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**SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

**CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN LIVESTOCK  
FARMING IN MWEMBESHI WARD OF CHILANGA  
DISTRICT , ZAMBIA**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES,  
UNIVERSITY OF LUSAKA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE AWARD OF THE  
MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**BY  
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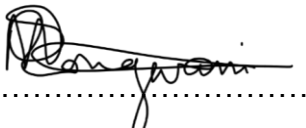
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## DECLARATION

I, Melisa Longwani, declare that this dissertation represents my own work and that it has not previously been submitted for a degree or any award at the University of Lusaka (UNILUS) or any other institution of learning for similar purposes. All published works and materials from other sources used in this dissertation have been specifically acknowledged and references thereby given accordingly.


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**APPROVAL OF ADMISSION OF DISSERTATION**

This dissertation prepared by Melisa Longwani is approved as fulfilling part of the requirements for the award of a Master of Science in Developmental Studies by the University of Lusaka (UNILUS).

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## **DEDICATION**

I wish to dedicate this dissertation to my family and friends for their unconditional support. I specially dedicate this dissertation to my mother Mrs. Dianah Millies Longwani, my children Baruch and Nasanta and my siblings Longwani and Bwale who encouraged me to pursue further studies and supported me financially.

Finally, to the lord God almighty, without you God I would not have made it this far.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
APPROVAL OF ADMISSION OF DISSERTATION.....	ii
DEDICATION .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	v
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ix
ABSTRACT .....	x
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Introduction .....	1
1.2 Background .....	2
1.3 Statement of the Problem .....	4
1.4 Research Objectives .....	5
1.4.1 Specific Objectives .....	5
1.4.2 Research Questions.....	6
1.5 Scope of the study .....	6
1.6 Significance of the Study .....	6
1.7 Organization of the Report .....	7
1.8 Summary .....	8
1.9 Definition of Concepts.....	8
CHAPTER TWO.....	9
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	9
2.1 Introduction .....	9

2.2 Role of livestock farming to the economy.....	9
2.3 Role of Women in Livestock Production.....	11
2.4 Challenges Faced by Women in Livestock Agricultural Activities .....	12
2.4.1 Access to Land .....	13
2.4.2 Access to Credit .....	13
2.4.3 Access to Extension .....	14
2.4.4 Access to Markets .....	15
2.5 Theoretical Framework .....	16
2.5.1 The System Theory .....	16
2.6 Conceptual Framework .....	17
2.7 Summary.....	19
<b>CHAPTER THREE .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1. Introduction .....	20
3.2 Research Approach .....	20
3.3 Research Design.....	20
3.4 Study Site .....	20
3.5 Study Population.....	21
3.5.1 Inclusion Exclusion Criteria.....	21
3.6 Sample Size Determination .....	21
3.7 Sampling Method .....	22
3.8 Data Collection Methods .....	23
3.9 Data Analysis .....	23
3.10 Ethical Considerations .....	23

3.11 Limitations.....	24
3.12 Summary.....	24
<b>CHAPTER FOUR .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS .....</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	25
4.2 Response Rate.....	25
4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.....	25
4.4 Women Farmers Owning Livestock at Household.....	26
4.5 Activities Done by Women Farmers in Livestock Production .....	30
4.6 Challenges faced by Women Farmers in Livestock Production .....	30
4.7 Summary of Results.....	36
4.8 Chapter Summary.....	38
<b>CHAPTER FIVE .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>39</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	39
5.2 Characteristics of the Respondents .....	39
5.3 Types of Livestock kept and Reasons for keeping them.....	42
5.4 Activities Done by Women Farmers in Livestock Production .....	41
5.5 Challenges faced by Women Farmers in Livestock Production .....	41
5.6 Summary .....	45
Chapter Six.....	46
<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>46</b>
6.1 Introduction.....	46
6.2 Conclusions .....	46

<b>6.3 Recommendations</b> .....	47
<b>6.3.1 Linking Farmers to Potential Markets</b> .....	47
<b>6.3.2 Strengthening Extension Services</b> .....	47
<b>6.3.3 Access to Financial Services</b> .....	48
<b>6.3.4 Promote Gender Equality</b> .....	48
<b>6.3.5 Improve Water Shortages</b> .....	48
<b>6.4 Limitations</b> .....	49
<b>6.5 Areas of Future Research</b> .....	49
<b>6.6 Summary</b> .....	49
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	50
<b>Appendix 1: Questionnaire</b> .....	55

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 1: Demographics of Respondents .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Table 2: Women Farmers Owning Livestock at Household .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Table 3: Experience in Keeping Own Livestock .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Table 4: Other Reasons for Keeping Livestock .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Table 5: Access to Grazing Land for Livestock .....</b>	<b>34</b>

**LIST OF FIGURES**

**Figure 1: Types of Livestock Kept .....30**

**Figure 2: Reasons for keeping the type of Livestock kept .....31**

**Figure 3: Activities Done by Women farmers.....32**

**Figure 4: Challenges in Livestock Production..... 33**

**Figure 5: Animal Disease Outbreak ..... 34**

**Figure 6: Water Shortages ..... 35**

**Figure 7: Knowledge on Livestock Production ..... 36**

**Figure 8: Access to Credit Facilities..... 37**

**Figure 9: Safe Access to Markets ..... 38**

## **ABSTRACT**

The agricultural sector is a significant contributor to the general economy and boasts about 60% women participation rate. Not only is agriculture key to economic growth but it is also the principal source of food and livelihood in the rural areas. Women, who form the majority of rural dwellers, play a significant role in this sector especially in livestock farming which accounts for about 35% of the total agricultural production in Zambia. However, women farmers face several challenges in livestock production. Thus, this study is aimed at investigating the challenges faced by women livestock farmers in Mwembeshi Ward in Chilanga District, Lusaka Province, Zambia.

This was a quantitative cross-sectional study. The sample size was 275. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data in an interview with the respondents. Data was entered in excel sheet and analyzed using SPSS version 13. Frequency tables and graphs were used to present and analyze the study results.

The results revealed that most of the households kept poultry, followed by goats and pigs. The reasons for keeping these livestock were that they were easy to keep and that they had ready market. Majority of the women farmers expressed that they kept these animals for both home consumption and for commercial purposes. The main activities that they carried out in rearing these livestock at household level were cleaning piggery/poultry/barns and feeding the livestock. The main challenges that hindered women farmers from participating fully in livestock production were; spouse dominance, household chores, animal disease outbreaks, water shortages, inadequate knowledge on livestock production, inadequate financial assistance, and inaccessible markets.

The study recommends the need to intensify extension programs especially on livestock production and making sure that women participate. The government needs to empower women through loans so that they can fully participate in livestock production as well as building better roads and market infrastructure for women to feel safe when trading. The government also needs to be having regular trainings and workshops for women

entrepreneurs in livestock farming. Most importantly the government needs to develop policy to support women in livestock farming.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Two (SDG2) has led to ambitious efforts to transform the food system into one that promotes sustainable development and meets the increased demand for food and nutrients from a rapidly growing population. Increasing policy prominence specifically points to efforts to end hunger, address food insecurity, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030 (Atukunda et al., 2021). However, like other sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries, Zambia has a problem of limited agricultural diversity and productivity, with a dominance of maize, crop production (Kapulu et al., 2020).

Livestock production provides food security and income for improved livelihoods. It is mostly headed by women who play a central role in cleaning, feeding and providing water for the animals for their work is mostly around the home area. However, women's ability to achieve food security and improve rural livelihoods is constrained by lack of access to productive resources and inability to participate in decision making among other reasons.

In the context of this identified problem, this study seeks to examine the challenges confronting smallholder women livestock farmers in Mwembeshi ward of Chilanga District in the Lusaka Province. This study used Quantitative Method of data collection. I ministered interviews through a structured questionnaire to collect data. The quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS version 13. Frequencies and graphs were used to interpret data collected. This chapter consists of the background to the study, problem statement, research purpose, objectives of study, research questions and significance of the study.

## 1.2 Background

Women make up an average of 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries (FAO, 2017). Rural women greatly contribute to the development of the small-scale livestock sector (Ahmed et al., 2022) It has been estimated that, globally, rural women represent two-thirds of low-income livestock keepers. But women livestock keepers typically face greater economic, social, and institutional barriers (Mahesh, 2023). Also, they frequently lack the means to fully engage in, sustain and upgrade their farming activities (Karl, 2019).

Agriculture is the cornerstone of many African economies, especially Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). It provides a relatively large portion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Sub-Saharan Africa, and it is the main source of foreign currency (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), 2023). Not only is agriculture key to economic growth but it is also the principal source of food and livelihood in the rural areas. Women, who form the majority of rural dwellers, play a significant role in this sector (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2017; Goebel, 2015; Singh & Vinay, 2013). Rural women contribute substantially to the agricultural labour force in many African countries (Ahmed et al., 2022; FAO, 2017). For example, FAO (2017) records that women provide over 50% of the agricultural labour force in countries such as Nigeria, Cameroon, and Zambia. However, agriculture has been underperforming in developing nations (FAO, 2017).

Women are universally responsible for food preparation for their families and engaged in various stages and steps of processing this food. In many cultures and countries, women have the main responsibility for the provision of food for their families. As providers of basic foods, fuel and water for their families, women have an important stake in the preservation of the environment and combating environmental degradation. Furthermore, women also perform tasks in agriculture which include crop production (planting, weeding,

applying fertilizers and pesticides, harvesting, and threshing of the crops), food processing and marketing activities, and animal husbandry of small livestock (Karl, 2019).

Sakala (2016) states that the agriculture sector absorbs about 60 percent of the labour force and remains the main source of income for rural women who constitute about 67 percent of the rural population. Livestock production constitutes a very important component of the agricultural economy of developing countries, a contribution that goes beyond food production. Livestock production accounts for about 35 percent of the total agricultural production (GRZ, 2016). The agricultural sector is a significant contributor to the general economy and boasts about 60% women participation rate but at basic levels of menial labour. The livestock sub-sector is economically important in Zambia as it accounts for about 35 percent of the total agricultural production as indicated in the Sixth National Development Plan. It plays an important role in the livelihoods of many people, particularly in the poorer rural communities of Zambia in which its role is even more critical (GRZ, 2016).

Munawar et al., (2023) reports that the role of women in livestock sector is worthwhile because many livestock management activities take place in or around their homes. Women take part in livestock activities like cleaning of animals, cleaning of shed, watering of animals, making of dung cakes, and providing fodder for livestock in addition to household activities. Raising of poultry, goats and sheep is also under the control of rural women. Despite all that, women are facing many challenges as they have fewer opportunities and do not have decision-making rights due to male dominance in society, which negatively affect their role in every field of life especially in the livestock sector (Munawar et al., 2023).

