



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

MEETING OUR GOALS

FAO's programme
for gender equality
in agriculture and
rural development

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KYRGYZSTAN

FAO/WFP/IFAD/UN
project on "Rural
women economic
empowerment".
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FOREWORD



Recent years have seen significant progress in the reduction of hunger and poverty worldwide. Still, results remain uneven among countries and regions. Nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger and close to one billion live in extreme poverty. Poor smallholders and family farmers in developing countries, who rely on agriculture for their livelihood, continue to be the most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition and, among them, women and girls are particularly susceptible.

More sustained efforts are needed to invest in rural women's capacities and to create an enabling environment for them to equally participate in and benefit from the transformations affecting their rural landscapes. It is important that the promotion of gender equality and socio-economic empowerment of women be at the centre of any intervention made with the view to promote sustainable agriculture and to eradicate food insecurity and poverty, two of the main objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

There is compelling evidence of the fundamental role of women within the agricultural labour force in most developing countries, as much as there is awareness of their strong contribution in ensuring food security and nutrition at household and community levels. Without rural women's careful management of family income and resources, children and family well-being and nutrition would be more insecure. Nonetheless, the full

extent of women's potential has not yet been unleashed due to persisting inequalities that continue to prevent their access to natural and productive resources as well as their participation in decision-making processes.

FAO recognizes the potential of rural women and men in achieving food security and improved nutrition and is committed to overcoming gender inequality, in alignment with the pledge to "leave no one behind", which is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Based on specific examples, this publication showcases FAO's work in agriculture, including forestry, fisheries and other subsectors, in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment both at policy and field levels, highlighting key areas of interventions, approaches and results achieved.

FAO remains fully committed to address the structural constraints that rural women face in order to end hunger and poverty. This is an essential element for achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. Building on the lessons learned and experience gained across the regions, and in close collaboration with its Members, the Organization strives to eliminate gender inequalities so as to attain food security goals in agriculture and rural development.

José Graziano da Silva
FAO Director-General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Graziano da Silva', is positioned below the printed name and title.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AGRIS	FAO's International Information System for Agricultural Science and Technology
CCAFS	Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CdR	Caisses de Résilience
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CELAC	Special Women's Group of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CGA	country gender assessment
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CSA	climate-smart agriculture
DRR	disaster risk reduction
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Commission of Economic Community of West African States
EDGE	Evidence and Data for Gender Equality
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOSTAT	FAO Statistical Database
FFS	farmer field school
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FMM	FAO's Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism
GAPo	Gender in Agricultural Policies Analysis Tool
GBV	gender-based violence
GDP	gross domestic product
GenCap	Gender Standby Capacity Project
GFP	gender focal point
GLRD	Gender and Land Rights Database
GRAST	Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool
HBS	household budget survey
IAKIB	Ihuza Aborozi ba Kijyambere Bafatanyije (Rwanda Cooperative)
ICN2	Second International Conference on Nutrition

IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGETI	Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
IIWF	International Indigenous Women's Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization
INRGREF	National Research Institute in Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry
JFFLS	Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools
JP	joint programme
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur
NENA	Near East and North Africa region
NGO	non-governmental organization
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
PHL	post-harvest losses
pro-WEAI	Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
RWEE	Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIK	Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
SO	FAO Strategic Objective
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TECA	FAO Platform on Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VGGTs	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
VUP	Rwanda's Vision 2020 Umurenge Public Works Programme
WB	World Bank
WCA 2020	World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020
WFP	World Food Programme
WISE	Organization for Women in Self Employment

ARMENIA

Husband and wife
harvesting tomatoes.
©FAO/J. Spanner

A photograph showing a man and a woman in a tomato field. The man, on the left, wears a straw hat and a striped shirt. The woman, on the right, wears a blue shirt and a light-colored hat, and is holding a red bucket filled with tomatoes. In the background, a large, snow-capped mountain rises against a clear blue sky.

KEY MESSAGES

CHAPTER 1

- Achieving gender equality is an essential condition for attaining food security and nutrition and meeting all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, “leaving no-one behind”.
- Compelling evidence shows that improving women’s education and status within their households and communities has a direct impact on food security and nutrition, in particular child nutrition.
- Generation and analysis of sex-disaggregated data is essential for evidence-based policy development. National, global and sectoral policies, programmes, legislation and investment plans for food security and nutrition do not always capture women’s role and contribution, and therefore fail to respond to their specific needs and challenges.

CHAPTER 2

- Rural women and men increasingly face the challenge of having to adapt their production systems in the context of climate change and natural resource depletion. Assuring equal access to productive resources, climate-smart and labour-saving technologies and practices is at the core of FAO’s approach to enhance the sustainability of agriculture.
- Responsible governance and management of natural resources, such as land and water, need to reflect women’s perspectives and priorities, and be grounded in equitable and efficient local institutions.

CHAPTER 3

- Women and girls are critical agents in the fight against rural poverty and hunger. Supporting them in reaching their full potential will enable agricultural and rural development processes to be more effective.
- FAO promotes a multidimensional approach to reducing rural poverty, focused on increasing women’s access to productive resources, decent employment and business opportunities, strengthening the capacity of rural institutions and services, and supporting measures to increase social protection coverage and effectiveness.

CHAPTER 4

- Increasing the productive and entrepreneurial capacity of rural women is an essential step in the development of sustainable value chains that can offer pathways out of food insecurity for millions of people.
- Reducing social and gender inequalities throughout food systems, from production to consumption, will boost the efficiency of value chains and reduce food loss and waste.

CHAPTER 5

- Crises and disasters in developing countries can have devastating effects on small-scale farmers, herders, fishers and forest-dependent communities. It is imperative to build the resilience of women and men to allow them to respond to threats and recover from shocks more quickly.
- Recognizing the distinct and complementary roles of women and men in agriculture and in ensuring food security and nutrition is an essential part of building resilience and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Global agriculture and food systems are experiencing a rapid and intense transformation, having to feed a growing population in a context of persisting and emerging economic, environmental and social upheavals. The impact of climate change and the depletion of natural resources jeopardize agricultural production and livelihoods, and generate or exacerbate other global challenges, such as price volatility and market insecurity, conflicts and protracted crises, and mass migrations. This transformation, along with rapid urbanization, has led to a shift in dietary patterns and livelihood systems. Countries face the emerging challenge of overweight, obesity-associated health problems and related non-communicable diseases while still dealing with food insecurity and undernutrition. Addressing these complex challenges requires integrated and context-related solutions. In order to successfully respond to the demands of our current context and ensure a better future for all, a broad-based transformation of food and agriculture systems is necessary.

Rural men and women are major actors at the core of this challenge. Worldwide, 75 percent of poor and food insecure people rely on agriculture and natural resources for their living, and family farming supports the livelihoods of up to 2.5 billion people (FAO, 2014a). Not only are family farmers in developing countries most likely to bear the brunt of shocks to food and agriculture systems, they also produce 80 percent of food consumed in much of the developing world (IFAD, 2013). The success of the global transition to a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable agriculture will largely depend on whether farmers are able to adapt successfully to current shifts in the landscape, which in turn will depend on whether smallholders are adequately enabled to achieve such a transformation.

LEBANON

A couple caring for their livestock.

©FAO/K.

Wiedenhoefer



INTRODUC



TION

Promoting gender equality as part of this process is essential. Rural women make up about 43 percent of the agricultural labour force (FAO, 2011). They fulfil important roles throughout agrifood value chains, and play a key role in ensuring food security and nutrition at household and community level, and in the management of natural resources, such as land and water. Yet across regions, rural women face even greater constraints than their male counterparts in accessing essential productive resources and services, technology, market information and financial assets. They are also under-represented in local institutions and governance mechanisms and tend to have less decision-making power. In addition to these constraints, prevailing gender norms and discrimination often mean that women face an excessive work burden while much of their labour remains unpaid and unrecognized. Working towards closing this gender gap represents an opportunity to empower key stakeholders in the sector and promote the kind of transformative change that is needed in order for agrifood systems to meet the urgent challenges they face while ensuring food security and adequate nutrition for all.

The principle of “leaving no one behind” guides every goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment is therefore made explicit throughout the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both in the form of a dedicated Goal on Gender Equality (SDG5) and as a cross-cutting theme with more than 30 related targets across other SDGs.

The work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is aligned with the SDG international framework. The Organization recognizes that persisting inequalities are at the root of the underperformance of agriculture in many countries, and has extensively documented the socio-economic benefits of closing the gender gap.¹ As part of its goal to empower smallholders and family farmers in order to secure the sustainable development of agriculture and food systems, FAO supports governments to develop an enabling environment

for rural men and women by fostering appropriate governance, promoting transparent and equitable legal and regulatory frameworks, and advocating for the integration of gender equality concerns in sectoral policies and programmes. By strengthening local capacities and generating the evidence base, the Organization promotes the formulation of inclusive policies that strive to address specific constraints and barriers that rural women and men face. FAO also works with national stakeholders to implement projects that aim to unleash the potential of women and men by helping them gain more control over productive resources and decision-making processes.

*PREVAILING GENDER
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In 2012, FAO developed and approved a Gender Equality Policy² to serve as a guiding framework for the Organization and its Members to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment within its mandate of promoting food security and nutrition. The policy identifies clear objectives that prioritize equal participation

and decision-making in rural institutions and organizations, equal access to and control over key productive resources, services, markets, employment and income opportunities, and reduction of women’s work burden.

The minimum standards set by the FAO’s Gender Equality Policy were designed to contribute to the standards of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN–SWAP), which are binding for all UN organizations and against which FAO reports on an annual basis.³ In recent years, the implementation of these two sets of standards has enabled the Organization-wide environment to become progressively more gender-responsive. The standards have also helped to put institutional mechanisms in place that support consistent and coherent delivery of gender work across the Organization.

Gender equality is an integral part of FAO’s Strategic Framework, where it is addressed as a cross-cutting issue. Gender equality and women’s empowerment are essential for achieving FAO’s Strategic Objectives (SOs): the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and



GUATEMALA

A group of indigenous women and children shelling peanuts.
©FAO/Guatemala country team

malnutrition (SO 1); more productive and sustainable agriculture (SO 2); reduction of rural poverty (SO 3); enabling more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (SO 4); and increasing resilience (SO 5). All of FAO's SOs contribute to reducing gender inequalities through their work on norms and standards, data and information, policy dialogue, capacity development, knowledge and technologies, partnerships, and advocacy and communication. For example, countries receive capacity development support to ensure that their policies and programmes on food security, nutrition, and agricultural and rural development are gender-sensitive and create equal opportunities for women and men. Key areas of work have been strategically identified under each of the SOs that allow sustained and coherent achievement of the Gender Policy objectives.

FAO's gender-related work is implemented, coordinated and monitored by an active network of headquarters, regional and country office staff that serve as important catalysts to ensure consistent

delivery in partnership with relevant stakeholders. Gender experts actively engage with policy and decision-makers, practitioners and technical staff in designing, implementing and reporting on initiatives that bring the social dimension to the fore and put people at the centre of FAO's work.

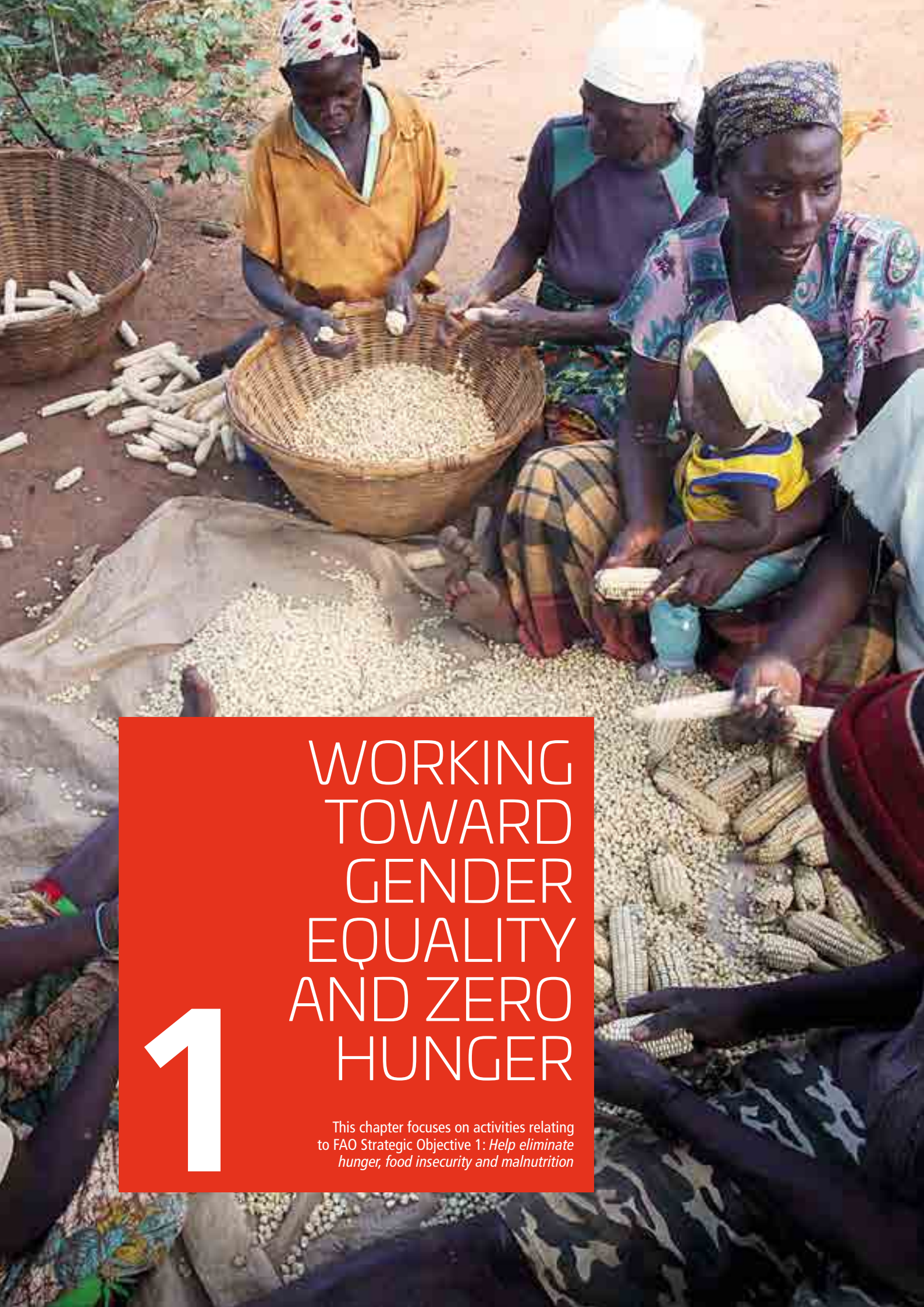
The purpose of this publication is to illustrate how the consistent and sustained work of the Organization on gender equality contributes to addressing the challenges facing food security, agriculture and rural development. Each chapter highlights the relevance of gender equality and women's empowerment to achieving FAO's strategic Programme, and describes key gender-related work and results achieved, showcasing significant interventions implemented at country and international levels. Each chapter is also accompanied by "stories from the field" that help to illustrate the impact of FAO's work for beneficiaries in more concrete and detailed terms, highlighting successes and insights gained.

