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Livelihood Opportunities and Its Impact on: Women in the Rural areas of Afghanistan

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Abstract: This research aims to identify livelihood opportunities for women in rural areas of Afghanistan, focusing on their wellbeing and the impact of these opportunities on agricultural and non-agriculture production. Household-headed women in rural areas are in dire need, especially after the collapse of the government. The study explores the role of social relationships in rural Afghan livelihood security, focusing on how households navigate institutional weaknesses and local power structures. It highlights the importance of context in designing poverty reduction programs and the need for development actors to engage with local social hierarchies. The research provides suggestions for improving livelihoods opportunities, reducing dependence on agriculture, and enhancing livestock. It emphasizes the need for governmental and non-governmental organizations to address livelihood challenges and improve access to sustainable livelihoods. Poverty alleviation is a priority for both agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, with indigenous knowledge in small and medium-sized enterprises like handicraft making being crucial.

Purpose: Past studies have largely focused on livelihood opportunities in rural areas in agriculture and non-agriculture, largely ignoring followership and its consequences. This study investigates women in rural areas and livelihood opportunities through their intentions and actions. Following rural areas (RA), this study contributes to the growing research on livelihood opportunities (OP) and related positive consequences beyond the agricultural and non-agriculture approaches. This paper investigates the serial mediation link between livelihood opportunities (LO) and their impact on women in rural areas of Afghanistan.

Design Methodologies/Approach: The purpose of this research was to develop a sustainable livelihood strategy for Afghanistan's various provinces. Purposive sampling and snowball sampling were used to gather data from 34 Afghan provinces, with each province's eight head of females chosen at random ($34 * 8 = 272$). Rural regions could be made more industrialized, livestock could be used, housing could be improved, production efficiency could be maximized, native poultry could be raised, and eugenic dairy cows could be raised. In 1988, Jaim and Rehman (Grace 2004).

Finding: The study highlights challenges in analyzing agricultural practices and employment trends in Afghanistan due to variability in (1) data quality and availability. The continuous evolution of these trends presents challenges in exploring (2) geographical specificity and temporal aspects. (3) Cultural and societal influences also pose challenges in existing research and policies. (4) Future research directions include in-depth regional studies, longitudinal analyses, cultural impact assessments, technology integration exploration, environmental impact evaluations, policy analyses, human resource management studies, and value chain optimization initiatives. These findings highlight existing limitations and potential for future research and development in Afghanistan's agricultural and employment sectors.

Practical/ implementations Horizontal: The manuscript suggests a series of strategies to improve data collection, regional development, sustainable agriculture practices, cultural integration in policies, technology adoption, policy reforms, skill development, and value chain enhancement in Afghanistan. These include collaborating with local authorities and international organizations, implementing training programs, promoting sustainable farming techniques, involving local communities in policy-making, facilitating access to agricultural technology, advocating for policy reforms, establishing vocational training centers, and enhancing value chains through cooperatives or farmer associations. These initiatives aim to foster holistic development, empower local communities, and contribute to sustainable growth in agriculture, employment, and rural livelihoods.

Originality Value: Overall, the originality of this Research mendacities in its comprehensive, context-specific, and forward-looking approach, offering a roadmap for addressing complex issues faced by rural communities in Afghanistan. It presents a blend of theoretical insights and actionable strategies, contributing to the discourse on sustainable development and livelihood enhancement in the region.

Key Words: Agriculture sectors, Rural area, non-agriculture sectors, Livelihood, Sustainability, Financial services, Poor Woman

Paper Types: Research Papers

Introduction: This research explores livelihood opportunities for rural and poor women in Afghanistan, focusing on agriculture, non-agriculture, and industry and services. Agriculture and livestock are the primary income sources for women in rural areas, but they face challenges like natural disasters, lack of market, hardships, and cultural norms. 2013 research by Morse (2013), Azim Mommand 2022 et al., Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). Alternative means of livelihood are needed to support women's economic wellbeing and ensure their continued economic growth. The research highlights the need for suitable activities like home-based businesses and entrepreneurship.

(Strand and Olesen, 2005). *Jo Ann 2013* The majority of the world's impoverished population lives in rural areas, facing challenges like climate change, declining crop prices, land access limitations, and fewer job opportunities. *Shujahat et al., 2018*. 2013 research by *Morse (2013)*, Despite development initiatives, sustainable livelihoods have not helped impoverished rural communities create sustainable livelihoods. *Shujahat et al., 2018*. *Azim Mommand 2022 et*; The "sustainable livelihood approach" focuses on rural livelihoods, emphasizing social capital as the primary capital of cultured communities. *Jaim and Rehman (1988) (Grace 2004)*. Religious and spiritual components, such as rituals, are recognized as forms of social capital that support local livelihood systems. Afghanistan has a high poverty rate, with over 54.5 percent of its population living in poverty. The sustainable livelihood approach focuses on people's access to economic capital and how they combine and grow these assets to make a living. *Azim Mommand 2022 et al., Iftikharullah Ghani (2023)* This research aims to identify and design a complementary approach to sustainable livelihood in the Agriculture and Non-Agriculture areas, as no research has been conducted in these areas. *Iftikharullah Ghani (2023)*.

RQ1, what is the impact of livelihood opportunities in the agriculture sector on women in Afghanistan?

RQ2, what is the impact of livelihood opportunities in non-agricultural sectors for women in Afghanistan?

RQ3, does livestock mediate the relationship between the agriculture sector and non-agriculture sectors in rural areas of Afghanistan?

Background of study: The background of the study on livelihood opportunities in the Agriculture and Non-Agriculture area for women in rural areas of Afghanistan is characterized by various initiatives and programs aimed at improving the economic prospects and well-being of vulnerable families in the country *Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023)*. Organizations such as the **World Bank, USAID, and CARE** have been involved in projects that provide short-term employment opportunities, essential services, and support for women's economic empowerment in both rural and urban areas of Afghanistan. These efforts seek to address the challenges posed by poverty, cultural norms, and the impact of conflict on the livelihoods of the Agriculture and Non-Agriculture area for women in Afghanistan. The focus on women's economic empowerment and resilience building reflects a recognition of the significant barriers and disparities faced by women in the Afghan workforce and the importance of addressing these issues to create sustainable livelihood opportunities Agriculture and Non-Agriculture area for woman in Afghanistan. *Pedroni (2008) Egart et al. (2009)*.