For a long time, women have suffered marginalisation across all sectors. As such, it has been evident that women suffer both poverty and gender-based exclusions, which make it even more difficult for them to rise out of poverty (Noyoo, 2018). Livestock provide income, create employment opportunities, and provide food and nutrition security across different production systems and along different value chains. As poor livestock-keeping households tend to be net sellers of livestock products, they benefit from rising livestock

prices. Moreover, vulnerable groups, particularly women and the landless, frequently engage in livestock production, thus highlighting the multifaceted virtues of livestock promotion as a pathway out of poverty (Heffernan and Misturelli, 2020). Livestock provides a safety net, helping keep poor households from falling into poverty. They are often the only asset women can own/control and can sell to meet emergency and family health needs.

Livestock also plays an important role in securing household food security. This happens through various pathways: (i) in times of food shortages, households sell livestock to purchase other food items such as cereals and legumes; (ii) income from regular livestock and livestock product sales is used for food purchases to supplement household food production and to diversify diets; (iii) livestock and livestock products are consumed and provide a protein diet for households. In spite of the importance of livestock in providing household food security and household income, and despite that two-thirds of the world's more than 600 million poor livestock keepers being rural women (Thornton et al., 2023), little research has been conducted in recent years on rural women's challenges in livestock keeping and the opportunities livestock-related interventions could offer them.

The study was conducted in Mwembeshi Ward of Chilanga District, located in Central part of Zambia. It has a population of about 68,878 people (CSO, 2016). The major economic activity of Mwembeshi is farming though on a small scale.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Although rural women in farms and households throughout Africa in general play significant roles in food production, processing and feeding families, it must be mentioned that they perform these functions whilst facing numerous constraints and as such are hardly ever able to attain their full potential with respect to the substantial efforts they put into the agricultural sector (Ugwu, 2019).

Women make significant daily contributions to their households as employed wage earners, as entrepreneurs, and caretakers to their families and elders. However, female

farmers are less likely to succeed when compared to their male counterparts. This problem is often due to several setbacks that range from a lack of same access to seeds, credit, extension services and technology (FAO, 2017). Unfortunately, they are also less likely to own land as statistics show that only 20 percent of landowners globally are women (Ugwu, 2019). Also, if they hope to inherit family property, the law may deprive them of an equal share, or social norms and traditions may simply favour their male relatives (UN Women, 2016).

Munawar et al., 2023 also echoes that rural women work with full devotion and dedication, and they spend maximum time of their daily life on livestock management activities (Munawar et al., 2023). In spite of their contribution in livestock production, they still have more potential to attain food security and food sovereignty in the developing countries. In fact, Simango (2015) reports that women are the pillars of small-scale farming and are the backbone of food security, especially in the rural areas. However, there are challenges which hinder their maximum participation in crop and livestock production and management activities, which need to be explored. Thus, the quest to investigate the challenges faced by women in livestock farming in Mwembeshi ward of Chilanga District in Zambia.

## **1.4 Research Objectives**

The general objective of this study is to investigate the challenges faced by women in livestock rearing in Mwembeshi Ward of Chilanga District, Zambia.

### **1.4.1 Specific Objectives**

The study had the following specific objectives:

1. To identify the factors influencing their decision in types of livestock kept in Mwembeshi Ward in Chilanga District.

2. To assess the activities women are involved in livestock farming in Mwembeshi Ward of Chilanga District.
3. To examine the challenges faced by women in livestock farming in Mwembeshi Ward of Chilanga District.

#### **1.4.2 Research Questions**

In order to address the objectives above, the following were the research questions:

1. What are the factors influencing the decision to keep the type of livestock they keep in Mwembeshi?
2. What kind of activities are women involved in, in livestock rearing in Mwembeshi?
3. What challenges do women face in Livestock production in Mwembeshi?

#### **1.5 Scope of the study**

This study focused on the challenges faced by women livestock farmers in Mwembeshi Ward, Chilanga District, Lusaka Province, Zambia. Therefore, data collection was conducted in Mwembeshi Ward in the North West of Chilanga District. The respondents in this study were women involved in livestock production in the Mwembeshi Ward. Thus, women not involved in livestock farming were not part of the study. This study included all women livestock farmers who had stayed in the ward for more than two years and those that stayed for less than two years were excluded. The study sample consisted of 275 female livestock farmers aged 35-54 years.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

Livestock keeping and production can make a significant contribution to Sustainable Development Goal Number Five (SDG 5) in achieving gender equality and empowering women (UN women, 2016). But to enable women to meaningfully operate in, and benefit from, the livestock sector, policies and programs should work to remove all obstacles and constraints in their way. Therefore, the results of this study will help government and policy makers to develop more inclusive policies for women empowerment to ensure food

security and improved standards of living (Mahesh, 2023). Ninety percent of income under the control of women is channeled back into their households or local communities, compared to only 30-40 percent of income controlled by men (Ugwu, 2019).

In addition, the results will provide useful inputs for any future private sector and International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) activities that aim to empower women for food security. Lastly, the empirical results obtained from this study will serve as a reliable source of information for researchers of this subject.

## **1.7 Organization of the Report**

### **Chapter 1.**

This chapter introduces and sets the background of the research study outlining the research objectives and research questions. This is followed by the scope of the study and the significance of the study. This chapter also covers the organization of this research report.

### **Chapter 2.**

The chapter presents a review of the literature related to the study. It introduces the roles of women in livestock farming and brings out the empirical review of other researches done. It highlights the challenges women face in livestock farming and facilitates understanding through the theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

### **Chapter 3.**

The purpose of the chapter is to describe the methodology employed in conducting this study. It covers the research design, study site, study population, data collection methods, data analysis and ethical considerations.

### **Chapter 4.**

The chapter presents, analyses and interprets research findings. The presentation of the results is guided by specific objectives of the study. The results are on the factors

influencing the types of livestock kept by women farmers, activities done by women farmers in livestock production and challenges faced by women farmers in livestock production. The results are presented in graphs, frequency tables, bar graphs and pie charts.

## **Chapter 5.**

It discusses the key findings of the study in line with the research objectives comparing the findings with previous studies highlighting similarities and differences observed.

## **Chapter 6.**

This chapter presents conclusions and recommendations based on the study findings.

### **1.8 Summary**

This chapter introduces the research study, background and bringing out the research objectives. The chapter also covers the research questions, scope and significance of the study. Additionally, the chapter also presented the organization of this research report. The next chapter reviews the literature that other scholars have written that is related to the study.

### **1.9 Definition of Concepts:**

(1) Livestock farming; this is the practice of raising animals for products.

(2) Crop farming; this is the production of a plant or plant product that can be grown and harvested extensively for profit or subsistence.

(3) Types of livestock; Chickens, Cattle, Sheep, Ducks, Goats and Pigs.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

Building on from the previous chapter which looked at background, significance of the study, statement of the problem and objectives, this chapter reviews the literature that other scholars have written. The key aspects covered are the role of livestock farming, roles of women in livestock farming, challenges women face in livestock farming in terms of access to land, finances, markets and agricultural extension services. It further facilitates understanding through the theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

#### 2.2 Role of Livestock Farming in the Economy

The livestock sector has been playing an important role in our world over economy (FAO 2017). It can solve the problems of malnutrition, unemployment, empowerment of women, and growth of fertility of agricultural land, making a talented nation and earning foreign exchange (Ahmad, 2023). Meat, egg and milk play a vital role in meeting the demands of food of animal origin in our everyday life. The Department of Livestock Service reported that the contribution of livestock in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Bangladesh is 1.47% with GDP growth rate of livestock at 3.47% (Awan et al 2021). Approximately, 20% of the people in the country are directly engaged with the livestock sector. Livestock is the backbone of the agriculture sector and significantly contributes to the rural economy of developing countries (Banuree, 2019). In Pakistan, livestock rearing is extensively popular and a widespread activity among rural areas to meet their food and other necessities (Andaleeb et al., 2017; Naz et al., 2018). It is also considered black gold, where it is contributing 60.6% to the overall agricultural value and 11.7% to the GDP of Pakistan (Luqman et al., 2014). Pakistan is blessed with both large and small ruminants (i.e., buffalo, cow, goat and sheep) and this sector generates employment opportunities that provide a livelihood to a large number of rural households from the sale of dairy or by-products and fertilizers for crops (Naz et al., 2018).

The positive contribution of livestock to the livelihoods and assets of the poor is widely recognized in many African countries. Jayne et al., (2003); Otte and Chilonda, (2002) say that Agriculture remains the single largest source of income and livelihoods for rural households in the developing world, normally providing more than 50 percent of household income. In Vhembe District of Limpopo Province, South Africa, a research study conducted by Sikhuweni (2013) showed that farmers in rural areas keep livestock in order to enhance their income and to sustain their livelihoods. Furthermore, the study pointed out that livestock predation and lack of efficient marketing channels are some of the major challenges that continue to undermine the role that livestock play in enhancing the incomes of the small-scale cattle farmers.

In Zambia the MAL/IAPRI Technical Report 1(December, 2012) stated that livestock sales and consumption account for 6% of the smallholder incomes. The report further added that livestock serves as an important wealth asset and accounts for 20% of the productive assets. In other provinces of Zambia for example Eastern and Southern provinces, livestock assets as a share of productive assets is as high as 40%.

Most livestock species, especially cattle, are traditional rural assets in South Kivu Province in DR Congo (Zozo et al. 2010; Cox 2011) and, therefore, not intended for regular consumption. They are also symbols for peasants' social status, and their possession reflects the wealth class that people belong to according to their selfperception (Zozo et al., 2010).

Other important benefits from livestock include the provision for meat, milk, eggs, wool, manure draughty power, complementarity to crops and provide all-year-round employment and serve as insurance in times of need among many others (Rahman et al., 2017). Livestock when in a mix of different animal species are also noted for their contribution to long term sustainability by the complementary use of different feed resources at different heights above the ground (Wilson 2015).

## 2.3 Roles of Women in Livestock Production

The role of women in livestock production has either been ignored or underestimated (IFAD, 2017). In the livestock subsector in particular, men have always been the target of the extension agents despite the indispensable labour provided by women. Men operating homestead livestock farms would be saddled with more work than they can handle. Even though there is no consensus on quantifying the role of women in livestock production, there is a clear indication that their contribution is quite significant (Jothilakshmi et al., 2019). However, this contribution is not unrecognized. Women seem to be relegated to the level of homemakers, a situation where women are restricted to staying at home tending the livestock mostly owned by the men. While the men look for white-collar jobs, the women are mostly engaged in farm work, which includes livestock rearing

Women have traditionally been known to be mainly involved in agriculture production activities in the rural areas (Waters-Bayers, 2015). They play a major role in livestock raising (Rasheed, 2014), often devoting more time (16-18 hours) against men to livestock activities contributing 60 to 80% of labor in animal husbandry (Younas et al., 2017). Of the 90% rural families having livestock in developing countries, rural women exclusively perform such activities as primary medication, look after animals and marketing of animals and produce (Ishaq, 2018). Despite their incredible role in livestock sector, the level of women participation in decision-making process not only varies from region to region but also from one activity to another (Tipilda and Panhwar, 2018).

