

# WOMEN AND MEN IN AGRICULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



SWEDEN

GUVERNUL  
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# INTRODUCTION

Women play significant role in agriculture worldwide as farmers, workers and entrepreneurs, yet generally they face more constraints than men in accessing agricultural assets, inputs and services. Empirical evidence from many different countries shows that, due to their lower access to productive resources and opportunities in agriculture, holdings managed by women produce less. It has been demonstrated that addressing this gap between women and men, would lead to significant benefits for rural families and for the whole society by increasing agricultural productivity, reducing poverty and promoting equitable economic growth.

The Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and is committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals - one of which is Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women. Therefore, agricultural policy-makers have an obligation to ensure that women are able to influence and benefit from agricultural development. Working towards gender equality in agriculture – closing the gender gap in access to productive resources and opportunities – is not only a matter of advancing women's rights and wellbeing, but it can significantly contribute to poverty reduction in Moldova, particularly in rural areas.

In this context it is essential that national policies and programmes are informed about the contributions, roles and constraints of women and men in agriculture as well as about the differences in the resources available to them.

The National Bureau of Statistics is involved in the implementation of the *2010-2015 National Programme to Ensure Gender Equality* through various activities, which aim at improving the availability and accessibility of national sex-disaggregated data.

Along the same objective this leaflet provides a basic gender analysis based on sex-disaggregated data collected by the **first General Agricultural Census of the Republic of Moldova** (carried out in 2011). It highlights main disparities between women and men engaged in agriculture in Moldova, particularly in terms of their access to assets, inputs and services. It aims at identifying potential areas of challenges which will be further investigated based on the analysis of the detailed data from the Census and which will be published in the form of a Gender Thematic Report. Understanding specific challenges of female and male farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs and workers will enable gender-aware decisions about the sector, leading to more effective, efficient and sustainable solutions.

# 1- DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL PROFILE OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

## Population and age

Women constitute more than half of the total population of the Republic of Moldova - 51.9 percent (1 848 300), while men 48.1 percent (1 712 100). In early 2011, 57.5 percent of the total number of women lived in rural areas.

According to the General Agricultural Census conducted in 2011, there are a total of 902 214 agricultural holdings in the Republic of Moldova\*. At the national level, 36 percent of the agricultural holdings are headed by

women and the other 64 percent by men. The distribution of female and male headed holdings in the different regions is essentially in line with the national one. The number of female headed holdings is the highest in Chisinau Municipality - making up 41 percent of the total number of agricultural holdings. The share of female headed holdings is the lowest in UTA Gagauzia Region, with about 33 percent.

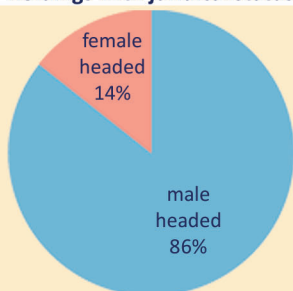
**TABLE 1 - Share of male and female headed agricultural holdings in the regions of the Republic of Moldova**

Regions	Total Holdings	Male headed Holdings (MHH)	Female headed Holdings (FHH)
	No.	%	%
<b>The Rep. of Moldova*</b>	<b>902 214</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>36.3</b>
Chisinau Municipality	32 098	58.8	41.2
North	310 241	60.7	39.3
Center	357 997	65.0	35.0
South	160 920	66.6	33.4
UTA Gagauzia	40 958	67.4	32.6

\* Without left bank rayons of Dniester and municipality Bender

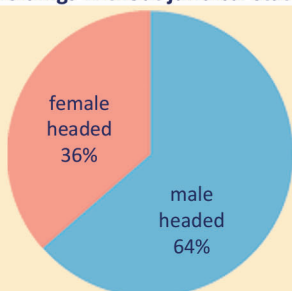
**CHART 1**

**Share of male and female headed holdings with juridical status**



**CHART 2**

**Share of male and female headed holdings without juridical status**



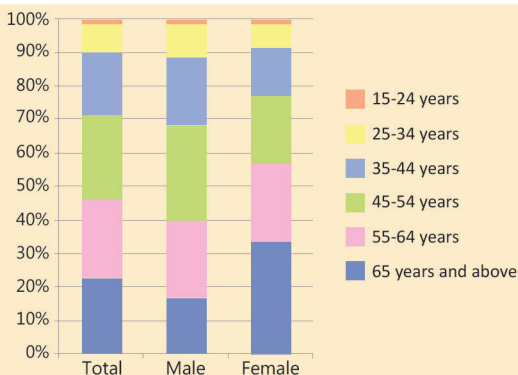
In the Republic of Moldova 3 446 agricultural holdings have juridical status, which make up 0.4 percent of the total number of agricultural holdings. The rest of the holdings (99.6 percent) were enumerated as holdings without juridical status, i.e. physical persons. Fourteen percent of the agricultural holdings with juridical status are female headed, compared to 36 percent of holdings without juridical status.