Problem statement: Agriculture and livestock are the primary income sources for women in rural Afghanistan, with nearly 34 provinces relying on these resources. However, these sources face challenges due to natural disasters, lack of market, hardship practices, and bad traditions. This research aims to identify alternative livelihood sources for women in rural areas, such as home-based businesses like tailoring, embroidery, carpet waving, entrepreneurship, and bakery. The study emphasizes the importance of social relationships in rural life and livelihood outcomes, focusing on qualitative research on rural livelihood change in all provinces. It highlights the role of village characteristics, such as landholding concentration and nonfarm options, in livelihood outcomes. The study suggests that women's contributions to the household agricultural economy, particularly in livestock, horticulture, and farming-related entrepreneurship, are essential. Investing in women's skills development through gender accountability in vocational education and technology-reliant educational methods is also needed. The research calls for better targeting of women's spaces in government policies, gender-accountable projects, and gender-sensitive monitoring of outcomes. (1) Women's access to occupational knowledge and skills development, especially in livestock, agriculture, and non-agricultural areas, is being significantly improved. (2) Institutional support for women's occupational collectivization (3) Research and governmental recognition of women's unpaid and domestic work (4) Financial inclusion for women, including credit and inheritance, is crucial. Understanding labor supply and women's participation in agriculture can help identify gendered boundaries, market opportunities, and disability status.

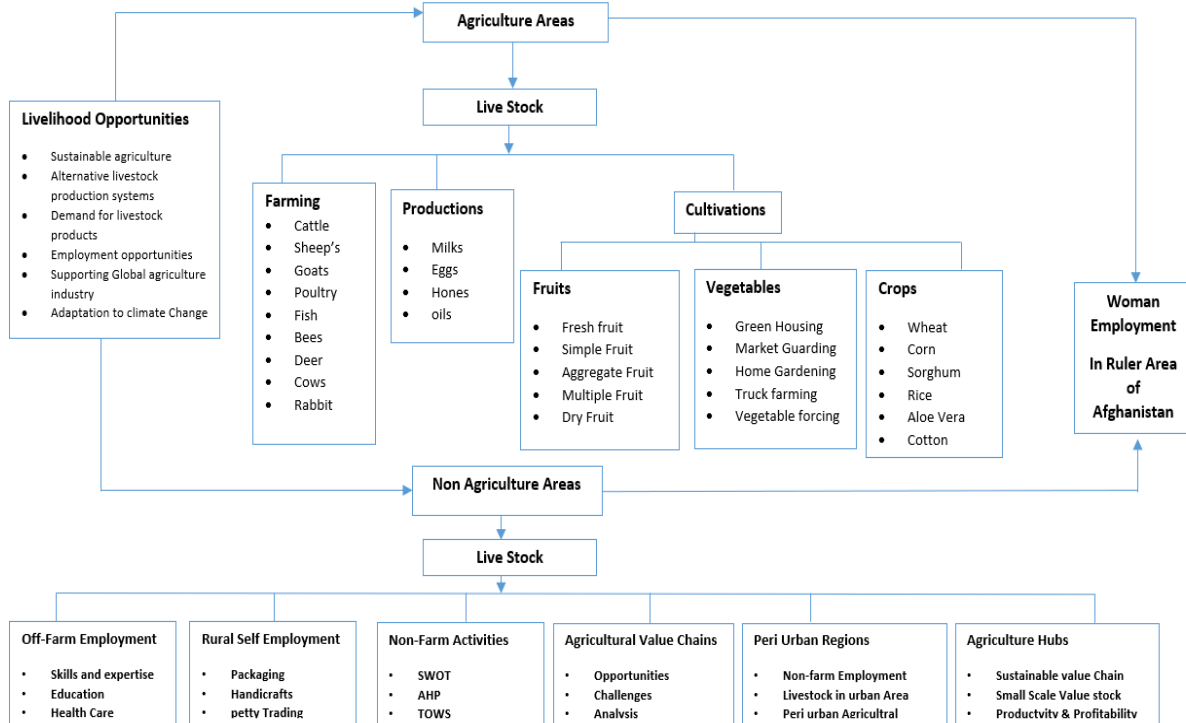
Literature Review/ Hypotheses developments: Livelihood resources and opportunities are crucial for women in rural Afghanistan, and various studies have investigated these issues. During the previous government's (2001-2021) government, women were a focus of humanitarian aid, with organizations like the **World Bank, USAID, and UN** implementing projects for wellbeing and sustainable livelihoods. 2013 research by *Morse (2013)*, *Azim Mommand 2022 et al., Iftikharullah Ghani (2023)*. Research has identified livelihood opportunities in all provinces of Afghanistan, highlighting the importance of building capacity for poor people to utilize available resources and promoting rural industrialization. (*Adam et al. Pain's 2002*) Community-level capacity building can reduce agriculture dependency and livestock husbandry, allowing new widows to support their family's fostering education for female out-of-school youth in Afghanistan has shown that trained women can improve their livelihoods and support their families. *Jaim and Rehman (1988); Bloch and Tang (2003) al, et al. (2004) (Strand and Olesen, 2005). Jo Ann 2013* The Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) is a successful technique for addressing poverty issues. Improving sanitation can reduce disease burden, promote social equity, and mitigate environmental contamination. Factors influencing sanitation adoption include psychological, sociocultural, and structural influences. *Morse (2013) Azim Mommand 2022*. Women's decision-making power in health care and major household purchases can influence household sanitation practices. Women with higher education, employment, and wealth levels are more likely to advocate for private sanitation facilities, as they perceive lack of improved sanitation as a health concern. Demographic and socioeconomic factors can also moderate women's influence on sanitation practices. *Chatterji and Kiran, 2017; Shujahat et al., 2018*). The United Nations has designated March as Gender Equality month, emphasizing the need for women's empowerment and access to adequate food and nutrition. FAO supported 2.94 million Afghans in 2021 with emergency agriculture livelihood assistance packages, including a winter wheat campaign. (*Bratianu and Bejinaru, 2017; Chatterji and Kiran, 2017; Shujahat et al., 2018*). 2013 research by *Morse (2013)*, *Azim Mommand 2022 et al., Iftikharullah Ghani (2023)*. Rural women should be targeted for humanitarian assistance, as their milk can save lives and provide veterinary care for livestock. *Karima Sorkhabi et al., 2020*. (1) Agriculture Areas: Afghanistan's agriculture sector is highly productive, with over 130 crops grown in the Central region and a revenue of nearly \$10 billion. With 37,100 unique farms across 15.3 million acres, 1992 Rio de Janeiro it is vital for the state's economic health. Biodiversity is essential for conservation, landscape conservation, and cultivated ecosystems. *Morse (2013) Azim Mommand 2022*. Assessment tools like biodiversity indexes, biotic indicators, and models are needed to evaluate farm practices' impact on biodiversity. *Jaim and Rehman (1988) (Grace 2004)*. (2) Live Stock: Livestock, including cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, and poultry, are domesticated animals raised in agricultural settings for meat, dairy, eggs, wool, and other products. Top agriculture stocks for investment in 2023 include Archer