Livestock rearing plays a crucial role in the rural economies of developing countries. (Moser, 2017). For example, of the total agricultural sector of Pakistan, livestock production accounts for about 52% and of the country's GDP. (Government of Pakistan, 2018).

Arshad et al (2020) conducted a study in Tehsil Jhang, a district in Pakistan. The study was conducted on the involvement of rural women in decision making regarding livestock management and employed random sampling to select five union councils out of the total

32 rural union councils of Tehsil Jhang. The results of the study showed that rural women's participation was relatively high in activities like treatment of animals, deciding about size of herd, purchase of animals, sale of animals' produce and feeding of animals. However, their participation was relatively low in activities like sale of animals, breeding of animals, fodder cultivation and construction of animals' sheds. About 56% of the respondents were in favour that their family heads should give them the right in decisionmaking. However, about 66% of the respondents were satisfied with their existing involvement in decision-making (ibid, 2020).

Other studies conducted in Nasarawa State and plateau State in Nigeria by Ayoade (2014) and Bayola et al. (2016) respectively, investigated the factors affecting women in livestock production. The results revealed that women rarely participated in livestock production but rather always participated in menial activities like the feeding of animals, cleaning of pens and cages, and the provision of water.

Bayola et al. (2016) note that the extent of women involvement in livestock rearing varies from one region to the other due to uniqueness of the social set up of every society. The major factors that were highlighted in this study that affect their participation were inadequate capital, pre-occupation with household chores and dominance by men. Constraints included age, experience, education, and a failure of micro finance institutions to link women to have access to capital, which can improve their participation for greater income.

## **2.4 Challenges Faced by Women in Livestock Agricultural Activities**

Various agricultural researchers (FAO, 2021; Ahmed et al, 2022; World Bank, 2019) argue that women's contribution to food production could have been higher if they had access to needed resources such as land, finance, and technology. The following are the key obstacles that hinder women from active participation in livestock agricultural production.

### **2.4.1 Access to Land**

Mehra & Rojas (2018) argue that accessibility to land is one of the obstacles that women face. FAO (2021) states that even in countries such as Latin America where there is greater access to land, men have larger land holdings than women. Olawepo & Fatulu (2022) note that most married women gain access to land through their husbands. Those who cannot obtain land through their husbands can obtain land through a male relative such as father, uncle, brother, or son. Olawepo & Fatulu's (2022) study showed that in Ekiti Kwara, Nigeria 66% of women held less than 1 hectare of farmland. Ayoande's (2021) study also showed that one of the main obstacles to women's participation in livestock agricultural activities in Oyo state, Nigeria was lack of access to land. Mehra & Rojas (2018) state that in Cameroon, women provide more than 75% of agricultural labour yet they own just 10% of the land. In Nigeria and Gambia women have few livestock and lower yields than men due to the poor quality of their land (Ayoande, 2021). Mazhawidza & Mangengwa, (2021) point out that, though the government of Zimbabwe has tried to address the plight of women regarding land access, there have been no clear measures to ensure that they are benefiting from the land reform process. This is further supported by the ZIMSTAT (2023) reports which state that even after the land reform programs, men and women still do not have equal access to land. A study conducted by Sitko et al., (2021) indicates that in Zambia, at least 78 percent of women are actively engaged in agriculture production as opposed to 69 percent of men. Despite their immense contribution in agriculture, "women still have less access to agricultural resources such as land, labour and credit than men" This is attributed to dominant patriarchal notions which position men as dominant and women as subordinate. Most norms and cultures tend to favour men while suppressing women despite their active engagement in agriculture production (Sitko et al., 2021).

### **2.4.2 Access to Credit**

Women who do not own land, consequently having fewer animals because of limited grazing land have little access to credit, which requires collateral, such ownership of land

for one to obtain it. This has resulted in low livestock and agricultural productivity since without credit women find it difficult to purchase essential resources such as feed for the animals (Mazhawidza & Mangengwa, 2021). A study of credit schemes in Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe established that women received less than 10% of the credit for smallholders and only 1% of total credit for agriculture (Mehra & Rojas, 2018). Isa, (2022) investigated rural women access to agricultural credit and its effect on agricultural productivity. The results of the study revealed that women had less access to formal loans. Credit facilities were inaccessible and administrative procedures were cumbersome. The majority of women in the study area obtained their loans from informal sources but the amount was insufficient. The results also revealed that there was a significant correlation between credit and output. Women who received a substantial amount of credit also produced higher agricultural output (Isa, 2022). Sitimela, (2012) in a study to investigate accessibility to credit facilities for women farmers in Choma district of Zambia reported that 73% of women farmers could not access credit facilities for their farming activities and only 23% had accessed credit facilities. This confirmed what the study had hypothesized that women farmers had no access to credit facilities and this affected them economically and they could not shift from subsistence farming to commercial farming (Sitimela, 2012). The UNDP in Zambia also echoed that in least developed countries like Zambia, for women in farming communities, the first hurdle to setting up a business is access to affordable credit. Getting a loan from a commercial bank is a nightmare of form-filling and intrusive questioning. Moreover, banks won't lend the women money because they have no land title to put up as collateral (UNDP, 2021).

### **2.4.3 Access to Extension**

Some female farmers do not have the training, information and knowledge that is needed for effective food production. Mudukuti & Miller, (2022) undertook a study to assess women's perceived obstacles to extension participation. The results of the study revealed that the main barriers to extension participation were transportation, lack of information about extension programs, heavy household workloads and time constraints. Ahmed et al., (2022) also stated that the higher illiteracy rates among women limit their ability to

understand technical information and adopt new technologies aimed at increasing agricultural output and income growth especially for livestock, which needs much more concentration in terms of buying feed and dipping of animals to avoid flees and other diseases. In Zambia the situation is not different. In an overview paper on the situation analysis of the current state of agriculture extension services in Zambia, Chavula et al., (2022) reported that the number of farmers and the demand for agricultural extension services has both increased, but the number of extension workers employed in the fields has not kept pace with these changes. Additionally, it has taken too long to resolve the substantial turnover of extension staff. As a result, in certain instances, the current farmerto-extension worker ratio is 1:1200 (Livune, 2022). The ability of extension employees to deliver high-quality extended services has been hampered by this low ratio, which is much below the norms recommended internationally. The lowest rates are found in the livestock and fishing sectors.

#### **2.4.4 Access to Markets**

In sub-Saharan Africa, women market their produce mainly in local markets. Mehra & Rojas (2008) state that for female farmers to engage in marketing successfully mainly for livestock which tend to have a higher price, they should have the capacity to participate knowledgeably and effectively. One of the challenges that rural women farmers face is to negotiate terms and prices with powerful buyers (Mehra & Rojas, 2018; Lubungu et al., 2022).

Several studies using household data have attempted to understand the factors affecting women's decisions to participate in livestock markets (for example, Musemwa et al. 2020; Nkonde 2018; and Lubungu et al., 2022). A review of the literature reveals mixed evidence of factors affecting participation in livestock markets, such as physical, financial, human, and institutional factors. Physical constraints on marketing include low population densities in rural areas (Nkonde 2018), remoteness of livestock producers from the main urban market centers, and poor road infrastructure that result in high transport costs (Gabre-Madhin, 2019).

Poor road networks and poor marketing infrastructure such as holding facilities may discourage women farmers' participation in livestock markets (Ouma et al., 2013). Since, the majority of the women farmers are located in remote areas with poor road network and market infrastructure, transaction costs rise not only due to high transport costs, but also due to the increased costs of searching, screening, bargaining with, and monitoring distant trading partners. Increased transaction costs also stem from failure to access market information such as grades and standards of livestock (Gabre-Madhin, 2019). Lack of market information increases the transaction costs incurred by women farmers and thus inhibits participation in markets (Costales et al., 2017). The effect of information irregularity thus puts smallholder farmers in a weak negotiating position when dealing with larger buyers and reduces their competitiveness when dealing with supply chains that are becoming increasingly formalised and upgraded as noted by Lubungu et al., (2022).

For example, rural women farmers in Chirumanzu, Zimbabwe, revealed that accessing markets was difficult due to lack of reliable transport in the area (Kapungu, 2023). A large portion of their income is paid for transport. Kapungu's (2023) study also revealed unavailability of information about prices especially in the informal market as another constraint. Female farmers preferred to sell their produce at informal markets because they accommodated all the different types of meat products that the women produced. Women also faced immense competition from other farmers at the informal market and their prices were often lower than expected which further reduced their farm income. Female farmers also stated that another big hurdle was to get permission from their husbands to engage in marketing activities (Kapungu, 2023).

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.5.1 The System Theory**

This is an interdisciplinary theory about the nature of a complex system in society and according to Skinner and Rooter (2010), it is a framework by which one can investigate objectives that work and produce some results. This theory implies that single elements ought to function as intended if the entire system is to achieve the overall objective. The

systems theory relates to the study in that society is made up of different institutions and as such, this will bring to the surface the potential in the implementation of activities supporting women participation in the general development process. This theory determines that the division of family work is based on how the male and female have constructed a gendered sense of selves. It is a shift in attention from gendered tasks to the gendered selves. In most of the households especially in rural areas of Africa and Zambia in particular, women are supposed to do most of the household chores including farming. Thus, many times women cannot go to the market to sell their produce as it is seemingly a man's job. Women are left to do menial jobs at the farm unlike being involved with selling the farm produce be it livestock or crops. In systems theory, these are some of the gendered tasks that a system like we have in Africa has created only for the purpose of oppressing women and affecting general development process. Therefore, in this study, we are using the systems theory to bring out the African societal systems that are affecting women in Livestock farming. Challenges are also highlighted in the literature where women in livestock farming find it difficult to possess land. For example, without land it means that it is also difficult to access finances from the credit facilities because they demand collateral which can also be land which women don't have. The systems theory helps us to see the danger that the society through its systems is posing on one part of the society and as such affecting development.

