



# Gender Dynamics in Agricultural Cooperatives' Decision-Making Processes in Mozambique's Rural Provinces, 2008

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## Abstract

Agricultural cooperatives in Mozambique's rural provinces play a crucial role in facilitating access to markets and resources for smallholder farmers. However, gender dynamics within these cooperative structures have not been extensively studied. The study employed participant observation, semi-structured interviews with cooperative members (both male and female), and document analysis of internal cooperative records. Data collection took place over a period from January to June in three randomly selected provinces. Analysis revealed that while women represented approximately 45% of the total membership, they held leadership positions at significantly lower rates (only 15%), indicating a disproportionate influence and decision-making power. This finding highlights gender disparities within cooperative structures. The study underscores the importance of understanding gender dynamics in agricultural cooperatives for promoting equitable participation and effective decision-making among all members. Given the findings, it is recommended that policies should be developed to ensure fair representation of women in leadership roles within Mozambique's agricultural cooperatives. This includes targeted interventions such as training programmes and mentorship initiatives.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Gender Studies, Cooperative Analysis, Community Participation, Ethnography, Feminist Theory, Power Dynamics*

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