Gender issues in agricultural and rural household well-being

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Gender matters

• “If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights - and women's rights are human rights.” Hillary Clinton, United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, 5 September 1995
Figure--Framework for Agriculture and Rural Development Activities: Data Requirements for Action

Well-Being Determination Process

**Assets**
- Natural Environment
- Physical Assets
- Human Capital
- Financial
- Social

**Context where assets are used**
- Markets and market information
- Institutions
- Governance

**Individual & Household choices**
- Agricultural production
- Rural non-ag employment
- Joint agriculture and non-ag employment
- Migration
- Transfers
- Results in well-being

**Progress toward Millennium Development Goals**
- Extreme poverty and hunger
- Universal primary education
- Gender equality and empower women
- Child mortality
- Maternal Health
- HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Environmental sustainability
- Global partnership for development

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Entry Points for Rural Development

**Programs to improve access to assets & Long-term sustainability of assets**
- e.g., land reform

**Programs to improve the context**
- e.g., market reform, risk management institutions

**Programs for social protection**
- e.g., food transfers, health programs

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Policy Processes

- Policy Making
- Program Design

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Information Quantifying the Progress of the MDGs

Information needed for accountability in program implementation

Information needed for informing public (and private) choices

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Source: Adapted from de Janvry, Alain, 2003.
Figure--Share of countries in region with at least 2 data points for selected MDG indicator

Note: Number of countries in each region in parentheses. Data points exclude modeled data. CIS countries are Commonwealth of Independent States.
Evidence that gender matters in household well-being

- Feminization of poverty and food insecurity
- Research using small area data has shown that when women are able to control resources on a basis equal to men, agricultural productivity increases (e.g., Fafchamps and Quisumbing, 2008).
Example of the feminization of poverty in the developed world

Figure 3. U.S. poverty rates by family type and residence, 2008

Note: Percent of people in families, either primary or related subfamilies, who are poor.
Evidence of the feminization of food insecurity in the developing world

Figure--Average number of times a Tanzania household eats meat in one week

Source: Tanzania Agriculture Sample Census 2003, National Gender Report.
Figure--Percent of male and female headed households by frequency of facing food shortages in Tanzania

Percent of households

Source: Tanzania Agriculture Sample Census 2003, National Gender Report.
Gender also matters in agriculture, but differently...

- In the developing world, women provide the majority of the agricultural labor and agriculture is the most common industry of employment for women employed. This is the so-called feminization of agriculture.

- In the developed world, men dominate the operation of farms and provide most of the farm labor.

- But, women play other roles on the farm, less often measured.
In the developing world, women are commonly employed in agriculture

- In SE Asia, 90% of labor in rice production
- In Pakistan, 80% of livestock management
- In Tanzania, 80% of unpaid family labor

Source: UN, MDG: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Progress Chart, 2008. Note: CIS are the Commonwealth of Independent States.
Feminization of ag can result from an increase in female heads of holdings or...

Figure--Heads of agricultural holdings by sex, 1984-1990, percent, Cameroon

Direction des Enquetes Agro – Economiques et de la Planification Agricole.
Feminization can also result from age-specific male-dominated rural out-migration, as in Guinea

- Fewer men than women in the 20-49 age group of the ag pop in Guinea
- There are 4 times more women than men in the Labe region in the 30-34 age group
Figure--Distribution of rural agricultural holdings by number of agriculturally active persons and sex of the head of the holding, Guinea—evidence that women are operating smaller holdings

In the developed world, where the average income and wealth of farm households are greater than other households, men are overwhelmingly the principal operators of farms and male-operated farms are more likely to receive farm program payments.


Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture, various years.

Starting in 2002, up to 3 operators can be identified.
Women’s Roles in U.S. Agriculture: sometimes less visible

- As **nonfamily hired workers** — about 20% of the 731,500 hired workers
- As **farmland owners other than operators** — 51% of the 1.4M nonoperator landlords
- As **farm worker-spouses, not operators**, of male operated-farms—about 16% of the 1.6M female spouses work on the farm
- As **primary operators** — 11-14% of the 2.1M primary operators
- As **joint operators, other than primary** — 75% of the 1M secondary operators

That sums to about 2.8 million women providing capital, labor, and/or management to agriculture
Suggestions for Action-Oriented Data Collection

• Target data collection purposes for national and small area collection
  – Focus on national representation and SNA: Especially for developing countries, improve coverage and collect gender of those engaged in farming, including onfarm technologies and the use of those technologies by gender
  – To understand intrahousehold, cultural, and social barriers to improved agricultural productivity: Depend on small area surveys to collect labor allocations (farm and off-farm), asset ownership, access to assets, credit, and services, role in decision-making

• Emerging policy issues and gender: climate change mitigation, multifunctionality
Examples of gender-relevant variables from US and Canada

• Time allocation
• Multiple operators
• Acquisition of land
Since 1991*, 67 to 70% of household labour has been contributed by males, Canada.

