We For Them Programme. In the programme, the girls have the opportunity to reflect on their own condition in the communities where they live and, at the same time, to learn communication techniques and disseminate the topics discussed through the radio”, says the president of the Growing Up Right Institute, Iro Schünke.

For the manager of the Growing Up Right Institute, Nádia Solf, the expertise of the university’s communication professionals is essential for the positive results. “This enriches both the learning of the participating girls each year, and also guarantees the quality of the material produced,” she explains. “And the partnerships such as Afubra, the rural workers’ unions and the rural unions that multiply the content produced by the girls through the large audiences of their radio programmes,” she adds. “In a recent assessment we made with these partners, we were fortunate to identify that for these institutions it is also relevant and positive to count on the content produced by the girls,” she celebrates.



Maurício Cunha, Iro Schünke and Minister Damares Alves - Brazil Friend of the Child Award

Initiatives that value rural youth

The young women participants of the We For Them Program are graduates of the [Rural Professional Learning Programme](#). Validated by the Ministry of Labour, since 2016, it has already benefited 596 rural youths from Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil’s southern region, and is considered a pioneer for providing an innovative way of applying the Apprenticeship Law in favour of rural youths. The participants are hired as young apprentices by the members of the Growing Up Right Institute, receive a salary proportional to 20 hours a week, but instead of working in the companies, they participate in the management and entrepreneurship course after school with concomitant theoretical and practical activities conducted by the Growing Up Right Institute in their communities - usually in the schools where they study or in locations provided by partner municipalities that also help with food and daily transport logistics to enable the attendance of adolescents.

ABOUT THE GROWING UP RIGHT INSTITUTE– An initiative of the Union Interstate Tobacco Industry (SindiTabaco) and its member companies in Brazil, the Growing Up Right Institute took shape in 2015 and already has two national recognitions for its innovation and pioneering efforts to offer opportunities for rural youth. In December 2020, it was honoured at the 17th edition of the Innovare Award, in the Justice and Citizenship Category, for its innovative method of rural professional learning as an alternative in the fight against child labour. And in November 2021, the Institute won first place in the Brazil Friend of the Child Award, in the category Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, promoted by the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights in recognition of best practices in the promotion and strengthening of the rights of children and adolescents.



Nádia Fengler Solf - Manager of ICL



We for Them 2021 Program_Photo Junio Nunes



Argentina Country Report

Original text provided in Spanish



Camara del Tabaco de Salta



Argentina Country Report

Original text provided in Spanish



Coprotab - Salta Tobacco Growers' Cooperative



CROP EVOLUTION: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY- PLANT, HARVEST, OR DELIVERY (CONTRACT AND/OR AUCTIONS)?

HARVEST
(2021-2022) Final stage of the harvest

RECENT WEATHER PROBLEMS/ CHANGES:

(2021-2022) High incidence of hail damage: more than 4,000 hectares 100% affected.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF GROWERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON?

Current season (2021-2022) 1831
Last season (2020-2021) 1794

HOW MUCH IS THE AREA PLANTED IN HECTARES- CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON

Season 2020-2021 20,425.56 ha
Season 2021-2022 21,313 ha

VOLUME OF TOBACCO PRODUCED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Season 2020-2021 37,480,969 kg
Season 2021-2022) 34,000,000 kg (estimated)

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

Production cost 2020-2021 \$ 536,598.40
(exchange rate at 23/02/21 \$89.33/1u\$)

Production cost 2021-2022 \$733,230.00
(exchange rate at 23/02/2022 \$107.08/1U\$)

AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

2021-2022 B1F \$287.82/kg (exchange rate at 23/02/2022 107.08/1U\$)
2020-2021 B1F \$191.89/kg (exchange rate at 23/02/2021 \$89.33/1u\$)
2019-2020 B1F \$127.94/kg (exchange rate at 21/02/20 \$58.02/1U\$)
2018-2019 B1F \$87.63/kg (exchange rate at 21/02/19 \$39.02/1 U\$)



EVOLUTION OF TOBACCO CROP IN SALTA (ARGENTINA)

- The current status of tobacco production in Argentina is: harvest, or delivery (contract)
- The main problem/weather change was hail, affecting 4,300 ha out of a total of 21,300 ha.
- The current season involves 1,700 growers, the same number as last season.
- In the current season, 21,300 ha were planted, 4% more than in the previous season.
- The expected volume of tobacco for the current season is 35,000 tons, 6% less than the previous season (37,480 tons).
- Details of the price of the B1F grade for the current season and the last seasons:

Price B1F	AR\$	TC - BNA	U\$S
2015-2016 (al 25/02/16)	\$ 37,55	\$ 15,60	\$ 2,41
2016-2017 (al 06/04/17)	\$ 43,18	\$ 15,55	\$ 2,78
2017-2018 (al 08/02/18)	\$ 53,11	\$ 19,24	\$ 2,76
2018-2019 (al 06/05/19)	\$ 87,63	\$ 45,70	\$ 1,92
2019-2020 (al15/05/20)	\$ 127,93	\$ 65,75	\$ 1,95
2020-2021 (al 07/04/21)	\$ 191,89	\$ 97,65	\$ 1,97
2021-2022 (al 18/03/22)	\$ 287,83	\$ 114,50	\$ 2,51



Women Tobacco Growers in Argentina

Original Interview carried in Spanish

President - María Del Carmen Merlo
Secretary- Carmen Lucia Ortiz
Treasurer - Gabriel Leonik

Alma de TABACO is a cooperative established on 2022 as a result of cigar making courses promoted by the SECRETARIAT OF PRODUCTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOYA and the Employment Department to train men and women who have a vocation for making handmade cigars from Goya, taking advantage of the characteristic properties of the Criollo from Corrientes.

ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Alma de Tabaco: The tobacco from Corrientes is part of our culture - an inheritance of cultivation practised from generation to generation, therefore it could be said that it has always been part of everyone's life, although for a long time the tobacco produced for industry did not capture the attention of the process for a handmade elaboration, when discovering the potential properties, the possibility of adding a profitable added value arises where feminine hands give an original touch to the final product.

ITGA: What is the percentage of women's work in the sector in Argentina?

Alma de Tabaco: There is a record that involves 30% of the female gender, however, there is an as yet undetermined sector of the female gender that would be around 30% approximately.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Alma de Tabaco: The biggest challenge we face is the invisibility that we have in relation to the activities that we can or cannot do in this sector, often from the other gender they think that women do not understand or are not qualified to be recipients of the technological knowledge necessary for this type of activity.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Alma de Tabaco: Currently, women play a somewhat invisible role in decision-making in the tobacco sector due to cultural patterns that have not yet been eradicated in most rural areas.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Alma de Tabaco: One of the barriers in the world of tobacco in general are the regulations and laws imposed by the WHO. The advertising on the labels are images that can be harmful to health and promote NO consumption tobacco without taking into account that the artisanal elaboration has a treatment in its tasting free of toxicity.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Alma de Tabaco: The local government was always available for trainings, workshops, cultural exchanges, meetings and conferences, trying to find in the research and in the process of evolution, a suitable raw material for market demands.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Alma de Tabaco: Perseverance and persistence were the virtues that accompany women day by day and without doubt in this enterprise have been the pillars to find a job opportunity that is carried out from home.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Alma de Tabaco: The best support is to form networks seeking the participation of various diversified rural activities considering environmental sustainability as well as equity and integration of all actors of society.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Alma de Tabaco: One of the main initiatives should be training on equal terms. A participatory approach of women in the different sectors of agricultural activity.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Alma de Tabaco: That in its beginnings the path of profitability can be a bit long, that it is an art that starts from the personality of each one where love and passion go hand in hand, That it is very important to interact with the different social strata where training is one of the daily trainings for perfection - and that it is necessary to lose the fear of new challenges.



