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Women's Role in Agriculture:

What are the issues?

Prolinnova IPW 2016

Thies, Senegal



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Women's Role in Agriculture



- **Rural women are central** to agriculture and sustainable development
- They contribute as **farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, and agents of change**
- Women comprise **43 percent** of the global agricultural labour force
- In addition, women provide the bulk of **care work** in rural areas, often without pay



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Women's Role in Agriculture



- Women play an important role in child and family nutrition
- Women's income and bargaining power within the family is linked to improved health, nutrition and education outcomes for children.
- Improved gender equality has a long lasting impact on food security and rural development



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However:

- Major inequalities between women and men persist in access to assets, resources and opportunities
- Women are typically much less likely than men to use agricultural inputs, credit, or improved technology
- When employed, women are often concentrated in poorly paying occupations with no job security and occupational safety
- Women tend to have limited participation in rural organizations and be under-represented in leadership positions

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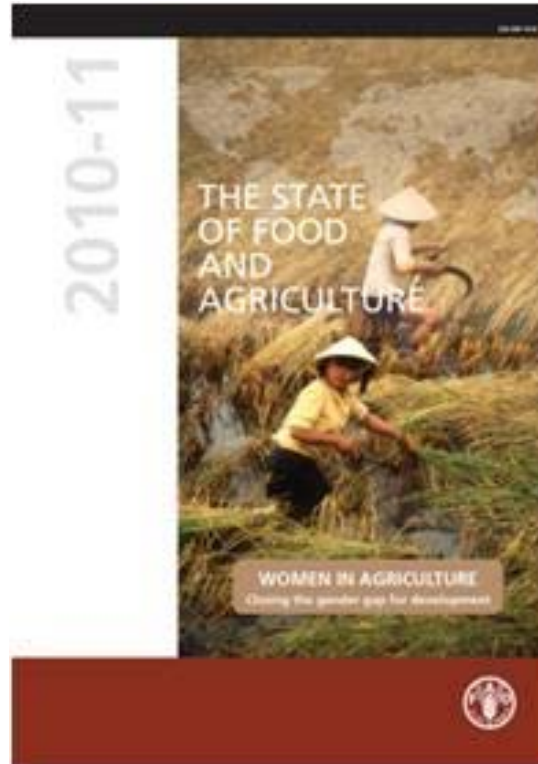
- These gender inequalities continue to hinder achievement of critical economic and social development goals



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Gender Gaps in Agriculture:

What does the evidence say (SOFA 2010-2011)?





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Access to land



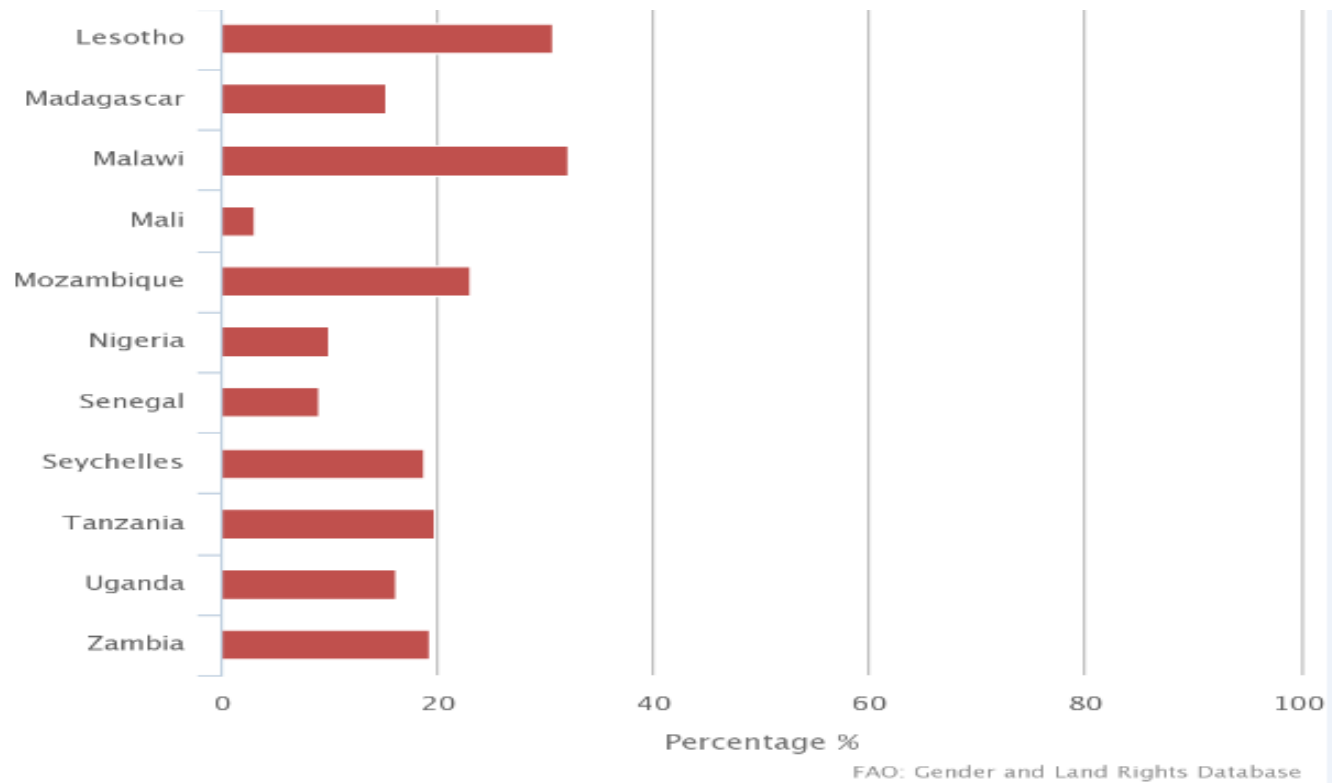
- Land is the most important asset for households that depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.
- Access to and control over land is synonymous with wealth, status and power in many areas.