Notes

1 These include raising total agricultural output and significantly reducing overall food and nutrition insecurity (FAO, 2011).

2 FAO Gender Policy (2013a) is available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3205e/i3205e.pdf>

3 C 2017/8 Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 paragraphs 200-222 and Tables 1 and 2. The year 2016 will be reported in the Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report 2016 in March 2017.



1

WORKING TOWARD GENDER EQUALITY AND ZERO HUNGER

This chapter focuses on activities relating to *FAO Strategic Objective 1: Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*



MOZAMBIQUE

Farmers processing
maize in Nhamuka
village.

©FAO/ P. Thekiso



KEY MESSAGES

- Achieving gender equality is an essential condition for attaining food security and nutrition and meeting all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, “leaving no one behind”.
- Compelling evidence shows that improving women’s education and status within their households and communities has a direct impact on food security and nutrition, in particular child nutrition.
- Generation and analysis of sex-disaggregated data is essential for evidence-based policy development. National, global and sectoral policies, programmes, legislation and investment plans for food security and nutrition do not always capture women’s role and contribution, and therefore fail to respond to their specific needs and challenges.

Despite significant progress made over the past two decades, almost 800 million people worldwide are still suffering from chronic hunger.¹ Global levels of food insecurity and inadequate nutrition are exacerbated by gender inequalities, which influence the distribution of food and resources between women and men, in both urban and rural communities.

As a result of their limited access to nutritious food and key productive resources, women and girls are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and

Women's contributions to food security too often remain invisible and undervalued, and are therefore not adequately reflected in policy, legal and institutional frameworks.

malnutrition. Worldwide, an estimated 60 percent of undernourished people are women or girls (ECOSOC, 2007). This is despite the major contribution that urban, rural and indigenous women make to agricultural production and rural development, and the key role they play in household food security

and nutrition. Women's contributions to food security too often remain invisible and undervalued, and are therefore not adequately reflected in policy, legal and institutional frameworks.

Inequalities impose high costs on the agriculture sector and food systems, and they prevent the achievement of food security and nutrition objectives (FAO, 2011; World Bank (WB), FAO and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), 2009; FAO and Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2013). FAO therefore supports governments and non-state actors to develop the policy and institutional environment and the capacities needed to sustainably address gender inequality as an integral part of their efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The Organization acts as an advocate and convener for mainstreaming gender equality and women's

empowerment into food security and nutrition policies, programmes and legal frameworks at the national, regional and international level. FAO also serves as a centre for technical knowledge and expertise that can be deployed to support Members through awareness-raising, capacity development, coordination, the generation of high-quality data and analytical products, and the development of norms and standards.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES

At the international level, FAO advocates for sharpening the focus of high-level policy dialogues regarding food security and nutrition so that they adequately take into account gender equality and women's empowerment issues.

The Organization successfully supported the inclusion of gender equality considerations in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and its related outcomes, such as the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,² which called for empowering women and girls in order to end all forms of malnutrition.

In recent years, in the context of the Committee of World Food Security (CFS), FAO engaged with governments, development agencies, academia, civil society and the private sector to develop a number of voluntary instruments that clearly set out principles and internationally accepted standards for responsible practices in areas relevant to the Organization's mandate. The Voluntary Guidelines that have come out of these consultative processes and negotiations provide frameworks that can be used by governments in developing strategies, policies, laws, programmes and activities, and have covered themes such as the right to food, governance of tenure and sustainable small-scale fisheries. As such, the Voluntary Guidelines provide a paramount opportunity for reversing gender inequalities at the country level by promoting more gender-equitable policies and programmes.

A specific principle on women's empowerment and gender equality was also negotiated and included in the final version of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, which was endorsed by the Committee on World



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 30th Anniversary of CEDAW, United Nations HQ, New York.
 ©UN/E. Debebe

Food Security (CFS) in October 2015.³ Similarly, FAO advocacy work led to Members including a principle on gender equality in the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. The document not only addresses the role of States in promoting a gender-sensitive policy, legal and institutional environment, but also sets out specific responsibilities for all stakeholders to foster women and men’s access to resources and services, in order to ensure their equal participation in and benefit from investment opportunities.

At the regional level, FAO also assisted the Special Women’s Group of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) with the preparation of the Brasilia Declaration of the Conference on Rural Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014. The Declaration recognizes rural women’s key role in food security and nutrition, and calls for governments to develop and implement legislation and policies that promote equality between men and women in access to natural resources, financial and technical services, markets and decent work.

Similarly, in 2015 FAO supported the African Union’s Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063 with the aim of

promoting equal access to safe, nutritious and affordable food, decent employment, finance and markets. In this occasion, African Union Heads of State committed to a new road map for long term development that places gender equality at the centre of social and economic development.

A fundamental global mechanism for FAO’s policy support to governments is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), an international human rights instrument currently ratified by 189 countries that defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTS IN FORMULATING GENDER-SENSITIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

At the national level, FAO also participates in policy processes and dialogues by providing technical support and advocating for rural women’s specific rights to natural resources, productive services and economic opportunities.

Article 14 of CEDAW, in particular, recognizes rural women's contribution to poverty reduction and food security and nutrition, calling for member states to respect and enforce the rights of rural women as they relate to access to productive resources and participation in decision-making processes. In 2013, FAO began collaborating with IFAD, WFP and UN Women to provide technical support in the formulation of CEDAW General Recommendation 34 on the rights of rural women.⁴ The landmark recommendation, which was adopted in 2016, clarifies state obligations to recognize, protect and promote the rights of rural women. It also provides suggestions for practical policy and programmatic measures that can enhance women's rights in the field of food and agriculture.

FAO combines its advocacy work with awareness-raising activities and technical support in order to ensure the formulation of gender-equitable food security and nutrition policies that are backed by strong political commitment and sound regulatory frameworks. The Organization also helps to ensure that policies are effective by providing support to the development of implementation strategies, accountability frameworks and gender budgeting. FAO plays a key facilitation role by supporting the creation of technical multistakeholder working

groups, bringing key line ministries and development actors together, including organizations with a mandate on gender equality. The Organization also helps to establish institutional mechanisms such as gender focal point networks in ministries or local government in order to ensure the continuity and monitoring of gender work.

In Botswana, for example, FAO has been providing technical support to the government in defining the national policy on "gender in agriculture" as well as in re-establishing an institutional mechanism for the integration of gender issues in the work of the Ministry of Agriculture. Gender focal points have been appointed within all Ministry Departments and together have formed the Ministry's Gender Committee. To foster the implementation of CEDAW Article 14, FAO also enhanced the capacities of the Committee in developing sound and inclusive policy frameworks for gender in the agriculture sector (see Box 1 for a further example of country-level support on CEDAW implementation).

FAO also strengthens national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes to raise levels of nutrition and improve diets of nutritionally vulnerable groups. For example, FAO supports its

BOX 1

FAO's support to Guatemala on CEDAW Implementation

In September 2013, the Government of Guatemala requested that FAO provide technical assistance to the country's Special Cabinet for Women (Gabinete Especifico de la Mujer) – in particular, the cabinet's work on implementing CEDAW. As part of its technical assistance, FAO (in collaboration with other UN agencies) supported the development of the Policy for Gender Equality and Strategic Framework (2014–2023) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, in the context of national food security, nutrition and rural development. The policy, ratified in June 2015, takes into consideration the CEDAW Committee's latest concluding observations to the Government of Guatemala. FAO's activities included technical advice, advocacy work and awareness-raising on the role of gender equality in resolving issues related to food security and nutrition. In order to ensure coordination and participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process, FAO promoted partnerships between the government and civil society organizations, including the establishment of a multistakeholder working group on rural development with a special focus on rural women and indigenous people. The working group supports policy-making and facilitates the coordination and participation of the various institutions at central and decentralized levels. The new policy and its related mechanisms are crucial in guaranteeing the equitable participation of women and men in rural development processes and their access to productive resources, services and improved capacities. It also constitutes a milestone in the direct implementation of CEDAW.

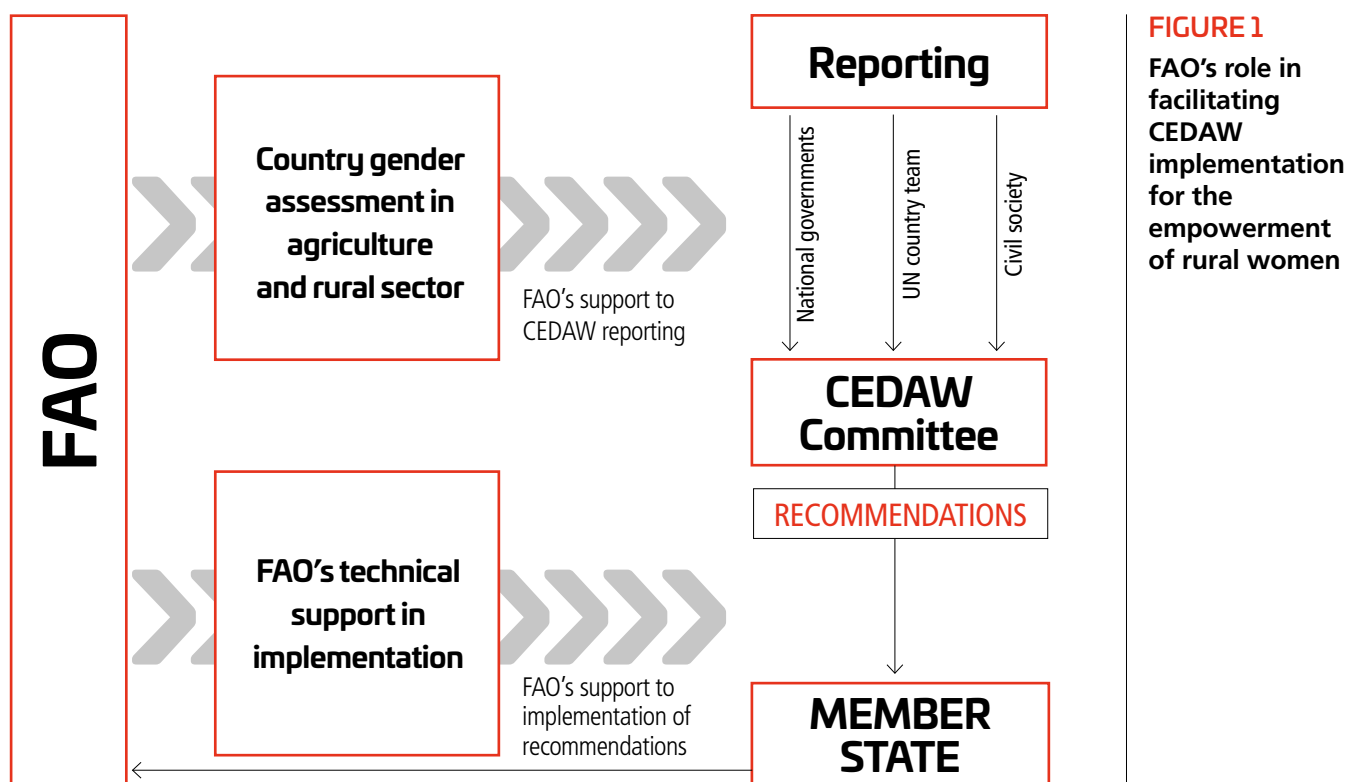


FIGURE 1
FAO's role in facilitating CEDAW implementation for the empowerment of rural women

Members in the application of tools to develop nutrition-sensitive investment programmes in agriculture and the food systems.⁵ Promoting women's empowerment is a critical way to make investments effective towards reducing malnutrition. The FAO methodologies therefore help the development of investment programmes that enhance women's decision-making power, access to information, natural and other productive resources as well as leadership in their communities. They also help to assess how investments affect women's time use and labour, both in agriculture and in the home.

The Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and FAO are working together to ensure that multisectoral public policies fostering agricultural growth fully benefit and empower women and young farmers in West Africa. Activities include the elaboration of the ECOWAS Action Plan on Gender and Agriculture, the preparation of country gender profiles to inform sound policies and agricultural investments, and the strengthening of capacities of governments and rural institutions in gender-responsive and inclusive policy and programme design, financing, implementation and monitoring.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO has supported the formulation of the regional gender strategy of the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security, as well as its implementation in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti and Paraguay.

HELPING GOVERNMENTS DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES

Based on intensive consultative processes and negotiations in the context of the CFS, several voluntary guidelines were endorsed. For example, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs), endorsed by the CFS in May 2012, highlight the centrality of gender equality by adopting it as one of the ten principles of implementation. The document also fully mainstreams gender concerns throughout all processes and aspects of tenure governance, including policy formulation, institutional setup for administration, service provisioning, land administration programmes, access to justice and information. The VGGTs make specific provisions to improve gender equality in both formal and customary systems (for example, through amending discriminatory inheritance and property

laws). One of the most remarkable successes has been that the VGGTs not only recognize women's land rights, but they actually encourage States to have a proactive role in promoting gender equality.

In addition to its advocacy work and technical inputs at the international level, FAO has also mainstreamed the gender equality perspective throughout the national implementation processes of the VGGTs. To smooth the transition to their adoption, FAO launched *Governing land for women and men*, a capacity development programme to support countries in implementing the Guidelines' gender equality principle. To date, Liberia, Mongolia, Sierra Leone and South Africa have participated in the programme and developed action plans for providing gender-equitable governance of land tenure. In Mongolia, the National Committee on Gender Equality co-delivered the programme as part of its national gender capacity development plan.

When the Government of Sierra Leone requested assistance from FAO in comparing its existing tenure situation with the VGGTs' principles, the Organization helped the country to conduct a comprehensive assessment that included an overall review of policy and legal instruments measured against gender equality considerations and principles. A platform was also established through which FAO and partners can channel technical support for the development of gender-sensitive policies, strategies and laws related

to governance of tenure in a food security context. Today, Sierra Leone has a reformed land policy that is nearly fully in compliance with the VGGTs and includes the principle of gender equality (see also Chapter 3).

Women and men play important roles in small-scale fisheries; however, women's contributions are often overlooked and undervalued. To assist Members and other development partners in formulating and implementing gender-equitable policies, programmes and practices in small-scale fisheries, FAO supported the development of the gender implementation guide of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). The guide will help in implementing the SSF Guidelines to promote gender equality in small-scale fisheries and, consequently, to improve household incomes, food security and nutrition.