Colombia Country Report

Original text provided in Spanish



Fedetabaco



CHARACTERISTICS OF TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN COLOMBIA EFFECTIVE 2021

Tobacco production in Colombia reached its minimum expression from 2021 with the exit of the multinationals Phillips Morris in 2019 and B.A.T. in 2020, leaving in the country only the company CdF Colombia, which mar-

kets a very small area of dark tobacco and an informal market that sells low-quality tobacco for the production of low-quality cigars.

In the year 2021, the climatic problems that occurred in the country, es-

pecially in the sense that at times when rainfall was required for the development of tobacco crops, these did not occur, which affected the productivity and quality of the crop, and consequently the profitability for farmers.

Planted hectares	Kilos produced	Average prices per kl U\$D	Production costs per hectare U\$D
1,100	2,310,000	1.71	2,770



Women Tobacco Growers in Colombia

Original interview carried in Spanish

Elvia Arias



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Elvia Arias: I think that tobacco has always been a part of me, ever since I can remember, as I was born into a tobacco family.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Elvia Arias: Type of work for women: threading, cigar folding, cigar, seed sowing.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Elvia Arias The main challenges faced by women in the tobacco sector are many because very few women are informed or included in any other projects as they are hard work.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Elvia Arias: I believe that the role of women in decision-making processes in the sector is very limited.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Elvia Arias: The most important barrier to attracting women into tobacco is

“


Tobacco has always been a part of me, ever since I can remember, as I was born into a tobacco family.

providing them with support, knowledge, training and skills so that they can enter the tobacco sector.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Elvia Arias: I think that a lot of machinery such as ploughs, scythes and a lot of tools that are used in the tobacco sector today make it easier to work.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Elvia Arias: Talking to them about the knowledge they have about tobacco, those who know about tobacco, taking them and helping them. 



Heliodoro Castillo Manager of FEDETABACO Colombia Member o ITGA. On his speech for ITGA World Tobacco Growers' Day 2020. Credit: FEDETABACO

Women Tobacco Growers in Colombia

Original interview carried in Spanish

Lina María Guzmán Suárez



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: Tobacco has been part of my life for about 20 years, when my family started working in the tobacco sector. They started as farmers and that's when I started to learn more and to work in tobacco, I was about 15, 16 years old. I started to learn how to tie, to do different activities and at 16 it started to be a full job, I started to earn money, to support myself a little bit so I didn't depend on my parents. In a significant

“

It is like a kind of taboo that “no, men are the ones who do it better”.

way I learned a lot, I learned to interact with other people, because I didn't have the opportunity to interact in a new group and tobacco employs a lot of people, so I learned a little bit of everything in the tobacco sector.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: I am not currently working in the tobacco sector. I dedicate myself to planting paprika and rice. That's what my work is at the moment: I get up and do my chores, my housework and when we have to pick paprika, we get up early and pick it, pack it, select it and send it to Neipa, to sell it. I don't get so involved in the rice part, because the truth is, I don't know much about rice and then I study and dedicate my life to it during the week. It's being in the house, working when we have to pick the paprika and studying to continue my training.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: For me, the main challenges that women face in the tobacco sector is that the tobacco sector all made up of men, and women I think there is a bit of discrimination because they think that women have to do softer jobs and that the tobacco sector is a job for men. So, I think there is a kind of discrimination in the tobacco sector in that sense because women are not allowed to play the role of “I am a farmer, I am in charge of this crop”, it is like a kind of taboo that “no, men are the ones who do it better”.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: In the part of the sector where I live, there are not many women who do not represent themselves as farmers in the tobacco sector, but we make normal decisions as men do in the contracting part, in the part of giving our opinion on the tobacco processes... Sometimes they take our points, our opinions, but not as much as men's. We give our opinion on the sector because we know as much as men do in different areas and we give our point of view and many times they take it into account.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

“

I would also like more training in the application of inputs and fertilizers.

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: The truth is that the barrier is often the lack of opportunity in recruitment, because when they don't make the recruitment with the company, they are afraid thus they are not given much information. I think that many women are afraid because they don't have the knowledge of the subject and so it seems a bit complicated for them to do that and they prefer to work in another part of the tobacco sector, such as in the tie-up. I think that there is not enough

training to teach women that they can also do this work as well as men and therefore, for me, that is the main barrier.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: I would like more training in the women's sector so that we can all be trained because it is a challenge for women to get into the tobacco sector. I would also like more training in the application of inputs and fertilizers because, in my case, that is what complicates me the most. I would like to have more training to be able to learn more about this subject, about cultivation in the field, I think that is what is still lacking in terms of training.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: Confidence is developed over time. I believe that growing up in the tobacco sector is the way to acquire confidence, because I acquired it there. I got that confidence from the experience I gained through tobacco, from my family, from people who already had experience, so it is time. Growing up in tobacco, I think that, in our generation, we learned from our parents, and we gained that confidence, that experience there.

“

I want to improve as an initiative so that rural women can also exercise the same leadership role as urban women, so that they are not afraid to lead.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: For us women, we cannot support a kind of organization where women are talking to each other and showing the fears that certain women have. It is necessary to create a support group among women because I think that, sometimes, women are very afraid to take a step forward like setting up a business and therefore, I think that they lack support, a push among women who have the knowledge to lead. I think that it is the help that women can give each other, support to help us to carry out the projects that we have in mind, that we want to do.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: The truth is that I would like to see more support for women in the rural sector, for women in the village. I think that we need more support because I see that women in the city are not afraid to play a leadership role in the city, I think that women in the city are a bit more open. Rural women are more afraid and therefore, I think that this is the role that I want to improve as an initiative so that rural women can also exercise the same leadership role as urban women, so that they are not afraid to lead.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Lina María Guzmán Suárez: The advice I would give to women and which I have applied and which I feel has worked for me is to have self-confidence, to train yourself. Don't be afraid and if you don't want to do something, do it, have the confidence to do it, because everything in life sometimes you must know how to lose and win, in other words, have the positivity that something was not going to go well. So, to have the ability to lead, to ask questions, not to be afraid to look for someone to train her, to help her to move forward, that is the most important thing.

”



Women Tobacco Growers in Colombia

Original interview carried in Spanish

María Esperanza Estupiñan



ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: There are many qualities with which it is developed, with sacrifice, work, commitment but, above all, with enthusiasm, responsibility and vision for the future.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

“

The government should motivate us with subsidies, give us training, update us on alternative crops.

“

Tobacco has been part of my whole life because my parents were tobacco growers, and it became my job as long as I can remember.

”

ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: Tobacco has been part of my whole life because my parents were tobacco growers, and it became my job as long as I can remember.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: My husband and I are currently running a restaurant and we are growing different crops on the farm, such as corn, wheat and lemons, since tobacco cultivation in this area has practically disappeared.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: It's making the difficult things that come up every day become the biggest success of your day, I think.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: I think we are at 100% because this crop involves the family itself and the woman plays a very important role there because she has to be the first one to get up and the last one to go to bed.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: There are barriers to this crop, the main one being the lack of subsidies for harvesting.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: The government should motivate us with subsidies, give us training, update us on alternative crops.

María Esperanza Estupiñan: Developing productive projects and showing positive results.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

María Esperanza Estupiñan: First and foremost, gender equality and that, above all, this should be more than a right.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

That they should be self-sufficient, empowered and, above all, that they support other women in their endeavors.

