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## Gendered food insecurity in northwestern Benin

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Research shows that in sub-Saharan Africa, gendered social norms impact food insecurity. Understanding how and why gender shapes food insecurity requires analyzing sociocultural norms that differ from place to place, meaning contextual research is needed. In northwestern Benin, gender and food security research has not been a focus. My research aims to fill this gap, revealing how interactions within the agrarian household are affected by food insecurity because of how men's and women's gendered identities, roles and responsibilities are shaped by sociocultural norms. Men tend to be seen as breadwinners, responsible for growing food. Due to structural factors such as environmental change, farming is becoming increasingly difficult, which leads to men often being 'blamed' for food insecurity. Meanwhile, women's workloads are increasing to compensate for poor yields and they are frustrated with their husbands' 'failures' regarding food provisioning. Food insecurity has contributed to these gendered responsibilities being contested and renegotiated.