Daniels Midland, (ADM) Corteva, Nutrien, Bunge, CF Industries, Calavo Growers, and Tejon Ranch Co. [Jaim and Rehman \(1988\) \(Grace 2004\)](#). (3) Livelihood opportunities: Rural Afghanistan's women are vital in the agriculture sector, contributing to the country's economy through dairy production, poultry farming, livestock rearing, crop cultivation, and food processing and marketing. [Morse \(2013\); et al, Chatterji and Kiran, 2017](#) However, they face challenges like limited access to resources, technology, financial services, and education. To empower women and improve their livelihoods, equal access to resources, education, and markets, as well as training in agricultural techniques and business skills, is essential. This will enable them to contribute more effectively to the agricultural economy and improve their own livelihoods. [Morse \(2013\) Azim Mommand 2022](#). (4) Sustainable agriculture: Sustainable agriculture aims to meet current food and textile needs without compromising future generations' needs. It involves integrated practices, including conventional and organic farming, and negotiation between individual and community interests. Methods to increase sustainability include rotating crops, embracing diversity, preserving natural resources, and using environment-friendly farming methods. Current practices, such as soil loss, water demand, and pollution, need to be replaced with alternative practices to preserve soil and future generations. [Morse \(2013\); et al, Chatterji and Kiran, 2017; Shujahat et al., 2018\)](#). [Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani \(2023\)](#). (5) Alternative livestock: Alternative livestock refers to non-traditional animals raised on farms or properties for various purposes, such as meat, fiber, eggs, feathers, and manure. Factors such as regulatory restrictions, land resources, and potential profits should be considered before raising alternative livestock. Chicory, a perennial plant with medicinal, culinary, and nutritional properties, is used as a livestock feed supplement or alternative feed ingredient. [Shujahat et al., 2018\)](#). [Azim Mommand](#) Alternative feedstuffs like chicory parts can improve animal health, yield, and product quality. However, policy instruments to force grazing farms out may diminish nutritious food production. [Chatterji and Kiran, 2017; Shujahat et al., 2018\)](#). A "red meat tax" may cause socioeconomic losses due to resource misallocation. [Pedroni \(2008\) Egart et al. \(2009\)](#) More multidimensional sustainability assessment is needed for better-balanced policy packages. [\(Strand and Olesen, 2005\)](#). (6) production systems: Agricultural production systems, including subsistence, pastoral, nomadic, plantations, and mixed, are crucial for farmers to meet food, fuel, and fiber demands. Livestock production systems, such as Afghanistan's beef export, provide goods like meat, milk, eggs, and hides. [Shujahat et al., 2018\)](#). [Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani \(2023\)](#). However, changes in ecosystem services, such as deforestation and fertilizer use, have led to increased species extinction rates and reduced productivity in aquatic ecosystems. As the human population grows and per capita demand for ecosystem services increases, societies must find ways to meet these demands. [Jaim and Rehman \(1988\) \(Grace 2004\)](#). This research explores the challenges and opportunities for ecology in the context of globalization, focusing on improving understanding and management of production systems. It emphasizes the need to enhance capacity to provide multiple ecosystem services while maintaining resilient social and ecological systems. [1960; Jaim and Rehman \(1988\); \(Bloch and Tang, 2003\) al, et \(Grace 2004\)](#). Addressing these demands is crucial for the planet's ecological, economic, and cultural future. (7) Demand for livestock product: The demand for livestock products is increasing due to population growth, incomes, and changing diets. [Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani \(2023\)](#). In developing countries, the demand is expected to double by 2030, while in industrialized countries, it is growing at lower rates. Livestock production is a significant agricultural sub-sect, offering opportunities for smallholders and job creators. Afghanistan's large population and growing income have led to a significant increase in demand for milk and milk products. The study highlights the importance of traceability in demand-oriented meat and livestock production in Afghanistan, emphasizing the need for information and transparency in food chains. [Jaim and Rehman \(1988\) \(Grace 2004\)](#). The USDA's long-run projections show a combined global demand for beef, pork, and poultry, which is projected to grow by over 17% through 2030. (8) Employment opportunities: Livestock production provides numerous employment opportunities, including rancher, nutritionist, herdsman, breeding manager, artificial insemination technician, animal caretaker, and beef farm worker. [Jaim and Rehman \(1988\) \(Grace 2004\)](#). Tourism, a rapidly growing industry, contributes to 9.5% of global GDP and supports 266 million jobs. India is the second largest employment generator in the sector. However, challenges like unstable employment, low job status, long hours, and low pay lead to high staff turnover. The relationship between human resources and tourism is crucial for a sustainable workforce and social equality. [Pedroni \(2008\) Egart et al. \(2009\) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani \(2023\)](#). A study found that disability type is crucial for employment opportunities. (9) Supporting Global agriculture industry: The global agriculture industry is crucial for food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable development. It faces challenges such as producing more food and fiber for a growing population, adapting to climate change, and adopting more efficient production methods. [Pedroni \(2008\) Egart et al. \(2009\)](#) Sustainable agriculture practices, such as rotating crops and embracing diversity, can maximize productivity and minimize environmental damage. Governments play a key role in supporting food, agriculture, and fisheries sectors. The diversity of agricultural production systems presents opportunities for research and innovation. However, GMOs pose a risk due to public concerns and public acceptance. [Porter \(1980\) and Grant \(1991\)](#) The diamond model helps analyze spatial connections of emerging markets in agricultural export, identifying factors like irrigated land area, competitive labor cost, foreign direct investment, and export market opportunity. [1990s. \(Gramlich, 1994\). \(1988\) \(Grace 2004\). \(Strand and Olesen, 2005\)](#). (10) Adaptation to climate Change: Climate change poses a significant threat to livestock systems, impacting productivity and well-being. To mitigate this, producers should adopt adaptive practices like promoting local animal breeds, managing water resources, and implementing early warning systems. [Porter \(1980\) and Grant \(1991\)](#) Changes in production systems, species, and infrastructure can enhance resilience. The diamond model, introduced by Porter and Grant, provides insights into a country's competitive advantage and export competitiveness in emerging markets [Porter \(1980\) and Grant \(1991\) \(11\)](#). Farming: Industry 4.0, a 2011 Afghan government initiative, focuses on smart manufacturing using technologies like IoT, AI, 3D printing, and augmented reality. This new paradigm aims to be human-centric, connecting innovation with sustainable development policies. Three types of users for innovation are identified: implementation ability, human-centric design (HCD), and animal farming. [\(2009\) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani \(2023\)](#). Animal farming involves raising animals for meat, fiber, milk, and other products. Key aspects include ruminant animals, poultry, factory farming, and alternative farming models. However, these models may not replace large-scale farming on a large scale. Animal farming has both positive and negative impacts on the environment, rural communities, and animal welfare, including deforestation, water scarcity, and animal exploitation. (12) Dry production: Dry production in the context of agriculture can refer to two main areas:(a) dry production in livestock farming and (b) dryland farming for crop production. (13) Dry Production in Livestock Farming: Dry production is a method used in livestock farming, particularly in beef cow-