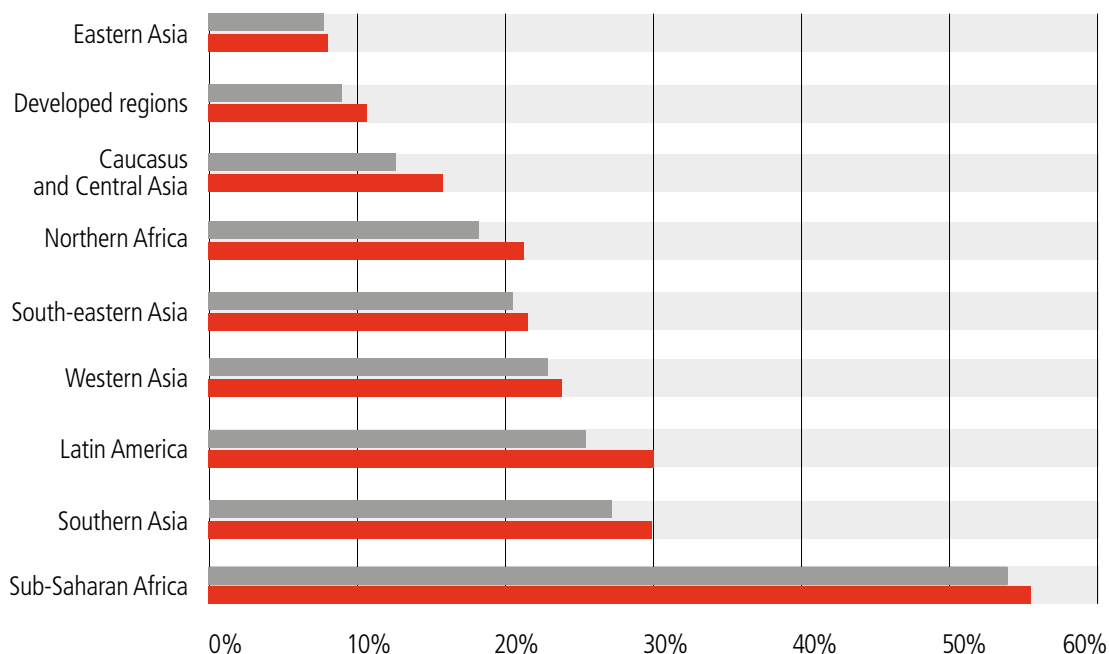
BUILDING A STRONG EVIDENCE BASE ON GENDER ISSUES OF RELEVANCE TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Sex-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive indicators and gender analysis are critically important to ensure the development of policies, strategies, laws and programmes that are gender-responsive in both their formulation and implementation. In collaboration with its Members, FAO supports the development and

FIGURE 2
Mean prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity by gender and region

Men unweighted mean (mod+)
Women unweighted mean (mod+)

SOURCE
FAO, *Voices of the Hungry* project, www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry



adoption of appropriate gender-sensitive indicators and data collection systems related to food security and nutrition.

For example, FAO developed the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and applied it to almost 150 countries in 2014 and 2015 through the Gallup World Poll. The FIES collects data at the individual level, which allows for a differential analysis of the food security situation by sex for the first time (see Figure 2). Results from 2014 and 2015 show that, while differences are small, prevalence rates of food insecurity at moderate or severe levels are higher for adult women practically everywhere in the world. The prevalence of food insecurity measured through the FIES is Indicator 2.1.2 of the SDGs. FAO is promoting the inclusion of the FIES in large-scale national surveys that will allow more disaggregated analysis. It has already been included in national surveys in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Pakistan, Seychelles, St. Lucia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Swaziland, and will soon be included in the national household survey in Indonesia.

In partnership with the Institute of Research and Development in France, and the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project, FAO also developed an indicator of Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women of Reproductive Age (MDD–W), reflecting women’s consumption of at least five of ten food groups throughout the previous day and night. The MDD–W was implemented in the

Philippines and Tajikistan, supported by capacity development activities. In Somalia, the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit is now able to conduct gender-responsive analyses thanks to FAO’s capacity development support. Similarly, in Yemen the Food Security Information Systems programme is ensuring sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis methods. Nigeria has made progress in gathering evidence on gender and access to land by including a gender-disaggregated reporting functionality within its open source software for land registration. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO supports the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to promote gender equality and make women’s role in agriculture more visible. As a result of FAO’s support, Members are now producing a greater amount of sex-disaggregated data that can be analysed and used to influence policy-making.

The Organization also carries out studies and assessments in Member countries to identify gaps in knowledge on gender issues. FAO helps to generate objective and up-to-date information on the situation of rural women and the gender gap in agriculture by carrying out country gender assessments (CGAs). The CGAs, which are specifically intended to assist governments with the formulation of evidence-based policies, contain useful information for planning gender-responsive national policies for improved food security and nutrition. To date, 33 CGAs have been finalized and 22 are currently being conducted.

Notes

- 1 Latest figures are available in FAOSTAT.
- 2 Available at www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf
- 3 Available at www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs1415/FFA/CFS_FFA_Final_Draft_Ver2_EN.pdf
- 4 Available at www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/386972/
- 5 For example, the Organization has recently developed a compendium of indicators for nutrition-sensitive agriculture, to be released in December 2016.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Shaping strong leaders – a school for indigenous women

Globally, there are more than 370 million indigenous people who belong over 5 000 different groups across more than 90 countries. Over the centuries, they have played a key role as custodians of their ancestral lands and territories, and are bearers of fundamental knowledge on ecosystem management, traditional food systems and diets. Although they account for less than 5 percent of the global population, they comprise about 15 percent of the global poor. Today they are highly vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged, particularly due to the lack of respect for their ancestral rights, specifically their land, territories and resources.

Many women around the world suffer from discrimination, violence and lack of recognition of basic human rights, and do not fully and effectively participate at all levels of decision-making. Indigenous women in particular face a triple burden, as they are confronted with discrimination based on their ethnicity, socio-economic conditions and gender, making them victims of inequalities and violence both inside and outside their communities. They are frequently prevented from playing an active role in political activities and participating in decision-making. This limits the contribution that they could be making to their communities, in particular with relation to food provision, biodiversity conservation and seed preservation. However, with their wealth of traditional knowledge, they could play a critical role in their communities and in the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

With the aim of enhancing indigenous women's contribution towards reducing hunger and poverty, FAO and the International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF) have developed a learning approach tailored to their needs, featuring topics such as human rights, advocacy, leadership, decision-making, food security and nutrition. In 2013, the IIWF began implementing three international programmes on human rights and advocacy skills through the Indigenous Women Global Leadership School. In December 2014, FAO partnered with the IIWF to jointly develop four national programmes for the school on human rights, food security and nutrition, targeting indigenous women leaders from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), El Salvador, India, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and the Philippines. In the last two years, FAO and the IIWF have trained more than 150 indigenous women, providing them with the tools to develop leadership and advocacy skills, influence decision-making,

and contribute to the improvement of their communities' livelihoods.

The school focuses on food security and nutrition, with FAO's direct support, and balances learning and interaction, giving women from different communities the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge, a first for many participants. The underlying message is that their indigenous knowledge is of high value and that improvements in their communities and their own empowerment strongly depend on this unique knowledge. It also provides them with the opportunity to

"Indigenous women need this kind of school because most of us don't know about our rights; participating in this training, I feel that I have learned so many things that I can take back to the community, to the women I work with."

Darhmingliani Hloncheu,
a Mizo woman from Meghalaya, India

plan their future and collaborate with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on land-related claims. Upon returning to their communities, participants are encouraged to raise awareness, replicate the training activities and support other indigenous women in improving their socio-economic conditions by implementing this innovative model for their empowerment.

Seguridad Alimentaria

- Disponibilidad
- Acceso
- Utilización
- Estabilidad

PANAMA

A training session for indigenous women on leadership skills.
©FAO

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Women's health: crucial in the fight against malnutrition

Despite important progress in reducing unemployment and poverty, malnutrition is still widespread in Tajikistan. The female population has a long history of anaemia, while one-quarter of children under five are stunted¹ – nearly half of whom severely² – and 7 percent are underweight. There is also a high prevalence of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among children and women of reproductive age (aged 15–49) (2012 National Demographic and Health Survey). In response, the Government of Tajikistan confirmed its strong commitment to improve the nutritional status of its people by joining the Scaling up Nutrition movement in 2013.

FAO provided technical support and training to Tajikistan's Agency of Statistics and Ministry of Health to collect data on dietary diversity.

This provided the baseline information for building effective interventions and programmes towards improving food security and nutrition of the country's growing population. FAO also assisted in conducting three pilot surveys targeting more

than 1 000 women of reproductive age. In general, women are more vulnerable than their male counterparts because of their specific physiological needs during pregnancy and lactation, and the often unequal food distribution in the household.

FAO and the Government collaborate on a national Food Security Information System to understand and monitor the quality and diversity of people's diets using the MDD–W. The indicator has been successfully integrated into the country's annual Household Budget Survey (HBS) through a simple and reliable methodology that counts the number of food groups consumed by a woman within a 24-hour period.

Policy-makers at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection are now better informed on the importance of diversified diets for improved nutrition through the MDD–W–integrated HBS, which is allowing them to shape solid policies and interventions based on the collected data.

Indeed, the Ministry decided to include the MDD–W indicator into Goal no. 3 of the country's Sustainable Development

Strategy (2016–2030) for tracking progress in nutrition and health.

In 2016, Tajikistan scaled up MDD–W data collection across the entire country.

The MDD–W can also be easily integrated in the national information systems of other countries that

often lack the resources and capacities needed to monitor the nutritional status of their population.

Women are more vulnerable than their male counterparts because of their specific physiological needs during pregnancy and lactation, and the often unequal food distribution in the household.

Notes

1 FAO, IFAD and WFP. 2014. The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014. Strengthening the enabling environment for food security and nutrition. Rome, FAO.

2 Report: Training Course on Integrating Dietary Diversity Score into the Household Budget Survey, Kurgan Tube, Tajikistan, 19–24 May 2014. www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/nutrition_assessment/Workshops/Kurgan_Tube_Tajikistan_WDDS_Training_Report_Final_20141020.pdf



TAJIKISTAN
Surveyor interviewing a Tajik woman to collect data for the Women's Dietary Diversity Indicator. ©AFP

KYRGYZSTAN

Workers collecting potatoes as part of an FAO project to reduce rural poverty among women headed households.
©FAO/V. Oseledko

PROMOTING EQUAL ACCESS TO NATURAL AND PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

2

This chapter focuses on activities relating to FAO Strategic Objective 2: *Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable*





KEY MESSAGES

- Rural women and men increasingly face the challenge of having to adapt their production systems in the context of climate change and natural resource depletion. Assuring equal access to productive resources, climate-smart and labour-saving technologies and practices is at the core of FAO's approach to enhance the sustainability of agriculture.
- Responsible governance and management of natural resources, such as land and water, need to reflect women's perspectives and priorities, and be grounded in equitable and efficient local institutions.

The global agriculture sector is in the midst of a period of rapid change and competing challenges, having to respond to an ever-growing demand for food and animal feed while also facing the need to adapt to economic, environmental and social pressures. In this context, understanding the nexus between land, water, forest and livestock resources and the people and institutions that rely on them is essential. In order to make agriculture more productive and sustainable, development interventions must put the voices, needs and potential of rural men and women – including smallholders and family farmers – at the centre of the process of balancing demands for increasingly efficient, intensified production and address the need to protect the natural resource base and related ecosystem services that are threatened by climate change, land-use conversions and deforestation.

In order to enhance the contribution of rural women and men to this process, sustained efforts are needed to build on their experience

Despite their prominent role throughout the agriculture sector, women still suffer from limited land ownership, excessive workloads and inadequate access to services and education.

while also ensuring their equal access to inputs, resources and local services. Attention needs to be channelled towards facilitating equal participation for all stakeholders in responsible and effective governance mechanisms in order to foster an environment that

Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment as part of its people-centred approach to increasing production and sustainability is therefore a key area for FAO. This chapter focuses on four strategic areas of intervention:

- Promoting inclusive governance of land and water resources;
- Facilitating access to labour-saving technologies to overcome production constraints;
- Promoting gender-sensitive and climate-smart approaches in agriculture;
- Strengthening farmers' capacities for efficient and sustainable production.

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

Adequate access to land and water are essential to farmers' ability to produce food and other agricultural crops. Throughout the developing world, however, disparities in the distribution, tenure, governance and management of these resources constitute one of the primary constraints to achieving sustainable equitable production. For example, institutions responsible for water access and management (such as water users associations or district water authorities) may marginalize or exclude certain stakeholders. Women are rarely equally involved in water management and governance, yet they overwhelmingly carry the burden of accessing inconvenient or inadequate infrastructures. In order to address this, FAO has made gender equality a key component of its work on promoting sustainable land and water governance.

At the global level, the Organization contributed to the development of two indicators on women's land rights, which for the first time, have been included as part of the global monitoring in the 2030 Agenda (Target 5a under SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls). The first indicator measures ownership or secure rights by sex and the extent to which women are disadvantaged in ownership or secure rights over agricultural land. The second is a legal indicator focusing on positive measures put in place by countries to guarantee women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control in national policy and legal frameworks. As the custodian agency for these indicators, FAO is preparing learning materials and organizing capacity



NIGER
First Dimitra Club
to gain legal and
secure access to land.
Woman with title
deed.
©FAO/C. Monsieur

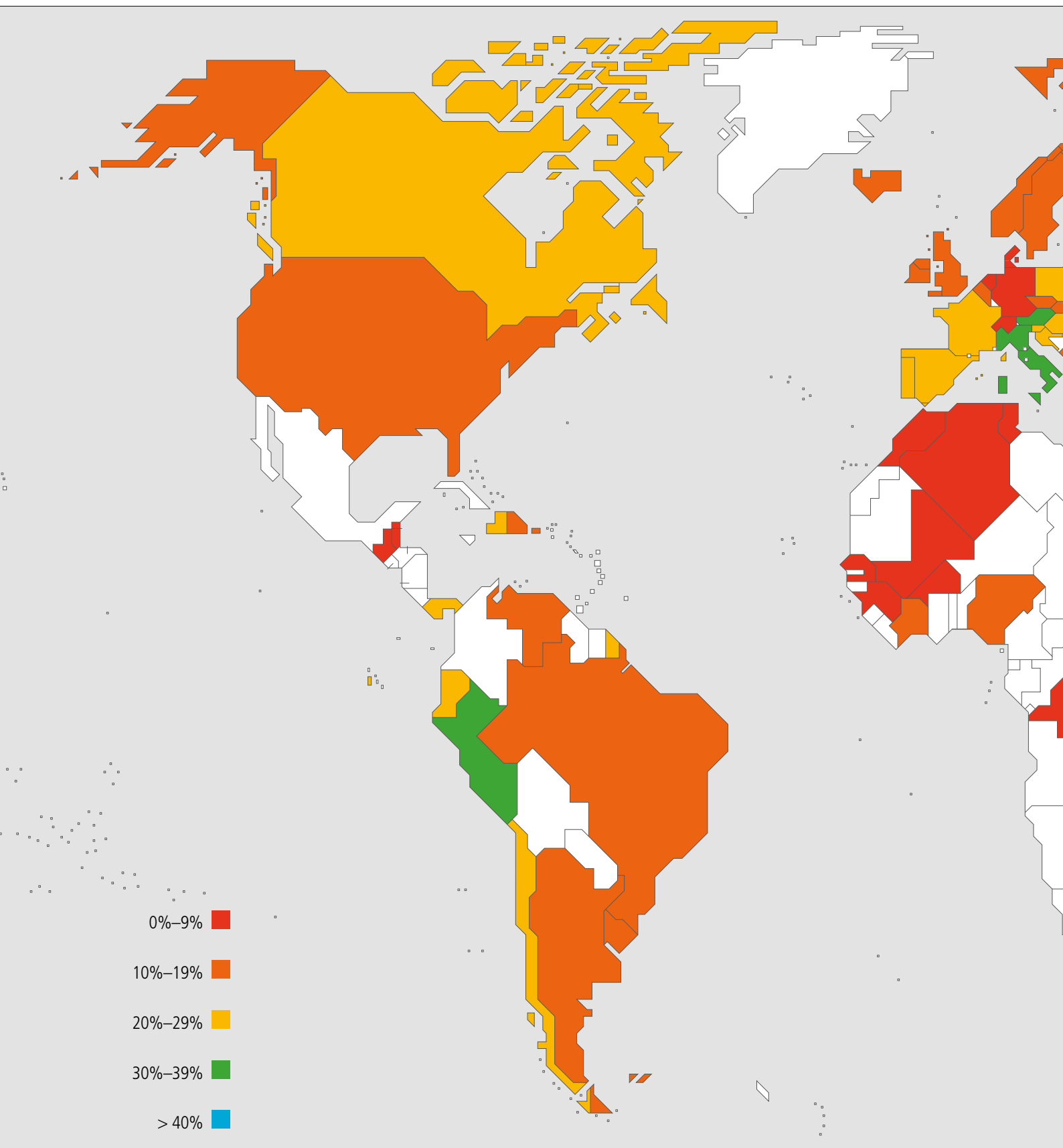
development initiatives to provide specific support to countries and will coordinate the monitoring process on these two indicators.