But

- Wide gender-gaps persist
- Regardless of indicator and country (Africa data), the percentage of women with access to land is lower as compared to men.

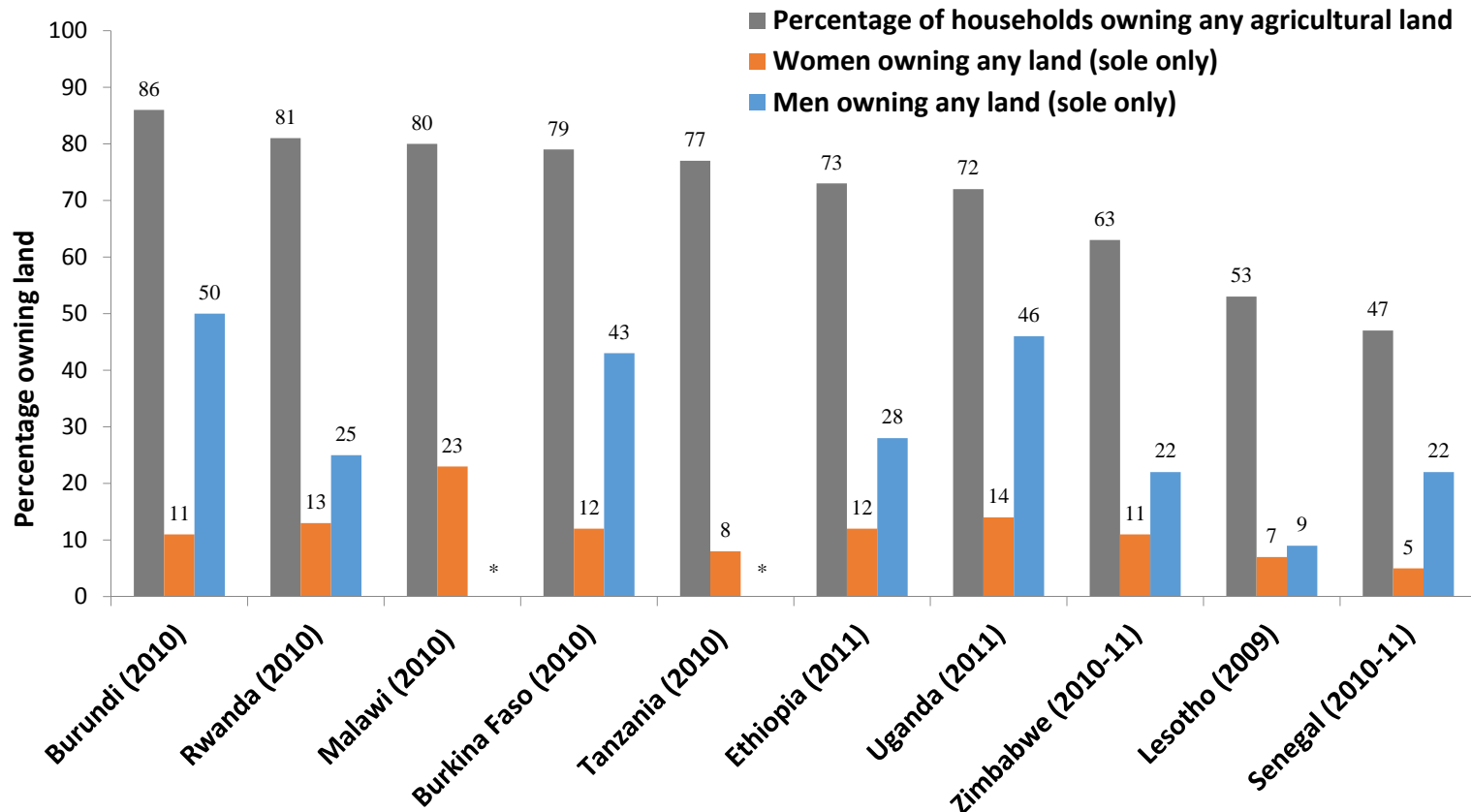


