

Oral Defence by PhD Candidate Farzaneh Barak

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Abstract

Understanding how the gender power relations are constituted and negotiated within households and communities can help uncover complex gender dynamics associated with the food security status of both women and men, separately or jointly. This doctoral research applied a secondary data analysis approach in the context of NutriFish, a larger nutrition- and gender-sensitive intervention within the fish value chain in Uganda. The 1st study quantified and tested the significance of gender differences in experiencing food insecurity at a macro level using an intersectional lens. The 2nd study used household data from the Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI) to understand the role of gender-sensitive indicators in facilitating and hindering women's and men's food security status within an intersectional gender gap for socially supported and married women. Women's agency on food purchase strengthened the positive association between women's empowerment in agriculture and food security. In conclusion, the study confirmed the importance of context-specific and multi-domain approaches, namely sociocultural determinants, to more accurately assess gender

dynamics and empowerment phenomena toward achieving sustainable food security outcomes.