

# **ROLE OF GENDER IN COFFEE VALUE CHAIN AND THEIR IMPACTS ON FOOD SECURITY IN ARAKU VALLEY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Coffee is one of the important cash crops around the world for small farmers. Previous studies have shown that the involvement of women is limited to manual work. Gender roles can have an important effect on performance in the coffee value chain and subsequently impact food security. This study compares the differences in input, production and marketing activities related to coffee between male and female-headed households. It explores the determinant of households' participation in Fairtrade cooperatives and investigates the impact of Fairtrade certification on food security of both male- and female-headed households. The data were analysed using an endogenous switching regression model, next to Wilcoxon Rank Sum test and the Pearson's chi-squared test and method. Descriptive results suggest female-headed households not only have a relatively lower access to livelihood assets such as education, off-farm work, but also agricultural products such as coffee pulper and livestock resulting lower total income in households with female headship. Econometric results suggest that households age, total land, saving and total income are positively related to participation and Fairtrade certification does not increase the food consumption score, meaning that Fairtrade certified coffee producing households are not better off in terms of food security. This study suggests that local people should be encouraged in trade and business of coffee and appropriate training and support should be provided regarding business literacy, processing, packaging and marketing, and all programmes conducted should be inclusive in terms of gender.

**Keywords:** Coffee, gender, Fairtrade, food security, endogenous switching regression, India