

Cover Page



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**Title:** "I don't tell my husband about vegetable sales": Gender aspects of urban agriculture in Eldoret, Kenya

**Issue Date:** 2012-12-05

Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

*“I don’t tell my husband about vegetable sales”:  
Gender dynamics in urban agriculture in Eldoret, Kenya*

door Robert Romborah Simiyu

1. Participation in informal sector activities – including urban agriculture – is perhaps the most important survival and coping strategy for many poor urban residents in Eldoret.
2. Owing largely to their gender roles and responsibilities, men and women have different interests and preferences in urban agriculture, experience different constraints, and contribute to and benefit differently from it.
3. The complementarities between men’s and women’s livelihood activities does not necessarily involve complete disclosure and pooling of incomes, and men’s and women’s activities are not always intended for a shared household livelihood outcome.
4. Although, in general, urban agriculture makes only marginal contributions to household food supply and incomes, for many households such contributions are nonetheless significant for household survival at some critical moments.
5. The sustainable livelihood approach provides an important entry point for exploring the functioning of urban agriculture as part of a complex web of urban livelihood strategies.
6. Policies and institutions impact the livelihood options of different individuals and collectives differently, depending on their positioning within the existing power and social structures.
7. To understand the real value of urban agriculture to household livelihoods and personal well-being, one needs to go beyond its direct food and income contributions to also focus on urban agriculture’s non-material benefits as well as its inter-linkages and trade-offs with non-farming activities.
8. To improve the circumstances of women individually and collectively, development programmes must aim at not only propping up individual women’s agency and emancipation at the household level, but also at redressing gender inequalities at the community level.
9. Were a PhD a marathon race, as is often described, then Kenyans would have a relatively easy ride. Because this is not the case in reality, Kenyans too have to struggle like everyone else.

10. Thanks to the International Criminal Court at The Hague in which some prominent Kenyans have been charged with crimes against humanity, the city has become a household name in Kenya and visiting The Netherlands has become a 'heroic' act of sorts.
11. "English please!" was always a handy phrase in my interactions with the Dutch who erroneously suppose that everyone in Holland speaks Dutch.
12. Kenyan politicians run for elections not because they want to, but ostensibly because they are simply bowing to public pressure to do so. Never mind that most of them end up losing.