calf production. It involves feeding confined cow-calf pairs in a feedlot environment during part or all of the traditional grazing season. Pedroni (2008) Egart et al. This approach is often adopted during droughts, when expanding a cow herd, or when pasture resources are limited. It can provide an alternative for new cattlemen to start a herd without a large investment in land. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). (14) Dryland Farming for Crop Production: Dryland farming refers to crop production in areas with limited rainfall, typically less than 500 mm of annual precipitation. It is a challenging form of agriculture that relies on the moisture stored in the soil from the previous wet season. Pedroni (2008) Egart et al This type of farming often requires specific techniques and crop varieties adapted to arid conditions to ensure sustainable production. In the context of livestock farming, dry production methods such as dry systems can provide alternatives during challenging environmental conditions, while in crop production, dryland farming requires specialized approaches to overcome the limitations of low rainfall. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). (15) Cultivations: Cultivation in agriculture involves preparing soil, planting, and nurturing crops to ensure growth and yield. Techniques vary depending on soil type, climate, and resources. Common methods include mould board plowing, no-till farming, contour farming, cover cropping, drought farming, and mixed farming. Morse (2013); et al, Chatterji and Kiran, 2017 Cultivation methods can be adapted to various agricultural systems, including conventional farming, organic farming, and agroforestry. Filamentous fungi are used as efficient cell factories for producing metabolites, bioactive substances, and proteins due to their metabolic diversity, high production capacity, and posttranslational modifications. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). This research focuses on understanding fungal morphogenesis and biochemical engineering approaches to optimize production processes, discussing growth and mass transfer in fungal bio pellets, rheology, and the relationship between morphology and productivity in relation to the environment. (16) Fruit cultivations: Fruit cultivation involves site selection, variety selection, planting, spacing, and management practices. Techniques include moldboard plowing, no-till farming, contour farming, cover cropping, and dryland farming. As skilled seasonal workers decline, the fruit industry faces risks. Porter (1980) and Grant (1991) This study explores the financial viability of using technology to replace human labor in primary orchard duties, including pome fruit production. Advancements in automation assess profitability and feasibility in each activity. (17) Vegetables cultivations: Vegetable cultivation involves various practices like soil preparation, planting, fertilization, and pest control to ensure successful growth and yield. Key aspects include site selection, soil preparation, irrigation, fertilization, weed control, pest and disease control, crop variety selection, and marketing. Factors like soil type, climate, and water availability are crucial. Weed control methods include cultivation and herbicides. Pest and disease control measures include biological pesticides, chemical sprays, and crop rotation. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). Choosing the right crop variety for a specific region and climate is essential. Farmers can market their produce through various channels. Modern techniques like aquaponics and raised beds can improve efficiency and adapt to changing conditions. (18) crops cultivations: Cultivation involves soil loosening, planting, and nurturing crops for growth and yield. Techniques vary based on crop type, soil, climate, and resources. In Afghanistan, private seed companies produced over 12,000 tons of certified wheat seed in 2020, accounting for 95% of the nation's total certified seed production. Pedroni (2008) Egart et al. (2009) Farmers prioritize high yield, disease resistance, earliness, grain color, and bread-making quality. (19) Non-Agriculture Areas: NGOs in Afghanistan have implemented a "first pass" groundwater management strategy to prevent depletion of traditional water sources, over-abstraction of aquifers, and chemical degradation of soil and groundwater quality. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). This includes promoting groundwater as drinking water, limiting abstraction to sit irrigation wells 500 meters away, and avoiding motorized pumps for irrigation. This strategy also includes vegetable farming practices. (20) Off-Farm Employment: Off-farm employment, which involves income-generating activities outside the home farm, is increasingly important for farm households, with 96% of US farm households earning income from sources other than agriculture in 2019. 2013 research by Morse (2013), The most common industries for off-farm pay include professional and management, construction, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting. (21) Rural self-employment: Rural self-employment is a form of self-employment in rural areas, where opportunities are limited due to unequal development, demographic decline, and limited job opportunities. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). India's Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) provide short-term residential training programs with free food and accommodation to rural youth, promoting self-employment and skill upgradation. Despite challenging working conditions, rural workers are more likely to be self-employed than urban workers. Morse (2013); et al, Chatterji and Kiran, 2017; Shujahat et al., 2018). RSETIs help rural youth overcome challenges related to skill development and resource access, contributing to rural development. (22) Non-Farm Activities: Non-farm enterprises provide rural residents with income and job opportunities, crucial for economic development. These activities include dairy, transportation, agro-processing, building, mining, quarrying, maintenance, and community service. In emerging nations, 35-50% of rural income comes from non-farm activities. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). These initiatives can reduce poverty, stimulate economic expansion, create jobs, and improve population distribution. However, access to financing, education, and resources is often required for rural populations to fully benefit. (23) Agricultural value chains: An agricultural value chain is a comprehensive system that involves the production, processing, and distribution of agricultural products, involving various stakeholders including farmers, input providers, processors, distributors, retailers, and consumers. (2009) Azim Mommand 2022 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023). It aims to increase profitability, optimize resource use, and improve market access. The chain includes cultivation, processing, distribution, and consumption. Challenges include complex regulations, limited resources, gender barriers, and high transaction costs. 2013 research by Morse (2013), Strategies like enhancing value chain programming, focusing on food value chains, and generating shared value can help overcome these challenges. (24) Peri urban Regions: Peri-urban areas, also known as urban spaces, hinterland, or outskirts, are areas between urban and rural areas with a blend of rural and urban land uses. These areas are complex and diverse, influenced by urban development and environmental conditions. Pedroni (2008) Egart et al The growth of cities into peri-urban areas has raised concerns about natural resource management, food and water security, and sustainability. The growing population has increased energy and food demands, impacting the ecological services and livability of these areas. Understanding and addressing these challenges is crucial for sustainable development and environmental security. (25) Agricultural Hubs: "Agricultural hubs" refer to centralized facilities providing services for agricultural operations, such as distribution, processing, and storage. 1990s. (Gramlich, 1994). (1988) (Grace 2004). (Strand and