The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project is a joint initiative of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and UN Women that has been implemented in collaboration with FAO, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank. This initiative provides guidance on how to collect asset ownership and entrepreneurship from the gender perspective. Among other things, the project is also defining the methodology for Indicator 5.a.1, for which FAO will be the custodian agency. The methodological recommendations for Indicator 5.a.1 will be available in January 2017 and FAO will roll out capacity development activities to enable countries to collect the data required for this indicator.

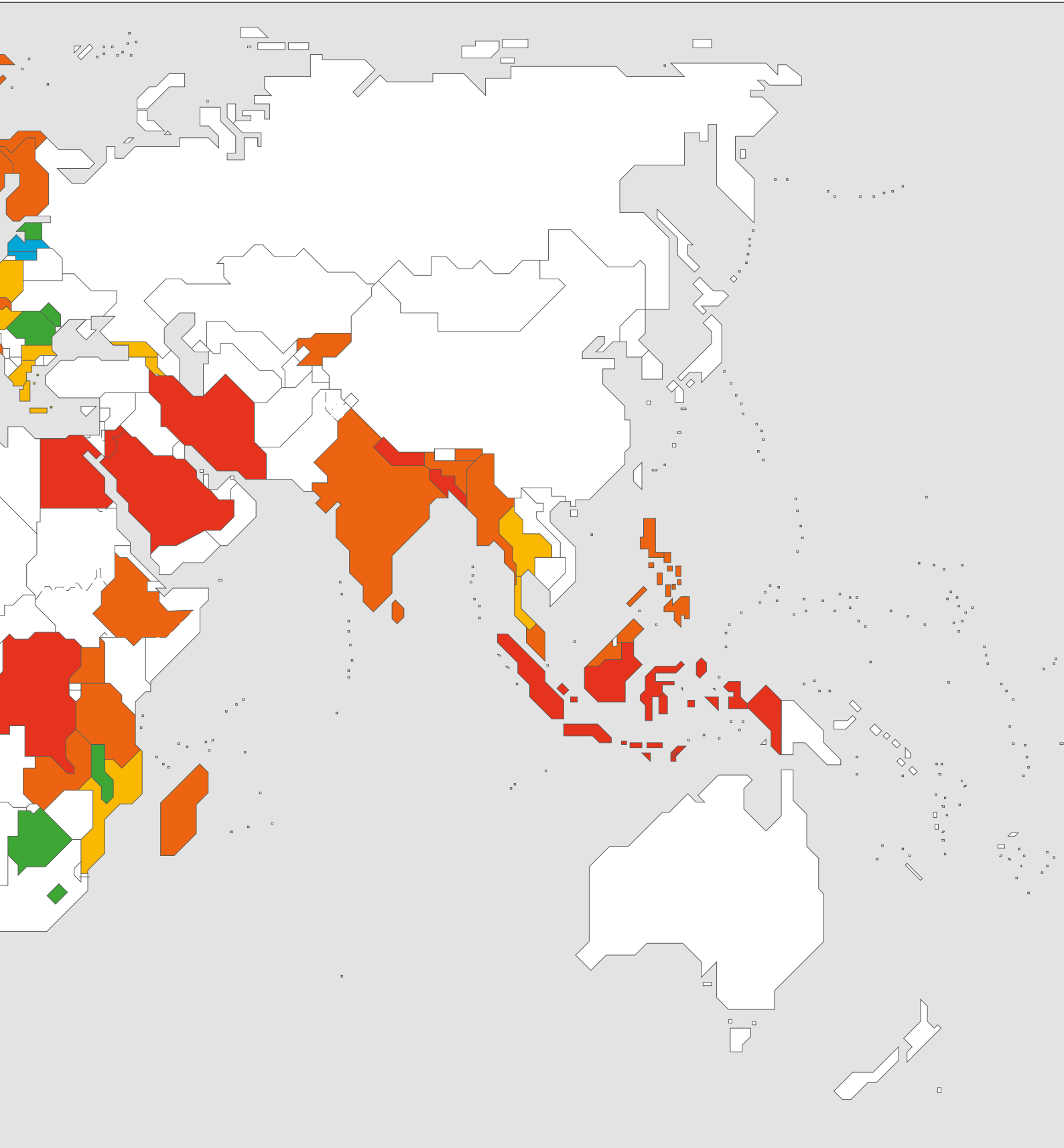
The FAO **Gender and Land Rights Database**¹ (GLRD) is an online platform that provides important qualitative and quantitative information on factors that determine men and women's rights to land. It includes 84 regularly updated country profiles with information on national policy and legal frameworks relevant to gender and land rights, as well as related statistics from national agricultural censuses and household surveys. It also contains assessments of the national legal frameworks for 25 countries, prepared with the FAO **Legal Assessment Tool (LAT)**, which uses 30 legal indicators to provide prompt, targeted and effective policy advice to Members wishing to achieve gender-equitable land tenure. The GLRD serves as a practical tool for government officials, policy-makers, programme designers, researchers and activists engaged in land-related issues. In 2014, the LAT was used in

FIGURE 3

Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex – Females



FAO: Gender and Land Rights Database



support of FAO's legal advisory services on land-related policies and laws in Sierra Leone to develop recommendations for enhanced compatibility with the VGGTs (see also Chapter 1).

In 2014, in partnership with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), FAO developed a framework for increasing the availability of sex-disaggregated indicators for the GLRD. The indicators are: distribution of smallholders by sex; distribution of agricultural landowners by sex; incidence of female and male agricultural landowners in the population; distribution of agricultural land area owned by sex; and distribution of agricultural land value owned by sex. Statistics generated for several sub-Saharan countries show that women are disadvantaged in most of these areas. For example, in Nigeria women are sole owners (with the right to sell) of only 8 percent of all plots, while men are sole owners of 71 percent. In Niger, the figures are 14 percent for women and 59 percent for men.

As a contribution to the implementation of the VGGTs (see Chapter 1), some guidance materials were developed to promote women's inclusion in local governance mechanisms through participatory processes. These materials include the guidelines for **Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues (IGETI)**, which support the identification and resolution of conflicts between competing users, and seek sustainable options to develop the territory/landscape (FAO, 2012). The IGETI has been used in Kenya and Somalia to promote the socio-economic development of agropastoral communities and marginalized groups.

Building on the positive experience in land governance, FAO aims to ensure that gender equality is the cornerstone of its efforts on sustainable water governance. As part of efforts to promote the collection of more reliable and comparable data on gender and agricultural water management, a study was conducted in three countries of the Near East and North Africa region (NENA) – Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia – contributing to the identification of specific gender-related indicators to be systematically integrated in **FAO's global water database (AQUASTAT)**. As women's role and potential in sustainable water governance is

often underestimated, FAO is committed to advocating for equitable water governance in existing programmes and policy frameworks. In this context, several multidisciplinary assessments of groundwater governance have been carried out in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, for the first time including a specific gender component and analysing women farmers' constraints in gaining access to and control over water resources.

FACILITATING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LABOUR-SAVING TECHNOLOGIES TO OVERCOME PRODUCTION CONSTRAINTS

On average, women in rural contexts face an excessive work burden, a state of affairs that is both harmful to their well-being and a major limitation to agricultural productivity (see also Chapter 4 for a discussion of the relationship between women's work burden and access to paid work and income-generating activities, and Chapter 5 for impacts on women in post-crisis and displacement settings). The situation is particularly dire in certain rapidly changing contexts, where environmental stresses linked to climate change, or social changes such as male migration, are adding to the burden of women in attaining food security for their households. Available data on the agricultural labour force in Africa already show that women in many countries contribute to well over 50 percent of total labour. Recent data illustrates that in Central Asia, South Asia, Latin America, and the NENA region, the female labour force is noticeably increasing, a trend defined as the "feminization" of agriculture (Slavchevska, Kaaria and Taivalmaa, 2016).

Since 2013, FAO has been documenting and analysing factors that contribute to women's work burden. Findings indicate that, overall, women's work burden is largely the result of a combination of time-consuming and unrecognized household-related tasks, as well as demanding productive and community support tasks, most of which are unpaid. Time use data vary enormously by context and region, but census data from Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa show that the overall time dedicated to work by women is always higher than that by men.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Woman smoking fish using a labour saving technique – the FTT – Thiaroye oven.
©FAO

Since 2015, labour and time use have been assessed in several production systems in order to highlight women's invisible work and analyse their level of access to technologies. Case studies carried out in rice–rice and rice–shrimp production in Viet Nam and subsistence farming in Burundi highlight that women's work is still generally unrecognized and mostly relegated to subsistence activities. Women also perform more time-consuming manual tasks and have less access to technology when carrying out their work. Similar results were found in seven studies analysing specific value chains in Latin America (see Chapter 4). Overall findings point to women not being sufficiently consulted on their technology needs, despite their well-documented resourcefulness. Context-specific constraints (e.g. child care, mobility and time to attend extension meetings) need to be addressed in order to facilitate access to labour-saving technologies and related services.

Over the years, FAO has supported the introduction of many labour-saving technologies and practices that can support women's work in all agriculture subsectors. These include improved crop management practices, fish drying and smoking ovens,² woodlots to reduce fuelwood fetching time, milk collection points, and roof water harvesting. Relevant labour-saving technologies and practices are documented on the **TECA platform**³ (see Box 2), a resource made available to rural stakeholders.

BOX 2

Labour-saving technologies

The FAO-hosted platform dedicated to Technologies and practices for small agricultural producers (TECA) currently includes over 100 labour-saving technologies and practices. These technologies can either directly reduce working time (different forms of agricultural mechanization), or indirectly reduce work burden (introduction of cover crops that reduce weeding, as in conservation agriculture). For example, **kitchen gardens** were introduced in several countries (including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, India, Indonesia, Lesotho, Pakistan, Niger, Somalia and Viet Nam). Between 2014 and 2015, **34 484** kitchen gardens were set up in **Burundi** alone. In a context of land shortage, these gardens give households, and women in particular, easy access to fresh vegetables and herbs. The fact that they can be set up close to the house reduces water-fetching time, and the raised beds on which they are set are more beneficial for women's posture.

The Share Fair on Rural Women's Technologies was jointly organized in Kenya in 2014 by UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP bringing together over 400 policy-makers, researchers, rural women, civil society organizations and the private sector. From farm software to solar irrigation, poultry incubators, fertilizer applicators and solid waste management, 100 technology innovations from 14 countries were showcased.

PROMOTING GENDER-SENSITIVE CLIMATE-SMART APPROACHES

The agriculture sector absorbs about 22 percent of the economic impact caused by medium and large-scale natural hazards and disasters in developing countries (FAO, 2015a). Women farmers are more exposed to climate risks compared with men. Women tend to be more dependent on natural resources for their livelihood, have fewer endowments and entitlements to help them absorb shocks, and may also not equally benefit from climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices. The CSA approach develops technical, policy and investment conditions by adapting agro-ecological practices to the existing socio-economic context and supports women by addressing their constraints (see Box 3).

Together with its partners, FAO has developed a series of normative and capacity development materials on gender and CSA tailored to policy-makers, project staff and researchers working in rural development. These include:

- The "Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture", Module 18 of the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook,

was jointly produced by the WB, FAO and IFAD. It presents tested good practices and innovative approaches developed by the three organizations to improve planning and implementation of climate-smart policies and projects.

- A training guide *Gender and Climate Change Research in Agriculture and Food Security for Rural Development* was prepared with the CGIAR Research programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) to support gender-responsive climate change research (FAO and CCAFS, 2012).

While climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities in agriculture, it can also create opportunities to tap into women's potential as agents of change. Harnessing the knowledge of women farmers, particularly smallholders, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge can significantly enhance the resilience of households, communities and agrifood systems. This is achieved by assisting countries in Africa and Asia with mainstreaming gender into climate policy, through Nationally Intended Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

Increasing the gender-responsiveness of public climate change funding is an opportunity to improve its effectiveness and efficiency. In addition to being one of the Global Environment Facility's leading implementing agencies, FAO was granted formal accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, which will allow countries to implement and scale up projects carrying distinct benefits for gender equality.

FAO and IFAD are partnering to implement the Kenya Cereal Enhancement programme to strengthen the climate resilience of agricultural livelihoods.

BOX 3

Experience in mainstreaming gender into FAO's climate work

FAO is committed to gender equality and inclusiveness in its climate-related interventions. For example, the FAO Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture Programme has mainstreamed gender into each of its work components. In Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, sex-disaggregated data were collected to monitor and report on the barriers and incentives that men and women face in adopting climate-smart approaches. Special attention was paid to ensuring gender-balanced participation in the programme, including by involving women in the selection of locally-adapted climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and making sure that these would not increase their work burden. As a result of field activities, gender aspects were inserted into the Kenya's Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action for the dairy sector and into the United Republic of Tanzania's national CSA guidelines.

STRENGTHENING FARMERS' CAPACITIES FOR EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

In addition to needing access to natural resources and productive inputs, farmers require the right skills, support structure and knowledge in order to farm sustainably. The **farmer field school (FFS) methodology** is based on the concepts and principles of people-centred learning, and was developed as an alternative to conventional top-down approaches to skill and knowledge development. It uses a participatory hands-on approach to learning that enables farmers to observe, experiment and raise concerns about their production system, thus facilitating learning on how to improve or adapt to changes in the agricultural context.

Building on its vast and long experience, an FFS guidance document was published in 2016. The FFS curricula are adapted to address a wide range of issues, from soil fertility to pest and fertilizer management. For example, within the framework of the Rotterdam Convention, a number of countries were supported to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides in family farms. Evidence from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine demonstrated the biological and social vulnerabilities of women in handling these toxic materials, and alternative agronomic and pesticide management practices were proposed.

