

## I. Information leaflet

### 1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this research study (hereafter referred to as the Project). The research study aims to determine the factors that influence the smallholder farmers' intentions towards a choice of machinery for agricultural production and develop a framework for a sustainable smallholder mechanisation which is gender transformative and economically viability

### 2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

Name	Institution	Department
Dr. Selorm Yaotse Dorvlo	University of Ghana	Agricultural Engineering
Dr. Katy Roelich	University of Leeds	Sustainability Research Institute
Prof. Charles Jumbe	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi	Agricultural and Applied Economics
Dr. Elizabeth Mkandawire	University of Pretoria	Network and Research Manager, FSNet-Africa

Research Funder: FSNet-Africa is a collaboration between the University of Pretoria (UP), the University of Leeds (UoL), and the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). The network is funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) as a Research Excellence project under the partnership between UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). FSNet-Africa is one of the flagship projects in the ARUA Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS).

### 3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is appropriate for you to take part. The research study is looking to recruit people who meet the following criteria:

The participants in this research should have a rice farm where they practice conservation agriculture. Each participant should have a total land size of less than 10 Ha.

☐ I am above 18 (eighteen) years of age and am competent to contract in my own name.

### 4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage without any repercussions.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read this information leaflet carefully (ask questions if necessary).
- Sign and return the consent form.
- Save a copy of this form for your own records.

### 5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete the following research procedures:

1. You will take part in filling a research questionnaire which will be administered by one of the research assistants who will wear a badge bearing their name and affiliation.
2. You will take part in a focus group discussion which will last about an hour long.
3. There will be pictures/videos taken as part of documenting field activities.
  - a. I hereby give consent to the Project to use my image, likeness, and/or the sound of my voice as recorded in any photos, videos, or audio recordings in the field data collection activities including, but not limited to, training, websites, newsletters, pamphlets, science communication outputs, policy briefs, and marketing materials. I grant the Project the right and permission to use, re-use, publish, or re-publish any photos, videos, or audio recordings, in whole, in part, or in composite form.

☐ Tick this box if you give consent to the Project to use your image, likeness, and/or the sound of your voice as recorded in any photos, videos, or audio recordings in the Project activities.

### 6. What are the possible benefits of the study?

Information from this study will be made available to Government and agencies that will help provide tailored mechanization activities for the smallholder farmers.

### 7. What will happen to information about me?

The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for over ten years. The information about you will be stored in a repository that will have copies with the research team as well as the UK Data Service's ReShare repository.

The information about you will be stored in the following format: ".csv" and ".ATLAS.ti" format. However the data will be properly anonymised to prevent easy linking of data to participants.

### 8. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

Research output will be made available through research publications, policy briefs and communication manuals which will directly be shared to the farmers. Only the research area will be referred to in the publications without reference to each individual.

### 9. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If participation is ANONYMOUS:

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do this by informing the Chief Investigator and the data collected about you will be retrieved using the identifiable code for your data and destroyed. However, if the data has already been processed it will be difficult to identify your data hence your withdrawal will be noted and any future communications will be terminated.

- a. I am participating willingly. I have had time to ask questions and have no objection to participate in the Project data collection. I understand that there is no penalty should I wish to discontinue with the Project and my withdrawal will not affect any treatment in any way.

☐ Tick this box if you understand and agree to the statement above.

10. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact: Dr. Selorm Yaotse Dorvlo.

Complaints Contact

Position	Principal researcher (PI)
Telephone	+233 (024) 2786708
Email	sydorvlo@ug.edu.gh

11. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details

Name	Dr. Elizabeth Mkandawire
Position	Research Team Member
Email	elizabeth.mkandawire@up.ac.za

Chief Investigator (the chief investigator is the fellow)

Name	Dr. Selorm Yaotse Dorvlo
Position	Principal researcher (PI)
Email	sydorvlo@ug.edu.gh

Alternatively, you may contact FSNet-Africa at [fsnetafrica@up.ac.za](mailto:fsnetafrica@up.ac.za) if you have concerns about the implementation of this project.

*I,....., hereby confirm that I have read and understood all the information in this document. I hereby give informed consent to participate in the research and for my data to be collected, processed and shared for research purposes.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

## II. Consent form

### Declaration by the participant

- ☐ I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- ☐ I have read the information leaflet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- ☐ I understand the purposes, study tasks, and risks of the research described in the study;
- ☐ I understand that I will fill out a questionnaire and take part in a focus group discussion; I agree to be recorded and pictures/videos taken for this purpose. OR
- ☐ I do not wish to fill out the questionnaire and take part in the focus group discussion;
- ☐ I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study only.
- ☐ I have had an opportunity to ask questions, and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- ☐ I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members;
- ☐ I would like to receive a copy of the study results via email. I have provided my details below and ask that they be used for this purpose only;
- ☐ I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Consent for reuse of data and future research:

- ☐ I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be made available to other researchers.

### Participant Signature

Name of Participant (please print)	
Signature of Research Participant	
Date	

### Declaration by Researcher\*

- ☐ I have given a verbal explanation of the research study at the start of the interview, including the study activities and risks, and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

### Researcher Signature\*

Name of Researcher (please print)	
Signature of Researcher	
Date	

\*An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of and information concerning the research study.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.