Olesen, 2005). They are essential for rural economic development and the sustainability of agricultural value chains. Despite the lack of relevant information in search results, their creation can significantly expand the rural non-farm economy.

Theoretical Framework:



Research Methodologies: This paper attempted to study the social reality and social thoughts, related to livelihood opportunities and their impacts on women lives in agricultural and non- agricultural sectors in rural areas of Afghanistan. To examine the prevailing condition of women livelihood opportunities in the mentioned sectors, the following approaches will be used. To calculate the livelihood opportunities and their impacts on women in rural Afghanistan, a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods is designed which would allow for a comprehensive understanding of the experiences and perspectives of women in these communities, as well as the statistical data to support and contextualize their narrative. However, the qualitative method includes interview, focus groups, and participant observation would be valuable for gaining insight into the specific challenges and opportunities faced by women in rural Afghanistan. These methods would allow to explore the cultural, social and economic factors that shape women's livelihood opportunities and their impact on their lives. The quantitative methods such as surveys and statistical analysis aim to gather data on the prevalence and distribution of different types of livelihood opportunities, as well as their impact on women's economic well-being, health, and social status. This data could help to identify patterns and trends, as well as to measure the magnitude of the impact of livelihood opportunities on women in rural Afghanistan. Additionally, a mixed methods approach could be beneficial, as it would allow the study to triangulate their findings and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamic at play. By combining qualitative and quantitative methods will make the study able to provide a more nuanced and holistic analysis of livelihood opportunities and their impact on women in rural Afghanistan.

Significance of study: The persistence of this study is to assess the livelihood opportunities in Agriculture and Non- Agriculture area for women in rural areas of Afghanistan. in livestock's and make possible, workable recommendations. The research has played a significant role in pointing out major agriculture and non-agriculture challenges that create a bottleneck for women in rural areas of Afghanistan. Through the identification of the major parameters that will help with the growth of the livestock sector, the country can get the maximum benefit in terms of livelihood opportunities for women in rural areas of Afghanistan, which remains secure, having secured competitive advantages over others. Therefore, this study could serve as an input for women in rural areas to understand market opportunities and ways to improve their competitiveness. Moreover, most major Afghan agriculture and non-agriculture industries, especially those with livestock for women in rural areas, are members of Afghanistan. Thus, it can be used as an input in order to assist its members. Furthermore, the outcome of this study can be used as a reference document for further research into women's livestock Crops activities in rural areas of Afghanistan.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

RO1, to figure out the impact of livelihood opportunities in agriculture sectors for women in Afghanistan?

RO2, to see the impact of livelihood opportunities in non-agricultural sectors for women in Afghanistan?

RO3, to find out if there is a positive and linked relationship between all of them?

Scope of the study: Among the numerous livelihood opportunities, this study will focus only on Agriculture and Non- Agriculture area for women in rural areas of Afghanistan. The analysis is planned to cover the following areas: livelihood opportunities for women in rural areas of Afghanistan; the major countries involved in livestock's agriculture and non-agriculture sectors for women in rural

areas of Afghanistan; their share in the global market; The amount of agriculture and non-agriculture opportunities for women in rural areas by purpose countries in the international markets, The economic importance of a livestock's and its predictions The study is limited to the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors for women in rural areas of Afghanistan. Time is also a restricting factor. The study will focus on investigating the livelihood opportunities for women in rural areas of Afghanistan.

Sample and Sampling Techniques: The research uses purposive and snowball sampling techniques to gather data from **272 female** household heads in Afghanistan. Purposive sampling selects participants based on their role and location in rural areas, while snowball sampling allows for referrals from initial contacts. These techniques ensure diverse representation of experiences among women in various livelihood activities. The study combines qualitative methods with quantitative surveys and statistical analysis to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by rural Afghan women in accessing livelihood opportunities. This data will help generate evidence-based policy recommendations and development interventions.

Statistics

		DR	CR	MR	QR	PR	LR	RR	LH	FS
N	Valid	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		17.6250	14.3640	17.9963	20.7132	20.3529	17.2353	20.5699	12.9522	16.9669
Median		17.0000	14.0000	17.0000	21.0000	20.0000	18.0000	20.0000	13.0000	17.0000
Mode		23.00	17.00	16.00	24.00	16.00	18.00 ^a	18.00	15.00	20.00
Variance		20.744	13.406	19.044	18.965	20.871	12.646	20.032	7.883	13.840
Skewness		.096	-.030	.060	.015	.064	-.073	.054	-.460	-.030
Std. Error of Skewness		.148	.148	.148	.148	.148	.148	.148	.148	.148
Kurtosis		-1.231	-1.183	-1.192	-1.147	-.934	-.936	-1.063	-.018	-.832
Std. Error of Kurtosis		.294	.294	.294	.294	.294	.294	.294	.294	.294

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown



N (Valid/Missing): Indicates the count of valid observations and missing values for each variable. In the case, there are 272 valid observations for each variable with no missing values.

Mean: represents the average value of the dataset for each variable. The DR17.6250 and CR14.3640 for Mean in this Research.

Median: The middle value in the dataset when the values are arranged in ascending order. The DR 17.0000 and CR 14.0000 in this research.