Chart 3 shows that there is a significant difference between the age composition of female and male holders. The number of male holders is highest in the age group 45-54 years with 28

percent, whereas that of female holders is highest in the age group 65 years and above. The number of female holders is steadily rising towards the older age groups. In all age groups the share of men is considerably higher than that of women (Table 2), with the exception of the oldest group (65 and above) where women outnumber men.

In general the census data points at the ageing of the rural population, which may be explained by the outmigration of rural youth, while the overrepresentation of women in the oldest age group might be a consequence of their relative higher life expectancy.

**CHART 3 - Age composition of male and female agricultural holders - by age groups as respective share of total, female and male holders**



**TABLE 2 - Age distribution of male and female agricultural holders**

Age groups	Agricultural holders	Male (%)	Female (%)
<b>All</b>	<b>902 214</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>36.3</b>
15-24 years	13 079	64.2	35.8
25-34 years	79 752	70.9	29.1
35-44 years	163 427	71.7	28.3
45-54 years	227 522	70.6	29.4
55-64 years	212 039	63.8	36.2
65 years and over	206 395	46.7	53.3

## Level of training in agriculture

As shown by Table 3, less than 20 percent of the total holders have acquired an agricultural education of any kind. A gender gap can be seen in access to vocational education: while both shares are low,

only 6 percent of female holders participated in vocational education compared to 12 percent of men. In higher education the gender gap is minimal, less than one percentage point.

**TABLE 3 - Level of agricultural education of male and female holders**

Highest completed education in agriculture	Agricultural holders <sup>1</sup>		Male holders	Female holders
	No.	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>902 214</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
No education in agriculture	741 249	82.2	79.5	86.9
Vocational education	87 443	9.7	11.8	5.9
Technical secondary education	42 893	4.7	5.0	4.3
Higher education	30 629	3.4	3.7	2.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes also "managers" of the agricultural holdings with juridical status

To note, almost 70 percent of all female holders responded by indicating that they have 10 or more years of practical agricultural experience, in comparison to 67 percent of the male holders.

## Contribution to agricultural work

Female and male holders spend similar amount of time on undertaking agricultural activities in the holding –both daily and along the year. Among female holders, the share of women working daily up to four hours is slightly higher than that of men among male holders (4.3 percentage points).

Consequently, the share of male holders working more than 4 hours a day is a little higher than that of female holders. Observing the time spent by holders on agricultural activities (in the holding) along the year shows us parallel results, i.e. no major gender disparities can be seen.

**TABLE 4 - Time worked in agricultural activities by male and female holders**

Time worked during a day	Agricultural holders	Male holders	Female holders
	No.	%	%
<b>Total (any time)</b>	<b>902 214</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Up to 4 hours	375 746	40.1	44.4
4 to 8 hours	398 427	44.9	42.9
8 hours or more	128 041	15.0	12.7

The participation of members of the holdings in agricultural productive activities is almost perfectly gender balanced (49.9 percent women to 50.1 percent men). However, 'agricultural holdings without juridical status' employ significantly less female than male non-members of the holding as permanent or temporary workers (39 percent to 61 percent, as can be seen

from Table 5 below). In some Regions this difference is even larger. For instance, in the Central Region of the country only about 20 percent of the agricultural workers who are not members of the holdings are women. In UTA Gagauzia, the share of women and men agricultural workers who are not members of holdings is nearly equal.