In order to provide increased support for rural women, FFS were linked to community listeners' clubs promoted by the FAO–Dimitra project in several African countries (see Chapter 3). This helped to encourage local adaptation and adoption of sustainable agricultural methods through season-long farmer experimentation and rural radio transmissions.

Under the Regional Initiative on Small-scale Agriculture in the NENA Region, FFS were adapted for several crops, organic agriculture and animal production. Not only did the schools improve technical skills, they also significantly changed social dynamics by strengthening gender relations and helped to build mutual trust within the community. More than 2 000 schools were established around sustainable agro-ecological approaches, and about 13 percent of the 20 000 farmers trained were women. Participation in the FFS allowed women to play a more prominent role in their communities and led to some becoming farmer-facilitators: out of more than 2 500 trained facilitators, 28 percent were women.

FAO implemented a project in Cambodia, funded by IFAD, which provided women farmers with new business skills and financial education to increase agricultural productivity and to develop local businesses through an alternative banking system.

Notes

1 www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/

2 Thiaroye processing technique (Ndiaye, Sodoke Komivi and Diei-Ouadi, 2014).

3 www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/

STORY FROM THE FIELD

New technology improves the lives of Tunisian rural women

Women traditionally extract and process the oil from mastic (Pistacia lentiscus) trees in the forest areas in northwest Tunisia. The product is much appreciated for cooking and for its medicinal properties, such as in the treatment of stomach ulcers, bronchitis, and in the healing of wounds.

The product is an important source of income for the rural households even though the extraction and processing of the oil is arduous and time-consuming.

In 2011, the National Research Institute in Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry (INRGREF) developed new technologies such as electric grinders and hydraulic presses for grinding, churning and pressing the Pistacia lentiscus fruits, thereby reducing the amount of time and effort needed for processing. FAO's Subregional Office for North Africa established a partnership with INRGREF to disseminate this new technology for rural women.

As a result of the introduction of these new methods, it was noted that women's work burden was reduced, their income increased, and the yields and quality of oil improved. The same amount of fruit could be ground in three hours instead of a whole day, and the overall oil productivity increased by 40 percent.

This story highlights the importance of investing in labour-saving technologies and services to reduce the domestic work burden (such as water and fuelwood collection, cooking and care). It is also relevant to engage with partners to identify and disseminate labour-saving technologies that can support women's production and income generation and therefore strengthen their economic empowerment.

"At first, I didn't trust this new method. I made do with the one passed down by my mother. Now that I've seen the advantages of the technology developed by INGREF, this is the only one I'll use. Better yield, which means more money, and on top of it, it's a lot less exhausting."

Tawes Zitouni
from Ain sultan-Jendouba

"Labour-saving technologies [...] can contribute to freeing women's time and improve their quality of life, enabling them to engage in activities of their own choice, whether for the home or remunerative nature."

Running out of time. The reduction of women's work burden in agricultural production.
FAO (2015b)

TUNISIA

Demonstration on
extracting oil from
mastic tree fruit with
hydraulic press.
©FAO/F. Mezni





EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN AND MEN FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

3

This chapter focuses on activities relating to
FAO Strategic Objective 3:
Reduce rural poverty



SIERRA LEONE

Farmers bundling rice to be threshed.

©FAO/C. Thomas



KEY MESSAGES

- Women and girls are critical agents in the fight against rural poverty and hunger. Supporting them in reaching their full potential will enable agricultural and rural development processes to be more effective.
- FAO promotes a multidimensional approach to reducing rural poverty, focused on increasing women's access to productive resources, decent employment and business opportunities, strengthening the capacity of rural institutions and services, and supporting measures to increase social protection coverage and effectiveness.

Rural poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that extends beyond income. It encompasses a wide range of interrelated and mutually reinforcing deficits in the economic, social and political spheres. These include lack of opportunities and capabilities in areas such as access to productive resources, education, information, political participation, social protection and rural services, opportunities for economic advancement, and decision-making within households, communities and beyond.

Amidst growing awareness that gender equality yields a high return on investment, it is becoming increasingly clear that approaches focusing on a single constraint without addressing the other deprivations faced by poor women are unlikely to achieve long-term results in poverty reduction.

Constraints are things such as lack of access to productive resources, while deprivations include time poverty, poor access to services and decent employment opportunities, and limited decision-making power.

Recognizing this reality, FAO promotes a multidimensional approach to poverty reduction in which multiple factors that constitute poor people's experience of deprivation are addressed simultaneously. For example, an intervention to increase poor women's access to land is complemented with measures to promote their voice and agency, and decision-making at household, community and policy levels (see Box 4 for an example of this approach).

This approach enables FAO to maximize the impact of its work while improving the broader conditions necessary for women to prosper economically and become equal partners with men in the fight against poverty and hunger. This chapter showcases a selection of successful poverty reduction interventions in the following areas: enhancing women's leadership and participation in informal rural organizations;

BOX 4
An integrated approach to reducing rural poverty and gender inequalities

Since 2012, FAO has participated in the UN Joint Programme "Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women", which is aimed at improving rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of the global agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Joint Programme (JP), which is implemented together with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women, operates in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.

The approach uses common entry points for activities on the ground, and targets multiple interventions to the same group of beneficiaries in order to ensure maximum impact on women's livelihoods. In recognition of the fact that rural poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon, the JP tackles economic constraints together with other related challenges that women face, such as gender-based violence and the burden of unpaid care work. To date, about 18 000 women and their households have directly benefited from the JP. Key results achieved include:

- 3 500 women trained on improved agricultural technologies;
- 2 000 women organized in cooperatives;
- 1 750 women accessed financial services;
- more than 1 000 women linked to home-grown school feeding programmes;
- 5 200 women received business development support for income generation;
- 8 000 people attended sensitization campaigns on women's rights;
- policy support was provided to national governments. For example, in Guatemala, the Ministry of Agriculture approved its first-ever policy on gender equality.



TAJIKISTAN
Women harvesting onions as part of an FAO project to ensure food security in rural areas.
©FAO/N. Kalandarov

improving access to rural advisory services, decent jobs, and social protection benefits; fostering gender-equitable policies and programmes; and strengthening sex-disaggregated data collection to improve policy-making processes.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN RURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rural organizations are an essential means of empowering smallholders. They facilitate access to resources, assets, markets, services, information and knowledge, while also giving rural women and men a voice in decision-making processes. However, it is often difficult for women to participate in rural organizations due to existing gender norms and the multiple constraints they face. At the global level, FAO builds on its extensive field experience and research to produce technical papers that identify good practices for strengthening women's roles in rural organizations for use by its Members in designing and implementing interventions.

At the community level, FAO supports the implementation of the gender-responsive approach of the Dimitra Clubs. These provide opportunities for groups of rural women, men and young people to meet regularly to discuss their needs, priorities and challenges, and take collective action to solve problems using their own ideas and resources. In order to facilitate the replication of good practices that come out of this process, the experiences of the Dimitra Clubs are shared through community radio stations, using devices such as mobile phones, and solar radio sets. Some 1 600 Dimitra Clubs are active in five sub-Saharan countries (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Niger and Senegal) with about 50 000 members (two-thirds of whom are women) and more than one million beneficiaries. The Dimitra approach has the advantage of being highly adaptable to local needs, and the dynamic nature of the clubs has stimulated significant changes in gender relations and roles at individual, household and community levels. In all of the countries in which the approach was implemented, the organizational capacities, participation and

FIGURE 4
FAO Dimitra Clubs

FAO Dimitra Clubs

A unique gender-transformative practical approach to empower rural people

Dimitra Clubs are self-organized groups of rural women and men who discuss common challenges and take action to overcome them. Their experiences are then shared and inspire other communities.

Numbers

1 500

Dimitra Clubs in sub-Saharan Africa

45 000

club members (64% are women)

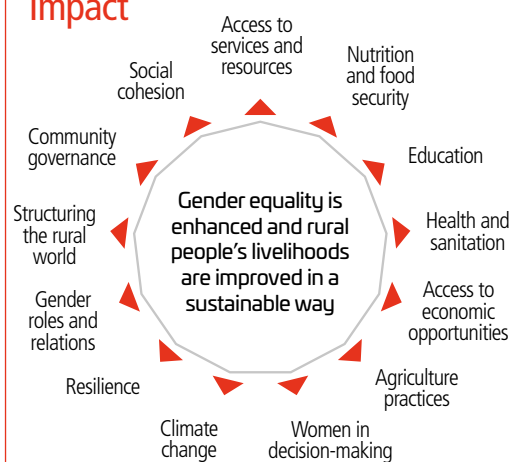
1 000 000

rural people benefit from the achievements of the clubs

Focus areas



Impact



bargaining power of the most vulnerable people have improved. The promotion of dialogue and collective action in the clubs has improved women's self-confidence and strengthened social cohesion, leading many communities to put an end to harmful practices such as gender-based violence and other local conflicts. In Niger, the Dimitra Clubs' empowering process has also led women club members to become candidates in local elections and be elected. This has translated to women having greater influence over local processes regulating access to land and economic opportunities. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, when men imposed their farming preference on land usually cultivated by women, (e.g. the cultivation of sugarcane instead of food crops), the women were able to file complaints with the traditional authorities through

their Clubs. The authorities decided to increase taxes on sugar cane, which resulted in 70 percent of the land being converted back to fruit and vegetable cultivation, thus becoming accessible to women again.

IMPROVING COUNTRY CAPACITY TO PROVIDE GENDER-SENSITIVE RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Rural advisory services (RAS) can be instrumental in increasing women farmers' productivity, self-confidence and decision-making power through access to technologies, knowledge and information. However, in order to reach and be relevant to women, these services must be tailored to address their constraints and needs.



NIGER

Leader of a Dimitra Club explaining how the clubs improve health, sanitation practices and education.

©FAO

FAO developed the Gender and Rural Advisory Services Assessment Tool (GRAST) to support Members to improve gender sensitivity of rural advisory services. GRAST supports policy-makers and service providers to assess the gender-sensitivity of RAS organizations and programmes at both the individual (staff and client) and organizational level, as well as in the context of the enabling environment. The tool helps to identify good practices and pinpoint areas in need of improvement. In 2016, it was applied to gender-sensitive RAS programmes in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India and Peru. The good practices identified in these four countries are now being incorporated into capacity development materials so that other RAS providers can adopt and adapt them to local contexts.

In the period 2014–16, FAO worked with RAS institutions in Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkey to develop their technical capacities to design and deliver services that better respond to rural women's needs. In Azerbaijan and Turkey, training was provided for extension and rural advisory staff, and a manual for the training-of-trainers was developed that is now being used to strengthen technical capacities of extension staff in both countries. In Albania, FAO's work resulted in the development of a checklist to help extension staff assess the specific needs of women and men farmers.

In Latin America, FAO carried out a study in Brazil, Guatemala, Jamaica and Peru to analyse the gender-sensitivity of technical assistance and rural extension services. The study findings were used to develop technical and policy recommendations, so that women and men could equitably access and benefit from the services.

PROMOTING RURAL WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DECENT EMPLOYMENT

Women's work is central to agricultural production and rural development. However, women face widespread discrimination and exploitation in rural labour markets and frequently work without remuneration on family farms. When formally employed, women tend to be disproportionately concentrated in poor-quality, low-skilled jobs that pay less and/or provide fewer benefits (but may provide more flexibility).

FAO's work to increase rural women's access to decent employment opportunities concentrates on providing tools to support policy-makers in formulating gender-sensitive rural employment interventions. For example, FAO collaborated with national statistics offices in Ghana, Malawi and the United Republic

of Tanzania to produce detailed country profiles on gender inequalities in rural employment. The profiles highlighted startling gender disparities in employment patterns and major deficits in women's access to decent jobs. The three country profiles¹ have influenced in-country debates and are being used by researchers, policy-makers and advocates to inform the formulation, implementation and monitoring of gender-sensitive rural employment interventions.

FAO is also working to strengthen the capacity of agricultural practitioners of its Members to understand and address discriminatory attitudes against women in rural employment. The Organization has prepared an e-learning module to improve stakeholders' understanding of gender disparities in rural labour markets and strengthen their abilities to implement employment strategies that will boost rural women's access to decent jobs and increase their ability to profit from agricultural activities and enterprises.

The Organization also looks at employment aspects that are particularly relevant for the production of agricultural commodities. In particular, FAO analysed occupational health and safety measures, practices and risks within dairy producing units in Ethiopia and Kenya. A more in-depth study was conducted in the United Republic of Tanzania together with the International Livestock Research Institute. These studies highlighted existing disparities in terms of occupational health and safety between women and men in agricultural production and identified ways to develop policies, programmes and practices that foster a better work environment for both of them.

Recognizing the fact that rural youth (particularly young women) face significant challenges in accessing decent employment opportunities, FAO's Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) concentrate on teaching rural youth sustainable farm practices and important life skills. In the JFFLS methodology, girls and boys work together in small groups to share ideas and try out different roles in rotation (group leader, marketing manager, finance manager, spokesperson, etc.). This methodology enables young men to learn to value young women as potential leaders, and vice versa, while focusing jointly on creating viable, inclusive agribusinesses. The JFFLS were first introduced in 2003 in Mozambique in order to increase the food security of children from households affected by HIV and AIDS. To date, JFFLS training

courses have reached about 30 000 young women and men in about 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Near East, consistently achieving tangible results on the ground.

ENHANCING THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN ADVANCING RURAL WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Well-designed social protection measures can simultaneously strengthen the economic empowerment, bargaining power and social status of household members, particularly women, as demonstrated by the experience of cash transfer programmes first started in Brazil and Mexico. For this reason, FAO works to build on the body of evidence informing the design of gender-sensitive social protection interventions. For example, FAO's research on the Child Grant Programme in Lesotho on gender-differentiated impacts in children's school participation and time use found that unconditional cash transfers increased the odds of girls going to secondary school more so than for boys. These results have been presented to the government to inform future programming.

FAO has also developed a guide for conducting qualitative research (FAO, 2015c) in order to systematically assess the benefits of social protection schemes on women's empowerment and to explore how the operational aspects of a programme, including specific design and implementation features, can produce gender-equality outcomes. The methodology was used to analyse the effects of Rwanda's Vision 2020 Umurenge Public Works Programme (VUP) on women's economic advancement, as well as power and agency at household and community levels. The findings were presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and local branches of government implementing the VUP, and are now being used to redesign the national public works scheme.

In 2015, FAO carried out a comparative study on the status of social protection for the rural population in the CIS² and Georgia. The study aimed to inform the ongoing social protection reforms in these countries by generating more knowledge on the challenges that social protection programmes face in the region



PERU
Man and woman
sieving quinoa seeds.
©FAO

and providing recommendations for Member States. The study reviewed the gender dimensions of two social protection components in rural areas: maternity benefits and pension schemes, both critical for women's economic empowerment and wellbeing. The study was the basis for recommendations adopted by the European commission on agriculture at its 39th Session in 2015, which *inter alia* includes the following recommendation no. 42: "FAO should continue to research social protection policies and practices in the region, from the perspective of gender equity and equality, using country level evidence and by analysing regional trends, to reveal the differences in experiences and impact."

