

3. Interview guideline

This Supplemental file contains the interview guideline which was used during the qualitative semi-structured interviews. The same questions are repeated for five different categories of decision-making (food crops, cash crops, land, daily needs, and strategic decisions) and for women's input in group decisions. In practice we did not always strictly follow the guideline, but focused on fully exploring the respondents' story. The final section "Extra questions" contains questions which were asked whenever relevant or appropriate and mostly focus on income or ask about concrete situations or examples to aid our interpretation of the women's stories.

i) Introduction

My name is [], I have been with you before for research on decision-making. I'm back now with my colleague [] from Belgium, we have some more questions related to the same study.

We want to tell you that it is ok to refuse to participate, there will not be any consequences. All your answers will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone besides the research team.

The interview will take 1-1.5 hours. Do you have any questions about the study or the interview? Do you consent to participate? *Ask respondent to sign the ethical consent form.*

ii) Interview

We would like to ask questions about decision-making in your home. I would like to start with the crops you grow.

- What are the main food crops which are grown in this household?
- What are the main cash crops?
- If you think back to the past three seasons, did anything change in the crops you grow?

Food crops

We want to first ask about food crops.

- How have you been relating with your husband when it comes to making decisions on food crops for your household?

Change over time

(*Ranking*) We want to ask you to give marks for your weight in decision-making on food crops over the past three seasons. To what extent do you have a final say in decisions about food crops for your household? How heavy does your opinion, preference or will influence the final decision? Each mark is right, you give the marks according to how it is in your household. The marks go from 1 to 10. 1 means that you have no weight in the final decision on food crops, 10 means you have a lot of weight. (*Figure B.1 shows an example of the ranking method used.*)

Confirm the answer. I see from the ranking that there was a change from . . . to . . .

- Why did your weight in decisions on food crops change?
- Was there a specific moment or event when things changed?
- How do you feel about this change?

Other women

Now think about 20 women in your community.

- Compared to these 20 women, where do you stand in terms of your weight in decision-making on food crops in your home?
- Why do you say you stand at this position?
- How do you feel about being in this position?

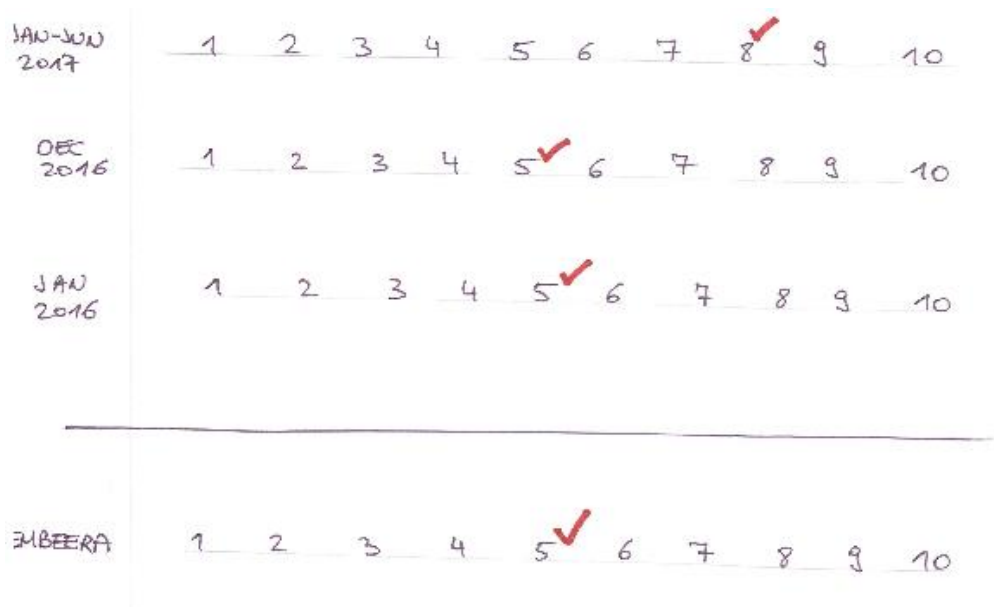


Figure A: Example of ranking method used for women's weight in final decisions on food crops. We ask respondents to report changes over the previous three agricultural seasons as well as indicate their ideal situation ('embeera') in terms of their decision-making weight.