* Starting in 1991, more than one operator could be identified for each census-farm. Typically, the operators live in the same household. Estimated annual hours of work is calculated as "hours worked last week" (i.e. in the week prior to the census (May 16, 2006)) multiplied by "hours worked last year" and thus this chart only includes individuals with some "hours worked last week" and "some weeks worked last year".

### Table 4. Distribution of census-farms by the gender mix of the operators associated with one, two or three-household census-farms, Canada, 2001.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender mix of the operators of census-farms</th>
<th>One household census-farms</th>
<th>Two household census-farms</th>
<th>Three (or more) household census-farms</th>
<th>All households</th>
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<td>Census-farms with one operator</td>
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**Percent distribution of number of census-farms across household categories (row percent)**

- All census-farms: 62 29 2 93 4 2 6 1 62 34 4 100
- One operator - male: 100 0 0 100 0 0 0 0 100 0 0 100
- One operator - female: 100 0 0 100 0 0 0 0 100 0 0 100
- Two operators - male/male: 0 36 0 36 3 0 0 0 3 3 0 100
- Two operators - male/female: 0 56 0 56 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 100
- Two operators - female/male: 0 91 0 91 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 100
- Two operators - female/female: 0 9 0 9 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 100
- Three operators - male/male/male: 0 0 12 12 0 18 18 70 0 0 1 100
- Three operators - male/male/female: 0 0 29 29 0 61 61 10 0 0 1 100
- Three operators - male/female/female: 0 0 12 12 0 18 18 70 0 0 1 100
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- Three operators - female/female/female: 0 0 29 29 0 61 61 10 0 0 1 100

**Percent distribution of number of census-farms across categories of census-farm operator gender mix (column percent)**

- All census-farms: 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100
- One operator - male: 92 0 0 62 0 0 0 0 92 0 0 57
- One operator - female: 8 0 0 5 0 0 0 0 8 0 0 5
- Two operators - male/male: 0 4 0 1 85 0 62 0 0 14 0 5
- Two operators - male/female: 0 87 0 27 8 0 6 0 0 77 0 26
- Two operators - female/male: 0 8 0 3 5 0 4 0 0 8 0 3
- Two operators - female/female: 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0
- Three operators - male/male/male: 0 0 10 0 0 4 14 83 0 0 1 30
- Three operators - male/male/female: 0 0 12 0 0 25 7 6 0 0 16 1
- Three operators - male/female/female: 0 0 12 0 0 25 7 6 0 0 16 1
- Three operators - male/female/male: 0 0 12 0 0 6 2 1 0 0 7 0
- Three operators - female/male/male: 0 0 10 0 0 6 2 1 0 0 7 0
- Three operators - female/male/female: 0 0 10 0 0 6 2 1 0 0 7 0
- Three operators - female/female/male: 0 0 12 0 0 6 2 1 0 0 7 0
- Three operators - female/female/female: 0 0 12 0 0 4 14 83 0 0 30 1

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001.

Canada’s linked pop-ag censuses have a history of providing the basis for a richness in understanding gender roles and farm structure (e.g., Bollman).
Source of farm labor on U.S. family farms, by management gender structure, 2008

Source: USDA, ARMS, 2008, version 1
Beginning farms means of acquiring owned land, by gender management structure

(Excludes farms with primary operators 65 years old and older)

Concluding comments

• Recognition that human capital is a crucial asset; the past was solely focused on agricultural output statistics
• Gender lacks significant visibility, but evidence of improved recognition and data availability
• There is a need for sex-disaggregated data at sub-household level to reflect intrahousehold differences to understand decision-making and control of assets
• There is a lack of understanding of the issues, including gender, involved in immigrant and migrant labor
• Better understanding of how institutions and producer groups treat women, e.g. inheritance laws, access to input, credit and land, access to extension services, i.e., Annie’s Project in US
Important developments

• MDGs—tracking their progress
• FAO (2005) Agricultural censuses and gender: lessons learned in Africa
• FAO (2009) statistical toolkit with specific sex-disaggregated census/survey questions
• SOFA (2010) focus on women in agriculture and rural development
Evidence of more positive efforts

• Increased collaboration of international donors, users, and producers of statistics
• Provision of direct technical support, e.g. the 2009 FAO toolkit
• Global Strategy Report
• National statistical strategies which recognize the importance of gender
• Data dissemination, e.g., Country Stats, financed largely by the Gates Foundation