Agricultural holders by sex – women , in Sub-Saharan Africa





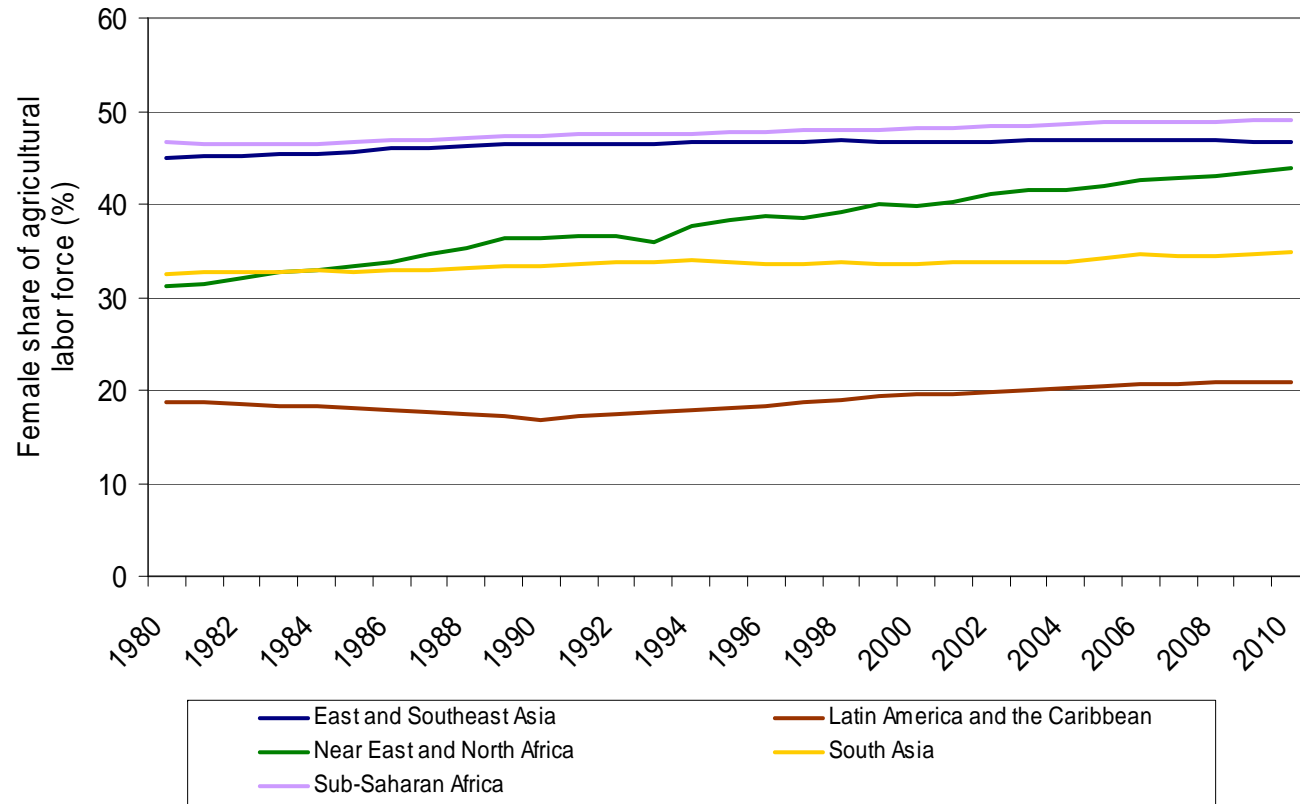
Demographic and Health Survey (2009 – 2013) (information on individual land ownership)