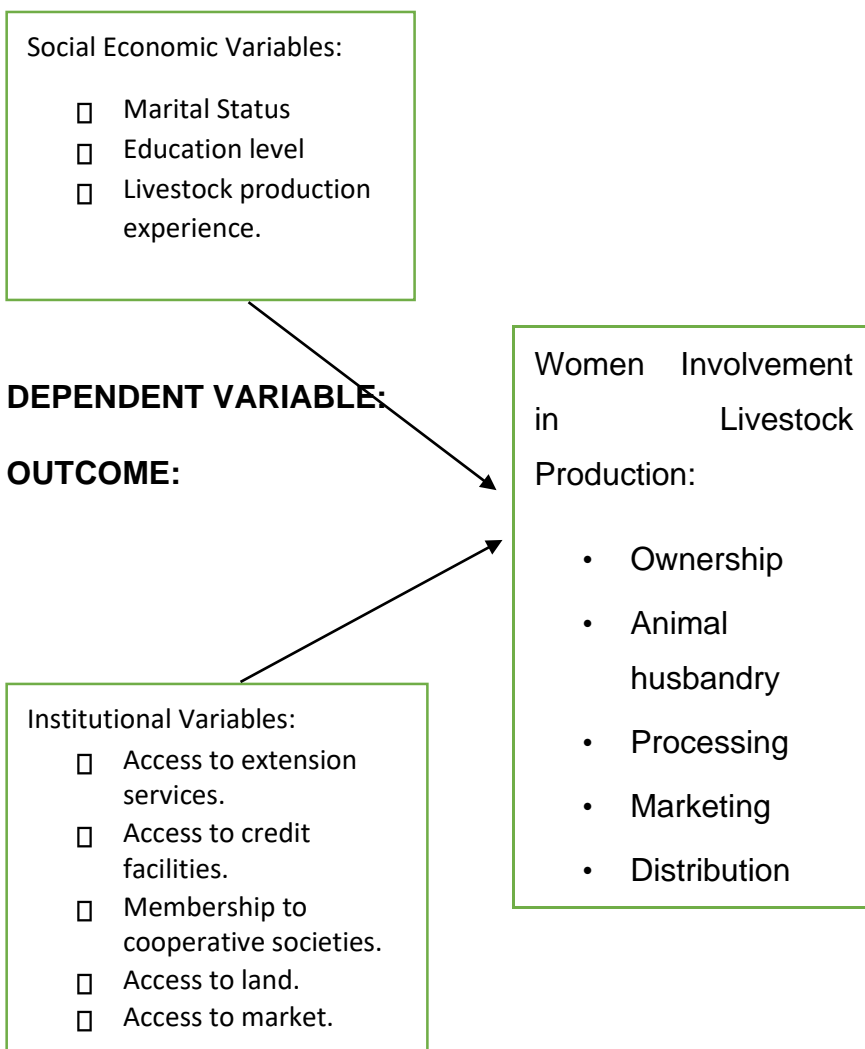
## **2.6 Conceptual Framework**

A conceptual framework is a broad system of explanation, which is founded not so much on prior research findings but largely on untested and unproved assumptions about social realities (Ekong, 2013). The conceptual framework model in figure1 below shows the relationship between the socio economic and institutional characteristics of the Women farmers (independent variables), and women's involvement in livestock production (dependent variable) which determines their role in livestock production activities. Socio economic variables comprise of marital-status, household size, educational level, and farming experience while Institutional variables include access to extension agents, access to land, access to credit facilities, membership to cooperative societies, and

access to market. Involvement in various livestock production activities includes ownership of the livestock, animal husbandry activities (feeding, cleaning, and medication administration), processing, marketing and distribution. It is expected that the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable will lead to effects, which increase the real incomes and thus an improved standard of living for the women.

### Conceptual Framework of the Research

#### INDEPENDENT VARIABLES



**Source: Designed by researcher**

## **2.7 Summary**

This chapter presented literature on the role of livestock farming on the economy, roles of women in livestock farming, in terms of access to land, finances, markets and agricultural extension services. The next chapter outlines the methodology that was used in conducting the study.

## **CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

The previous chapter was about the literature review; what other scholars have written about the challenges women face in livestock farming. This chapter of the report, describes the methodology that was engaged in conducting this study. It covers the research approach, study site, study sample, data collection methods, data analysis and ethical considerations.

### **3.2 Research Approach**

This study used Quantitative Method of data collection. I ministered interviews through a structured questionnaire to collect data. The quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS version 13. Frequencies and graphs were used to interpret data collected.

### **3.3 Research Design**

This study used a cross sectional case study design to investigate the challenges faced by women in livestock rearing in Mwembeshi ward of Chilanga district. This study employed quantitative approach in the collection and analysis of data. This is so because all the research questions required that a deductive approach be used to answer them. There was also a need to find out how many farmers are affected by these challenges hence the quantitative approach the study employed a cross sectional case study design because little empirical data on the involvement of women in livestock farming has been documented, as this sector has been predominantly a male dominated field due to cultural norms.

### **3.4 Study Site**

Mwembeshi, a ward in Chilanga District of Zambia has a population of about 68,878 people out of the total population of 175,929 of Chilanga District (CSO, 2016). It is generally a rural area of size 27.85 square kilometers. It is composed of 34,259 males

and 34,619 females. The majority of the population are females. It is located to the north west of the district about 50 kilometers from Lusaka. The major economic activity of Mwembeshi is maize farming and most of it at small scale.

### **3.5 Study Population**

The study population is a group of people that the researcher wants to draw a conclusion on once the research study is completed (Burns and Groove, 2010). Identifying the target population requires specifying the criteria that determine which individuals are included and which individuals are not. In other words, what characteristics must an individual have to be included in the target population? (Kombo and Tromp, 2006). Therefore, this study's target population will be all the women livestock farmers in Mwembeshi ward. A target population is defined as the respondents that meet the designated set of criteria needed to conduct a study (Burns & Grove, 2010, Asiamah et.al 2017). The target population will be all the women livestock farmers in Mwembeshi Settlement Village. According to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (2017), the Mwembeshi Settlement Village has more than 800 small scale women livestock farmers and it is the largest village with women livestock farmers in Mwembeshi ward.

#### **3.5.1 Inclusion Exclusion Criteria**

In this study we include all the women farmers who have stayed in Mwembeshi Settlement Village of Mwembeshi ward for more than two years and those that stayed in Mwembeshi Settlement Village of Mwembeshi ward for less than two years were excluded. Women livestock farmers that were 18 years of age and above were included and those that were less than 18 years of age were excluded.

### **3.6 Sample Size Determination**

The following formula is used to calculate the overall sample size.

$$n = \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

$n$  is the sample size

$z$  is the statistic that defines the level of confidence, 1.96 in this case.

$p$  is the proportion used in the estimation formula, in this study, 80% (0.8) will be the estimated percentage of acceptability because the actual prevalence proportion is not known. The advantage of this choice is that it yields the maximum sample size.

$e$  is a measure of precision, thus the margin of error. In this study, a precision of 5% (0.05) was tolerated.

Therefore, the estimated sample size was as follows:

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 0.8(1 - 0.8)}{0.05^2} = 245$$

Taking into account non-response rate ( $r$ ) of 10%, a success rate of 90% is anticipated.

The sample size was then adjusted as follows:

$$n_f = \frac{n}{r} \text{Where;}$$

$n_f$  is the final sample size  $r$  is the response rate in decimals.

Therefore, the final sample size will be as follows:

$$n_f = \frac{245}{0.90} \approx 273$$

### 3.7 Sampling Method

Simple random sampling was employed, as the respondents of the study were mainly located in a specified village called Mwembeshi Settlement Village. This happened by going through the village register and creating a sampling frame where all the women livestock farmers that fit into inclusion criteria were recorded and sampled so as in order to avoid being bias. This sampling technique was employed because women livestock farmers were not separated from the list of other farmers. After the sampling frame was generated simple random sampling technique was used by dividing the number of farmers on the list which was 800 by the sample size (273). Meaning that every 3<sup>rd</sup> person on the list was picked as the participant in this study.

### **3.8 Data Collection Methods**

The data was collected by interviews through a standard and structured questionnaire covering the gender, age, level of education, type of livestock produced, views on factors affecting women participation in livestock production and the constraints faced by women in livestock production. Data was collected over a period of two weeks.

### **3.9 Data Analysis**

According to Anderson & Arsenault (1998), the nature of the problem to a large extent dictates the type of data analysis technique to be used. The data was obtained through quantitative approaches. Therefore, the first step in data processing was data refining. The quantitative data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 18.0). To successfully analyse the data, the quantitative data was entered directly based on the set parameters. Descriptive statistics were used in the analysis of data.

Frequencies and graphs were adopted in the analysis of empirical evidence.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical approval of the research proposal was obtained from the University of Lusaka Research and Ethics Committee prior to conducting the research and the National Health Research Authority. An introductory letter was requested by the researcher to be written by the school management to Chilanga District Agricultural offices for permission to conduct the study. After being given a go ahead by the Chilanga District Agricultural officer, permission was also sort from the responsible authorities of the study site, herein the Mwembeshi ward councillor, Mwembeshi Agricultural extension officer and the Mwembeshi settlement village headman. Detailed explanation about the objective (purpose) and benefit of the study was described to all the aforementioned and their full cooperation, verbal consent was taken in order to provide sufficient information. The researcher assured the participants who were women livestock farmers that their names will not be attached to responses for confidentiality and that the information will be used strictly for academic purposes. Data presentation was made with no references to names of respondents. The respondents were not coerced to participate in the study, but they

voluntarily participated. They were informed that they could withdraw from the study at any stage if they felt uncomfortable.

### **3.11 Limitations**

The study used a study sample of 275 respondents drawn from Mwembeshi Ward. Given that this research is a case study which used a small sample, the results cannot be generalized to other contexts with unique socio-economic milieu. The study is Quantitative of nature. The use of a mixed method approach could have yielded much more data from which meaningful conclusions could be drawn. These limitations are not meant to invalidate the results of this study, but they are areas of improvement in future research.

### **3.12 Summary**

This chapter outlines the methodology used in conducting the research study. The key aspects covered are the research design, data collection/ analysis and ethical considerations and limitations. The next chapter presents the findings of the study based on specific objectives.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The previous chapter presented the methodology that was used in this study highlighting the design, sample size, target population and ethical considerations. Developing from the previous chapter, this chapter presents the findings of this study based on specific objectives of the study. Results are presented in graphs, frequency tables, bar graphs and pie charts.

#### 4.2 Response Rate

I personally interviewed the respondents and the response rate was 100%.

#### 4.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

**Table 1: Demographics of Respondents**

<b>Age (Years)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>18-24</b>	18	6.6
<b>25-34</b>	32	11.6
<b>35-44</b>	71	25.8
<b>45-54</b>	89	32.4
<b>55 and above</b>	65	23.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Single</b>	14	5.1
<b>Married</b>	172	62.5
<b>Divorced</b>	48	17.5

<b>Widow</b>	41	15.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Education Level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Non</b>	23	8.3
<b>Primary</b>	87	31.6
<b>Secondary</b>	117	42.5
<b>Tertiary</b>	48	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Religion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Christianity</b>	261	95.0
<b>Islam</b>	9	3.3
<b>Traditionalist</b>	5	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Data analysis

Table 1 shows that 225 (81.8%) of the respondents who were women farmers were 35 years old and above. The majority, 172 (62.5%) of the respondents were married, 117 (42.5%) had gone up to secondary level in terms of education and majority were Christians (95%). This means that most of the women farmers in Mwembeshi Settlement village were above 35 years of age, Married and were Christians.