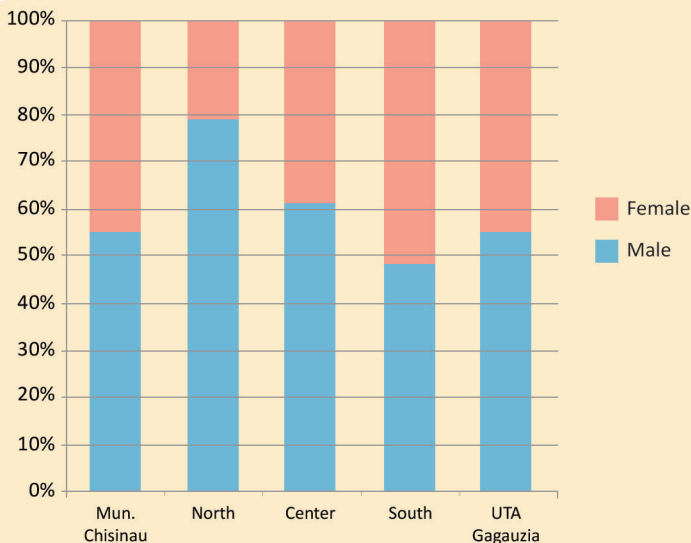
**TABLE 5 - Male and female member/non-member workers in agricultural holdings without juridical status in the regions of the Republic of Moldova**

Regions	Agricultural workers **	Members of holdings		Non-members of holdings	
		Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Rep.of Moldova*	1 891 362	50.1	49.9	61.1	38.9
Mun. Chisinau	55 643	51.1	48.9	55.0	45.0
North	619 845	48.5	51.5	79.0	21.0
Central	693 412	51.0	49.0	62.7	37.3
South	426 190	50.5	49.5	48.2	51.8
UTA Gagauzia	96 272	50.7	49.3	55.8	44.2

\* Without left bank rayons of Dniester and municipality Bender

\*\* Including the persons that worked temporarily in more than one agricultural holding

**CHART 4 - Male and female non-members of holding, working on the holdings without juridical status in the regions of the Republic of Moldova**



## 2- GENDER-BASED ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES AND SERVICES

### Access to land

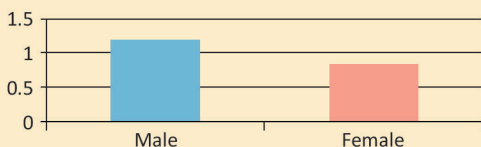
Generally, male holders manage larger land than female holders – both when the holding is with or without a juridical status. On average, male holders in the Republic of Moldova manage 1.21 hectares compared to the 0.86 hectares managed by female

holders. In other words, despite the fact that women make up 36 percent of the total agricultural holders in the country, they manage only 19 percent of the land covered by agricultural holdings (in total 425 324 ha compared to 1 818 216 ha managed by men).

**TABLE 6 - Average size of male and female headed agricultural holdings (hectares) by juridical status**

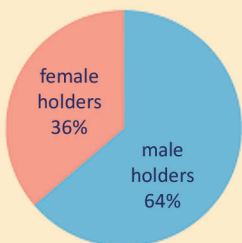
Juridical status of the holding	Average size of the holding (ha)	
	MHH	FHH
with juridical status	382.33	291.53
without juridical status	1.21	0.86

**CHART 5 - Average size of male and female headed agricultural holdings without juridical status**

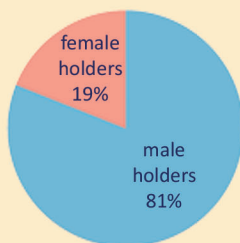


**CHART 6 - The share of male and female holders**

a. in the total area of agricultural holdings



b. in the total number of agricultural holdings





## Access to livestock

The average number of different species of livestock owned by female headed and male headed holdings can be seen in Table 7. Male headed holdings have, in general, more livestock than female headed holdings. The

largest disparities can be seen in the case of pigs and poultry, whereas there is almost no difference between female and male headed holdings in the amount of horses and dairy cows owned.

**TABLE 7 - Average number of livestock, by main species, of male and female holdings and their ratio**

Animal Species	Average number of heads in MHH	Average number of heads in FHH	F/M ratio <sup>2</sup>
<b>Bovine animals</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.89</b>
<i>of which: dairy cows</i>	1.2	1.1	0.96
Pigs	2.8	1.8	0.61
Sheep	10.8	8.6	0.80
Goats	2.5	1.9	0.78
Horses	1.1	1.1	1.00
Poultry	26.7	16.7	0.63
Hares (rabbits)	6.4	5.6	0.87
Beehives (number)	11.5	9.6	0.83

<sup>2</sup> Ratio of number of heads belonging to female and male livestock owners

## Access to technology

The gender gap in ownership of agricultural machinery and equipment in the Republic of Moldova is notable. Table 8 shows that, with the exception of mini-tractors (17 percent), female

headed holdings own less than 12 percent of all types of agricultural machinery. This is quite low, considering that more than one third of the holdings are female headed.