Considering the importance of robust evidence for effective policy-making, FAO actively disseminates its research to inform gender, social protection and rural development policy debates. FAO, together with the UNDP International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, has organized three webinars on gender-sensitive social protection in order to promote national and global policy dialogues and share good practices in mainstreaming gender in social protection programmes.

FOSTERING GENDER-EQUITABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Well-designed rural development policies and programmes can close the gender gap in rural settings and accelerate rural women's empowerment, fostering economic growth and a sustainable path out of poverty. FAO therefore provides support to Members in the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive rural development policies, programmes and investment strategies. In 2015, the Organization supported more than 14 countries to better address gender in their rural development policies and programmes, including Guinea-Bissau, where FAO supported a revision of the land law in order to implement new legislation to strengthen women's rights, and Lebanon, where FAO provided technical assistance in the preparation of a national Gender Plan of Action, as well as in mainstreaming gender into the formulation of the National Agricultural Strategy (2015–2019). In Brazil, FAO supported the Ministry of Agrarian Development and

the National Institute of Settlement and Agricultural Reform to create the “National Program of Documents to Female Rural Workers” to address the problem of a lack of formal documents among female rural workers.

FAO has developed the Gender in Agricultural Policies Analysis Tool (GAPo) in order to assist governments and their development partners in identifying gender-based gaps in their agricultural policies that can present obstacles to achieving sustainable poverty reduction. The GAPo provides a metric that allows national actors to assess existing agriculture-related policies from a gender perspective through multistakeholder discussions and conversations. GAPo assessments produce detailed information on where gender gaps in policies can be found. This information then serves as a basis for developing action plans to make agricultural policies more gender-sensitive. In 2015, FAO collaborated with several partners to implement the GAPo in Ghana. The resulting analysis showed that only a few policies incorporate concrete measures to enhance rural women's empowerment, while the majority lack specific budgets, monitoring systems, and capacity development provisions on gender. FAO is now supporting the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in the formulation of a technical cooperation programme to ensure the inclusion of gender considerations in critical agriculture-related policies.

The promotion of agricultural investments is one of the most important and effective strategies for raising income and providing better employment opportunities for poor rural men and women. Research conducted by FAO in Ghana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania and other countries has generated important evidence on the impacts of different agricultural investment models on women's and men's employment and income-earning opportunities, as well as their access to and control over use of land. The studies have also documented good practices for increasing the gender-sensitivity of agricultural investments. In 2014, FAO facilitated a regional multistakeholder policy dialogue in South Africa on gender-equitable agricultural investments. The event brought together policy stakeholders from ten African countries to advance understanding on this topic, facilitate dialogue among stakeholders from different sectors, and develop recommendations for promoting inclusive agricultural

investment models that contribute to poverty reduction. The consultation led to follow-up activities in Ghana, where a national level multistakeholder policy dialogue was held and technical support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food on the formulation of gender-sensitive investment policies and programmes, as well as new guidelines for agriculture investors.

INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA FOR MORE TARGETED POLICY FORMULATION AND PLANNING

The elaboration of gender-sensitive rural poverty reduction policies, programmes and strategies depends largely on the availability of high quality sex-disaggregated data, yet information on women's roles in agriculture in Member States often remains scarce or incomplete. Data limitations make it difficult to investigate the contribution of women in agriculture. The main data gaps include: difficulty in distinguishing between *de jure* and *de facto* female heads of household; scarce individual level data on women's contributions in agriculture and women's control over productive inputs, assets and services; and lack of information on women's productivity compared with men's. FAO is helping to address this gap in various ways.

At the global level, FAO is providing guidelines, and standards for the collection of comparable sex-disaggregated data in the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), which is the main source of statistical information on the structure of the agriculture sector. This is being achieved through the inclusion of a dedicated stand-alone chapter that recommends countries to capture the distribution of managerial decisions on farms and regarding the ownership of land and livestock.

In addition, FAO is developing a guideline “Mainstreaming Sex-Disaggregated Data and Gender Indicators in Agricultural Statistics”, to be released early 2017. This guideline identifies a set of indicators monitoring gender inequality in agriculture, and proposes feasible approaches to collect the required data through agricultural surveys, or agricultural modules included in national household surveys. Given the cross-cutting nature of the gender gap in agriculture, the guideline takes into account various

domains, such as education and training, integration in social networks, family labour, external work on-farm, decision-making, ownership of and control over assets. For each of these domains, a set of relevant indicators is suggested with practical examples on how to collect information through large-scale agricultural surveys.

Moreover, FAO's contribution to the International System for Agricultural Science and Technology (AGRIS) aims to enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators in the agriculture sector by mainstreaming gender in integrated surveys on agriculture at country level. In this project, farm-based information on agricultural production will be complemented with additional data on unpaid work (subsistence agriculture and household work), where women are overrepresented. In addition, questions about decision-making on the agricultural holdings and asset ownership at individual level are inserted into data collection tools, thus allowing to better capture the complexity of these processes.

The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project is a joint initiative of UNSD and UN Women, implemented in collaboration with the FAO, Asian Development Bank, and World Bank. The initiative provides guidance on how to collect asset ownership and entrepreneurship from the gender perspective. The project, among other things, also defines the methodology for Indicator 5.a.1, for which FAO will be the custodian agency. The methodological recommendations for 5.a.1 will be available in January 2017 and FAO will roll out capacity development activities to enable countries to collect the data required for this indicator.

At the country level, FAO is strengthening national institutional capacities to collect and analyse this type of information. For example, in 2015, 11 countries received support to address a lack of comprehensive gender statistics in the agriculture and rural sector. In Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey, FAO strengthened the capacities of national statistical offices to collect sex-disaggregated data using the Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit for Central Asia (FAO, 2016a). In each country, gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated datasets on the agriculture and rural sector were used to assess the current status of rural women and men and prepare a national gender profile for agricultural and rural households. Sex-disaggregated data were also generated in Colombia, Kenya, Moldova, Morocco, Nicaragua and Sierra Leone, where FAO assisted in incorporating gender-sensitive questions into the respective national agricultural censuses. In Malawi, FAO and UN Women strengthened the capacity of the national statistics office and the Ministry of agriculture in collecting sex-disaggregated data for the implementation of the National Statistics Masterplan and analysing it for gender-sensitive policy documents. This served as a basis for implementing the national agriculture and gender HIV/AIDS strategy.

Relying on the innovative Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI),³ FAO is collaborating with IFPRI to pilot and validate a project-level adaptation of the Index (pro-WEAI) in Niger and Ethiopia, in the context of the UN Joint Programme (FAO with UN Women, WFP, and IFAD) "Accelerate the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women". This is one of the 13 global initiatives of a similar nature that aim to develop and test tools to measure women's empowerment in agriculture.

Notes

1 See: www.fao.org/docrep/016/ap092e/ap092e00.pdf; www.fao.org/docrep/016/ap090e/ap090e00.pdf; www.fao.org/3/a-i4083e.pdf.

2 The CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

3 The WEAI was developed in 2012 by IFPRI, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and USAID.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Economic empowerment for women farmers in Nepal

With the support and training received from the UN Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (RWEE), many women farmers in Nepal have rapidly increased their yields and marketed their surplus. Working together with the Government and civil society in Nepal, RWEE seeks to reach poor women and girls through a comprehensive package of interventions to increase their access to agricultural inputs and innovative technologies, as well as to improve their business, financial and leadership skills.

As many female farmers in the developing world, Chandra Kala Thapa, a 30-year-old smallholder farmer living in Ranichauri, a village in southeast Nepal, faces a number of barriers to improving her agricultural productivity and increasing her income. The RWEE provided her with technical knowledge and agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and equipment, and helped her to access credit so that she could produce more crops. She has also learned to diversify farming activities to increase her income. The steady market for fruits and vegetables helps to ensure a sustainable source of income.

"Now the prices are good and the money comes on time. This was not the case when I used to sell maize in the market. Before, I had no money to properly feed my two sons or send them to school. Now, I produce enough for my family. I am happy that I can provide for my sons' education and also pay for medical care", says Chandra Kala Thapa.

Another key aspect of RWEE's work involves strengthening local farmers' organizations. Chandra is the President of the Laliguras Women Farmers' Group, which meets at least twice a month to discuss issues and find solutions to various farm and family-related problems. Working together in a farmers'

association has been a significant morale booster for Chandra and her fellow female farmers, because they are now united in their shared goal to grow enough nutritious food for their families and for their livelihoods. Chandra also recognizes other tangible benefits of the RWEE:

"This training has boosted my confidence and given me an opportunity to express myself. It has also equipped me with knowledge to advance my rights. These days I can participate more fully in activities related to my home and community."

Chandra Kala Thapa

The RWEE pays particular attention to garnering support from the men in the community. Indeed, Chandra notes that her husband's support has been instrumental to her success:

"I often share my learnings about gender with my husband. I am so happy that he is helping me both in my household chores and in farming."

NEPAL

Man and woman
farmer transporting
produce from their
field.

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FROM FARM
TO MARKET –
PROMOTING EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES

4

This chapter focuses on activities relating to
FAO Strategic Objective 4: *Enable inclusive
and efficient agricultural and food systems*



KEY MESSAGES

- Increasing the productive and entrepreneurial capacity of rural women is an essential step in the development of sustainable value chains that can offer pathways out of food insecurity for millions of people.
- Reducing social and gender inequalities throughout food systems, from production to consumption, will boost the efficiency of value chains and reduce food loss and waste.

THAILAND

A wholesale market.
©FAO/D. White

The rural landscape in developing countries is experiencing a rapid and profound transformation. Global trends and dynamics, such as globalization, trade liberalization and urbanization, have an enormous impact on the agriculture sector and, consequently, on the women and men who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. New opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship are being created along value chains, through the commercialization of agriculture and rising domestic and foreign investment in the agrifood sector. These trends have the potential to generate significant economic and social gains for smallholders who normally do not have access to national and international markets, but they also create new challenges and risks, which can lead to further marginalization of the most vulnerable actors in the agriculture sector. Smallholder farmers still dominate the rural landscape across the developing world, and they often face massive constraints in accessing the productive resources, services, technologies and training that are needed to meet international quality and safety standards and compete in increasingly modernized and globalized agrifood value chains.

This is especially true for rural women who as a result of persisting gender inequalities, are confronted with specific additional constraints that limit both their access to productive resources and their ability to exercise power and agency. Across all regions women face an excessive work burden: they remain overwhelmingly responsible for unpaid care and household work, as well as non-mechanized agricultural tasks, which are more time-consuming and labour-intensive (see Chapter 2). Despite their significant labour contribution, women tend in fact to be excluded from the “business side” of farming and usually remain concentrated in low-skill, low-pay roles throughout agrifood value chains. This combination of constraints limits rural women's opportunities to participate fully in the labour market and access secure and decent employment opportunities.

As current processes of rural transformation will not automatically be inclusive, FAO is committed to promoting the development of sustainable and inclusive value chains that can offer pathways out of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition for millions of people. Mobilizing the productive and entrepreneurial potential of rural women is pivotal to this strategy. As evidence suggests, reducing existing gender inequalities and providing women with the opportunity to benefit equally from value chain development contributes substantially to enhancing the efficiency of the whole chain – from production to consumption, while building the foundation of a more just and inclusive society (KIT, Agri-ProFocus and IIRR, 2012; Rubin, Manfre and Nichols Barrett, 2009; Senders, Lentink and Vanderschaeghe, 2012).

MAKING WOMEN'S WORK VISIBLE

Women are highly involved in work at every stage of agrifood value chains. However, as they often work in family farms or enterprises, their contributions are rarely captured in official statistics and therefore remain largely invisible to policy-makers and value chain practitioners. As a result, policies and programmes frequently overlook existing inequalities that are detrimental to value chain efficiency and fail to respond to women's needs.

Available data on women's participation in the agrifood sector, albeit partial and fragmented, suggest that they are anything but absent from value chains. For example, women comprise about half of the global fisheries workforce, typically concentrated in the pre-harvest and post-harvest sectors (FAO, 2014b). In India, women represent about 60 percent of the labour force harvesting and threshing for rice (Mohanty and Bhandari, 2014). In Ghana, 95 percent of processors in the cassava value chain are women (FAO and AfDB, 2010). A look at data on women's gains from their work in the agrifood sector, however, reveals a notable “gender gap” – estimates suggest that women receive only between 10 and 30 percent of income generated from farming (Rockefeller Foundation, 2013). In Côte d'Ivoire, although women own 25 percent of the cocoa plantations and make up about 68 percent of the labour force, they earn only 21 percent of the income generated (Marston, 2016).



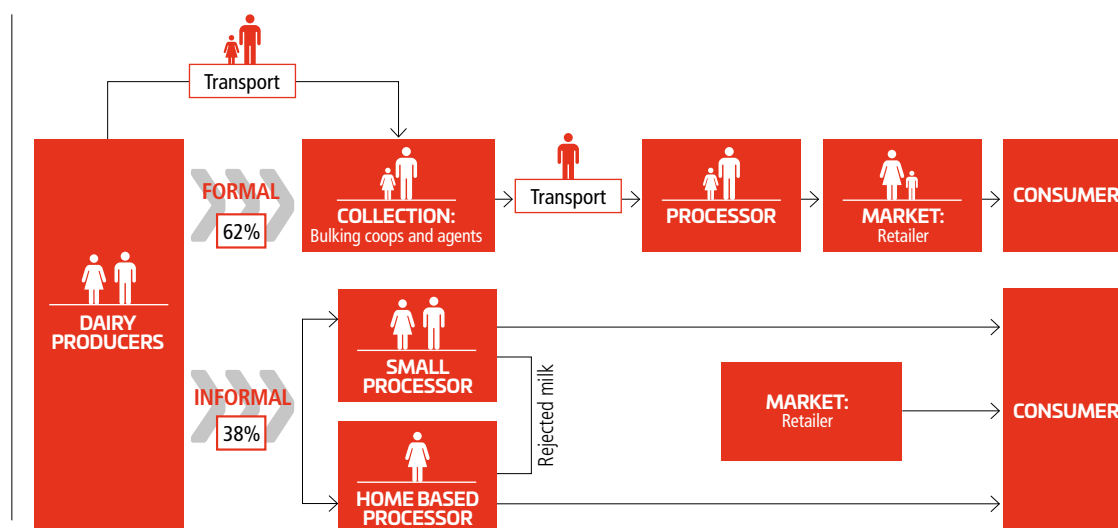
TUNISIA

Members of a women's association collecting clams to be sold in Europe.
©FAO/ G.Napolitano

Enhancing the visibility of women's work by gathering accurate information, analysing and disseminating it to a wider public of national policy- and decision-makers is a major priority. Since 2013, FAO has carried out several gender-sensitive value chain assessments that have contributed to the mapping and identification of men and women's specific roles, needs and constraints. In Latin America, for example, assessments were undertaken on cassava in Belize, corn in Guatemala, and quinoa in Bolivia (Plurinational State of). The findings of the studies show that women are mainly represented in productive activities that require more time and physical work, such as planting, weeding and harvesting, while they have fewer opportunities to engage in value addition and marketing – the most remunerative nodes of the chain. The analysis conducted in Guatemala shed

light on the excessive work burden that women in the corn value chain are confronted with (12–16 hours of work per day) due to a combination of limited access to labour-saving technologies and household and care responsibilities. In Egypt, FAO carried out a gender-sensitive analysis of the medicinal and aromatic plant value chain, in which women are significantly represented. As in Latin America the analysis exposed a strong gendered division of labour along the chain, with women mainly concentrated at the production level or in transformation and processing activities taking place at household level. In this case, women's limited participation and decision-making in producers' organizations clearly emerged as a primary constraint limiting their access to adequate services and capacity development opportunities.