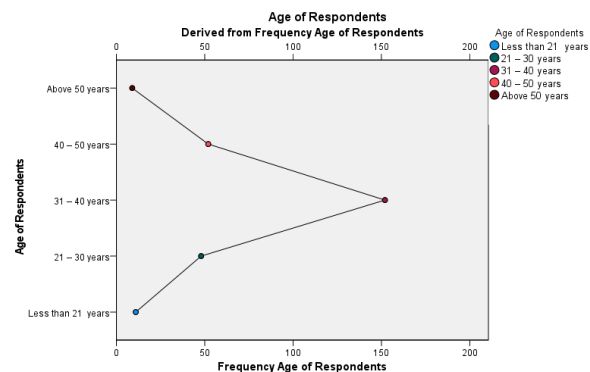
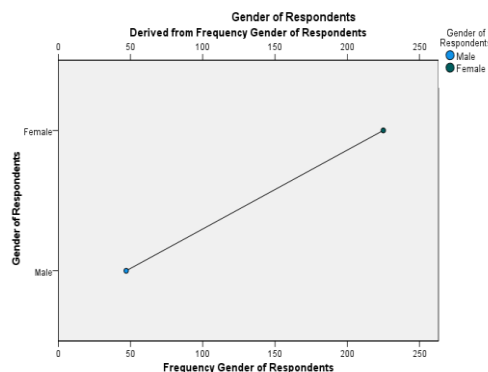
Mode: The most frequently occurring value in the dataset for each variable. is for DR 23.00 and CR 17.00 for Mode in this Research.

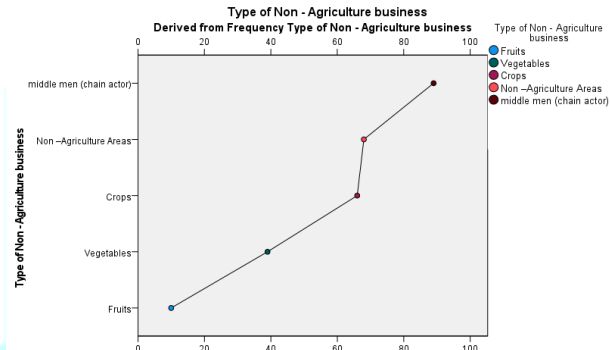
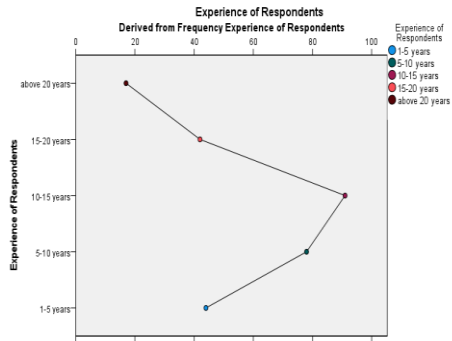
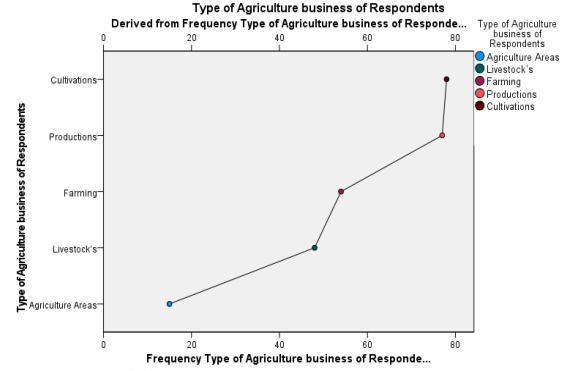
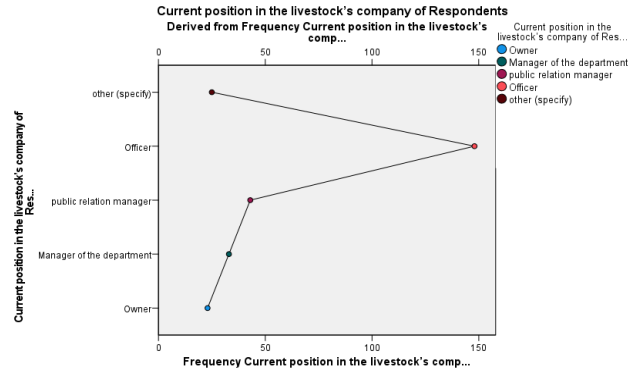
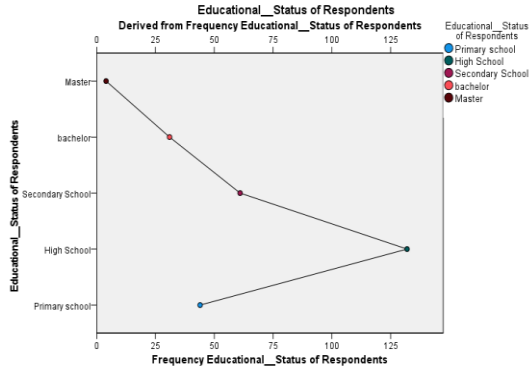
Variance: The measure of how much the values in the dataset differ from the mean. DR 20.744 and CR 13.406 in this Research.

Skewness: Measures the asymmetry of the probability distribution of a real-valued random variable about its mean of DR .096 and CR -0.30.

Standard Error of Skewness: The Standard error associated with the skewness estimate of DR .148 and CR .148 which present normal.

Kurtosis: Measures the "tailedness" of the probability distribution of a real-valued random variable of DR -1.231 and CR -1.183 of this research





Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Std. Error	Kurtosis	Std. Error
DR	272	6.00	25.00	17.6250	4.55461	.096	.148	-1.231	.294
CR	272	6.00	20.00	14.3640	3.66139	-.030	.148	-1.183	.294
MR	272	8.00	25.00	17.9963	4.36397	.060	.148	-1.192	.294
QR	272	12.00	29.00	20.7132	4.35493	.015	.148	-1.147	.294
PR	272	7.00	30.00	20.3529	4.56851	.064	.148	-.934	.294
LR	272	9.00	24.00	17.2353	3.55606	-.073	.148	-.936	.294
RR	272	9.00	29.00	20.5699	4.47571	.054	.148	-1.063	.294
LH	272	5.00	19.00	12.9522	2.80772	-.460	.148	-.018	.294
FS	272	7.00	25.00	16.9669	3.72025	-.030	.148	-.832	.294
Valid N (listwise)	272								

The Descriptive statistics table of this research presents the various variables (DR, CR, MR, QR, PR, LR, RR, LH, and FS) in our dataset. Here's a summary results of analysis of the statistics provided:

- **N:** Indicates the number of observations or cases for each variable. Which is the total participants 272.
- **Minimum:** The smallest value of this research 6.00 observed in the dataset for each variable.
- **Maximum:** The largest value of this research 19.00 observed in the dataset for each variable.
- **Mean:** The average or arithmetic mean value of this research 14.3640 of the dataset for each variable.
- **Std. Deviation:** The standard deviation of this research 2.80772 which measures the amount of variation or dispersion in a dataset.
- **Skewness:** A measure of the asymmetry of the probability distribution of a real-valued random variable about of this research -0.30 its mean all the variables has positives relationships with each other's.
- **Kurtosis:** A measure of the "tailedness" of the probability distribution of a real-valued random variable of this research -.018 Additionally, it seems there's a note on "Valid N (listwise)" indicating the count of cases with complete data across all variables, which in this case is 272.

