



FAO Programme ::: Gender Equity



"We are dedicated to production, Agriculture and Women"



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The mandate of FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): specialized agency of the UN established in 1945

*Its mandate is to achieve **food security for all** - to make sure people have regular access to **enough high-quality food** to lead active, **healthy** lives.*

FAO & Gender



Social and economic inequalities between men and women undermine food security and hold back economic growth and advances in agriculture.

That is why FAO's new strategic framework identifies gender equity as one of the Organization's key objectives for the next 10 years.





Why Gender?



Gender roles
Gender relations
Gender discrimination
Gender equality
Gender equity
Gender analysis
Gender balance
Gender mainstreaming

All of those terms have been accepted into declarations, plans of action, policies, programmes and projects for agriculture and rural development.

Accepted, but not always fully understood!





Terminology



- **Gender roles:** *Tasks and responsibilities that a society considers appropriate for men, women, boys and girls.*
- **Gender balance:** *Equal and active participation of women and men in all areas of decision-making, and in access to and control over resources and services.*
- **Gender discrimination:** *Any exclusion or restriction made on the basis of gender roles and relations that prevents a person from enjoying full human rights.*
- **Gender equality:** *When women and men enjoy equal rights, opportunities and entitlements in civil and political life.*



Terminology



- **Gender mainstreaming:** *Globally recognized strategy for achieving gender equality.*
- **Gender relations:** *Rights, responsibilities and the identities of men and women in relation to one another.*
- **Gender analysis:** *Study of the different roles of women and men in order to understand what they do, what resources they have, and what their needs and priorities are.*
- **Gender equity:** *Fairness and impartiality in the treatment of women and men in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities.*





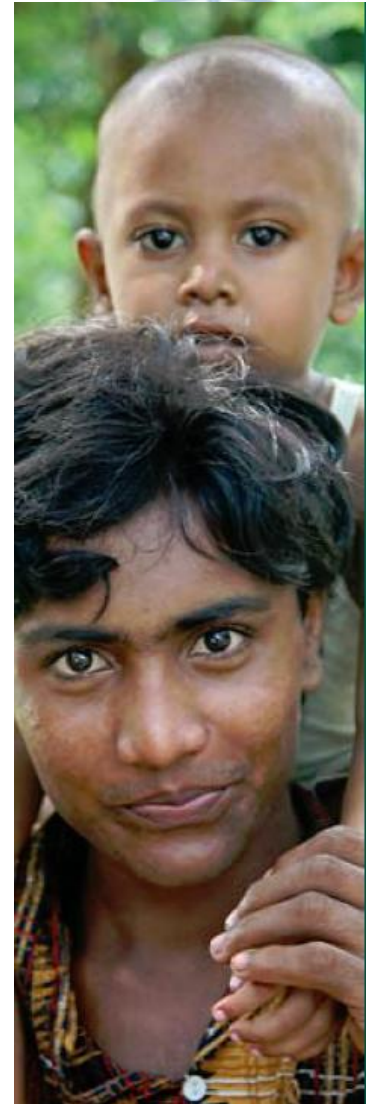
FAO's Comparative Advantages



As the United Nations lead agency for agriculture and rural development, FAO has a clear comparative advantage in addressing rural gender issues.

FAO's targets 2008-2013: FAO has set itself the following targets to 2013:

1-) UN policies and joint programmes: "One UN" initiative; identify needs, gaps and entry points for FAO technical support.





FAO's Comperative Advantages



2-) Policies for agriculture and rural development:

Assist governments in integrating gender into development policies and programmes.

3-) Capacity building: Expand support to training in gender mainstreaming.

4-) FAO skills, resources and technical programmes: Upgrade the gender analysis skills of FAO staff to promote gender mainstreaming in all FAO's technical programmes.





Women In Agriculture



- Women comprise, on average, 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries.
- Female farmers produce less than male farmers, but not because they are less-efficient farmers – If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by **20–30 percent**. This could raise total agricultural output in developing countries **by 2.5 – 4 percent**.
- FAO asserts that the empowerment of women could raise their farm productivity **by 20-30 percent**, increase national agricultural output **by 2.5 to 4.0 percent**, and ultimately, **lift 100-150 million people out of hunger.**



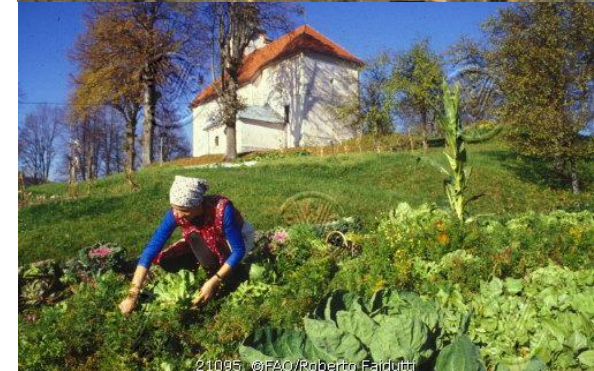
Women's contribution...