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Female share of the agricultural labour force



Source: FAOSTAT. Note: The agricultural labour force includes people who are working or looking for work in formal or informal jobs and in paid and or unpaid employment in agriculture. That includes self-employed women as well as women working on family farms. It does not include domestic chores such as fetching water and firewood, preparing food and caring for children and other family members.





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Women's contribution of Agriculture Labour

- In addition to **43 percent contribution to** agricultural labour force
- Time-use surveys across a wide range of countries estimate that **women provide 85-90 percent** of the time spent on household food preparation, child care and other household chores.
- **Unequal employment opportunities:** As waged agricultural workers, women are more likely to be in part-time, seasonal and/or low-paying jobs (UN WOMEN, 2015)
- **Lack of data:** Agricultural labour force data under-estimates women's contribution in agriculture because, women are less likely to define their activities as work, or their contributions are not documented



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Access to finance

- Women lag behind men in holding accounts at formal financial institutions.
- Overall, only 21.5% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa held accounts at formal financial institutions, compared to 26.5% of men in the region
- Savings rates show a significant gender gap: 42.9% of men saved (during the preceding 12 months), compared to 37.6% of women
- Women are saving at higher rates at informal institutions than at formal institutions (SACCOs, ASCAs)
- The percentage of Sub-Saharan Africans taking a loan from a formal financial institution was only 5.2% for men and 4.3% for women,
- For majority - Loans come primarily from “family or friends”: 48.3% for men and 45.3% for women

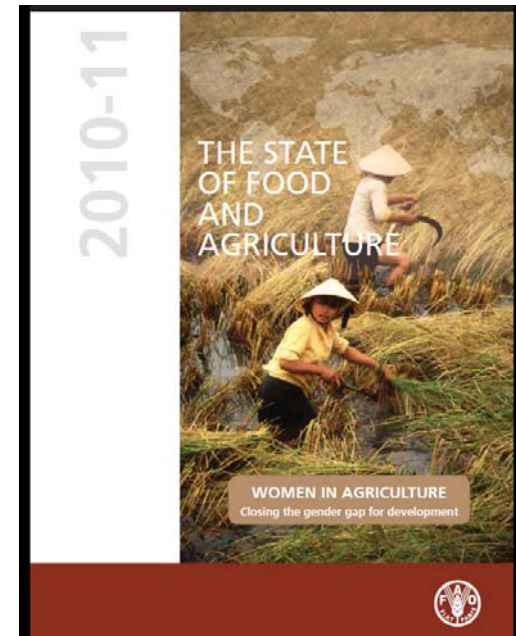




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Bridging the gap

- Closing the gender gap in agriculture will not only benefit women, but also agriculture, rural sectors and society as a whole (SOFA, 2011)





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How does FAO Support Member States?

- Knowledge products; global guidelines and standards
- Development of methods, approaches, and tools
- Capacity Development
- Policy and Technical support
- South-South Cooperation



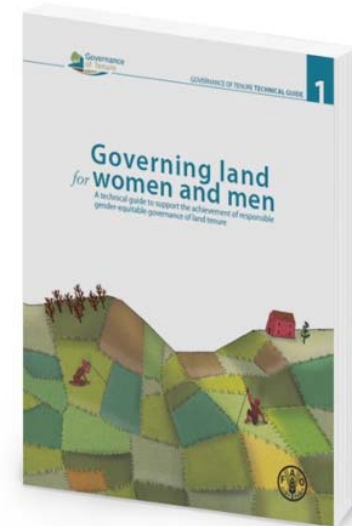


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Promoting equal access to Land

Global Guidelines

- **Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)** establish internationally accepted principles and standards to improve the governance of land tenure
- **193 countries** have adopted
- A specific principle on **Gender Equality**





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Promoting equal access to land and natural resources

The Gender and Land Rights Database

84 Country Profiles

- **National legal framework** and how it promotes or prevents the realization of gender-equitable land tenure
- Status of **ratification of international treaties** and conventions
- **Customary law** and practices
- **Legal awareness** and **access to justice**
- **Civil society organizations** supporting gender-equitable land tenure
- **Legal Assessment Tool:** To what extent does a country's legal framework foster gender-equitable land tenure? Progress and areas for action
 - **Basis for SDG Indicator 5.a.2**

Gender and Land Statistics

- **Sex-disaggregated indicators** in tables and maps describe different aspects of women's and men's ownership of land
- **Agricultural holders by sex** provides a picture of gender-differences in management of agricultural holdings
- **The various landownership indicators** show, for example, how common it is for women and men to own land; and how much of the land belonging to households is owned by women.