”

Women Tobacco Growers in Colombia

Original interview carried in Spanish

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco
President of the Municipal Association of Peasant Users of Giron - AMUC GIRON



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: Tobacco growing has been part of my life for more than 20 years and has become a way of life. It started to be my job as soon as I arrived at the farm. More than 20 years ago, the farm was very expensive in the Municipality of Girón, Santander, in corregidor, where the main activity was the cultivation of dark tobacco. Tobacco growing has contributed in a very direct way to my life, it has been a fundamental part of my life and of my family. Thanks to this crop I managed to make a market, I managed to send my children to school, I managed to become economically independent, and I managed to keep my family together, which is the best thing. Nowadays the opportunities in this sector are over. We no longer have the same opportunities, because tobacco was very stigmatized here in this country and they gave us, the peasants, a very hard time. Then the companies left, leaving all the Colombian peasants who made a living from this trade with their arms down.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: I am an active member and part of the board of my Municipal Association of Peasant Users of Girón. I am also the secretary of the Board of Directors of FEDETABACO and at this moment of economic reopening I am coordinating the collection center, the local farmers' markets. After carrying out the tasks that we know all women have on a farm,

I go to the collection center to coordinate the entry of products and their respective commercialization and marketing.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that womenintobaccoarefacinginyourmarket?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: A big challenge is the price variation, the market, and the lack of incentives, which is one of the main challenges we face in this market.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: For me I think it is null. The policies come from the ministries, from above, and they do not consider the opinion of us rural women. Simply the order that comes, comes by directive from above and we, the women, are not considered in the decision-making process.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: I think that the biggest barrier we have in attracting women to tobacco growing is because there are no opportunities there. They lack remuneration, they lack an incentive that would make them see tobacco growing as something important for them to be able to make a living out of it.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: I would like to be trained in marketing and commercial-

ization. I would also like to receive training in the improvement of tobacco leaf processes and all its derivatives, because it is not only with tobacco that we make our cigarettes. Nowadays, everything leads us to think that the tobacco range is all about fungicides and herbicides, and I would like to be trained in this area.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: Confidence has been developing over time. With all the events that we have every day in our lives and our perseverance in what we do, we are always confident that everything is going to be better.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: I think there is no better method to support women than to show them experiences by example and by replicating what you don't know, involving them in the processes and helping them to improve their quality of life.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: I would like women to be more included, to participate more directly, to be involved in all the processes, to be better paid and to be recognized for their important work in this crop.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Sandra Milena Ochoa Velasco: To do everything with love. I think there is nothing more satisfying than when you are doing things with love, things turn out well. I would tell that person that this profession is something very beautiful for which we should be very grateful. There are clear examples of many women who, like me, tobacco growing has helped us to achieve our ideal dreams.

Dominican Republic Country Report

Original text provided in Spanish



Instituto del Tabaco de la República Dominicana



CROP EVOLUTION:

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY- PLANT, HARVEST, OR DELIVERY (CONTRACT AND/OR AUCTIONS)?

PLANT

RECENT WEATHER PROBLEMS/ CHANGES:

EXCESSIVE RAINFALL ON SOME OCCASIONS, AND PROLONGED DROUGHT ON OTHERS.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF GROWERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON?

SEASON 2020/2021: 3,550 GROWERS
SEASON 2021/2022: 3,328 GROWERS

HOW MUCH IS THE AREA PLANTED IN HECTARES- CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON

SEASON 2020/2021: 6,564 HECTARES
SEASON 2021/2022: 6,750 HECTARES

VOLUME OF TOBACCO PRODUCED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON

SEASON 2020/2021: 12,627,802 KILOS
SEASON 2021/2022: 13,044,042 KILOS (estimated)

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

SEASON 2020/2021: 3,350 US/ HECTARE
SEASON 2021/2022: 4,685 US/ HECTARE

AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

SEASON 2020/2021: 2.60 US/KILO (Selling price at farm level).
SEASON 2021/2022: (IN PROCESS)

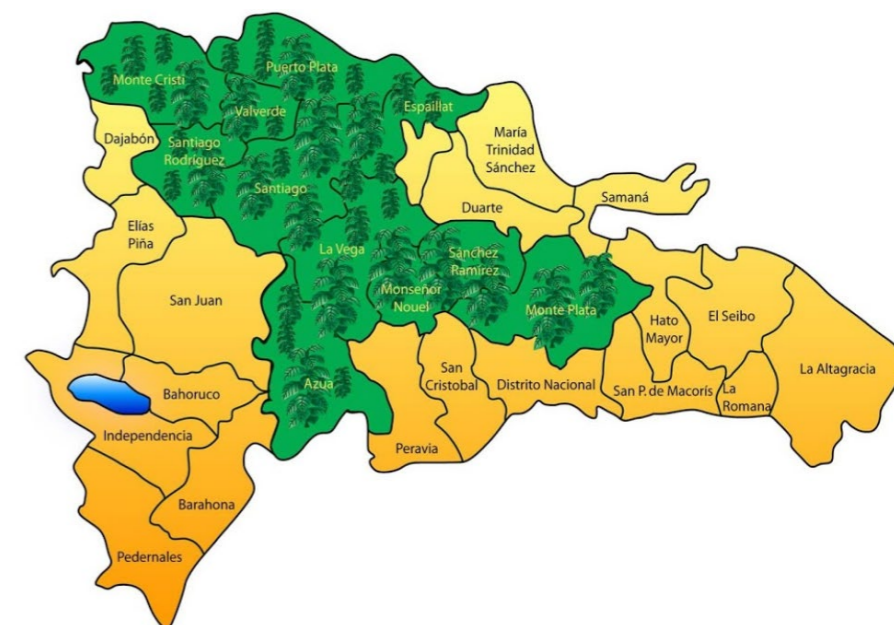
TOBACCO CROP SITUATION REPORT 2021-2022

The current tobacco season formally began on September 1, 2021 with the seed watering stage. This date is due to the recommendations of the tobacco zoning studies as well as the phytosanitary ban resolution for the management of pests and diseases that attack the crop. The Tobacco Institute of the Dominican Republic, in coordination with the industrial

sector, scheduled the planting of 6,461 hectares of tobacco from the different varieties demanded by the market. Although adverse environmental factors caused some inconveniences in the cultivation work, a planted area of 6,750 hectares was finally achieved, which represents 105% of the programmed area.

SEEDING SUMMARY BY VARIETY

Tobacco group or variety	Hectares planted
Havanensis	4,075
Olor	984
Criollo	788
Andullo	675
Coating tobacco	228
Total	6,750




Map of tobacco zoning in the Dominican Republic



Training for tobacco growers

HARVEST AND MARKETING

In this 2021-2022 harvest, more than 85% of the tobacco farms have a financing and marketing contract with the traditional companies.

The plantations show very good development, while the first reports of cured tobacco indicate that we are once again looking at a harvest of excellent quality. 

Tobacco plantation in full development



Women in Tobacco in the Dominican Republic

Original interview carried in Spanish

Josefina Pichardo de García

Commercial Director of the company Pigat SRL, a specialised media publishing company, and Editor-in-Chief of the printed magazine and digital magazine, CIGARRO DOMINICANO.



Josefina Pichardo: We would have to divide this percentage by production areas; in most tobacco processing companies, 100% of the staff is female in the tobacco selection and destemming areas, as well as in packaging. In the cigar rolling area, the percentage drops; 65% of the production is in the hands of women.

ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Josefina Pichardo: Tobacco has been part of my life since I was a child and this daily relationship with cigarettes comes to me precisely from the example of a woman, my great-great-grandmother Marcelina. She lived to the age of 110 and smoked cigars until her last days. As a child, I watched her buy the leaves and wrap her own cigarettes; I was amazed to see how she smelled and touched them before lighting them, the same ritual I do now. I was born and raised in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, the cradle of tobacco and cigars, in the Dominican Republic, the largest producer of this country brand product. So for me, this product is very natural, and it has been part of my environment since I was a child. I treasure the pleasant memory of the smell of tobacco in my memory, it was a smell that caught my attention when I passed daily in front of a large tobacco store in my city, on my way to my music classes in the afternoons. I close my eyes and I remember that smell; I walk into a tobacco store and that smell takes me back to my childhood.

So, when tobacco and cigars became part of my work, it was very natural for me. My husband and I formed the Media company in 2004, with radio programmes, television and then came the print publishing part. The second magazine we launched was about golf, and being in those activities, we met many people who smoked and because of the relationship between golf and cigars, they invited us to cigar events, even attending the first cigar festival organised

by the Association of Cigar Producers of the Dominican Republic, PROCIGAR, in Santiago. The contact with this world of smokers and the fact of having the publishing company, gives me the impulse to propose to my husband to publish a cigar magazine and he as a good visionary of technology, proposes me to start the magazine digitally, to see its evolution and acceptance in the market. Thus, in June 2013, CIGARRO DOMINICANO was born as a digital magazine, and I took care of all the material that was published. Two years later, in 2015, to celebrate the success of the digital cigar magazine, we launched a print magazine with the same name and it was so successful that we have kept both magazines, digital and print, celebrating in June of this year 2022 our ninth anniversary with the magazine CIGARRO DOMINICANO within our media portfolio.

In these nine years of working in this very special world, which has brought us so many friends and so many pleasant moments, I can tell you that in this sector there are real opportunities, not only for men, as this business is seen from the outside, but also for women, who are the soul of many galleys and of the destemming and leaf selection area in most of the cigar factories in the Dominican Republic. We have also seen more women joining the administrative area of tobacco companies, many of which are family businesses. And there are many opportunities left for women in this sector, especially in the field, where there are fewer women involved in tobacco growing, as well as in the blending area, where new products are developed.

ITGA: What is the percentage of women's work in the sector in the Dominican Republic?

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Josefina Pichardo: Dominican society is completely open to homogeneity of opportunities, so the integration of women into the workforce in companies is very well accepted. I can tell you that the only challenge might be the development of women as "master blenders", as it has traditionally been a man's job. So I would love to see ladies involved in this very important part of production, I think it would be a great challenge for them. Another sector where there are very few women is tobacco growing, and that is also due to lack of tradition.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Josefina Pichardo: Since the tobacco sector is traditionally run by men, there are very few women involved in key decision-making in the sector. In recent years, this has been changing somewhat and I remember a conversation I had with a woman grower, who told me that about ten years ago, when she first joined a tobacco growers' association, it took her two years for her opinions to be considered important by them, after which the members do not make any relevant decisions without first consulting her. This shows how essential diversity is in associations and how important it is to listen and pay attention to women's opinions and creativity.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?



HARVESTING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



www.staragritech.com
info@staragritech.com

Josefina Pichardo: Barriers as such do not exist, it is simply believing that you can climb to managerial positions within multiple companies and wanting to be a leader. We already have many examples of women in administrative areas, others owning their own factories and even recently a multinational company brought in a woman as general manager of a cigar factory for the first time in its more than fifty-year history. Two years ago, another factory has had a female brand ambassador for the first time. So the doors are open, it's just a matter of seizing the opportunity.

For my part, I cannot say that I have encountered any barriers in the sector to my development. At the beginning, it struck me that when I was doing my job and I was accompanied by my husband, they would address him thinking that I was just accompanying him, even offering him a cigarette without question, while they would ask me, "Do you smoke," and were surprised that I did smoke. But, as you can see, it was just a matter of perception, rather than a barrier to my work in this sector.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Josefina Pichardo: In the world of tobacco, in the world of cigars, we are always learning. I think it would be very interesting to develop more training in the publishing sector related to this interesting industry, in order to continue doing in-depth editorial work on a sector that generates so many sources of employment for the population and so many economic resources for the sector and for the country.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Josefina Pichardo: I am very satisfied with the professional relationships I have built with everyone in this sector with whom I interact. Over the years, I have earned their trust and support. I have personal contact with everyone in the industry, from senior officials, factory owners, business managers, employees at all levels of the production chain... When I need to communicate with or visit any of these people, I have direct access, and this has been achieved with mutual respect, with the professional work we do and because we have always contributed to and defended this sector of our economy, which is so fundamental for the country.

ITGA: How women can support other women in their respective organizations?

Josefina Pichardo: Through education. This is the fundamental tool in the progress of societies and why should it be any different in our tobacco sector? I have been invited by some cigar factories to give talks and workshops to empower women in their growth and I am very happy with the feedback these trainings have had on the lives of the ladies who have participated and on my own. So, I encourage other companies and institutions to continue training the ladies who work in this industry and



Photographer : Manuel Venegas

they will see a definite improvement in the sector.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women role in the industry/sector?

Josefina Pichardo: All human beings like recognition, which is why I encourage people in the Human Resources area of companies to recognise the role, progress and development of women in companies and to spread the word

about it. I would love to receive more news of the work and progress of these hard-working women in our newsroom.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Josefina Pichardo: I would tell her to have a vision for the future, not to go to her job just to earn money, but to learn to do her job better and better every day, with a view to improving herself and growing with the company. It's just a matter of setting goals and demanding to be different from others. You will see the rewards. And if you are some-

one who wants to get involved in editorial work in the tobacco sector, I would say do your research, listen, learn from the experts, be humble and aim to do your job with quality. Nowadays, we are bombarded with banal publications, with content-free pictures, which are only looking for a "like" and do not offer important information about the product. In the future, I would love to see more instructive content, leading to meaningful learning about industry issues.

Women Tobacco Growers in the Dominican Republic

Original interview carried in Spanish

Bienvenida Altagracia Ovalles

Born in Canca la Piedra, Tamboril, Santiago, a traditional tobacco-growing area. Degree in Accounting, CPA.



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Bienvenida Altagracia Ovalles: I started in tobacco in 1997, which was when the BOOM hit. I started with a small factory, and that was my beginning. I'm about to celebrate 25 years in the factory.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Bienvenida Altagracia Ovalles: A typical day for me is as follows: I arrive at 7 am at my factory. If it's harvest time, I first go through the planting and then I get to the factory, see if the cigars are in production, try some in the course of the day etc. I finish at 5 pm or 6. In short, a typical day for me is something normal because I like my work and that's why it is done well.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

“

I urge any woman who wants to start in this business or in any other that yes, it is possible, that we can achieve it and we can do it with dignity.

Bienvenida Altagracia Ovalles: Here, we women can work, can start any business, that is, it is up to each one of us to do it judiciously, to do it responsibly and to do it well. Success depends on that, so there are no such challenges or anything like that here.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Bienvenida Altagracia Ovalles: My resilience in business has been to do my job well and treat my employees well. I don't see them as my employees but as partners. Thank God, there are labour lawsuits, I have never been sued because I try to be a partner to my employees, for example, if they have a problem, I join them and that is one of the strengths: to treat others well and make them understand that we need them at work and that is why a job well done has always turned out.

ITGA: What advice would you give to a young women entering the industry/your profession?