...as farmers, laborers and entrepreneurs

- Around 40% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries
 - 40% in **Central Asia**
 - 32% in **Europe**
 - 28% in **Eastern Europe**
 - 45% in **Southern Europe**



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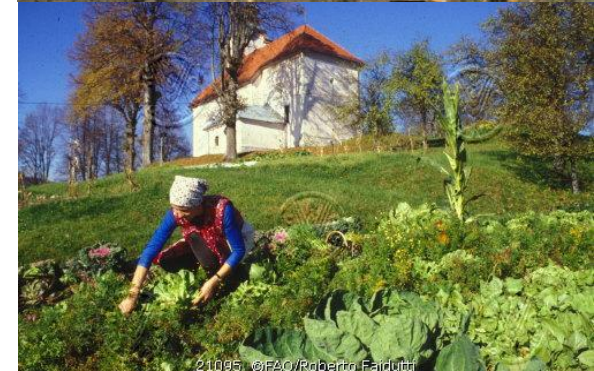
Women's contribution...

- Produce almost half of the food in most developing countries
- Their role varies across regions

Europe: *horticulture, mixed cropping, olive-farming, mixed livestock grazing*



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Challenges



- **9 billion people by 2050, 1 billion undernourished**
- **Women in agriculture and rural areas have less access than men to productive resources and opportunities.**
- **Women have less access to fertilizers, less access to market, less access to credits; they own fewer livestock, have to operate smaller farms.**

Unfortunately women usually sell less produce, quality is lower than sold by men and lower income from market activities





FAO Policy on Gender Equality



New Gender Equality Policy launched on 8 March 2012 by FAO aims to place the improvement of gender equality at the center of the UN agency's work to boost sustainable agriculture and development.

FAO will work with countries, UN agencies, and bilateral civil society, private sector partners and academia to make progress toward achieving the following objectives by 2025:

- 1. Women and men participate equally as decision-makers in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programs.**
- 2. Women and men have equal access to and control over decent employment and income, land and other productive resources.**





FAO Policy on Gender Equality



3. Women and men have equal access to goods and services for agricultural development and to markets.

4. Women's work burden is reduced by 20 percent through improved technologies, services and infrastructure.

5. The percentage of agricultural aid committed to women/gender-equality related projects is increased to 30 percent of total agricultural aid.





Some Examples

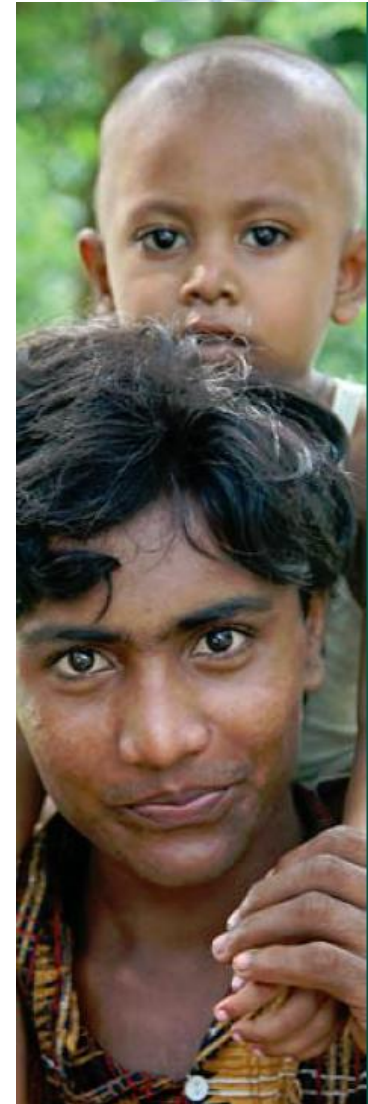
- UNJP on **Economic Empowerment of Rural Women** in Kyrgyzstan (UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP)
- Support to **socio-economic training of rural women** for sustainable rural development (Turkey and Azerbaijan)
- **Social Policies** and International Good Practices (Turkey)
- **Forestry Policy Consolidation** in Ukraine (main activity: gender assessment of the forestry sector)
- Support to Ministry of Agriculture and rural extension services for **rural diversification projects** in Albania (main activity: gender-sensitive review of agricultural strategy; women-focused pilot project)



Recommendations



- **Eliminate discrimination under the law, promote equal access to resources and opportunities,**
- **Make gender-aware agricultural policy decisions**
- **Strengthen rural institutions, ensure that agricultural policies and programmes are gender-aware, and make women's voices heard in decision-making at all levels.**
- **Promote equal access to resources and opportunities,**





Think Again



Why are women so important to agriculture?



Where does a gender gap in agriculture exist?

What are the impacts of the gender gap in agriculture?

