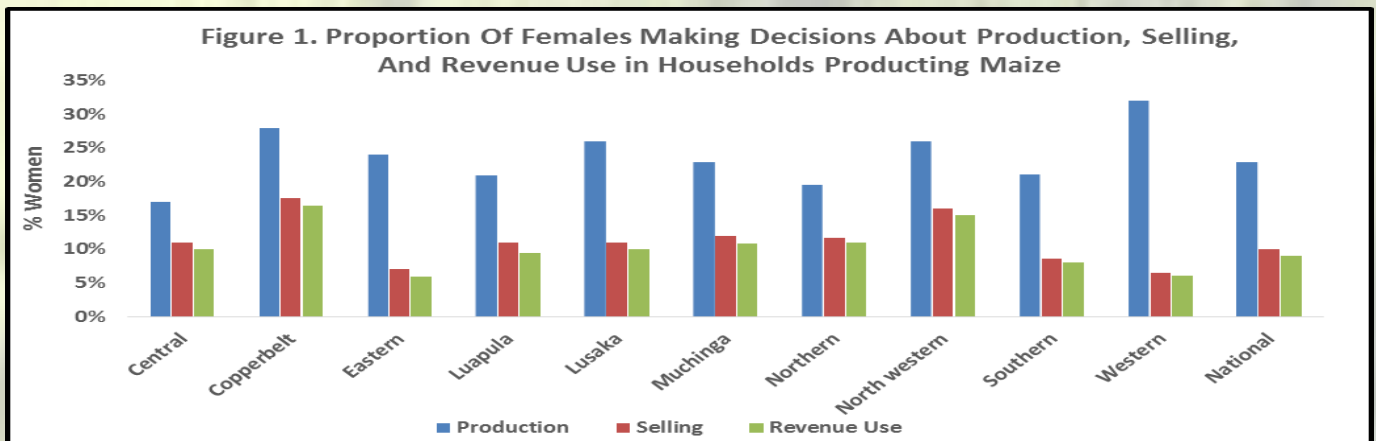


# RESEARCH BULLETIN

## Gender And Decision Making Among Smallholder Maize and Groundnut Producers

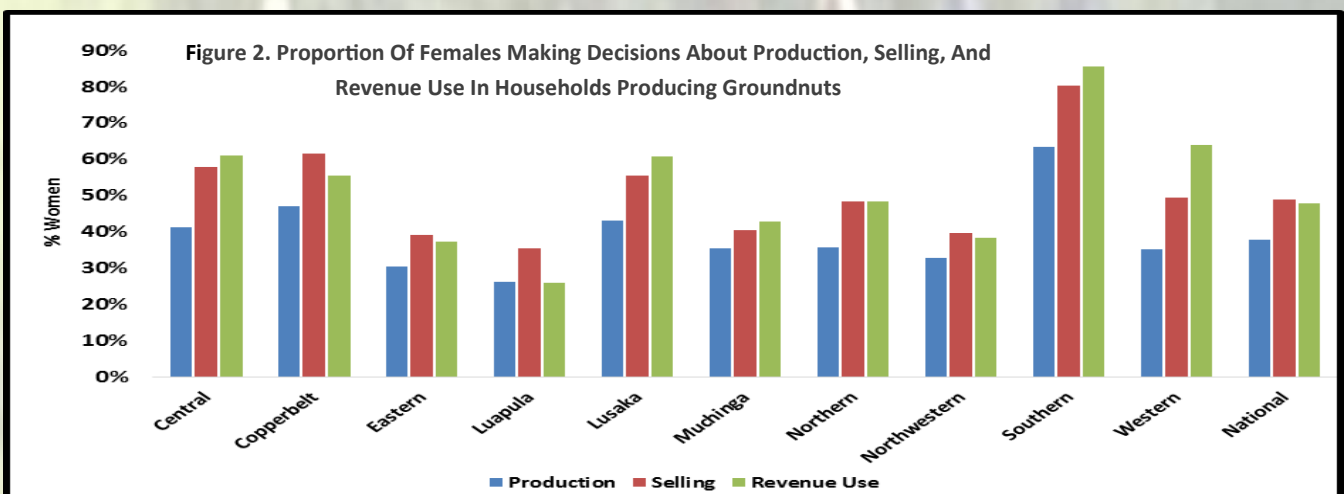
Musika supports the establishment of commercially beneficial relationships between the private sector and small-holder farmers while engendering such developments. Women play an important role in agriculture. Despite this, the inequality in economic benefits to women and men in the sector is eminent. That is why Musika has in its portfolio gender-sensitive market interventions designed to lessen the gender disparities within agricultural markets.



Musika uses an evidence based approach to design interventions. Using data from RALS 2015, it was found that women’s participation in decision making declines from production to revenue use in the maize sector, see fig.1. In contrast, women’s participation in decision making in the groundnuts sector improves from production to revenue use: making the crop an important income earner for women, see fig.2.

Of the total farmers producing maize in Zambia, 23% are women. Women also makeup 10% of the primary decision makers on whether to sell the crop, and 9% of the primary decision makers on how the proceeds from maize sales should be used. As for groundnuts, the proportion of female producers are 38%. Further more, women makeup 49% of the primary decision makers on whether to commercialize the crop, and 48% of the primary decision makers on how revenue from groundnuts sales should be used.

To ensure gender inclusiveness, interventions that target the maize sector should be designed in such a way that they mitigate the substitution of women out of the supply chain. On the other hand, gender interventions that are market oriented should consider targeting the groundnuts sector.



With this in mind, Musika has linked female groundnut producers in the rural sector to improved agricultural output markets. In addition, it has linked women farmers involved in maize production to input suppliers and training programs covering basic agronomy. Musika believes that enhancing women’s capacity to make those decisions that impact their outcomes, such as production, market participation and income use will lead to economic empowerment for the overall smallholder community.