#### 4.4 Table 2: Women Farmers Owning Livestock at Household

<b>Women Farmer Owning Livestock at Household</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	224	81.5
<b>No</b>	51	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Data analysis

Having asked the women farmers as to whether they own some of the livestock that their household is keeping, majority of the research participants (81.5%) agreed to own some of the livestock. This meant that the 224 women farmers representing 82% of the sample size owned part of the livestock being kept at their household which was inherited of nature.

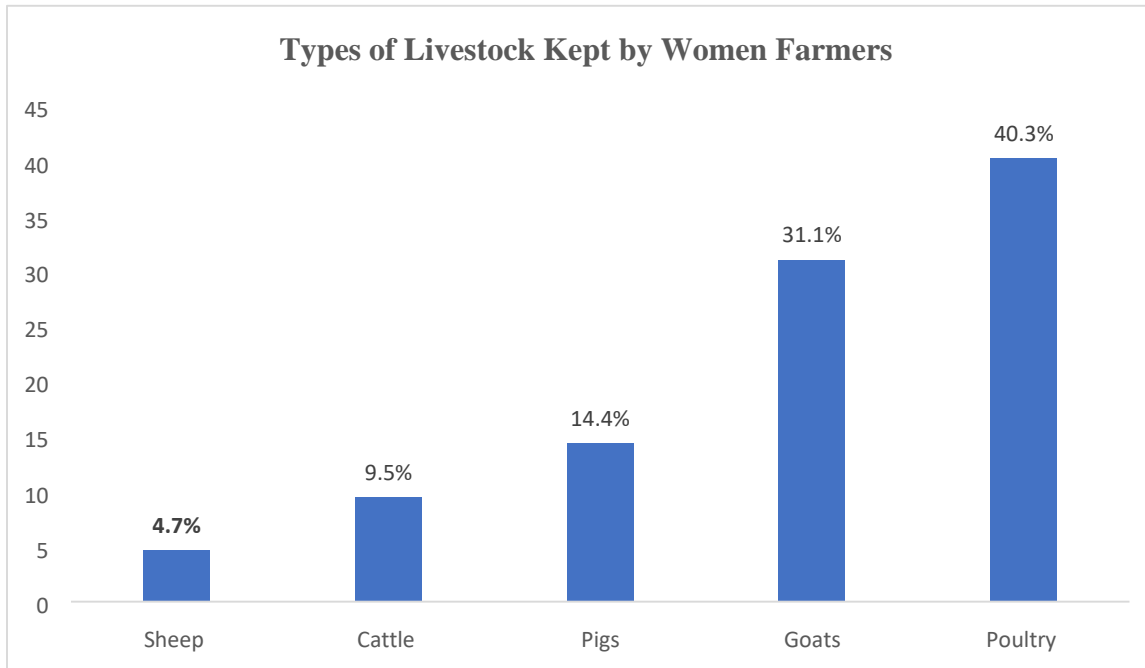
**Table 3: Experience in Keeping Own Livestock**

<b>Experience in keeping own Livestock</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>2 - 5 years</b>	19	8.5
<b>5 - 10 years</b>	106	47.3
<b>11- 15 years</b>	86	38.4
<b>16 years and above</b>	13	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Data analysis

The 224 women farmers who agreed to owning livestock as shown in Table 3. As to how long they have been keeping the livestock which they own. 91.5% of the respondents indicated that they had been keeping their own animals for 5years and above while only 8.5% had been keeping their own animals for less than 5years. This meant that majority of the women farmers in Mwembeshi Settlement Village had a lot of experience in taking care of their own livestock.

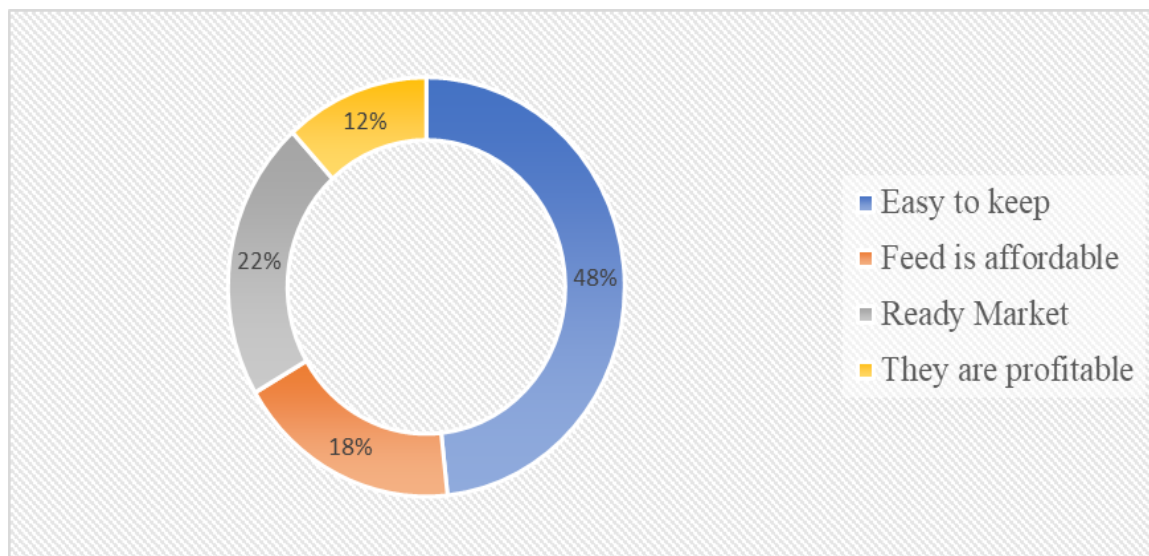
**Figure 1: Types of Livestock Kept by Women Farmers**



Source: Data analysis

Figure 1 shows the types of livestock that women farmers kept at their household. Approximately 40% of the women farmers kept poultry at their household, followed by goats 31.1% and pigs at 14.4%.

**Figure 2: Reasons for Keeping that type of Livestock**



Source: Data analysis

Figure 2 shows the reasons for keeping the type of livestock that the women farmers were keeping at household level. Most of the respondents 48% noted that they were easy to keep, 22% indicated that the livestock had ready market, 18% mentioned that feed was affordable and 12% stated that they were profitable.

**Table 4: Other Reasons for Keeping Livestock**

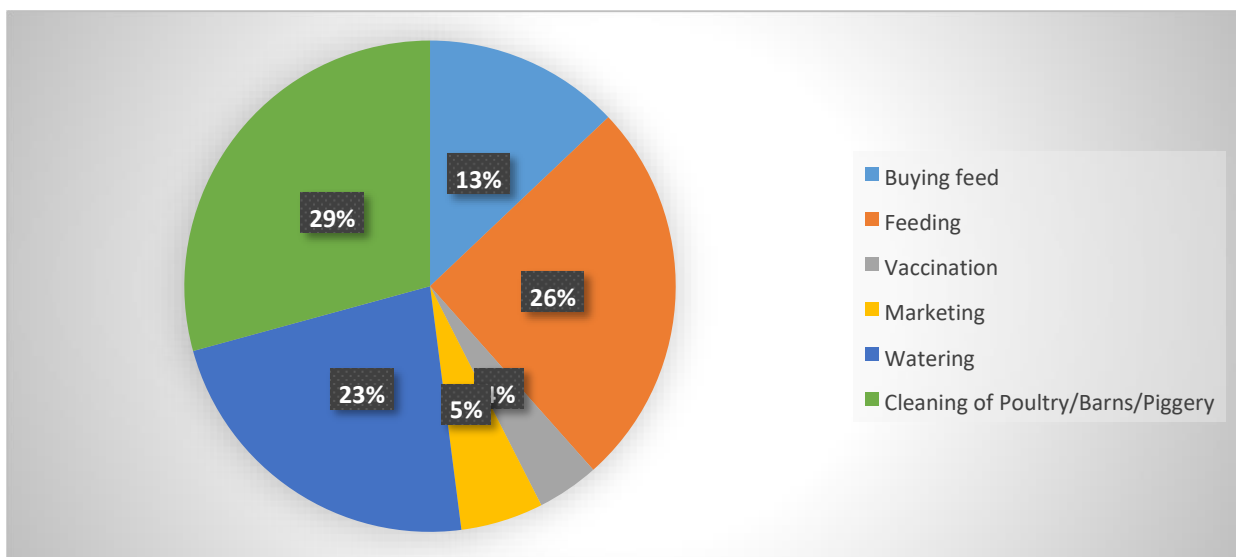
Reasons for keeping Livestock	Frequency	Percentage
Commercial	50	22.4
Consumption	27	12.2
Both	147	65.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Data analysis

Table 4 above shows other reasons for keeping the livestock. The results of the study revealed that 65.4% of the women farmers kept these animals for both home consumption and for commercial purposes.

#### 4.5 Activities Done by Women Farmers in Livestock Production

The study also sought to find out the activities that the women farmers are involved in when rearing livestock at household level. A total of 275 participants responded to the question on types of activities as every respondent had some livestock rearing at household level be it their own or not. Figure 3 below illustrates these results.



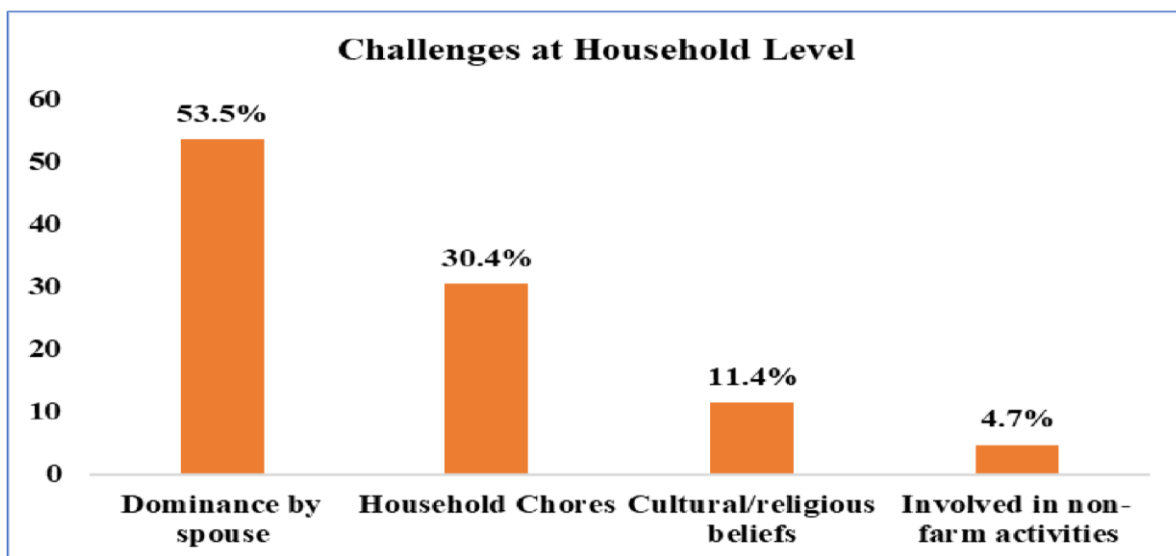
Source: Data analysis

Figure 3 shows that 29% of the participants took part in cleaning where their livestock stays (Piggery/Poultry/Barns) while 26% were involved in feeding the livestock. Only 4.1% participated in vaccinating the livestock while 5.4% were involved in marketing their livestock.