Ideal situation

Show the respondent the piece of paper with rankings. Now think about your ideal situation, in your life. (We're not asking about what HRNS tells them is the ideal situation, or what the community expects from them or their household, we want to know how important this is for them in their own life.)

To what extent would you like to have weight in the final decisions on food crops in your household? Can you mark that here? Again 1 means in your ideal situation you have no weight, 10 means you have a lot of weight.

If the ideal situation is to have very little weight.

- Why is this your ideal situation? You do not want weight in final decisions on food crops?

If the ideal situation is to have more weight than respondent has now.

This ideal situation is different from your current situation.

- Do you feel you will be able to reach this ideal situation in the near future? Or will it be hardly possible?
- What would be needed for you to reach your ideal situation? What should change?

- Have you always thought you would or would not be able to reach your ideal situation? If not, why did you change your mind? Was there a special occasion or event which has changed your thinking?

Cash crops

Now we want to ask about the cash crops your household grows.

- How have you been relating with your husband when it comes to making decisions on cash crops for your household?

Change over time

(Ranking) We want to ask you to give marks for your weight in decision-making on cash crops over the past three seasons. To what extent do you have a final say in the decisions about cash crops for your household? How heavy does your opinion, preference or will influence the final decision?

Confirm the answer. I see from the ranking that there was a change from . . . to . . .

- Why did your weight in decisions on cash crops change?
- How do you feel about this change?

Other women

Now think about 20 women in your community.

- Compared to these 20 women, where do you stand in terms of your weight in decision-making on cash crops in your home?
- Why do you say you stand at this position?
- How do you feel about being in this position?

Ideal situation

Now think about *your* ideal situation, in *your* life.

(Ranking) To what extent would you like to have weight in the final decisions on cash crops in your household? Can you mark that here?

If the ideal situation is to have very little weight.

- Why is this your ideal situation? You do not want weight in final decisions on cash crops?

If the ideal situation is to have more weight than respondent has now.

This ideal situation is different from your current situation.

- Do you feel you will be able to reach this ideal situation in the near future? Or will it be hardly possible?
- What would be needed for you to reach your ideal situation? What should change?
- Have you always thought you would or would not be able to reach your ideal situation? If not, why did you change your mind? Was there a special occasion or event which has changed your thinking?

Land

Now we want to ask about the land your household owns.

- Who owns the land we are currently on?
- Would you have the power to sell it?

- Imagine your husband decided to sell the land tomorrow. Can you oppose this decision?

Change over time

(*Ranking*) We want to ask you to give marks for your weight in decision-making on land. To what extent do you have a final say in decisions about land for your household? How heavy does your opinion, preference or will influence the final decision? Can you rank this for three periods: your current situation, the situation last Christmas, and the situation the Christmas before that.

- Where does your weight in decisions on land come from?

Since in almost all cases the land belongs to the husband, we are interested to know where women derive their decision-making power from.

Confirm the answer. I see from the ranking that there was a change from . . . to . .

- Why did your weight in decisions on land change?
- How do you feel about this change?

Other women

Now think about 20 women in your community.

- Compared to these 20 women, where do you stand in terms of your weight in decision-making on land in your home?
- Why do you say you stand at this position?
- How do you feel about being in this position?

Ideal situation

Now think about *your* ideal situation, in *your* life.

(*Ranking*) To what extent would you like to have weight in the final decisions on land in your household? Can you mark that here?

If the ideal situation is to have very little weight.

- Why is this your ideal situation? You do not want weight in final decisions on land?

If the ideal situation is to have more weight than respondent has now.

This ideal situation is different from your current situation.

- Do you feel you will be able to reach this ideal situation in the near future? Or will it be hardly possible?
- What would be needed for you to reach your ideal situation? What should change?
- Have you always thought you would or would not be able to reach your ideal situation? If not, why did you change your mind? Was there a special occasion or event which has changed your thinking?

Extra

- If your husband would insist on carrying through with a decision to sell, what would happen? - Do you know your legal rights regarding land?

Daily needs

Now we want to ask about daily needs for your home. This refers to basic items like soap, salt, or paraffin, which your household uses everyday.

- How does your household make decisions on daily needs?

Change over time

(*Ranking*) We want to ask you to give marks for your weight in decision-making on daily needs. To what extent do you have a final say in the decisions on daily needs for your household? How heavy does your opinion, preference or will influence the final decision? Can you rank this for three periods: your current situation, the situation last Christmas, and the situation the Christmas before that.