<http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en>



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Capacity Development Programme on Gender and Land: Governing land for women and men



Provides a clear understanding of why it is important to take into account gender when dealing with land tenure, and what actions must be adopted so that women and men can equally participate in and benefit from land tenure governance processes (Mongolia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia)

The course consists of 6 lessons:

- What is gender-equitable governance of land tenure
- Gender-equitable participation in land policy-making
- Legal issues for gender-equitable governance of land tenure
- Building gender-equitable and participatory land institutions





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FAO's work on gender sensitive rural advisory services

Generating Knowledge

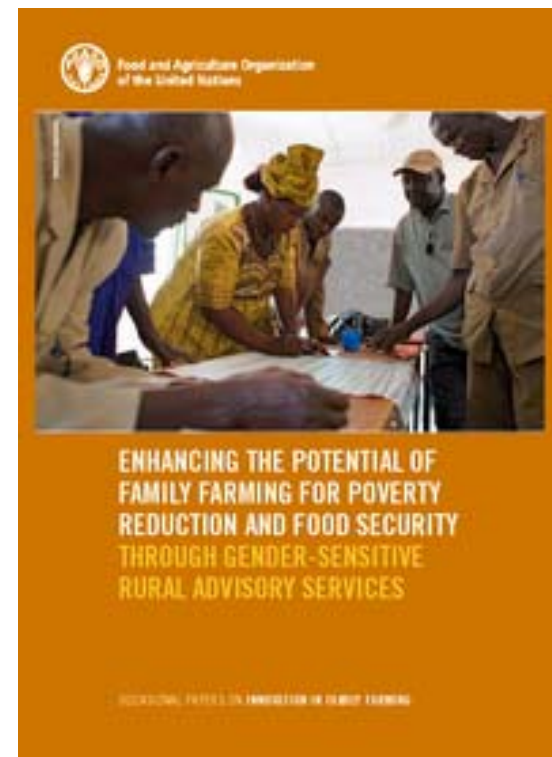
- Barriers in access to RAS and challenges of effectively targeting women farmers and good practices in responding to their specific needs and constraints

Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool

- Tool for in-depth assessment of the gender-sensitivity of RAS systems from enabling environment, organizational, and individual
- India, Peru, Ethiopia
- In partnership with INGENAES (Bangladesh as a self assessment tool with 8 organizations)

Capacity development (Forthcoming)

- CD programme on how to design and deliver gender-sensitive rural advisory services (**possible collaboration with Prolinnova**)





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The reduction of women's work burden

- **Generating Knowledge:** Technical Paper entitled, “Running out of Time” published in 2015.
- **A Gender and time-use methodology**
- **Time-use studies** carried out in different farming contexts: Vietnam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Burundi
- The uptake of **labour saving technologies and practices** is documented





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The reduction of women's work burden Technology, better practices, and infrastructure

- **Promoting Labour Saving Technologies** : which decrease women's work burden and improve the efficiency of performing farming and household activities.
 - Water technologies (water fetching tools but also irrigation practices),
 - Energy related technologies (improved cooking stoves),
 - ICT technologies (mobile phones and applications).
- **Practices that change the labour requirements for crop production:**
 - Keyhole gardens : Within easy access to the home, they rely on limited water and are beneficial for posture while working.
- **Infrastructure:** Can improve mobility and reduce isolation (post harvest storage and local transport)



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GENDER, CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE AT FAO

Training Guide in collaboration with CCAFS

Objective

The training guide strengthens capacity to mainstream gender issues in climate change adaptation, mitigation and climate smart agriculture projects and promotes gender sensitive adaptation and mitigation activities in agriculture.