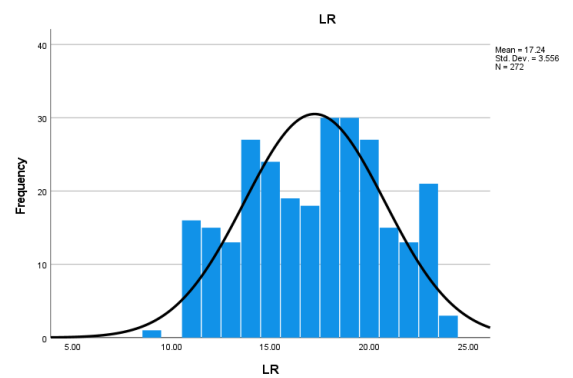
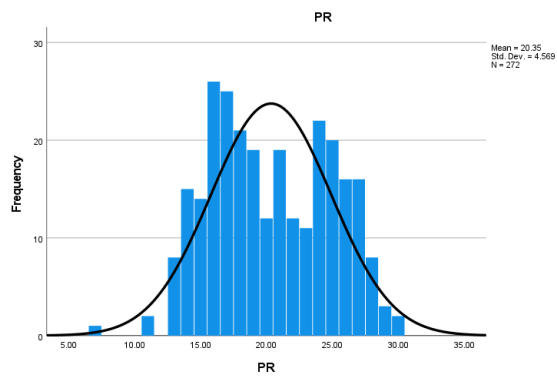
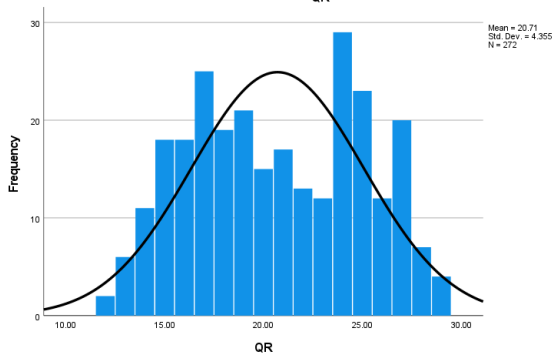
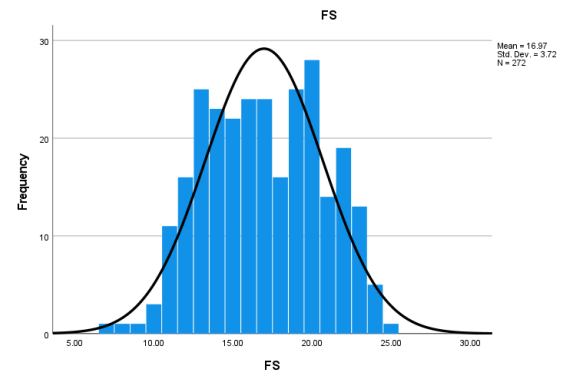
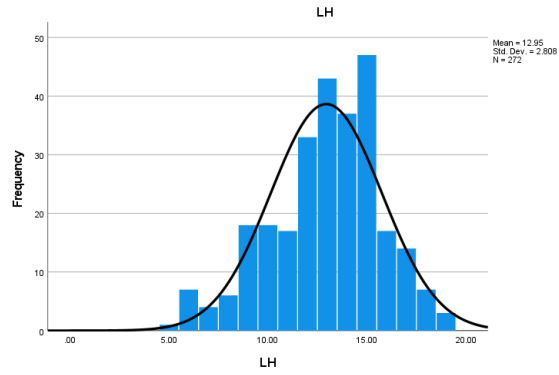
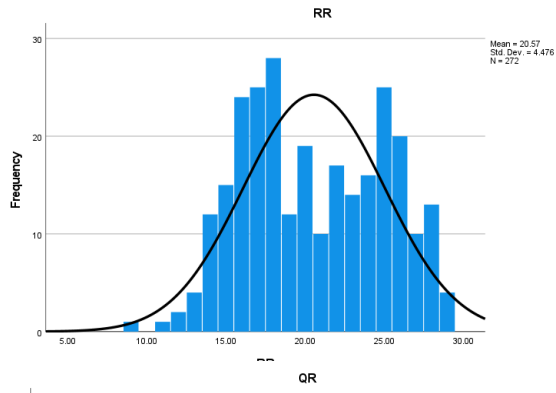
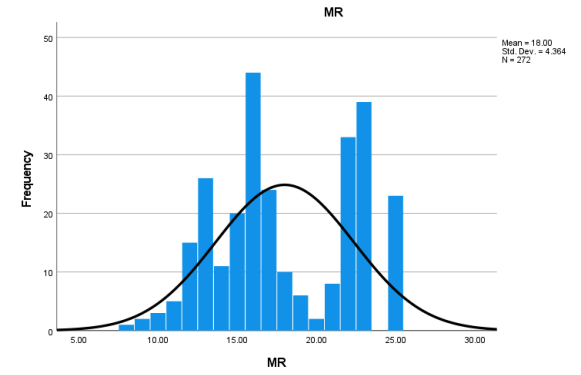
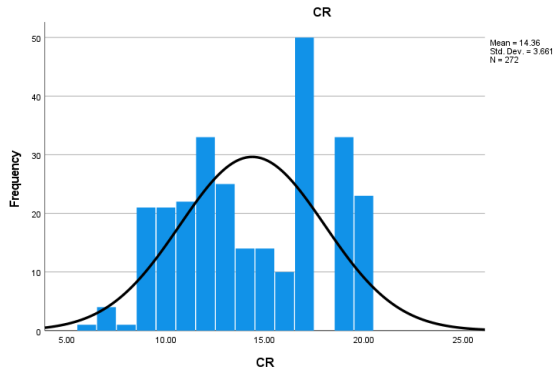
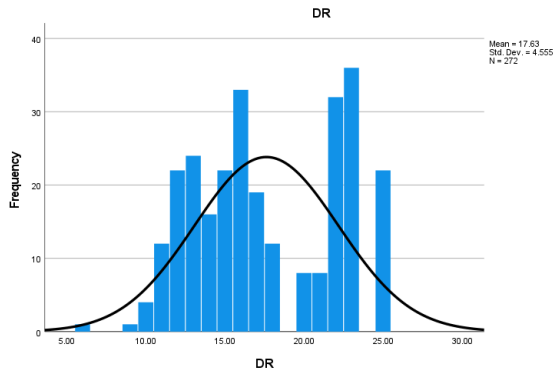
Correlations

