Social inclusion: young people & small-scale irrigation schemes
Karen Parry PhD candidate
Context

• Sharing some learning from my PhD: *Loosening the ties that bind: institutional analysis of youth livelihoods on small-scale irrigation schemes in Zimbabwe*

• Case study site – Silalatshani, Zimbabwe

• Qualitative study based on ~ 60 interviews: young people (18-40), parents & practitioners

• Research contributes to ACIAR project: ‘*Transforming irrigation in southern Africa*’
Social inclusion

What is social inclusion?

• improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged, on the basis of their characteristics, to take part in society (modified from World Bank, 2013)

Why is it important?

• Exclusion costs – to measure, diagnose root causes & rectify
• Lost opportunity – productivity, knowledge & ideas of individuals
• Intergenerational renewal
• Transformation in complex systems – for change to spread & be sustained all actors need to adapt and innovate
Included in what?

• Broadly: markets, services and spaces (World Bank, 2013)

• For the purposes of our dialogue:
  – Agricultural food systems; climate change action
  – Climate-smart agriculture & integrated systems for improved productivity, water management & resilience and reduced emissions

• Also ... non-farm opportunities – livelihoods & agricultural development are inter-linked with non-farm activities

• At individual level – improved resilience, food security, well-being
## Included in what on irrigation schemes?

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<th>Market/service</th>
<th>Constraint</th>
<th>Who?</th>
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<td>Other:</td>
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<td>Labouring – males preferred</td>
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<td>Stimulation of ideas for different options</td>
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Note: Scheme households

Non-scheme households

Other:

Labouring – males preferred
Access to dryland
Livestock
Ongoing education
Buying /leasing a local shop
Business skills
Technology
Stimulation of ideas for different options
Non-farm only

Branching out

Inching up

Struggling

Farming-only (irrigation & other)

Mix of farm and non-farm

Non-farm only

Livelihood outcomes

Purple=males

Green=females
Key messages

• Broader landscape of productive opportunities, including non-farm
• More nuance to differentiate disadvantage - varies by activity, capacities and intersecting barriers ... including gender
• Improving development outcomes – how do we:
  – Support those branching out to be job creators, leaders & peer educators
  – Maintain positive livelihood trajectories & reduce/eliminate the time inching ahead
  – Prevent the most vulnerable from being trapped in a struggling phase
• System context - establish and strengthening informal learning networks
• Irrigation policy:
  – Scheme-scale plans for job creation
  – Intergenerational renewal – land access, knowledge sharing & learning, multi-generational decision-making & leadership
Acknowledgements

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Livelihood portfolio

- Farming-only (irrigation & other)
- Mix of farm and non-farm
- Non-farm only

Livelihood building phase (outcomes):

- **Branching out** - well-established, have accumulated resources and can add activities that require substantial capital (relative to other phases)
- **Inching ahead** - have accumulated some capital to start new activities and/or establish their homestead
- **Struggling** - not able to raise capital and in survival mode