FIGURE 5
Women and men in the dairy value chain: Ethiopia.



The knowledge generated by these assessments enables the identification of intervention strategies aimed at reducing gender-based constraints and enhancing women's productive and entrepreneurial capacities. In 2016, for example, a regional study on the cotton value chain (targeting Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, and supported by the Government of Brazil) led to the development of specific policy recommendations to enhance gender equality in the development of the cotton sector in the MERCOSUR¹ and associated countries.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE, GENDER-SENSITIVE VALUE CHAINS

Based on lessons learned at the field level, FAO has articulated a conceptual framework and implementation guidelines aimed at supporting practitioners and decision-makers in planning and implementing value chain interventions from which women and men can benefit equally (FAO, forthcoming).

The framework shapes the implementation of FAO's Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM) "Enabling women to benefit more equally from agrifood value chains", currently ongoing in eight countries in the African and Near East region. Working in synergy with international and local partners, the programme promotes the improvement of women's access to services,

knowledge and technology by strengthening their participation and decision-making capacity in organizations and cooperatives in selected agrifood value chains (fisheries, dairy, roots and tubers). In Tunisia, for example, the programme supports women involved in the clam value chain, by strengthening collective action and the organizational capacities of existing women's harvesting associations. Thanks to a partnership with an Italian importer, women collectors benefit from a more direct and stable access to the international market and, consequently, a more secure source of income. The programme aims to unleash women's entrepreneurial potential through a dedicated enterprise development scheme, which is tailored to their needs and focuses on diversification, innovation, and marketing. In Rwanda, FAO sponsors "milk bars": small and manageable businesses that are owned by women or families and directly linked to local producers. The milk bars have the potential to economically empower women while offering a safe and nutritious product for community consumption (see also Box 5). Innovative solutions, such as business incubators or hubs, have also been implemented in order to improve women's technical, management and entrepreneurial skills. In Ethiopia, for example, FAO is supporting the establishment of an agro-industrial park (a one-stop integrated agroprocessing complex for small and medium enterprises) and rural transformation centres (production hubs where farmers, cooperatives and private aggregators can sell their products) in order to provide women with easier access to essential services and marketing channels.

BOX 5**FAO's work on gender in dairy value chains**

In recent years, FAO has had the opportunity to expand its gender work on the dairy value chain. The Organization carried out assessments in five countries (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Panama and Rwanda), which resulted in an interesting overview of women's opportunities and challenges in this promising value chain. Findings show that women, particularly in the Africa region, dominate the informal dairy value chain and are mostly engaged at the production level as well as in small-scale processing at household level. As social norms and household responsibilities limit women's mobility, milk transportation and trading remain a male-dominated business. In all countries, women's opportunities to participate and benefit equally from their work along the dairy value chain are limited by the constraints they face in accessing capital, technology, market information, credit, and extension services.

On the other hand, FAO's experience demonstrates that women's engagement in the dairy value chain has the potential to trigger their economic and social empowerment if their participation is adequately acknowledged and supported. Since 2005, for example, FAO has been implementing a programme on five integrated dairy schemes in Afghanistan (in Herat, Kunduz, Mazar I Sharif and Kabul). In total there are more than 5 700 smallholder farm families benefiting on a daily basis from this approach – mainly in the form of regular income from milk. The programme is strongly based on the creation of smallholder farmers' cooperatives at the village level, and by building on solid knowledge about women's role in the livestock sector, has successfully strengthened women's ability to benefit from their labour contributions to milk production. The establishment of milk collecting centres provided rural women with the opportunity to directly sell their milk and gain a regular income from the sales. Women's increased control over income and access to training opportunities not only allowed them to invest and expand their productive activities, it also resulted in a number of other positive effects, including improved nutritional status of household members (particularly children), increased school enrolment for both boys and girls, and strengthened women's status within the household and community.

Based on these lessons learned, in Lebanon, FAO supports home-processing of dairy products as a means to empower women economically and enhance food security and nutrition in particularly disadvantaged areas. About 200 women are provided with a comprehensive training programme on animal husbandry, and food processing and safety.

The "gender gap" in the agrifood sector is also a result of women's limited access to adequate extension, financial and business development services. This is why the FMM also targets local service providers and supports rural institutions operating in selected value chains so as to enhance their capacities to reach out to rural women and tailor services to their needs and priorities. In Ethiopia, for example, FAO works with the Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE) to train and coach staff at the Women's Affairs Office in the Mekelle zone. Staff receive training on gender-sensitive interventions as well as managerial skills to improve the provision of services in support of the economic performance of local cooperatives.

Expanding women's access to financial services is essential to supporting the growth of their businesses and increasing their share in the market. According to the World Bank, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with female ownership represent 30–37 percent of all SMEs in emerging markets, a total of 8–10 million businesses. These businesses have unmet financial needs ranging between USD260 billion and USD320 billion per year (World Bank, 2014). In response to the First Declaration of Rural Women in Latin America, FAO and the Government of Ecuador designed a social management strategy aimed at strengthening women's access to



financial services. The strategy, which takes into consideration the constraints that prevent women from benefiting from formal financial institutions, led to a revision of account selection criteria in the banking system.

In order to ensure the sustainability of interventions at the field level, FAO also supports the development of policies and investment frameworks that create a favourable environment for women workers and entrepreneurs. In the context of the FMM, relevant knowledge and evidence is generated and disseminated in order to inform sectoral policies, and the integration of gender-related concerns in public programmes and investments in the agrifood sector are advocated for. In Kenya, for example, the Organization works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, providing support in the review of livestock and dairy-related policies and developing the capacities of the institution to enact gender-sensitive strategies and action plans.

ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUALITY TO REDUCE FOOD LOSSES

Since 2011, FAO has participated in the global Save Food Initiative in close collaboration with partners from the public and private sectors, in order to understand and contribute to reducing global food losses and waste. Every year, huge quantities of food are lost or wasted throughout the chain, from initial agricultural production to final household consumption.

In low-income countries, food losses mainly occur at post-harvest and processing levels, due to limitations in harvesting techniques, storage and cooling facilities in difficult climatic conditions, infrastructure, packaging and marketing systems. To date, traditional food loss reduction strategies have tended to focus on technical solutions (such as improving market access or handling and storage practices) while disregarding the relevance of social dimensions that create disparities in access to productive resources services and technologies. However, as women play a

key role in these two specific nodes, reducing existing gender inequalities will contribute significantly to improving the efficiency of the chain and cutting food losses. In order to increase knowledge in this area, a series of case studies has been initiated in Africa, Asia and Latin America to gather evidence to ensure more targeted, and hence more effective, interventions on food loss reduction.

EMPOWERING WOMEN ENGAGED IN CROSS-BORDER TRADE

Recently, FAO has also started working on cross-border trade, an economic activity in which women are profoundly involved, particularly in Africa. In this region, in fact, the contribution of women informal traders to national GDP is significant, ranging from 64 percent of value added in trade in Benin to 41 percent in Chad (UN Women, 2010). However,

women's work in this area is still relatively invisible, and women cross-border traders often suffer stigmatization, undue taxation, harassment and violence. Their working conditions are very poor and inadequate access to communication technologies and transportation limits their opportunities for profit and expansion. In Rwanda, the majority of informal cross-border traders are women, but only a limited percentage are members of traders' associations or cooperatives (Republic of Rwanda Ministry of Trade and Industry, 2012). In partnership with the Ministry of Commerce, UN Women, the East Africa Farmers' Federation and Trade Mark, FAO is working to strengthen and empower women traders associations; develop communication materials to inform women about their rights and the risks they might be exposed to (in local languages and catering to illiterate people); and train customs authority officials to ensure the enforcement of existing trade protocols and agreements.

Notes

1 MERCOSUR is a subregional bloc. Its full members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Its associate countries are Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Suriname. Observer countries are Mexico and New Zealand.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Increasing business opportunities for Rwandan women

Agnès Mukangiruwonsanga, a local teacher, received her first cow from Heifer International in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. This was an innovation, as women traditionally did not own animals. She received training on dairy herd management, and started producing milk, initially for household consumption and later for sale, discovering a new range of economic opportunities. Her business proved so successful that in 2007 Agnes founded the IAKIB Cooperative, together with a few fellow dairy farmers. She gained respect and is now a role model for other women and their families in her community.

The story of Agnès illustrates how providing equal opportunities can empower women socially and economically. "Women are no longer restricted to the homestead and family environment. We are proud that we are able to bring concrete benefits to society", she says.

As Rwandan women farmers and entrepreneurs face higher entry barriers than men in the dairy value chain, FAO's project in the Gicumbi, Kayonza and Nyagatare districts (carried out under the umbrella of the FMM Programme "Enable women to benefit more equally from agrifood value chains") supports existing dairy cooperatives and promotes women's participation in the sector.

One of the targeted cooperatives is precisely the IAKIB Cooperative, with currently over 688 members, of which 384 are women. In 2013, thanks to a previous FAO supported project, the Cooperative inaugurated its first ever milk bar in the Gicumbi district and entrusted its management to a woman entrepreneur. "The milk bar was a success, and represents a growing business", says Twinep Dacien, Manager of IAKIB, "it increased milk consumption in our community, improved nutrition, created jobs and expanded the local market".

In the context of the FFM Programme, IAKIB will be supported in expanding the range of milk bars and equipping women to run their businesses in a profitable and sustainable way, with a focus on product diversification and value addition. Through FAO's support, the IAKIB Cooperative

will also develop a specific business development service targeting cooperatives and rural enterprises to provide relevant entrepreneurial advice to dairy farmers. The value added of this approach is the particular attention paid to women's participation and the enhancement of their leadership skills. Men are being targeted and involved in the process, at household and cooperative level, to raise their

"Women are no longer restricted to the homestead and family environment. We are proud that we are able to bring concrete benefits to society"

Agnes Mukangiruwonsanga
a local teacher and IAKIB founder from Rwanda

awareness and engage them in support of women's businesses.

The approach adopted by IAKIB helps to enhance the cohesion of the cooperative, and the commitment of all its members. Building on Agnès' experience, it inspires an increasing number of women to join the

organization and take on a management and entrepreneurial role. While increasing economic gains, a gender-sensitive approach guarantees that the profit shares reach all members, both male and female, of the organization.

RWANDA

Women entrepreneurs from the IAKIB cooperative showing their produce. ©FAO



A man wearing a red and white striped headwrap, a grey t-shirt, and patterned shorts is walking barefoot on a dirt path. He is carrying a large, white sack of grain on his right shoulder. The sack has some text on it, including "17.5 KGS" and "THAILAND". In the background, there is a traditional thatched-roof hut and some wooden structures. The scene is set in a rural, arid environment.

BUILDING RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN AND MEN

5

This chapter focuses on activities relating to FAO Strategic Objective 5: *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*



MOZAMBIQUE

Farm workers carrying a sack of maize.

©FAO/P. Thekiso



KEY MESSAGES

- Crises and disasters in developing countries can have devastating effects on small-scale farmers, herders, fishers and forest-dependent communities. It is imperative to build the resilience of women and men to allow them to respond to threats and recover from and shocks more quickly.
- Recognizing the distinct and complementary roles of women and men in agriculture and ensuring food security and nutrition is an essential part of building resilience and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Worldwide, 75 percent of poor and food-insecure people rely on agriculture and natural resources for their living. They are usually the hardest hit by disasters. In the past decade, natural disasters have caused around USD 1.3 trillion in damages and affected 2.7 billion people (FAO, undated b) and 65.3 million people, or one person in 113, were displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution in 2015 (UNHCR, 2016). A number of protracted crises have also persisted for several decades, for example in Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As the magnitude and impact of crises and disasters increase – from drought, floods, earthquakes and disease epidemics to conflict, market shocks and complex and protracted crises – more and more households, communities and governments of developing countries will be less resilient in recovering from the impacts and more vulnerable to future shocks.

There is an urgent need to build stronger links between emergency response and investments in preparedness and early warning for early action and development, in order to prevent countries from being struck by recurrent humanitarian crises. In this context, building livelihoods that are resilient to disasters and crises is key to making sustainable development a reality and fulfilling the pledge of the 2030 Agenda to “leave no one behind”. Against this backdrop, FAO assists countries to increase the resilience of households, communities and institutions so that they can more effectively prevent and cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition. The Organization’s resilience work is multisectoral, encompassing all aspects of agriculture, and includes both rapid response in emergencies and longer-term disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions. The focus of this work is on protecting, restoring and improving food and agricultural systems, and strengthening the abilities of men and women to maintain their livelihoods.

Understanding the gender dimensions of emergencies and protracted crises is critical in resilience building as men, women, boys and girls are exposed to different types of risks and challenges, and have specific coping strategies related to food security and nutrition. Women and men play specific and complementary roles in food security and agriculture, and have the potential to contribute to building resilience in different ways. While men account for the majority of direct casualties during conflicts, women and children suffer more from displacement, reduced access to services and assistance, and loss of livelihoods. Moreover, the work burden for women and girls increases during and after disasters, as household incomes and livelihoods are lost. Women may become sole financial providers if men migrate or are killed in conflict, and their exposure to protection risks, including gender-based violence (GBV), tends to increase with the breakdown of community protective mechanisms such as traditional family structures. Gender inequality often deepens as crises and poverty situations worsen.

FAO collaborates with national partners to support gender-responsive and participatory approaches in the design of policies and programmes that: address the needs of both men and women in reducing disaster risks and building resilience; promote labour-saving technologies and practices that prevent and mitigate disaster impact, while reducing women’s work burden; develop capacities to ensure gender equality and needs-based support in emergency response; and provide protection from GBV. This is done by enhancing opportunities for safety and security while working towards reducing vulnerabilities such as inequalities in participation, decision-making and access to productive resources and services.

PROMOTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICY-MAKING TO RESPOND TO AND PREVENT CRISES AND DISASTERS

As a follow-up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, FAO has committed to supporting strategic partners and decision-makers in addressing gender concerns in policies and programmes to increase the resilience of livelihoods in a gender-equitable way, and to empower women and girls as agents of resilience (FAO, 2016b). The Organization is



PAKISTAN
Man and woman
threshing wheat.
©FAO/V. Morgan

well placed to contribute to protecting individuals from poverty and crisis-induced inequality and violence, and has made ten specific commitments for achieving gender equality and two for preventing and mitigating gender-based violence.

FAO supported national and international organizations in the formulation of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) of the CFS (see Chapter 2). This is a global policy instrument that provides guidance on how to address food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises. To support the implementation of the FFA's guiding principle on gender equality, FAO developed specific guidance materials for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in food security and nutrition in protracted crises.

