

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(theme of the 37th FAO Conference)



Gender Team

Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

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Today's presentation:



- *why Gender is important*
- *Concepts & Definitions*
- *the situation in Europe & Central Asia*
- *what is REU doing about Gender?*



Why Women and Gender in FAO?



Gender inequality is not just a problem of women, but it is a problem of agricultural productivity, of food security and rural development.

Why Women and Gender in FAO?



- **Unequal access to inputs reduces yields and hinders agricultural productivity**
which
- **negatively affects the economy & food security at the national level – *affecting both men & women***
- **then at the global level**

Why Women and Gender in FAO?



- **studies show that closing the “gender gap” can increase agricultural productivity by over 10% !**

Why Women and Gender in FAO?



**Thus a shift in FAO focus
from “Women” to “Gender”
which is now one of our “Strategic Objectives”**

women  *gender*

What is Gender?



- **Gender** is “social”; **sex** is “biological”
- Gender refers to the **qualities** or **characteristics** that society ascribes to each sex
- You are born female or male, but **learn** your role as a woman or man
- Perceptions of gender are deeply rooted



What is Gender?



- In all cultures, gender **determines roles and responsibilities**, as well as **power and resources** of women and men



Gender equality and equity



- **Gender equality:** *women and men enjoy equal rights & opportunities*
- **Gender equity:** *fairness and impartiality in the treatment of women and men*

You need *equity* to achieve *equality*

Women and Gender in FAO – Progress in Approaches



- From **Women in Development (WID)** to **Gender and Development (GAD)**
- From **Gender Action Plans** to a **Strategic Objective**

Gender Equity as a Strategic Objective



- A Crop production
- B Livestock production
- C Fisheries and Aquaculture
- D Food Safety
- E Forest and Tree management
- F Natural Resources Management & Environmental Challenges
- G Markets, Livelihoods, Rural Development
- H Food Security and Nutrition
- I Preparedness and Response to Emergencies
- K Gender equity
- L Investment in Agriculture and Rural Development

Gender Equity as a Strategic Objective



**Gender, however, is a cross-cutting issue
that should permeate
the activities of all the other Strategic Objectives**

**All FAO staff, at all levels,
are responsible & accountable for
mainstreaming gender in their work.**

**Therefore, everyone at FAO
should be an “ambassador” for gender**

4 Organizational Results:



1. Rural gender equality incorporated into **UN Joint Programmes**
2. National capacities to integrate gender equality through **sex-disaggregated data** are enhanced
3. Gender-sensitive **policies** in agriculture formulated
4. FAO **staff** have demonstrated **commitment/capacity** to address gender

The Work of FAO on Gender



- **Gender, Equity and Rural Employment (ESW); and Gender Focal Point Network**
- **Gender equity in Human Resources Policy**
- **State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11**

The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010-11



- Flagship FAO publication to be launched on 7 March 2011
- **Theme: “*Women in agriculture: closing the gender gap for development*”**
- Strong case for addressing gender in agriculture & rural employment: ***women in all regions face gender-related constraints that reduce their productivity and impose real costs on society.***

Gender in this Region:



2 main issues:

1. **general lack of sex-disaggregated data**
2. **misconceptions that no rural gender issues exist**

The crucial role of women in agriculture in Europe and Central Asia



World/Region	Rural population as a percentage of total population (2006)	Labour force in agriculture as % of total labour force (2006)	Women in agr. lab. force as % of total agric. labour force (2006)
World	51	42	44
Europe (total)	28	7	34
Eastern Europe	32	11	31
Northern Europe	16	3	25
Southern Europe	33	7	43
Western Europe	24	2	36

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In Central Asia, women account for 40% of the economically active population in agriculture.

Turkmenistan & Tajikistan: 53%

The Crucial Role of Women in Agriculture – Europe and Central Asia



- **Mixed livestock grazing,**
- **Mixed cropping,**
- **Horticulture and**
- **Olive-farming**



- **Cotton cultivation**
- **Household food production**

Main Gender Issues in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia



- Lack of **ownership and control over the land**
- Lower access to **education & training**
- Rural employment:
 - **Work-overload**
 - **Gender pay gap**
 - **Lack of access to decent work**

Main Gender Issues in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia



- Lack of **ownership and control over the land**

Lack of employment opportunities

Migration

Gendered Impacts

1. Health
2. Human trafficking
3. Increased single parent households and their vulnerability

- **Lack of access to decent work**

Landownership



- **In the EU-27, women account for 23% of individual holders**
 - Lowest in the Netherlands (5%) and Germany (10%)
 - Highest in the Baltics: 44%
(Eurostat, 2007)
- **Outside of the EU**
 - Montenegro: 10.7%
 - Georgia 30%
 - Serbia 18%



Education and Agricultural Training



- **Men have more access to education and training**

- In France 26% more male holders have full agricultural training than female holders

Incomplete education/training:

- **low possibility to access better jobs**
- **uninformed about rights and opportunities**

Political Representation



- **Gender gaps in women's participation in *Agrarian Decision-Making Processes***

- In Albania (2006) the *Agrarian Party* had no women representatives
- In Montenegro (2009) the *Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Environment and Spatial Planning* consisted of only male members

Rural Employment



- **Women's triple role:** hinders from filling permanent paid positions and leads to work overload
 - Central Asia: rural women spend only 30% of their time in paid labour
 - Lack of safety net decreases possibility of work improvement thus affecting family livelihoods
 - In Tajikistan 52% of the female agricultural workers are employed in low-wage jobs compared to 28% of men



Migration



- in Europe, women form half of the migrant population
 - Positive and Negative Effects



What Do We (REU) do about these Gender Issues?



In line with FAO's Strategic Objective and the gender audit recommendations:

- **Increased human & financial resources focusing on gender**
- **Strengthened the role of gender focal point**
- **Gender “Strategic Objective” is addressed appropriately in workplans**
- **Training of REU staff on gender mainstreaming**

What Do We (REU) do about these Gender Issues?



- **Gender Statistics** *(WPW and ERC recommendations 1 and 8)*
 - Intensive Data research
 - National Capacity building
- **Gender Mainstreaming in REU**
 - Staff Capacity building
 - Gender mainstreamed projects
- **The Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development (WPW)** – under FAO ECA

Gender Statistics



- **Data Research (also within the framework of the WPW)**
 - Identify data gaps
 - Publication on the status of rural women in the region, based on the analysis of main data available (2012)
- **National Capacity building**
 - Training in sex-disaggregated data
 - exchange of best practices/methodology
 - establish ongoing cooperation re collection. exchange & analysis of data

Gender Mainstreaming



- Gender mainstreaming in the project cycle

– *Gender mainstreaming is essentially the assessment of the implications for women and men of any planned action in all areas and at all levels.*



70% of REU FAO is trained on Gender Mainstreaming (100% by 2012)

Gender Mainstreamed Projects:



- Support the Preparation of National **Land Consolidation** Strategy being implemented in Albania and in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- United Nations Joint Programme on **Reducing Malnutrition** in children in Albania (UNICEF, WHO)

The Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development



- **Subsidiary Statutory body** of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)
- Unique **Expert Think Tank** and **Dynamic Knowledge Network** on issues relevant to **gender and rural development**
- **Future focus:** sex-disaggregated data and the status of rural women in the region



Thank you for your attention!