#### 4.6 Challenges faced by Women Farmers in Livestock Production

The women livestock farmers were also asked to mention the challenges that they go through in conducting their daily activities. Most of the responses were that women

farmers lack necessary training in the field of livestock management. Others mentioned that they left the big jobs like selling of livestock to the men at household level because they were the ones who know the livestock prices better and have good negotiating skills. Figure 4 below shows the challenges that hinder women farmers in fully participating in livestock production. The figure shows that 53.5% of the women livestock farmers indicated that the greatest challenge that they faced at household level was dominance by their spouses. Approximately 30% of the respondents indicated that household chores deter them from effectively participating in livestock production while 11.4% indicated cultural/religious beliefs and 4.7% indicated that they were involved in other non-farm activities which hindered them from fully participating in livestock production.



**Figure 4: Challenges at Household Level**

Source: Data analysis

The women farmers were also asked if they have access to grazing land for their livestock. The findings in table 5 below revealed that 65.8% of the respondents agreed to having access to grazing land while 34.2% complained about not having access to grazing land.

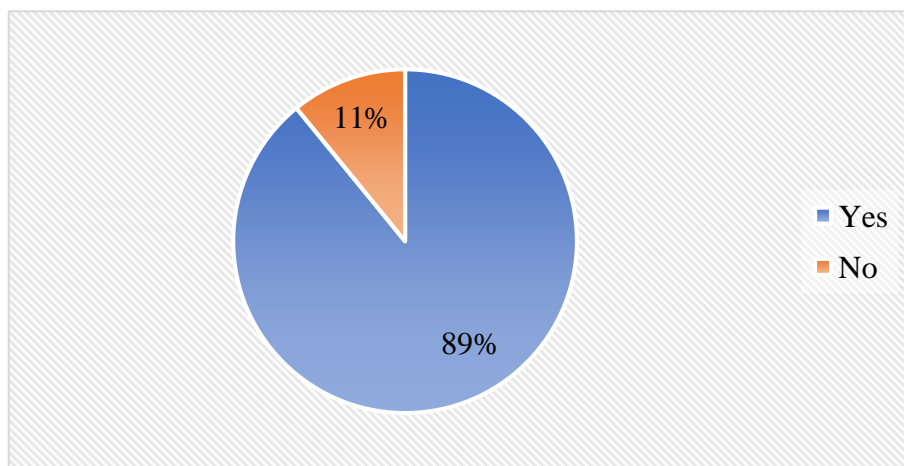
**Table 5: Access to Grazing Land for Livestock**

Access to Grazing Land for Livestock	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	181	65.8
No	94	34.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Data analysis

The study also sought to find out if women livestock farmers had challenges regarding livestock disease outbreaks, 89% of the participants indicated that livestock diseases are a major challenge to their farming activities while 11% mentioned that there livestock disease outbreaks were not a major challenge as displayed in Figure 5 below.

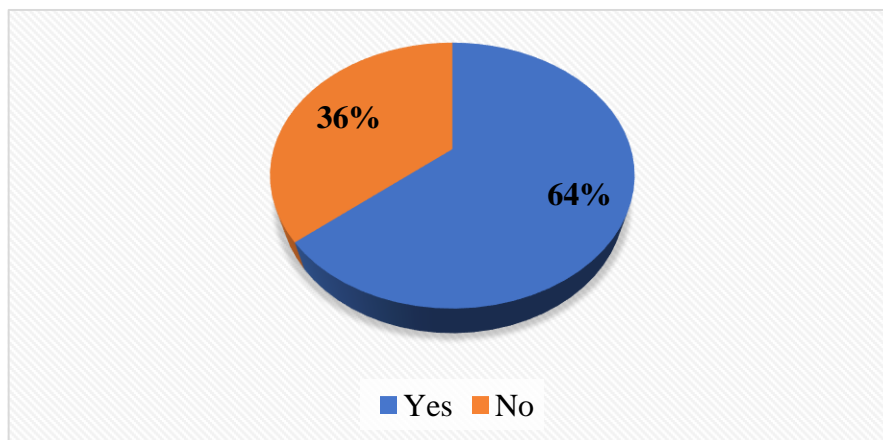
**Figure 5: Animal Disease Outbreak**



Source: Data analysis

In the midst of climate change, where its either there is a drought or a flood, it was also important to ask women in Mwembeshi Settlement Village as to whether they have abundant water for their livestock to drink and if not is it one of the challenges that hinder women livestock farmers to fully participate in livestock production. The study revealed that 64% of the respondents indicated that water shortages hindered women livestock farmers from fully engaging in livestock production and 36% indicated that water shortages was not a challenge that hindered them from fully participating in livestock production as shown in Figure 6 below.

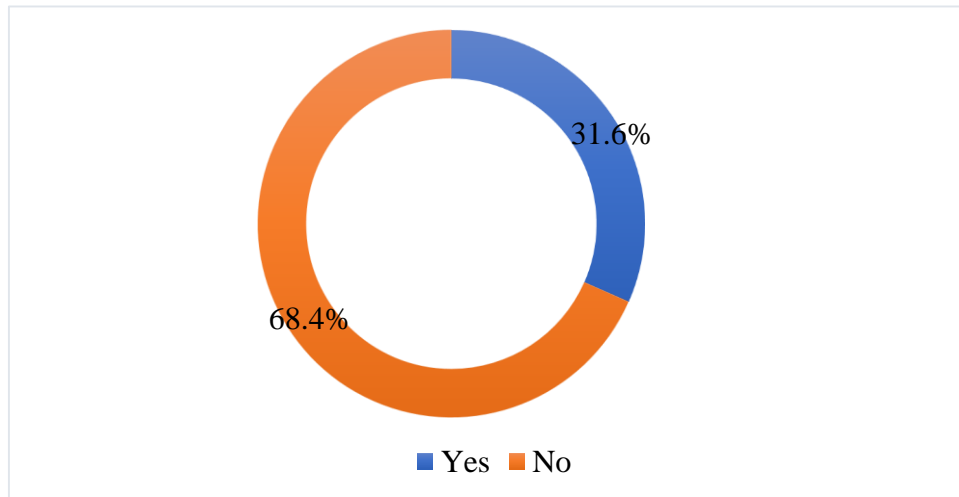
**Figure 6: Water Shortages**



Source: Data analysis

Another important aspect of livestock production is the aspect of knowledge of livestock production. Lack of adequate knowledge of livestock production has been cited as one of the challenges women farmers face in livestock production. In support of this, Figure 7 below shows that approximately 68.4% of the respondents mentioned that they lacked adequate knowledge of livestock production while 31.6% mentioned that they had adequate knowledge about livestock production hence it not being a challenge.

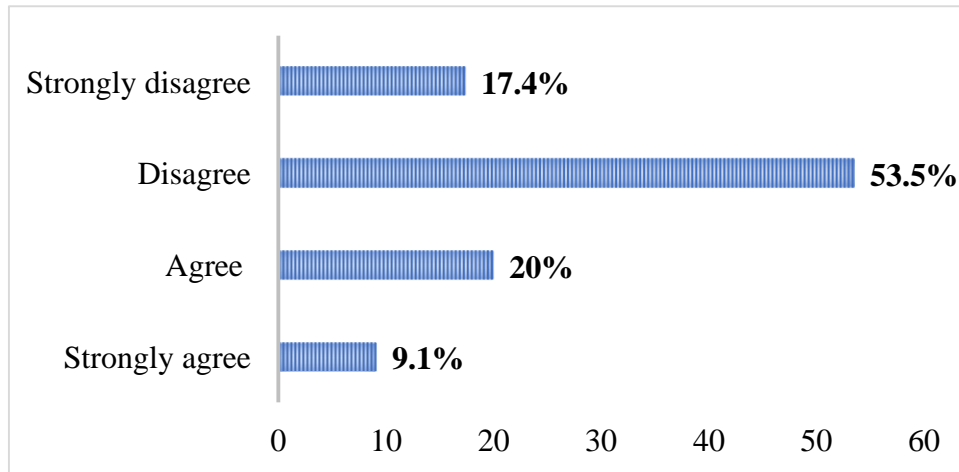
**Figure 7: Knowledge on Livestock Production**



Source: Data analysis

The women farmers were further asked if they had access to financial assistance in form of loans or credits to boost their livestock production. The findings showed that the majority (70.9%) disagreed and or strongly disagreed to having access to credits. This shows that women involved in livestock production have limited access to credit finance. Hence, the growth in livestock production is curtailed (Figure 8).

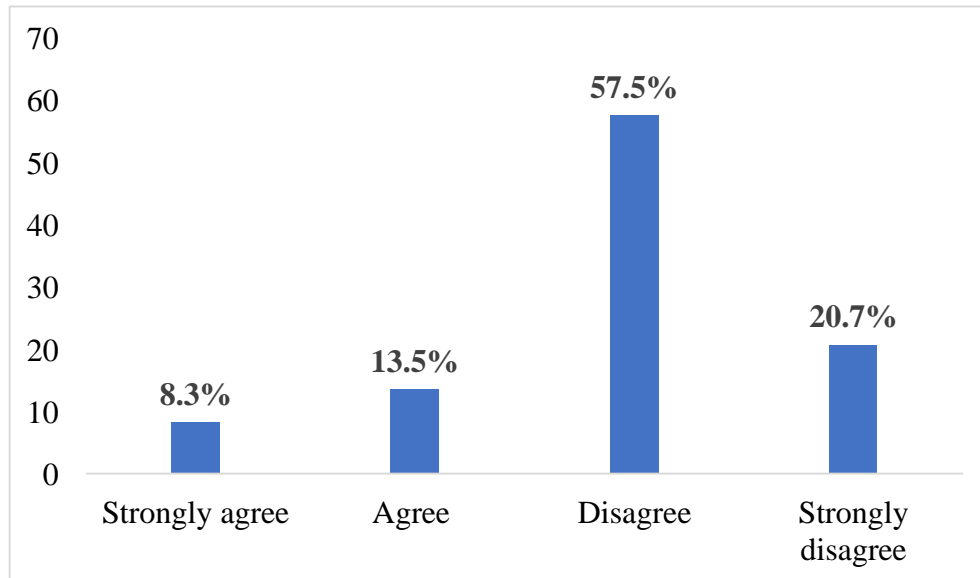
**Figure 8: Access to Credit Facilities**



**Source: Data analysis**

Women farmers further responded negatively about having access to markets with majority (78.2%) disagreeing and or strongly disagreeing to having access to markets for their livestock. This makes the marketing of their livestock difficult, and ultimately compromises cash flow in their livestock farming business. The results are presented in figure 9 below.