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF RURAL MEN AND WOMEN

Addressing the root causes of vulnerabilities in individuals and communities and building on local capacities are fundamental to reducing the impact of shocks, enabling affected populations to become more resilient and recover faster. The specific vulnerabilities and capacities of men and women must be considered when applying risk-sensitive technologies and practices, introducing social protection measures and providing policy and technical advice. In order to strengthen agricultural livelihoods, it is essential to invest in the economic and social empowerment of men and women by providing income-generating opportunities and targeting women's skills, as highlighted in the examples provided below.

In 2016 FAO supported UN Women, together with IFAD and WFP, in organizing a regional share fair on “Gender and Resilience”. This provided a sharing and learning opportunity to further explore women’s roles in building and strengthening resilience, and to exchange experiences on gender responsive resilience-related programmes and policies in Africa to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

Caisses de Résilience: combining social cohesion and economic empowerment

This approach aims to empower and increase the resilience of vulnerable households by strengthening technical, social and financial capacities to better manage risks and seize local economic opportunities (Box 6). The approach works mainly through women’s associations. Support focuses on the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing community-managed saving and access to credit, and reinforcing community dialogue, social cohesion and governance. The approach has proven to be an excellent means to improve gender relations and the socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable women, while also creating a bridge from humanitarian assistance to sustainable recovery and long-term development. CdR has been successfully implemented in Uganda to support agro-pastoral communities, in the Central African Republic during the ongoing humanitarian response, in Central America’s dry corridor to strengthen women’s resilience and

preparedness to climate risks and natural disasters, and in Liberia to mitigate the impact of the Ebola crisis on livelihoods and income sources.

Addressing gender in a cash-for-work programme

Cash-for-work is a short-term intervention used to provide vulnerable populations with temporary employment in public projects (such as clearing nurseries or rebuilding infrastructure), as part of recovery and resilience building. These interventions aim to ensure that households are able to meet their food requirements, as well as funnelling cash into the local economy, while building or repairing assets and infrastructure. Since 2014, FAO has been delivering a cash-for-work programme in Somalia that provides more flexible options to meet the needs of vulnerable women. Some pregnant and lactating women qualify to be recipients of cash but have difficulties participating in the work activities the cash is contingent upon (e.g. rehabilitation of water catchments, canals, roads or community service projects). This programme has made it possible for women to participate without adding to their work burden by prioritizing work sites close to homesteads, adopting flexible working hours and prioritizing light jobs for women and older people. It also allows lactating and pregnant women to nominate family members to work on their behalf while remaining the principal cash recipients.

FIGURE 6
Supporting women in Lebanon in FAO’s response to human-induced disasters and Syrian crisis

Improving the nutrition of Syrian refugees and host communities

FAO supported 130 women in dairy processing units with equipment and training to improve safety, hygiene and economic return.
33 households (170 women) benefited from micro garden kits and related training.

Relieving the suffering of Lebanese returnees and host communities

FAO supported the recovery of smallholder agricultural production:

- 100 people received food transformation kits (44% women)
- 100 people received bread-making kits (54% women)
- 200 people received vegetable seed kits (11% women).

Emergency assistance to vulnerable Lebanese farmers and displaced Syrians

550 beneficiaries received vegetable seeds and tools kits (45.6% women)
550 beneficiaries of fodder seeds (31% women)
450 beneficiaries of dairy kits (30.4% women).

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Husband and wife received seeds and food after being displaced.
©FAO/WFP/ R. Shryock



Targeting women's work in small-scale fisheries

In 2014, the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines were adopted to address the specific concerns of small-scale fisheries. These Guidelines recognize the importance of gender equality, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for developing sustainable small-scale fisheries. For example, in small-scale fishing communities in Somalia, special efforts were made to build the resilience

of women by revitalizing their past work: women traditionally built and repaired fishing boats until the country's institutions collapsed during the civil war in the 1990s. At the request of local women's organizations, the FAO–Somalia Fisheries Programme trained women in boat-building, sewing life jackets, maintaining electronic tracking devices for fishing boats, post-harvest processing of fish, and business skills, which in turn increased fish consumption, prevented food losses and generated income.

Throughout 2014–15 FAO supported 2 456 groups (45 000 households) through the *Caisses de Résilience* approach, by building their productive capacities to boost income, diversify their livelihoods, and contribute to peace-building at the local level. Over 70 percent of groups supported are women's groups and 76 percent of loan beneficiaries are women. As a result, gender relations within the household improved and women reported an increased capacity to support family health and children's school fees, as well as enhanced public speaking skills and self-confidence.

BOX 6

Caisses de Résilience in the Central African Republic

WORKING TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Carrying out gender-sensitive needs assessments

Gender-sensitive needs assessments are essential to ensure that women and men's specific needs and priorities are effectively addressed in emergency preparedness and response. In 2015, FAO gathered sex-disaggregated information after the Myanmar flood, Nepal earthquake and El Niño event in the Sudan. All assessments found that the livelihoods of female-headed households were the most heavily affected: in Myanmar for example, twice as many women as men reported reduced food intake. Similarly, a large-scale damage and loss assessment incorporating gender-related questions was carried out in 2016 in the Syrian Arab Republic, in close collaboration with WFP. The findings will be used to identify opportunities for women to engage in peace-building processes through agriculture-related interventions.

These assessments provide important evidence for interventions. Based on the responses by women in Nepal, kitchen gardens – which require only a small surface of land – were introduced to quickly resume food production and improve household nutrition. They also serve as a source of income. When women in the Sudan identified the need to replace livestock they had lost due to El Niño, the most vulnerable

female-headed households were restocked with breeding dairy goats that secured families' access to milk and micronutrients while providing income from the sale of milk.

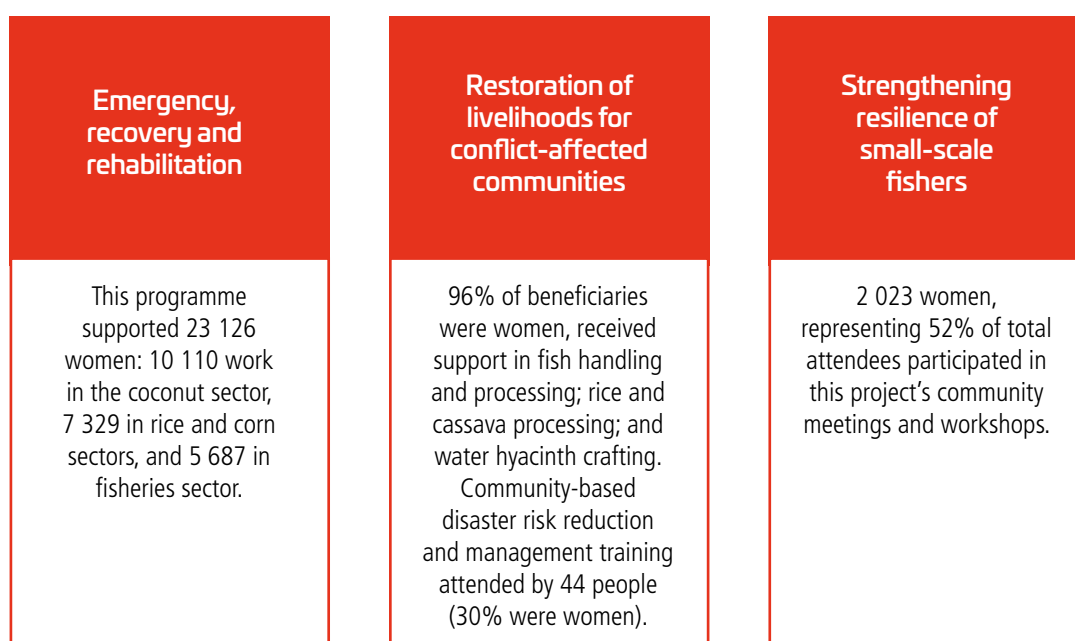
Thanks to the gender-sensitive assessments carried out after typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, women received farm inputs, access to skills training and start-up materials for sustainable post-harvest and value-adding activities.

In order to respond to emergencies and protracted crises, FAO is part of the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap), an initiative of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee that deploys gender capacity advisers to support humanitarian stakeholders in mainstreaming gender throughout all sectors of emergency response. Currently, 18 GenCap advisers are deployed: two in regional offices, 13 at country level and two at global level, of which one to the FAO–WFP global Food Security Cluster to strengthen the capacity for systematic sex and age disaggregated data analysis of food security needs.

Providing safe access to fuel and energy (SAFE)

Access to cooking fuel is an important issue in crisis situations because resources tend to become scarcer as displaced people begin to compete for their use with host communities. Moreover, the task of fetching fuelwood becomes more

FIGURE 7
Supporting women in emergency response to typhoon Haiyan and in building resilience in the Philippines



time-consuming and potentially dangerous for women and children who collect it. As a co-chair of the inter-agency SAFE Humanitarian Working Group, FAO distributed fuel-efficient stoves that, in addition to providing environmental and health benefits, decrease the exposure of women and girls to GBV by reducing the number of trips they have to take. Assessments were recently conducted on the fuel and energy-related challenges faced by communities in Kenya, Myanmar, Somalia and South Sudan. The assessments analysed the fuel types and cooking technologies used by households, as well as the specific risks faced by women who are responsible for cooking and fuelwood collection, sale and charcoal production. The findings have informed the design of targeted programmes that seek to prevent or reduce the risk of intracommunal and intercommunal tension and conflict over the use of natural resources. In South Sudan, FAO and partners distributed more than 10 000 fuel-efficient stoves and trained 820 women on their use. Baseline and monitoring

tools were designed to support local partners in assessing the social impacts of the stoves.

Protection from gender-based violence

In many environments where FAO operates, GBV is a pervasive and persistent reality. Humanitarian emergencies, food insecurity and poverty tend to increase the prevalence of GBV, which undermines household and national food security by reducing the resilience of survivors, thus weakening their capacity to be productive workers and earners and effectively creating a vicious cycle.

Technical guidance and policy support is also provided to governments to abolish discriminatory legislation and practices and incorporate gender equality and GBV work in projects and programmes. The FAO–Dimitra Clubs (see Chapter 3), Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) (see Chapter 3), and SAFE interventions increased women's access to resources and services and reduced GBV risks.

STORY FROM THE FIELD

Women's resilience and entrepreneurship in the Philippines

When Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines in November 2013, 14.1 million people were affected.

It caused severe damage to coastal communities and to the agricultural sector, thus threatening national food security and severely compromising the livelihoods of many small-scale farmers and fishers.

Fishers lost essential productive assets such as boats, fishing gear and post-harvest equipment and more than 44 million coconut trees were damaged. Both women and men in the fishing and agricultural communities were left without ways to earn money and provide for their households' basic needs.

In response, FAO set up a two-year plan, the Typhoon Haiyan Emergency, Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme, which applied an accountability to affected populations approach, integrating gender-equality issues in emergency programming. The Programme recognizes that women disproportionately bear the brunt of the devastating effects of crises because they have unequal access to assets and skills to respond to and recover from them. They are also more vulnerable largely due to the traditional gender roles assigned to them and their lower socio-economic status, which in turn leads to greater exposure to environmental risks.

This programme offered a range of capacity-development activities including training in entrepreneurship, business planning and value addition for more than 23 500 women across the coconut, rice, corn and fisheries sectors. Women in fishing communities were specifically targeted because they are most often responsible for post-harvest activities. The women learned to diversify and increase their incomes by producing new products. Through these activities they became agents of recovery and resilience in their communities, able to explore livelihoods other than fishing and farming and expand to larger markets. This had an empowering effect by significantly increasing their income and reducing their financial dependence on male household members.

The programme successfully combined disaster relief and value chain development in a gender-sensitive way including women as partners and agents of change and not as sole victims of a natural disaster.

"We learned how to dry fish and squid more efficiently by minimizing spoilage and proper cleaning. We also learned how much salt was necessary to avoid spoilage and how to make new products like fish tocino (cured fish). Right now, we're optimistic that we can have better incomes. We've learned not to be too dependent on our spouses and that women can help, and we've become more confident in doing so."

Loida Lagan of Barongan, Palawan,
female beneficiary

PHILIPPINES

Woman from fisher
community displaying
caught fish.
©FAO



Achieving food security and nutrition for all is at the heart of FAO's work. Over the last 70 years the Organization has worked hard to help women and men in rural and urban areas to access and produce enough quality food in order to live healthy lives.

Past experience and existing evidence show that closing the gender gap in agriculture – by ensuring equal access to land, water and other productive resources and services – will generate significant gains for the livelihoods of rural populations. Enabling women to participate more effectively in agriculture, becoming as productive as their male counterparts, will contribute significantly to boosting agriculture and rural development. Empowering women is key for the wellbeing of children and families, thereby building the human capital of future generations and contributing to long term economic development. To achieve this, agriculture productivity needs to increase and food systems must become more efficient and inclusive, while building the resilience of people to climate change as well as natural and human-induced disasters. These findings were already presented by FAO in *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11* (FAO, 2011).

Significant progress was made by the Organization to address gender equality and women's empowerment in priority areas of intervention in agriculture and rural development under the Strategic Framework. As highlighted in this publication, FAO is committed to unleashing the potential of rural women and men while addressing the root causes of poverty and hunger. For this

CONCLUSION



**BURUNDI**

Farmer Field
Schools – training of
trainers in Gihanga,
Bujumbura.
©FAO

reason, the Organization supports Members in promoting gender equality through its normative and field work, by identifying priority areas of interventions and developing methodologies and tools to enhance their capacities.

At national level for example, FAO assisted Members in the formulation of evidence-based and gender-responsive policy and legal frameworks on food security and nutrition and poverty reduction. Research and field work were also carried out to promote inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources, particularly land and water, in line with the climate-smart agriculture. FAO contributed to empowering women to become active and equal partners in rural enterprises and food systems, by increasing their participation in value chains and rural institutions, delivering social protection programmes and reducing their daily work burden through improved practices and technologies. Support was also provided to strengthen national capacities with the design and implementation of policies, strategies and plans to manage the risk of disasters and conflicts, which contributed to enhance the resilience of rural women and men.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes gender equality as the basis for reaching a world which is just, prosperous, socially inclusive and sustainable. Rural women's empowerment is also recognized as a powerful multiplier to peoples' well-being and as an essential requisite for sustainable development. Therefore the eradication of hunger and poverty must be addressed in rural areas, where 80 percent of the world's poor and malnourished people live. This requires a strong political will to invest in the major agents of change: rural women, small producers, family farmers, fisher folk, indigenous communities, young people and others. Only in this way will countries be able to attain the Sustainable Development Goals while "leaving no one behind" and collectively meet our goals.

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FAO recognizes the potential of rural women and men in achieving food security and nutrition and is committed to overcoming gender inequality, in line with the pledge to “leave no one behind”, which is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda.

The publication illustrates the consistent and sustained work of FAO towards gender equality and women’s empowerment, which are at the core of the Organization’s work to eliminate hunger and rural poverty. Each chapter highlights the relevance of gender work to achieving the FAO Strategic Objectives, and describes main results achieved, showcasing activities implemented at country and international levels. Stories from the field demonstrate the impact of FAO’s work for beneficiaries, highlighting successes and significant insights gained.

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