To whom? Target Audience : Development practitioners working with communities and households on climate change

Field tested by CCAFS partners
in Bangladesh, Ghana and Uganda

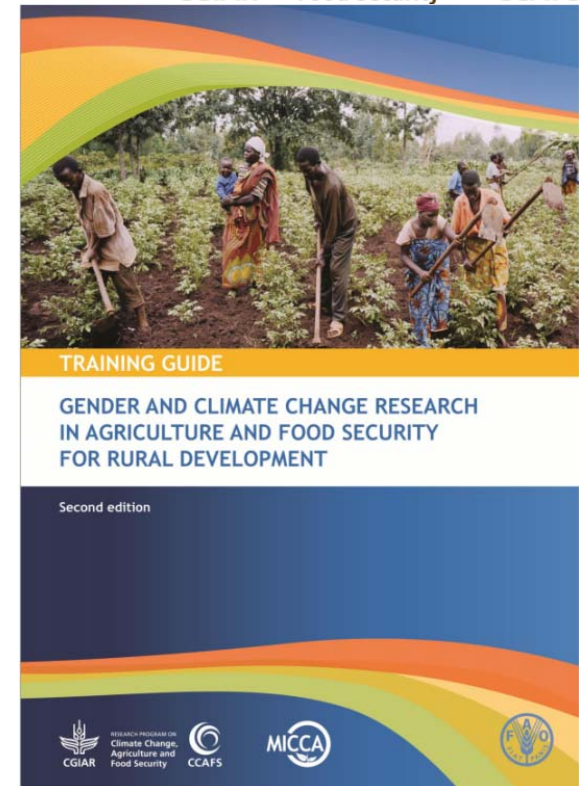
Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook (World Bank, FAO, IFAD)

Forthcoming **module on Climate-Smart Agriculture**

<http://www.genderinag.org/content/gender-agriculture-sourcebook>



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security





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Sex Disaggregated Data

Data limitations make it difficult to investigate the contribution of women in agriculture. Main data gaps include:

- Scarce evidence on women's contribution in agriculture
- Women's control over productive inputs, assets and services (ie., land, livestock, education, credit, extension services and technologies)
- Linkages between female's participation in agriculture and the crop type or type of activity
- women's productivity compared with men's

Country studies suggest a gender gap in agriculture, but **comparable data don't exist and haven't been regularly integrated into farm or agricultural surveys.**





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Agricultural Censuses

- The Guidelines for the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020) will include a specific theme on the ***“Intra-holding distribution of managerial decisions and ownership of the holding”***.
- The main purpose is to assess the role of women in the decision making on the holding as well as women’s ownership of critical assets.
 - the sex of the household members making managerial decisions;
 - the area of crops by sex of the crop-manager;
 - the number of livestock by sex of the person managing them;
 - the area of land owned by the sex of the owner;
 - the number of livestock owned by the sex of the owner.



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FAO's Dimitra Community Listeners Clubs



- Building women's self confidence and leadership skills
- Women, men, youth or mixed groups organize and meet regularly to discuss what they perceive as their own development issues, challenges, and actions to be taken
- Provision of participatory communication and gender trainings as well solar-powered and wind-up radio sets to each listeners' club, cellular phones to facilitate the interaction among clubs
- Common topics include gender relations, agricultural practices, food security, gender unequal workloads, access to water, land, nutrition, climate change
- The issues identified by CLC's are then broadcasted through local community radio stations in the local languages
- Over 1,400 clubs in sub-Saharan Africa, reaching over 250,000 rural women and men directly



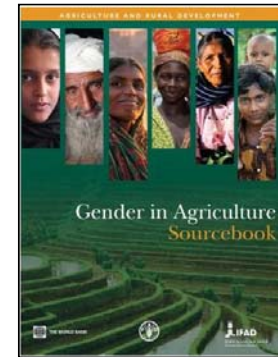
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Gender Mainstreaming Resources

Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook (World Bank, FAO, IFAD)

Forthcoming module on Climate-Smart Agriculture

<http://www.genderinag.org/content/gender-agriculture-sourcebook>

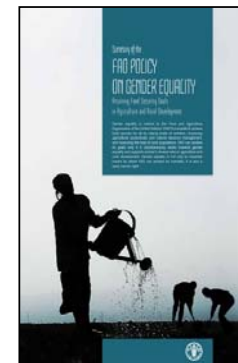


FAO's Gender Work

New e-learning course on Gender in Food and Nutrition Security,

Policy on Gender Equality

<http://www.fao.org/gender/en/>



FAO's Resilience Work

Gender mainstreamed in FAO Resilience Strategy

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/how-we-work/resilience/en/>