		DR	CR	MR	QR	PR	LR	RR	LH	FS
DR	Pearson Correlation	1	.801**	.846**	.874**	.885**	.772**	.885**	.711**	.861**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
CR	Pearson Correlation	.801**	1	.813**	.871**	.912**	.827**	.914**	.700**	.861**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
MR	Pearson Correlation	.846**	.813**	1	.809**	.838**	.703**	.833**	.657**	.750**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
QR	Pearson Correlation	.874**	.871**	.809**	1	.860**	.808**	.868**	.701**	.862**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
PR	Pearson Correlation	.885**	.912**	.838**	.860**	1	.746**	.948**	.650**	.868**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
LR	Pearson Correlation	.772**	.827**	.703**	.808**	.746**	1	.747**	.691**	.782**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000	.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
RR	Pearson Correlation	.885**	.914**	.833**	.868**	.948**	.747**	1	.670**	.879**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000	.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
LH	Pearson Correlation	.711**	.700**	.657**	.701**	.650**	.691**	.670**	1	.580**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		.000
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272
FS	Pearson Correlation	.861**	.861**	.750**	.862**	.868**	.782**	.879**	.580**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272	272

****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The correlation coefficients between different variables denoted by abbreviations (DR, CR, MR, QR, PR, LR, RR, LH, FS). These correlations showcase the relationship between these variables. The table represents Pearson correlation coefficients between each pair of variables.

For instance, taking the correlation between DR and CR, the correlation coefficient is **0.801**, which is statistically significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed), denoted by **. This indicates a strong positive correlation between these two variables. Similarly, each cell in the table represents the correlation coefficient and its statistical significance between the respective pairs of variables.



Conclusions: This research aims to identify livelihood opportunities for women in rural Afghanistan, focusing on their wellbeing and the impact on agricultural and non-agriculture production. Household-headed women in rural areas are in dire need, especially after the collapse of the government. The study explores the role of social relationships in rural Afghan livelihood security, highlighting the importance of context in designing poverty reduction programs and the need for development actors to engage with local social hierarchies. It provides suggestions for improving livelihoods, reducing dependence on agriculture, and enhancing livestock. The research emphasizes the need for governmental and non-governmental organizations to address livelihood challenges and improve access to sustainable livelihoods. The research uses purposive and snowball sampling techniques to gather data from 272 female household heads in Afghanistan. The study aims to identify major agriculture and non-agriculture challenges that create a bottleneck for women in rural areas, and to identify parameters that will help with the growth of the livestock sector. The outcome of this study can serve as an input for women in rural areas to understand market opportunities and improve their competitiveness. The study can also serve as a reference document for further research into women's livestock crops activities in rural areas of Afghanistan.

Implications: The variability in data quality and availability underscores the need for improved data collection methodologies for informed (1) policy-making in the agriculture and employment sectors. In-depth regional studies can enable targeted (2) interventions and policies tailored to specific geographical areas, addressing localized challenges and promoting effective agricultural practices and employment opportunities (3) Sustainable development is crucial for eco-friendly techniques and fostering resilience in rural livelihoods. (4) Cultural sensitivity is essential for designing inclusive policies considering traditional norms, gender dynamics, and community structures. (5) Technological integration in agriculture could revolutionize productivity and employment, but must balance technological advancement with sustainability. (6) Aligning policies with rural development needs can foster sustainable livelihoods. Emphasizing (7) human resource development in agriculture can improve skill sets, stability, and career progression. Investigating (8) value chain optimization can address challenges faced by smallholder farmers and contribute to overall economic growth in rural areas.

Limitations and future research: The (1) data quality and availability of information regarding specific agricultural practices, employment trends, and economic impacts in Afghanistan may vary, potentially impacting the accuracy of analyses. (2) Geographical specificity (3) temporal aspects may not be fully explored due to the continuous evolution of agricultural practices, employment trends, and economic landscapes. (4) Cultural context and societal dimensions influencing agricultural practices, employment patterns, and livelihood opportunities might not have been adequately represented. Future research directions include (1) in-depth regional studies to capture localized nuances and variations in agricultural practices, employment trends, and challenges. (2) Longitudinal studies should be performed to track the evolution of agricultural practices, employment patterns, and economic impacts over time. (3) Cultural impact analysis should explore the cultural and societal influences shaping agricultural practices and employment choices, emphasizing the role of traditions, gender dynamics, and community structures. (4) Technology integration should be investigated to explore the integration of emerging technologies (e.g., IoT, AI) in agricultural practices, their impact on employment opportunities, and the sustainability of rural livelihoods. (5) Environmental impact assessments should focus on assessing the environmental impact of agricultural practices, particularly in the context of climate change, emphasizing sustainable and eco-friendly approaches. (6) Policy and governance analysis should analyze the impact of government policies, agricultural regulations, and governance structures on employment, agricultural productivity, and rural development. (7) Human resource management in agriculture should be explored to address issues of skill development, employment stability, and career progression. (8) Value chain optimization should be investigated to optimize agricultural value chains, considering challenges related to regulations, resource constraints, and market access for smallholder farmers. These suggestions aim to deepen understanding and address potential gaps in the existing knowledge base related to agriculture, employment opportunities, and rural livelihoods in Afghanistan. Conducting research in these directions could provide valuable insights for policy formulation and sustainable development initiatives. Azim Mommand 2023 et; al Iftikharullah Ghani (2023).

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