Bienvenida Altagracia Ovalles: To a young person who wants to start a business, a woman, I say yes, it is possible. I also tell her to have strength and to know that the beginnings are all difficult, to always recognise that, and to work to play a good role. But, of course, I urge any woman who wants to start in this business or in any other that yes, it is possible, that we can achieve it and we can do it with dignity. Without dropping anything on yourself, morals or anything else. Always do it with dignity and take the fight, as we say here.





THE ZIMBABWE TOBACCO INDUSTRY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING A TOBACCO COMPANY

Venture into:

- contract tobacco production;
- auction tobacco purchasing;
- primary tobacco processing and
- tobacco exporting.

VALUE ADDITION

- Invest in cigarette manufacturing for export;
- Processing and packaging machinery;
- Tobacco packaging material;
- Shisha and
- Cut tobacco.

ALTERNATIVE CROPS

- Primary production of alternative crops for export by tobacco growers.
- Processing of alternative crops for export.

INVEST NOW!!



North Carolina, USA Report



Tobacco Growers
 Association of North
 Carolina



United States

CROP EVOLUTION:

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY- PLANT, HARVEST, OR DELIVERY (CONTRACT AND/OR AUCTIONS):

- In the flue cured regions of the U.S. the crop has been seeding in greenhouses in February and early March.
- Field preparation is underway, and the crop is on schedule to begin being transplanted to the fields beginning in mid-April.

RECENT WEATHER PROBLEMS/CHANGES:

- Weather has generally been favorable for field preparations work.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF GROWERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

- In North Carolina we have on register about 1,880 active farmers. This is a reduction of perhaps 15% from the previous year.

HOW MUCH IS THE AREA PLANTED IN HECTARES- CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

- We anticipate that planted acres in North Carolina may hold "flat" compared to last season. That number would fall in the range of 155,000 acres in our state and perhaps +/- 180,000 acres for the multi-state flue cured region.

VOLUME OF TOBACCO PRODUCED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

- We were fortunate to avoid a major hurricane in 2021 for the first time in several consecutive years. Still the crop was affected by wet condition in the eastern part of the state and dry conditions in the western areas. The crop had an estimated average yield of about 2,200 pounds per acre.

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS

- According to NC State University economist data; The average production cost per acre in North Carolina in 2022 is forecast at \$5,404.88 we considering all variable and fixed costs. The largest contribution in spikes is labor (which increased \$1.01 per hour from previous year), fertilizer (now exceeding \$1,000 per ton) and energy costs (double from a year ago).

AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

- This information will vary and can be deemed sensitive to report. We would offer a range of average depending on which entity a farmer holds marketing contracts. Some report an average for the 2021 crop as low as \$1.95 and some as high as \$2.16.
- Using the NC State economic data what we can forecast is that to achieve breakeven in 2022, a farmer will need to achieve 2,400 pounds of yield at an average value of \$2.25 just to break even on variable costs.



Graham Boyd, Tobacco Grower of North Carolina TGANC- ITGA Member - credit: Graham Boyd

WOMEN IN GLOBAL AGRICULTURE

WOMEN PRIDE THEMSELVES IN WORKING IN AGRICULTURE

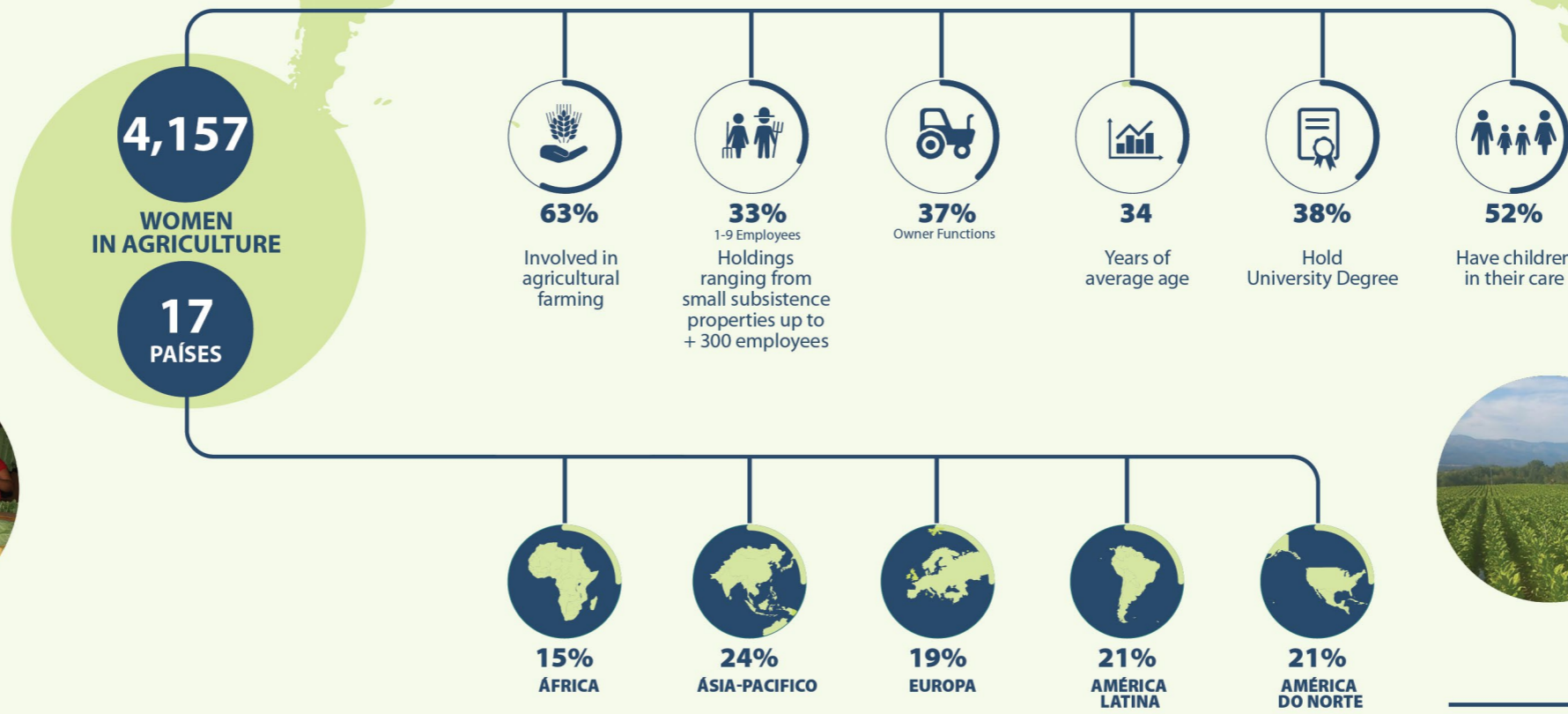


PRIDE IS NOT THE SAME AS HAPPINESS

Only **half** or **less** of these women farmers feel happy, recognized, heard, are given opportunities and are able to make decisions...

QUICK STUDY FACTS

Conducted online in August and September 2018



USA Country Report



Burley Stabilization Corporation (BSC)



CROP EVOLUTION: WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY - PLANT, HARVEST, OR DELIVERY (CONTRACT AND/OR AUCTIONS):

Burley
As of the beginning of April 2022, marketing of the 2021 crop is complete, and greenhouses are seeded for the 2022 crop. The number of burley tobacco hectares in the United States is approximately the same as 2021. Growers continue to face challenges related to unavailable labor and expensive labor rates relative to the price of burley.