**Figure 9: Safe Access to Markets**



**Source: Data analysis**

#### **4.7 Summary of results**

Social Demographics of respondents shows that most of the women farmers of Mwembeshi settlement village were above 35 years of age, married and were Christians. Majority of the research participants owned some of the livestock they kept at their household 224 out of 275. About 91.5% of the respondents indicated that they had been keeping their own animals for 5 years and above while only 8.5% had been keeping their own animals for less than 5 years. Therefore, majority of women farmers in Mwembeshi had a lot of experience in taking care of their own livestock.

A majority of 40.3% of women farmers kept poultry at their household followed by 31.1% goats and 14.4% pigs. Under reasons for type of livestock kept 48% women farmers said they were easy to keep, 22% said that the livestock had ready market, 18% mentioned that feed was affordable and 12% mentioned that they were profitable. Other reasons for

keeping the livestock, 65.4% of women farmers kept animals for both home consumption and for commercial purposes. Under activities done by women livestock farmers, 29% of the participants took part in cleaning where their livestock stays, 26% were involved in feeding the livestock, 41% participated in vaccinating the livestock while 5.4% were involved in marketing their livestock.

Challenges faced by women farmers in livestock production, 53.5% indicated their greatest challenge at household level was dominance by their spouses, 30% indicated that household chores deter them from effectively participating while 11.4% indicated cultural/religious beliefs lastly, 4.7% indicated were involved in other non-farm activities which hindered their full participation in livestock production.

Over women farmers having access to grazing land for their livestock, 65.8% of respondents agreed to not having access to grazing land while 34.2% did have access to grazing land. Livestock disease breakouts, 89% indicated that livestock diseases was a major challenge to their farming activities while 11% mentioned that there livestock disease outbreaks were not a major challenge. Whether water shortages hindered women livestock farmers, 64% indicated that water shortages hindered them from fully engaging in livestock production and 36% indicated water shortage was not a challenge. Lack of adequate knowledge of livestock production is another aspect that was assessed that showed 68.4% of the respondents mentioned that they lacked adequate knowledge while 31.6% mentioned that they had adequate knowledge over livestock production.

Financial assistance in form of loans or credits to boost their livestock production showed that majority 70.9% disagreed or strongly disagreed to having access to loans, showing that women have limited access to credit finance. Lastly, women farmers having access to markets showed that majority 78.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed to having safe access to markets for their livestock sales.

## **4.8 Summary**

This chapter presented the analysis and findings of the research study. The findings are on identifying the factors influencing the decision to keep the type of livestock kept, the activities women are involved in livestock farming and to examine the challenges faced by women in livestock farming in Mwembeshi Ward. The next chapter will discuss the key findings of the study in line with the research objectives.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter highlighted the results of the study. This chapter discusses the key findings of the study in line with the research objectives and compares the findings with previous studies in an attempt to highlight similarities and differences observed.

#### 5.2 Characteristics of the Respondents

The total number of participants in this study was 275 and all taken from Mwembeshi Settlement Village in Mwembeshi ward of Chilanga District in the Lusaka Province. Mwembeshi Settlement Village is the biggest village in Mwembeshi ward with over 800 women farmers operating at small scale. The majority (58%) of the respondents were between the ages 35-54. Most (63%) of the respondents were married and many had gone up to secondary level (43%) in terms of education. This study corresponds with a study done in Nigeria by Ayoade et al., (2019) where they found that majority (57%) of the women who participated in that study and were keeping livestock were middle aged women farmers aged between 31-50 and they were also married. However, this current study does not agree in terms of education status of respondents with what Aqeela et al. (2015) found which revealed that two thirds of the one billion of illiterate persons in the world are women and girls because this current study found that 43% of the women farmers who participated in this study had gone up to secondary education. The study results disagree with the existing literature because of changes over years of time in between the research periods and difference in the social/ cultural context. Nigeria consists mostly of Muslims who don't encourage educating females.

On the factors influencing the decision to keep the type of livestock kept by the female livestock farmers of Mwembeshi Ward, a number of responses mentioned that they chose to keep goats because they were easy to keep (not so many vaccinations), they are drought resistant and feed on natural vegetation, cheaper to maintain. On activities that

women livestock farmers are involved in, a few complained of only being involved in cleaning and feeding of animals and not marketing and selling of the livestock which was done by men. Lastly, on the challenges faced by female livestock farmers some responses were that they lacked training in livestock management. Men owned the sales if women also had their own animals and opportunities to sell for themselves it would better their way of life. Unavailability of grazing land also hindered other women in engaging in livestock farming, this made their livelihoods very difficult.

### **5.3 Types of Livestock & Reasons for Keeping the Livestock**

This study also sought to establish the types of livestock kept by women farmers and reasons why they keep livestock. The study found that 40% of the respondents kept poultry at their homes. Thirty-one per cent (31%) of the respondents kept goats while 14% raise pigs. This is a normal practice in the rural areas.

The reasons for keeping these livestock were that they were easy to keep and they had ready market for these particular livestock. The majority (65%) of the respondents expressed that they kept these animals for both home consumption and commercial purposes. The findings of this study are also in line with what Ayoade et al. (2019) found and noted that the majority of the women livestock farmers in their study kept poultry as their major livestock enterprise; this was followed by goat and sheep production. Beth (2001) also mentioned that women claim smaller species such as poultry, goat, sheep rather than cattle, camel, or buffalo since the initial costs are lower, profit may be low, but so are the risks, and men are less likely to interfere. This was also in line with what this current study found that 48% of the respondents mentioned that they kept those types of livestock because they were easy to keep, meaning that they had minimal risks. Ayoade et al. (2019) also found that most (45.6 %) of the women kept livestock for both home consumption and commercial purposes. This concurs with the results of this current study which found that 65% of the respondents kept for both home consumption and commercial purposes.

#### **5.4 Activities Done by Women Farmers in Livestock Production**

The results of this current study found that most women livestock farmers participated only in menial jobs as opposed to big ones like buying feed and marketing. In fact, 29% of the women livestock farmers participated in menial jobs like cleaning where their livestock stays (Piggery/Poultry/Barns), while 26% feed the livestock, 23% watering them. Only 5.4% of the women livestock farmers participated in buying feed and 4.1% participated in marketing. This shows that many women farmers devote their time to menial jobs and the critical tasks like marketing are taken up by the men. However, the findings of this present study are contradicting with the findings of Munawar et al. (2023) who did a study with rural women in Pakistan. The study findings were that among 90% of rural families having livestock in Pakistan; primary medication, animal care and marketing of animal produce were exclusively undertaken by rural women, but majority of rural women work under the supervision of males or assists them. This previous study contradicts the current study because Pakistan ranks highest with women livestock farmers because of the high need of goat meat and goat milk and men are concentrated on crop production. The participation of women in livestock production has always been affected by the activities that women do in keeping livestock. For example, Bayola and Intong (2016) investigated the factors affecting women in livestock agriculture and established that women rarely participated in livestock production but rather always participated in menial activities like the feeding of animals, cleaning of pens and cages, and the provision of water. This finding is also what this current study found where women farmers were more occupied with household chores than livestock rearing.

#### **5.5 Challenges faced by Women Farmers in Livestock Production**

The overall objective of this study was to investigate the challenges that women face in livestock production. This study found that women have several challenges in livestock production starting from household level to institutional level. These challenges include lack of access to capital and markets. Financial assistance to vulnerable and marginalised groups in society is key to development and if women are to be treated equal partners in development then there is need to level the playing field. Girei and Onuk (2016) reports

that improved income of women is a parameter of food security, good nutrition, education and health care of children in the family. The present study found that the biggest challenge women farmers face at household level was dominance by their spouses. Fiftyfour per cent (54%) of the respondents confirmed that male dominance stifles their effective participation in livestock farming. Ugwu (2019) states that over the years, several studies have been dedicated towards identifying the barriers to women's participation in agricultural activities. The most glaring of these obstacles is the gender inequality faced by women in all spheres of life. Systemic gender biases may exist in the form of customs, beliefs and attitudes that confine women mostly to the domestic sphere. This current study also is in tandem with what Ayoade et al. (2019), who found that spouse dominance was found to be one of the obstacles to participation in livestock production by women farmers.

Household chores was also another hindrance in women's pursuit to fully participate in livestock production. This current study found that 34% of the respondents mentioned that household chores were a hindrance to participate fully in livestock production. Approximately 11% of the participants noted that cultural/ religious beliefs and other nonfarm activities stifle women participation in livestock production. These findings are similar with what Awan et al (2021) found in a study where they were examining women's participation and their constraints in livestock management activities. They found that 65% of the women livestock farmers complained about the workload of other household activities (such as child care, cooking, house cleaning, dishwashing, etc.) as being constraints to fully participating in livestock production.

DraforAmenyah and Pupilampu (2023) affirms that land is a significant resource for the sustenance of rural women and that these women are empowered to tackle the pressing problems of food insecurity and poverty when they control their own land. This present study did not investigate if the respondents own land, however it attempted to investigate if they have access to grazing land. Sixty-six per cent (66%) of the participants agreed to having access to grazing land for their livestock. This means that in this ward women

involved in livestock production have access to grazing land which is important for effective livestock farming.

However, majority (89%) of the respondents indicated that livestock disease outbreaks hindered women farmers to fully engage in livestock production. Livestock diseases are a major barrier to livestock productivity (Tukahirwa et al., 2023). Water shortages also negatively affect women participation in livestock production. The results of this study indicated that 64% of the women agreed that water shortage is challenge affecting women in livestock production. Environmental stressors such as scarcity of drinking water and grazing pasture, high temperatures and disease outbreaks (Adeniji et al., 2020; Molotsi et al., 2017) adversely reduce adaptive capacity of livestock and adversely affect their health, welfare, meat production and quality attributes (Chikwanha et al., 2021; Dos Santos et al., 2019). This subsequently diminishes sustainability of livelihoods dependent on livestock farming in areas where water shortages are prominent. Globally, smallholder farmers in dry areas are the most vulnerable to the water scarcity challenge largely due to existence of multiple environmental stressors, lack of adaptive capacity, poor governance and little or no investments in water resources management (Ali et al., 2021; Cosens and Chaffin, 2016). In a study in South Africa by Halimani et al., (2021) who explored the smallholder sheep farmers' perceived impact of water scarcity, they reported that 85% of the women livestock farmers experienced water shortages and low rainfall was mentioned as the major reason causing water scarcity on dry areas. This was in tandem with what was reported in this current study where the founding revealed that 64% of the women livestock farmers reported water shortages as a hindrance to fully engaging in livestock production.