Confirm the answer. I see from the ranking that there was a change from . . . to . . . - Why did your weight in decisions on daily needs change?

- How do you feel about this change?

Other women

Now think about 20 women in your community.

- Compared to these 20 women, where do you stand in terms of your weight in decision-making on daily needs in your home?

- Why do you say you stand at this position?

- How do you feel about being in this position?

Ideal situation

Now think about *your* ideal situation, in *your* life.

(*Ranking*) To what extent would you like to have weight in the final decisions on daily needs in your household? Can you mark that here?

If the ideal situation is to have very little weight.

- Why is this your ideal situation? You do not want weight in final decisions on daily needs? *If the ideal situation is to have more weight than respondent has now.*

This ideal situation is different from your current situation.

- Do you feel you will be able to reach this ideal situation in the near future? Or will it be hardly possible?

- What would be needed for you to reach your ideal situation? What should change?

- Have you always thought you would or would not be able to reach your ideal situation? If not, why did you change your mind? Was there a special occasion or event which has changed your thinking?

Strategic expenditures

Now we want to ask about big decisions for your home. Examples are when you buy a bicycle, or maybe a TV, or you repair the roof, or you decide to invest some money in a personal business. - How does your household make these strategic decisions?

Change over time

(*Ranking*) We want to ask you to give marks for your weight in making these strategic decisions. To what extent do you have a final say in strategic decisions for your household? How heavy does your opinion, preference or will influence the final decision? Can you rank this for three periods: your current situation, the situation last Christmas, and the situation the Christmas before that.

Confirm the answer. I see from the ranking that there was a change from . . . to . . .

- Why did your weight in strategic decisions change?

- How do you feel about this change?

Other women

Now think about 20 women in your community.

- Compared to these 20 women, where do you stand in terms of your weight in making strategic decisions in your home?
- Why do you say you stand at this position?
- How do you feel about being in this position?

Ideal situation

Now think about *your* ideal situation, in *your* life.

(*Ranking*) To what extent would you like to have weight in the final strategic decisions in your household? Can you mark that here?

If the ideal situation is to have very little weight.

- Why is this your ideal situation? You do not want weight in strategic decisions?

If the ideal situation is to have more weight than respondent has now.

This ideal situation is different from your current situation.

- Do you feel you will be able to reach this ideal situation in the near future? Or will it be hardly possible?
- What would be needed for you to reach your ideal situation? What should change?
- Have you always thought you would or would not be able to reach your ideal situation? If not, why did you change your mind? Was there a special occasion or event which has changed your thinking?

Groups

- Do you belong to any groups? Which ones?
- Are these groups mixed?
- Do you hold a leadership position?

We want to focus on one example, preferably a group with both male and female members.

(If respondent is not a member of any group.)

- Would you like to join a group?
- What is stopping you from doing this?

Change over time

(*Ranking*) We want to ask you to give marks for your input in the decisions made in this group. To what extent does your opinion, preference or will influence the final decision? Can you rank this for three periods: your current situation, the situation last Christmas, and the situation the Christmas before that.

Confirm the answer. I see from the ranking that there was a change from . . . to . . . - Why did your input in the group's decisions change?

- How do you feel about this change?

Other women

Now think about the other women in your group.

- Compared to these women, where do you stand in terms of your input in the group's decisions? - Why do you say you stand at this position?
- How do you feel about being in this position?

Ideal situation

Now think about *your* ideal situation, in *your* life.

(*Ranking*) To what extent would you like to have input in the group's decisions? Can you mark that here?

If the ideal situation is to have very little input.

- Why is this your ideal situation? You do not want input in the group's decisions? 72

If the ideal situation is to have more weight than respondent has now.

This ideal situation is different from your current situation.

- Do you feel you will be able to reach this ideal situation in the near future? Or will it be hardly possible?
- What would be needed for you to reach your ideal situation? What should change?
- Have you always thought you would or would not be able to reach your ideal situation? If not, why did you change your mind? Was there a special occasion or event which has changed your thinking?

Importance

- Is it important for women to be a member of a group?
- Why?

Importance of weight in decision-making

Now for each of the things we discussed I want to ask you how important it is *for you* to have weight in the final decisions on these items. On this paper there are three boxes, *very important* on the left, *somewhat important* in the middle and *not important* on the right (see Figure C.2). For each of the things we discussed you can place a sticky note in the box of your choice.