Dark air-cured and fire-cured tobacco
The number of dark-tobacco hectares in the United States increased over 2021 by 15 percent. The 2021 crop was above average in yield and quality.

LATEST WEATHER PROBLEMS/CHANGES:

Excess rainfall resulted in below average burley yields in 2021. As of the beginning of April 2022, weather has been cooler and wetter than average, which may affect germination of tobacco seedlings.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF GROWERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

The number of burley growers in 2022 is expected to decline slightly, whereas farm size may increase.

HOW MUCH IS THE AREA PLANTED IN HECTARES - CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Burley: 16,500 in 2022 vs 16,200 in 2020

VOLUME OF TOBACCO PRODUCED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Burley: 34,000 MTs in 2022 vs 29,000 MTs in 2021

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Average production costs increased in 2022 to \$12,100/ha for burley.

AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

Burley: \$4.72 in 2022 vs \$4.49 in 2021



ITGA Americas Regional Meeting 2019 - North Carolina US - Credit: ITGA

India Country Report



The Tobacco Institute of India



CROP INFORMATION

ANDHRA FCV TOBACCO

The auctions for 2021 tobacco crop in Andhra Pradesh ended in the mid-September 2021, a total quantity of around 113 million Kgs has been marketed at an average price of US\$ 2.02 per Kg.

The Tobacco Board has authorised a crop size of 130 million kgs for 2022 crop in Andhra Pradesh. The first phase of the crop auction will start from March 14th, 2022.



India FCV World Tobacco Growers' Day Celebration 2021. Credit: FAIFA (Federation of all Indian Farmers' Association)

FCV CROP - ANDHRA PRADESH

Year	Area Planted (Hectares)	Quantity Marketed (Million Kgs)	Average Price US\$/Kg
2020-21	65,142	113	2.02

Source: Tobacco Board, Government of India
Currency Conversion: US\$ = INR 73

KARNATAKA FCV TOBACCO

The Tobacco Board has authorised a crop size of 97 million kgs for the current crop (2021) in Karnataka. Auctions for this crop started from September 24, 2021. As on March 10, 2022, a quantity of 63.59 million Kgs has been marketed at an average price of US\$ 2.23 per Kg.

The Tobacco Board has authorised a crop size of 100 million kgs for the next crop (2022-23) in Karnataka.

FCV CROP - KARNATAKA

Year	Area Planted (Hectares)	Quantity Marketed (Million Kgs)	Average Price US\$/Kg
2020-21 (Previous Crop)	73,609	88.42	1.64

Source: Tobacco Board, Government of India
Currency Conversion: US\$ = INR 73

EXPORT INFORMATION

INDIA'S EXPORT OF TOBACCO & TOBACCO PRODUCTS (QUANTITY IN MILLION KG & VALUE IN MILLION US\$)

Item	2020-21 (April to March 2021)		2021-22 (April to January)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Unmanufactured Tobacco	174	520	147	451
Tobacco Products	37	331	21	220
Total	211	851	168	671

Source: Tobacco Board, Government of India

Women Tobacco Growers in the Philippines

Maribel Agtarap

Farmer and homemaker from Quirino, Isabela, Philippines. Former Overseas Filipino Worker in Hong Kong from 1998 to 2008. I wanted to go back to Hong Kong and continue working there but I was diagnosed with Myoma and decided to stay in the Philippines with my husband.



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life? When did it start being your work/job? How has tobacco contributed to your life? Do you feel there are real opportunities in this sector?

Maribel Agtarap : Since my diagnosis, my husband and I discussed the idea of farming as our livelihood and to which we agreed. His late grandfather taught him how to farm and he shared this knowledge with me. In 2009, we started to cultivate rice on a 1 ½ hectare land. In the succeeding years, we tried to plant other crops like vegetables, tomatoes, and especially tobacco. After 13 years of farming, we can say that through farming, we made significant changes in our lives. We started farming on a 1 ½ hectare of land; now we are planting different crops on almost 7 hectares of land.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part in at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Maribel Agtarap : I tend the field. I keep the crops weed-free, and I also apply fertilizer. Sometimes, I also transplant and top the tobacco. A typical day for me would be waking up at 3 AM to prepare breakfast, then we eat and wash the dishes. Around 5 AM we will go to the field and be there till 9:30 AM tending to our crops. Afterward, we'd go home for lunch and rest for a few hours then go back to the field in the late afternoon to watch over the crops.



Additional knowledge of new farming techniques and machinery can help us, farmers, improve our yield.



ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Maribel Agtarap : From my experience, the challenge is prioritizing time. In the Philippines, women are sometimes expected to also do household tasks like laundry, cooking, cleaning, etc. on top of their jobs. At first, It was hard for me to do work in the field and at the same accomplish household tasks. There are times when I was too tired to clean the house or do laundry, but still, I must do them. To solve this problem, I divided my day into two. Mornings for farm work and afternoons for household chores.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Maribel Agtarap : Women on our farm usually act as checkers or graders during decision-making processes. Since we value cooperation on our farm, my husband includes me in the loop whenever there are issues or problems. Before we finalize any decisions, my husband and I would discuss them and brainstorm our ideas. Once a solution is found, I would review them again to make sure it is correct and apt.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women to tobacco? What has been the most significant barrier for you personally?

Maribel Agtarap : In my opinion, it is the physical labor that farming requires. Some tasks on the farm need the help of men. We must admit that in terms of strength, men sometimes are physically stronger than women. To add to that, based on my observation, women have generally weaker immune systems than men. Since we have to work in the field, we will be exposed to a lot of weather and climate changes like sudden rain or intense heat and having a strong immune response against these adverse events is important.

ITGA: What tools/trainings would you like to see being made available to advance your skills?

Maribel Agtarap : More seminars on farming technology. This would help us create more efficient procedures and future-proof our farmlands. Additional knowledge of new farming techniques and machinery can help us, farmers, improve our yield.

ITGA: How have you built confidence and/or resiliency over the course of your career?

Maribel Agtarap : It is more of having a proactive role in taking the lead in farm tasks. Instead of having someone else do the spraying of crops, I do them myself because I am more confident with my technique. Besides this, my fellow women farmers in the field inspired me to do more. There are times when they'd ask for the keys to drive tractors or farm machinery and prepare the land themselves. Moreover, the respect of my co-farmers in the field whenever I



Collective action. Strength in numbers. If women stick together, our voices will be heard.

Maribel Agtarap : Collective action. Strength in numbers. If women stick together, our voices will be heard. Unity can create an impact on policy creation that would be inclusive of our needs and rights.

ITGA: What initiative you would like to be seen to improve women's role in the industry/sector?

Maribel Agtarap : More opportunities for knowledge building for women in agriculture. Out in the field, women are taught informally by older farmers on their farming techniques. Hopefully, the industry or sector can formalize training, seminars, workshops, and activities for operating farm machinery and basic agriculture knowledge for women. This way, we can show that women can also do what men can do.

ITGA: What advice would you give to young women entering the industry/your profession?

Maribel Agtarap : Do not feel as if we, women, are not fit for farm work. You need to have patience. Because like in farming, we must wait for the right time to harvest the fruits of our labor. Partner this patience with hard work.

assign a task to them gives me a sense of responsibility to take care of them.

ITGA: How can women support other women in their respective organizations?