The results of this current study also revealed that 68% of the total respondents had no adequate knowledge of livestock production. Omeire (2016) opines that education is fundamental to agricultural production and rural development. It stimulates participation, builds capacity, and betters the opportunities of underprivileged communities in the decision- making process. Lack of education and illiteracy deny rural women access to essential information and technologies required to manage and expand their productive

capacity (Omeire, 2016). In this current study although many women had education of up to secondary level, they had inadequate knowledge about livestock production. Ugwu (2019) mentions that the problem of accessing information and training is another major constraint most women face in agricultural production.

Poor access to financing is another major setback faced by women in agriculture. Credit is an extremely useful resource to farmers because their production activities are most often seasonal in nature and a considerable lag occurs between the time, they incur costs and the time that they are able to generate income from their produce (Ugwu, 2019). In this current study, the women farmers were further asked if they had access to financial assistance in the form of loans or credits to boost their livestock production. Most (71%) of the respondents disagreed to having access to credit finance. These results concur with the existing literature. Simango (2015) noted that among the challenges facing farmers, lack of capital to buy farm inputs and farm implements ranked first in his study. None of the participants had access to financial assistance and neither were their credit facilities in the study area. In addition, female farmers derived little income from their livestock due to the unavailability of cash and market in the area.

Women farmers were further asked if they had access to markets. The majority (78%) of respondents indicated that they had no access to markets. Similarly, in his study, Simango (2015) found that female respondents also stated that unavailability of viable markets in the study area curtailed their participation in livestock production. According to the female participants, accessing markets was difficult due to lack of reliable transport in the area. The participants bemoaned that the feeder road was poorly maintained, and transport operators shunned the area. Makhura et al. (2021) mentioned that since, the majority of the smallholder farmers are located in remote areas with poor road network and market infrastructure, transaction costs rise not only due to high transport costs, but also due to the increased costs of searching, screening, bargaining with, and monitoring distant trading partners. This simply means that inaccessible markets due to poor road network increase the transaction costs for the livestock farmer. Lubungu (2022) also

mentions that increased transaction costs also stem from failure to access market information such as price and quality.

## **5.6 Summary**

This chapter was on the discussion of the results covered on identifying the factors influencing the decision to keep the type of livestock kept, the activities women are involved in livestock farming, challenges faced by women in livestock farming in Mwembeshi Ward. The next chapter highlight the recommendations and conclusions of the study based on the findings.

## CHAPTER SIX

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1 Introduction

Chapter 5 presented a discussion of the study results. The purpose of this chapter is to highlight the recommendations and conclusions of the study based on the given findings.

#### 6.2 Conclusions

The main objective of this study was to investigate the challenges faced by women farmers in livestock production. The findings of this study have revealed that despite so much emphasis on rural development, the women, who are the majority of the livestock farmers, still lag behind in terms of livestock production. Women livestock farmers face many challenges that hinder them to fully participate in livestock production. Many of the challenges are socio cultural as well as structural challenges ranging from male dominance at household level to poor access to markets to sell their produce. As a result of male dominance at household level, women farmers tend to be doing menial jobs towards taking care of livestock, they only do jobs that require them to be home most of the time like cleaning of poultries, giving water to the animals, and feeding them especially pigs and chickens. This makes them confined to a home such that other jobs like vaccinating the animals and marketing (selling) the animals are left for the male counterparts at household level.

The study also showed that water shortages in Mwembeshi Ward of Chilanga District presented a huge challenge for women farmers to extensively engage themselves in livestock production to an extent that they would rather fetch water for the household than for livestock. Animal disease outbreaks are also common in Mwembeshi area. This has also affected even the type of livestock that they keep to an extent that 31% of the women farmers kept goats because they are easy to keep, they can fend for themselves and are disease resistant and while 41% kept chickens because they are also easy to keep and that they have ready market of which they can even be sold at home. The study has also

revealed that inadequate capital is a major barrier to women excelling in livestock production. Women farmers find it difficult to engage in livestock production on a large scale because of financial constraints.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

Based on the finding of this study, the following recommendations have been made.

#### **6.3.1 Linking Farmers to Potential Markets**

Access to markets was found to be one of the constraints facing women farmers. The Government through Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Development Agencies need to link women livestock farmers to strike contracts with livestock dealers like ZAMBEEF so that they can be supplying them with their livestock or even large supermarkets. The women farmers could sell their livestock to the supermarkets whom they team up with, who in turn would support farmers with affordable feed and transport for livestock produce.

Many of the rural women have no access to markets to sell their produce; this discourages them to produce on a large scale. Therefore, the government needs to construct better roads for the farmers as well as better market infrastructure for women farmers to feel safe whilst conducting their daily business.

#### **6.3.2 Strengthening Extension Services**

To improve women's competence in livestock production, extension services need to be strengthened this is by Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. Theoretical training should always be accompanied by practical training to enable farmers to grasp and apply information and new technologies better. Other interested stakeholders like NGOs need to develop support programs that specifically address women's agricultural needs. This entails involving female farmers in planning and designing extension programs.

### **6.3.3 Access to Financial Services**

If the notion that women are equal partners in development is actualized, financial services have to be extended to rural women especially farmers who have the potential of paying back loans with support from firms like National Savings and Credit Bank (NATSAVE) Women farmers have to be assisted with start-up capital to raise them from the poverty ladder. Group savings should also be encouraged both the communities “Ichilimba” and at the Bank. (NATSAVE).

### **6.3.4 Promote Gender Equality**

Women in rural areas are side-lined when it comes to agricultural production. The government must formulate policies to enhance gender equality.

The government through the Ministry of Agriculture and private institutions must sensitize on gender equality and the benefits it comes with to attain development through women empowerment programs. Ministry of Lands must accord women opportunities of ownership of land for farming and rearing animals. They must also be involved in decision making.

### **6.3.5 Improve water shortages**

Smallholder women livestock farmers are generally resource limited, own small pieces of land and manage their animals on communal, leased or private land for food security and income. Owing to their high vulnerability, response strategies aimed at optimizing agricultural water use efficiency in dry areas should prioritize smallholder farmers through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) communal boreholes can be made or building reservoirs.

## **6.4 Limitations**

Timeframe was not enough.

## **6.5 Areas of Future Research**

Effectiveness of government empowerment programs to promote women. It has been noticed that empowerment programs start up well but lack consistency and sustainability therefore this is a recommended area of future research.

A larger sample could be used to get a general picture of women in livestock production in Zambia, i.e. the whole country. With increased climate change affecting crop production, livestock production is the way to go for food security and improved livelihoods.

The use of mixed method approach could be used to yield more data.

## **6.6 Summary**

This chapter highlighted the recommendations and conclusions of the study based on the findings. Furthermore, the chapter presented the limitations of the study and areas for future research.

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**Appendix 1: Questionnaire**

**GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

My name is Melisa Longwani, I am a final year student of the University of Lusaka pursuing a Master of Arts in Development Studies. I am conducting a research study on the Challenges that are faced by Women in Livestock Farming in Mwembeshi ward of Chilanga District in Zambia. The information which will be collected will be for the purpose of this study and will be treated with maximum confidentiality and privacy. You are advised not to answer any question that might be inappropriate to you and your consent shall be sought before participation in the study.

Would you like to participate?

- a) Yes
- b) No

## SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please tick  or circle the appropriate code that corresponds to your chosen answer. Read all the options before you mark your answer.

Q/n o	Questions	Response option	Code
1.	How old are you? Age at last birthday	18 - 24 years 25 - 34 years 35 - 44 years 45 – 54 years 55 years and Above	1 2 3 4 5
2.	What is your nationality	Zambian.....  Non-Zambian.....	1  2
3.	What is you marital status?	Single..... Married..... Divorced..... Widow .....	1 2 3 4
4.	What is you level of education	None..... Primary Education..... Secondary Education..... Tertiary Education.....	1 2 3 4
5.	What is your religion?	Christianity..... .... Islam..... .... Traditionalist..... .... Other.....	1 2 3 4

## SECTION B: TYPES OF LIVESTOCK KEPT BY WOMEN FARMERS

Q/n o	Questions	Response option	Code
6.	Do you keep animals at your household?	Yes  No	1  2
7.	Do you own any of the livestock at your household? [if No Skip to section C]	Yes.....  No.....	1  2
8.	If yes to Q2, how long have you been keeping your OWN Livestock?	2 - 5 years 5 - 10 years 11- 15 years 16 years and above	1 2 3 4
9.	What kind of Livestock do you keep at your household? {Tick all that applies}	Cattle ..... Sheep ..... Goats ..... Pigs ..... Poultry ..... Any other specify.....	1 2 3 4 5 6

10.	Why did you consider keeping these types of livestock at your household? <b>{tick all that applies}</b>	Easy to keep..... Feed is affordable..... Ready market..... They are profitable..... Any other specify.....	1 2 3 4 5
11.	What is the reason for rearing the livestock you are rearing at your household?	Commercial ..... Consumption ..... Both.....	1 2 3

### SECTION C: ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN FARMERS IN LIVESTOCK REARING

Q/n o	Questions	Response option	Code
12.	What kind of activities are you involved in as woman in taking care of the livestock at your household? <b>{Tick all that applies}</b>	None..... ... Buying feed..... Feeding..... ... Vaccination..... . Marketing..... ... Watering	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

		<p>.....</p> <p>Cleaning of Pens</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Other</p> <p>specify.....</p>	
13.	Do you face any challenges in conducting these activities?	<p>Yes.....</p> <p>No.....</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p>
14.	If yes to above Question, What kind of challenges do you face?	.....	

**SECTION D: CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN FARMERS IN LIVESTOCK REARING**

Q/n o	Questions	Response option	Code
15.	<p>What do you think are the challenges at household level that hinder women in fully participating in livestock farming?</p> <p><b>{Tick all that applies}</b></p>	<p>Household</p> <p>Chores.....</p> <p>Dominance by spouse.....</p> <p>Cultural/religious beliefs.....</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p>

		Involved in non-farm activities... Other specify.....	
16.	Do you think that women have access to grazing land for their livestock?	Yes..... No.....	1 2
17.	Do animal disease outbreaks discourage women farmers to actively engage in Livestock production?	1. Yes..... 2. No .....	1 2
18.	Does water shortage discourage women farmers to participate in Livestock Production	Yes..... No.....	1 2
19.	Do you think that women farmers have adequate knowledge about Livestock production?	1. Yes..... 2. No.....	1 2
20.	Do you agree that inadequate capital or lack of access to credit facilities discourages women farmers to participate in livestock production?	1. Strongly agree..... 2. Agree..... 3. Disagree..... 4. Strongly disagree.....	1 2 3 4

21.	Do you agree that women farmers have safe access to markets if they want to sell Livestock?	1. Strongly agree..... ..... 3. Disagree ..... 4. Strongly disagree.....	1 2 3 4
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**END**

**THANK YOU**