- How important is it for you to have weight in the final decisions on food crops? How important is it to feel comfortable and to live the life you want? *Again, we're not asking about what HRNS tells them, or what their husband or the community thinks.*
- How important is it for you to have weight in the final decisions on cash crops?
- How important is it for you to have weight in the final decisions on land?
- How important is it for you to have weight in the final decisions on daily needs?
- How important is it for you to have weight in the final decisions on strategic expenditures?
- How important is it for you to have input in the decisions of your group?

If women rank some categories as somewhat or not important.

- Why is it less or not important for you to have weight in final decisions on . . .

Couple seminar

When respondents do not mention the gender program themselves as a reason for change in their weight in final decisions in any of the categories discussed above.

- Did you attend the HRNS couple seminars? How often?
- (If women belong to a Change Agent couple) Did you receive a house visit? Were you told to go and visit other households?
- What did you learn in the seminar(s)?
- Did anything change at home afterwards? - Did you discuss things with your husband?

Extra questions

Income

- Who sells the cash crops?
- Do you know the income from the sale?
- What is the money used for?
- Do you have a source of personal income?
- Does your husband know how much money you have?
- What do you use your personal income for?
- Would you like to have more personal income?
- Would you like to have personal food and/or coffee gardens? - How does your husband finance his personal needs?
- Do you own any personal livestock?
- Why is livestock not owned jointly by the household?

Daily needs

- What happens if there is not enough money?
- Can you give an example of a daily need you requested from your husband which he refused? - If he refuses, how do you manage?

Strategic expenditures

- Has there been a situation where your husband asked your opinion on a decision?
- Can you give an example of a decision you initiated?
- Can you give an example of a decision you did not agree with and successfully opposed?

Community

- How do other women relate to you? How do they see you?
- Has anything changed in this respect because of changes in decision-making in your home? - Do you receive support from other women?
- What if people came to talk to your husband about the importance of working together?

Summary

- What is the biggest challenge in your household in terms of decision-making?

- What do you hope for in the future?

- *(Only when respondent has reported significant changes and ascribed them to the HRNS gender program.)*

Given all the changes you told me about after the couple seminar, what has been the most significant change for you, in your life?

- I have now asked you many things, is there anything you want to ask me?

Thank you!

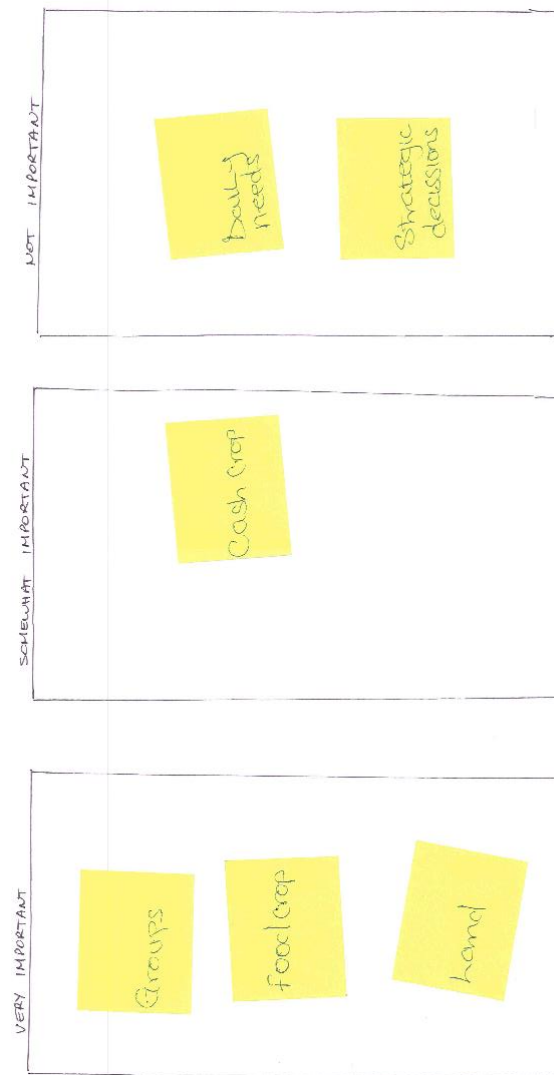


Figure B: Example of participatory method used to rank the importance women assign to their weight in final decisions for the five categories of decision-making discussed during the interview (food crops, cash crops, land, daily needs and strategic decisions), and for their input in group decisions.