Women Tobacco Growers in the Philippines

Arlyn Corpuz Vega

Filipino born, 51 years old and resident of Barangay Nagsupotan, San Juan, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. Finished Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from The University of Northern Philippines in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur. Married to Mr. Eligio Vega who was a school nurse before we got married, but now a full pledged tobacco farmer. My husband was a provincial winner of the Tobacco Grower of the Year (TGY) contest for three consecutive years from Crop Year 2016, 2017 and 2018. He was finally awarded the Most Outstanding Tobacco Farmer – Improved Flavor Category, National Level by the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) in 2019. Mother to only daughter Elaine, who graduated with a degree in Accountancy and is working in prestigious business firm in Makati City. Currently, serving as Treasurer of The National Federation of Tobacco Farmers Association and Cooperatives (NAFTAC), a tobacco farmers’ association under the NTA. A pioneer incorporator of San Juan, Ilocos Sur Tobacco Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SJTFMPC), which has been existing for seven years with more than 500 members, I currently serve as Chairperson.



ITGA: How long has tobacco been part of your life?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: I was 16 years old, still single when I got involved in tobacco production. My elder brother was producing tobacco, so I participated briefly with the activities. I really got involved in tobacco production after I got married. My father-in-law gave us a hectare as a gift to our wedding and that started our journey in tobacco production.

ITGA: How has tobacco contributed to your life?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: I remember one time when we were just started producing tobacco. Our leaves got rained out after we have them harvested and they got rotten. I was so dismayed that I coaxed my husband to plant corn instead which he did. I will never forget what my father-in-law told me after we harvested the corn, he said, “You will never be able to send your children to college, if you continue to plant corn instead of tobacco.” From there on we intensified our tobacco production and reap/saw the benefits.

ITGA: Do you feel that there are real opportunities in this sector?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: There are a lot of opportunities in tobacco production, however,



“You will never be able to send your children to college, if you continue to plant corn instead of tobacco.”

the big ones come when you are industrious. Fortune comes with the work of your hands. Tobacco production became our bread and butter, the major source of our income which enabled us to build our house where we live comfortably, we were able to send our daughter to college, acquire some more lands, and buy our vehicle. I do not worry about prices of tobacco going down. It is the only commodity that has a regulated floor price in the Philippines.

ITGA: Describe the range of activities you are taking part of at the moment. Can you please walk us through a typical day of work for you?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: All my activities in tobacco production in our four-hectare to-

bacco farm are done in partnership with my husband Eligio. My working hours start as early as 3:30 in the morning. After taking a cup of coffee with him we go to the fields as early as 4:00 o’clock often times lighting our way with a flashlight.

In seedbed preparation my husband plows the field and I pulverize the clogs of soil. We prepare at least 25 seedbeds of 1X30 meters, although we need only about 16 seedbeds because we are accredited seedling growers of NTA, and farmers come to get/acquire their needed seedlings from us. I weed and water the seedbeds. I apply fertilizers to the seedlings and even apply CPAs if needed. At transplanting I am in-charge of seedling pulling. I apply fertilizers during side dressing and assist my husband during irrigation. I guide the hose for him so the tobacco plants will not be destroyed. During harvesting, I prepare food for the workers, and I stick after lunch. There were even times that we stick tobacco until the wee hours of the morning because if we cannot hang the leaves they will respire and become hot. Curing is a different story because we do not hire barn tenders. I alternate with my husband in tending the barn. My duty is from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am, then my husband takes over. This schedule lasts for almost four nights especially during midrib drying. I become also the runner during unloading. The runner is the one who gets the cured leaves while unloading and puts

it in a temporary pile. I am fully in-charge of classifying. Selling our produce is also my responsibility but I still get nervous every time as I wait for the grades that my leaves get. My day usually ends at 10:00 pm. Although the work in the tobacco farm is tedious and my schedule is hectic, I do not forget to prepare and cook three hearty meals for my husband every day.

ITGA: What are the main challenges that women in tobacco are facing in your market?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: The labor requirement of tobacco production is very challenging, and it is backbreaking particularly curing, but when labor requirement intensifies, I sustain myself by providing a lot of food for me and even to our workers.

ITGA: What is the role of women in the decision-making processes in the tobacco sector in your country?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: The man decides most of the farm activities/operations, but women decide on logistics and in post curing activities. I decide whom to hire for farm labor and what food to prepare for workers. I also decide how tobacco should be prepared before I bring them to the buying station.

ITGA: What do you think is the most significant barrier to attracting women into tobacco?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: There are no barriers in tobacco production among women in my country. We look at the work in the tobacco farms as an opportunity to help each other as husband and wife, and as members of the society (locally known as “Bayanihan”).

ITGA: What tools trainings would you like to see being made available in order to advance your skills?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: Training in leaf classification, income analysis, talking in public so I can tell other women about the benefits and opportunities I get from tobacco production.

ITGA: How have you built confidence/or resiliency over the course in your career?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: The inspiration from my husband and daughter, the help from my Buyer Firm and field technician, the continuing trust that NTA is giving, support from the Local Government Unit and my co-farmers and belief in our Lord Almighty builds my confidence and makes me resilient.

ITGA: How can women support other women in their respective organizations? Arlyn Corpuz Vega: Women involved in tobacco production should be able to talk about how lucrative the income is compared to other crops. They should also be taught how to properly manage work and family responsibilities.

ITGA: What initiative would you like to be seen to improve women’s role in the industry/sector?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: Gender equality should be exercised. Women should be recognized for their contribution in the industry. Organizing and training them to improve their skill and provide a venue for self-expression.

ITGA: What advice would you give to young women entering the industry/your profession?

Arlyn Corpuz Vega: Tobacco production is always a challenge. We hurdle with climate and occurrences of pest and diseases. However, these could be overcome by providing tender, love and care to the plants and to the environment together with the workers. These I think are the best advice to young women planning to join the tobacco industry.



Ms. Arlyn Vega in action baling tobacco

WOMEN IN GLOBAL AGRICULTURE

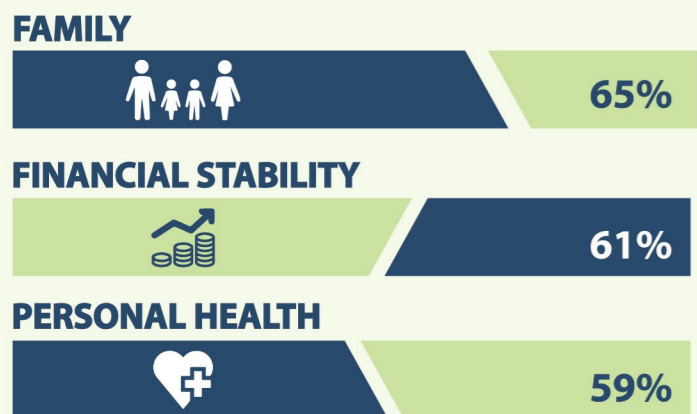
DISCRIMINATION IS PERCEIVED AS WIDESPREAD

With variations between countries, but globally with significant levels, ranging from 78% in India to 52% in the USA



- 50%** Stated that women and men are equally successful in farming and agriculture
- 42%** Affirms that women and men generally have the same opportunities
- 38%** Claims to be able to make decisions on how investment is applied in agriculture