**TABLE 8 - Agricultural machinery and equipment owned by male and female headed agricultural holdings**

Type of agricultural machinery and equipment	Agricultural machinery and equipment				
	In total holdings No.	in Male Headed		in Female Headed	
		No.	%	No.	%
Tractors	24 695	22 378	90.6	2 317	9.4
Mini-tractors	1 090	899	82.5	191	17.5
Trucks	7 604	6 939	91.3	665	8.7
Combines and harvesters	3 000	2 725	90.8	275	9.2
Seeders and planters	8 431	7 694	91.3	737	8.7
Mechanical cultivators	12 045	10 980	91.2	1 065	8.8
Plows for tractors	13 782	12 537	91.0	1 245	9.0
Irrigation machinery	773	712	92.1	61	7.9
Milking machines and aggregates	191	169	88.5	22	11.5
Sprayer, treatments application	2 627	2 315	88.1	312	11.9
Other	9 382	8 341	88.9	1 041	11.1



## Access to credit and financial benefits

The first General Agricultural Census data seem to indicate that no significant gender gap exists in the Republic of Moldova regarding subsidies received by agricultural holders. It can also be

noted that a very low number of holders have bank credits. In 2010, eight percent of male headed holdings received financial support, compared to six percent of the female headed holdings.

**TABLE 9 - Share of male and female headed agricultural holdings that received financial support in 2010**

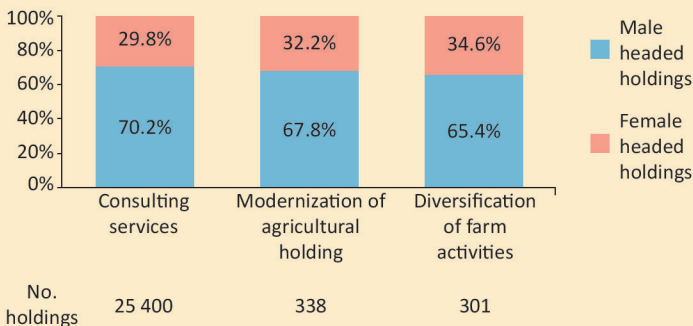
Type of financial support	Agricultural holdings	Male Headed		Female Headed	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total agricultural holdings</b>	<b>902 214</b>	<b>574 525</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>327 689</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total holdings receiving support</b>	<b>70 541</b>	<b>47 684</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>22 857</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<i>of which subsidies</i>	63 209	43 032	7.5	20 177	6.2

## Access to government support measures for rural development

About three percent of total agricultural holdings in the Republic of Moldova benefited from consulting services. Additionally, a small number of holdings were supported in modernization and diversification

of agricultural activities. Thirty percent of those holdings benefitting from consulting services were female headed (which is in line with the national distribution of female and male headed agricultural holdings).

**CHART 7 - Share of male and female headed agricultural holdings benefitting from government support measures for rural**



### 3- LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

#### Purpose of farming

Table 10 shows that the great majority of the agricultural holdings produce only for self consumption. Gender disparities are not

severe, 16 percent of male headed and 12 percent of female headed holdings produce also for sale.

**TABLE 10 - Purpose of farming of male and female headed agricultural**

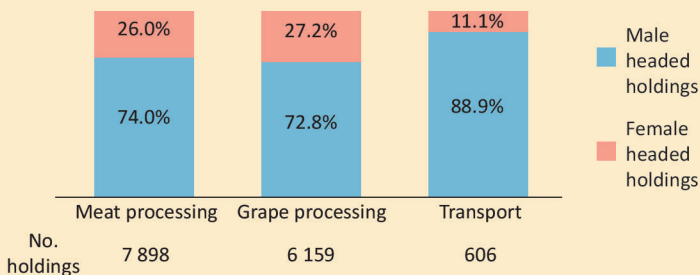
Purpose of farming	Total agricultural holdings	Male Headed		Female Headed	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>902 214</b>	<b>574 525</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>327 689</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Only for self-consumption	770 656	482 125	83.9	288 531	88.1
Self-consumption and for sale	131 558	92 400	16.1	39 158	11.9

#### Non-agricultural income generating activities

The number of holdings involved in other gainful activities is low, with under 10 000 holdings involved in all types of other gainful activities. In Chart 8 below, which presents the main non-agricultural income generating

activities, it can be seen that somewhat less than one third of processing activities is undertaken by female headed holdings; while for transport related activities, this figure is notably lower at only 11 percent.

**CHART 8 - Share of male and female headed agricultural holdings involved in the main “other gainful non-agricultural activities”**



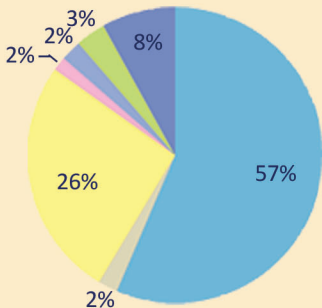
## Crop production on agricultural holdings

There is little difference between male headed and female headed holdings in terms of the crops grown. The largest difference observed is that female headed holdings produce industrial crops on 18 percent of the arable

land managed by them, compared to 26 percent of the land managed by men. On the other hand, female headed holdings appear to be slightly more involved in producing vegetables.

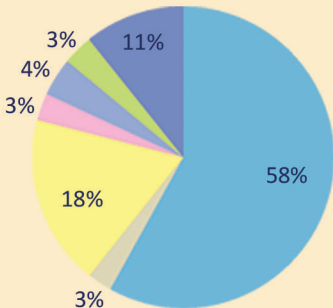
**Chart 9**

**Arable land, by main crops in Male Headed Holdings (ha)**



**Chart 10**

**Arable land, by main crops in Female Headed Holdings (ha)**



- cereals for grains
- pulses
- industrial crops
- potatoes (including early)
- vegetables
- fodder crops harvested green
- other crops

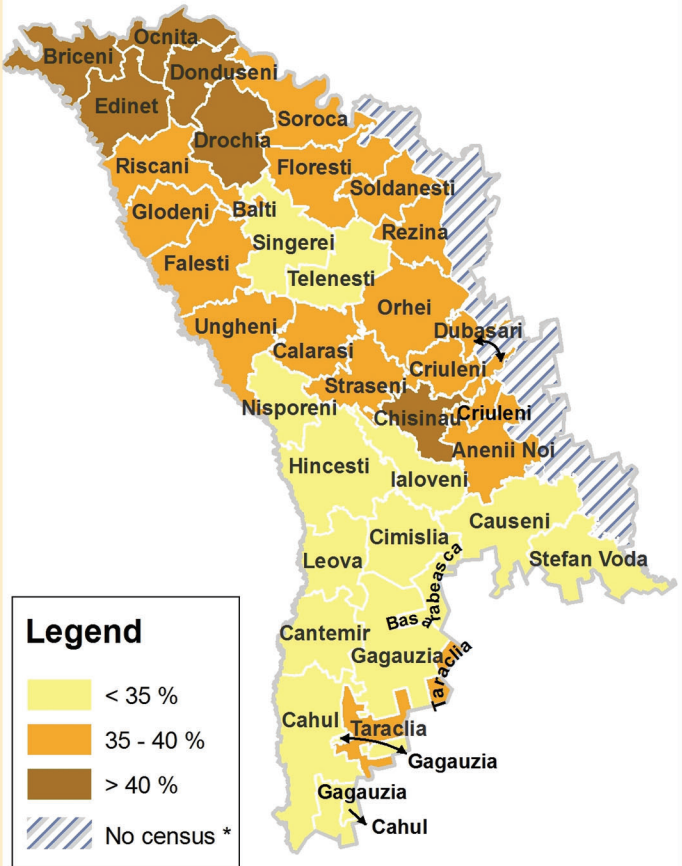
## Focus on the Rayons

The map below shows the distribution of female headed holdings in each rayon of the Republic of Moldova. The highest share of female headed holdings is in Ocnita rayon with 47% (8 594 holdings). In Briceni,

Donduseni, Drochia, Edinet rayons the proportion of female headed holdings is higher than 40 percent, while in Centamir and Telenesti rayons the share is only slightly higher than 30 percent.

## Map

### Distribution of female headed holdings by rayons



\* In left bank rayons of Dniester and municipality Bender

# SOME DEFINITIONS

## Agricultural holder

The civil or juridical person who makes the major decision regarding resource use and exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation.

## Agricultural holding

An economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. According to their legal status, agricultural holdings can be 'with or without juridical status'.

## Gender

Refers to the social differences between women and men, i.e. the different roles and responsibilities of women and men in a given culture. These roles are ascribed by society and they change over time.

## Gender gap

Refers to a disproportionate difference or disparity in the attitudes, behavior, abilities, etc., of men and women, or boys and girls.

## Sex

Refers to the biological differences between women and men.

## Sex-disaggregated data

Data collected and presented separately for women and men.



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**Maps produced by NBS - May 2013**  
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**Map Data Source: Cadastre and Land Relations**  
**Agency of the Republic of Moldova**