CONCERNS WITH LIFE HAVE THEIR IMPORTANCE



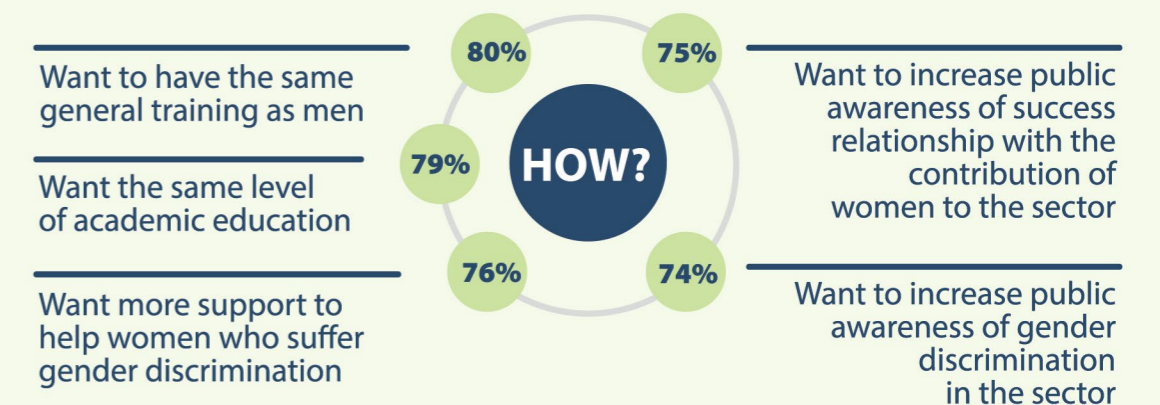
THERE ARE BARRIERS TO EQUALITY



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: EMPOWERMENT



Although there has been progress towards gender equality, 34% say it will take at least a decade or possibly much more to achieve full equality



Italy Country Report



FCV - Flue Cured Verona



CROP EVOLUTION:

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY- PLANT, HARVEST, OR DELIVERY (CONTRACT AND/OR AUCTIONS):

At the moment we are planting and laying polystyrene trays in the greenhouses of Float System. The sowing will continue for 5 days in order to get scalar seedlings during the transplant phase.

RECENT WEATHER PROBLEMS/CHANGES:

We are facing a time of drought: if it doesn't rain in the next few weeks, it would affect significantly the action against nematodes. The nematodes are unicellular organisms that damage the roots of the tobacco plant: they follow the humidity of the soil and, being dry on the surface, they go down in depth; if the soil is in these conditions during intervention against the nematodes (mid-late April), the efficacy of this operation is null.

Regarding crop data, the Italian tobacco market situation is in turmoil due to the steep costs increase faced by the farmers (energy +300%, fertilizers +300%, gas + 200%, etc.) and to a price integration announced by a multinational to their farmers for crop 2021 and for crop 2022 to match the production cost increase. These moments are crucial for our farmers and in this month they will decide whether to plant the seedlings or to diversify the crop.



Giovanni Mercati - Flue Cured Verona ITGA Member - Credit: ITGA

Bulgaria Country Report



HAT 2010



CROP EVOLUTION:

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN YOUR COUNTRY- PLANT, HARVEST, OR DELIVERY (CONTRACT AND/OR AUCTIONS):

Plant

RECENT WEATHER PROBLEMS/CHANGES:

No

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF GROWERS INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

3 345 growers/2021 vs 3 210 growers/2020

HOW MUCH IS THE AREA PLANTED IN HECTARES- CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

3 381 ha/2021 vs 4 382 ha/2020

VOLUME OF TOBACCO PRODUCED IN THE CURRENT SEASON VS LAST SEASON:

6 935 t/2021 vs 7 508 t/2020

AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

Season 2021:

Flue Cured – 2.66 eur/kg
Burley – 1.93 eur/kg
Oriental – 3.94 eur/kg

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON AND LAST SEASONS:

No data

Season 2020:

Flue Cured – 2.42 eur/kg
Burley – 1.78 eur/kg
Oriental – 3.91 eur/kg



Tsvetan Filev - President of the Bulgarian tobacco association NAT2010 ITGA Member - credit: ITGA

Women Supporting the Indonesian Economy

The Indonesian Tobacco Community Alliance (AMTI)
Coverage of Women in Tobacco

Women were not only created to be a man's rib. In fact, women are also the pillars of the family and state econo-

“

Women are also the pillars of the family and state economy.

my. The target of state revenues from Indonesia's tobacco excise of Rp. 195 trillion is in the hands of female workers. This reality can be seen that the ecosystem of the Indonesian tobacco products industry which absorbs about 86 percent of the female workforce. As seen in the Kareb Cigarette Production Partner, Bojonegoro, East Java, 98% of the workforce is dominated by women. With work methods and systems that rely on detail, precision, and high precision, this is where the female figure is very important. Cigarette Production Partners have become a phenomenon of economic multiplier effect for Bojonegoro in particular. This is because the Cigarette Production Partners oversee about 3,000 hand-rolled kretek cigarette workers, which are dominated by women (about 98%). When husbands who work outside

“

The target of state revenues from Indonesia's tobacco excise of Rp. 195 trillion is in the hands of female workers.

the city become victims of layoffs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, these women who work hand-rolled kretek cigarettes try their best to fulfill their daily needs and ensure that their children's nutrition and education are met. While still carrying out their obligations as a mother and a woman in their respective households.

Thousands of women who work hand-rolled kretek cigarettes support each other and empower one another. It's no wonder that they have succeeded in raising their children towards higher education and having a professional careers. As experienced by Endang Sriwanti. This 44-year-old woman, since 1995 has joined the Kretek Cigarette Production Partners. She has worked since before she married until now she has managed to send her only daughter to school until she graduated from a public university in Surakarta. "My daughter graduated from



"In the past, my parents had to borrow money from neighbors so I could go to school. Now, I can work while studying. I'm not grandiose, with me being a graduate, there is an opportunity for me to become a staff in this company," she said. Endang and Silviana along with all workers who are dominated by women are important supporters, part of the big picture, of the tobacco products industry. Workers are a valuable element in the elements of the tobacco ecosystem. They are not just an asset or a resource to get the industry moving. They are actually the pillars of the family economy and the driving force of the regional economy. (*)

D3 Agricultural Agribusiness. Now she is working in Semarang. Working as a cigarette-rolling worker, I can fulfill my daughter's educational needs and the family's economy. I can't just rely on my husband's income who works as a seasonal farm laborer," said Endang proudly. Moreover, her husband had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic so he had not worked at all for several months. However, Endang did not leave her obligations as a housewife. In the morning he took the time to cook, then clean the house, then go to work by bicycle. After coming home from work, she started

fellow employees," she said. Silviana Ayu Nur Agustina, chose to work while continuing her dream of completing her education as a bachelor in education. This 21-year-old woman registered as a student at the Teacher Training and Education Institute PGRI Bojonegoro. "I work at Cigarette Production Partners, I can pay my own school fees as well as help my parents' finances. I don't want to increase the economic burden of my parents who work as farm laborers with ups and downs," said Silviana. From the salary she gets, the nominal amount is on average above the Regional Minimum Wage, Silviana can also help send her two younger siblings to school. He proudly mentions that he can also gift his younger brother a bicycle.

“

I don't want to increase the economic burden of my parents who work as farm laborers with ups and downs.

“

Thousands of women who work hand-rolled kretek cigarettes support each other and empower one another.

cooking again and took care of her husband's needs. "I want to continue working until retirement age. Meanwhile, I have a dream of having a cake catering business. Until now, cake catering is only a hobby and I only make it when there are orders from



Hand rolled cigarettes workers - AMTI



International Tobacco Growers' Association
Echoing Tobacco Growers' Voices since 1984

Join us this year!



World

Tobacco

Growers'

Day

28 oct

Together we grow

Tobacco Growers Proud of their
Positive Contribution to the SDGs



#togetherwegrow



International Tobacco Growers' Association
Echoing Tobacco Growers' Voices since 1984

itga@tobaccolleaf.org
www.tobaccolleaf.org

