	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
<b>AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS</b>					
<b>Nineteenth Session</b>					
Maputo, Mozambique, 24 – 27 October, 2005					
<b>Gender in agricultural census: lessons learned from past censuses and integration of gender issues in WCA2010.</b>					
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The African Commission on Agricultural Statistics first discussed the need for increased production of gender-disaggregated agricultural data during its 15<sup>th</sup> Session held in Ghana in 1997. The issue was formalized to a standing agenda item during the Commission's 16<sup>th</sup> Session in Guinea in 1999. Ever since AFCAS meetings share information on member countries' experiences in and FAO's technical support to the production of gender-disaggregated agricultural data reflecting men and women's contributions to the national agricultural production and the productive resources hereto available to them.

Those presentations reflected the re-orientation of the main objective of agricultural data collection that had started taking place since the 1980s. Past policies for agricultural development often focused on production growth while overlooking the importance of human resources. By the late 1980s this started changing as evidence became available of the importance of human capital to sustainable agricultural development. This trend was reinforced during the 1990s when new policies for poverty reduction and improving food security emerged. The planning and implementation of this kind of programmes further increased the need for the production of accurate and up-to-date socio-economic and gender-disaggregated data. Furthermore, the decentralization of decision-making structures further contributed to an increase in demand for data reflecting the realities of the agricultural sector and their presentation at sub-national levels.

The Heads of State and Governments, meeting during the World Food Summit held in Rome in 1996, recognized that agricultural development policies often did not adequately reflect the needs of all farmers and stressed the importance of improving "the collection, dissemination and use of gender-disaggregated data in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development"

It is in this light that FAO considered it important to document member countries' experiences with the integration of gender concerns into agricultural censuses and surveys. Three cases studies were commissioned to document the agricultural census experiences of Mozambique, Namibia and Senegal and selected other countries were contacted with requests for supporting data either from recent censuses or surveys. All this information was compiled into a Lessons Learned document, comprising an analytical part with key findings and recommendations and a second part given a summary of the experiences of the selected case study countries.<sup>1</sup>

This presentation will give an overview of the key findings and finish with recommendations on the way forward, especially in the framework of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA 2010).

<sup>1</sup> Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea and Lesotho

## 2 KEY FINDINGS

### 2.1 Need to increase demand for GDD

Though requests for gender specific information did somewhat grow over the past two decades, a further substantial increase of the demand for gender-disaggregated agricultural data is needed if gender concerns are to be effectively mainstreamed into all agricultural censuses and surveys.

This finding is based on the following observations:

- The 1994/95 Agricultural Census conducted in Namibia did not provide much gender-disaggregated data because such data was not considered a priority. However, the very lack of gender specific information available from the census results has since led to more attention being given to the subject and modification of subsequent data collection exercises to increase the available gender specific information (Nantanga-Masudi, 2004).
- By contrast, the 2000 National Census on Agriculture and Livestock in Mozambique did pay specific attention to this issue, not because of a pertinent demand from data users, but because the census organisers recognized the need to collect socio-economic and gender-disaggregated data as required for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the National Agricultural Development Plan (PROAGRI), the overall framework in which the census was implemented (Diogo and Waterhouse, 2004).

Opportunities for expressing gender-specific data demands may need to be improved or created in countries where such demands are lacking or insufficient. Suggested actions hereto are:

- enhancing dialogue between the producers and users of statistics on the need for and use of gender-disaggregated agricultural statistical data;
- creating a common understanding among data producers and users on the importance of producing gender-disaggregated agricultural statistics and improving their knowledge of the exact nature of gender concepts and definitions;
- showing the relevance of gender-disaggregated data through re-tabulations of existing raw data;
- presenting data at sub-national levels, often provides a clearer picture of gender based differences than data presented at national level;
- promoting of the use of gender-specific management, monitoring and evaluation systems.

### 2.2 Gender concerns should be explicitly mentioned in the census objective

The case studies revealed that the integration of gender concerns into the objectives of agricultural censuses is of crucial importance for ensuring the production of gender-disaggregated agricultural data. It dictates a gender-aware review of the statistical methodologies and tools used, and determines the analysis, presentation and dissemination of such data. Gender concerns tend to be ignored or overlooked when they are not specifically referred to in the objectives of the census.

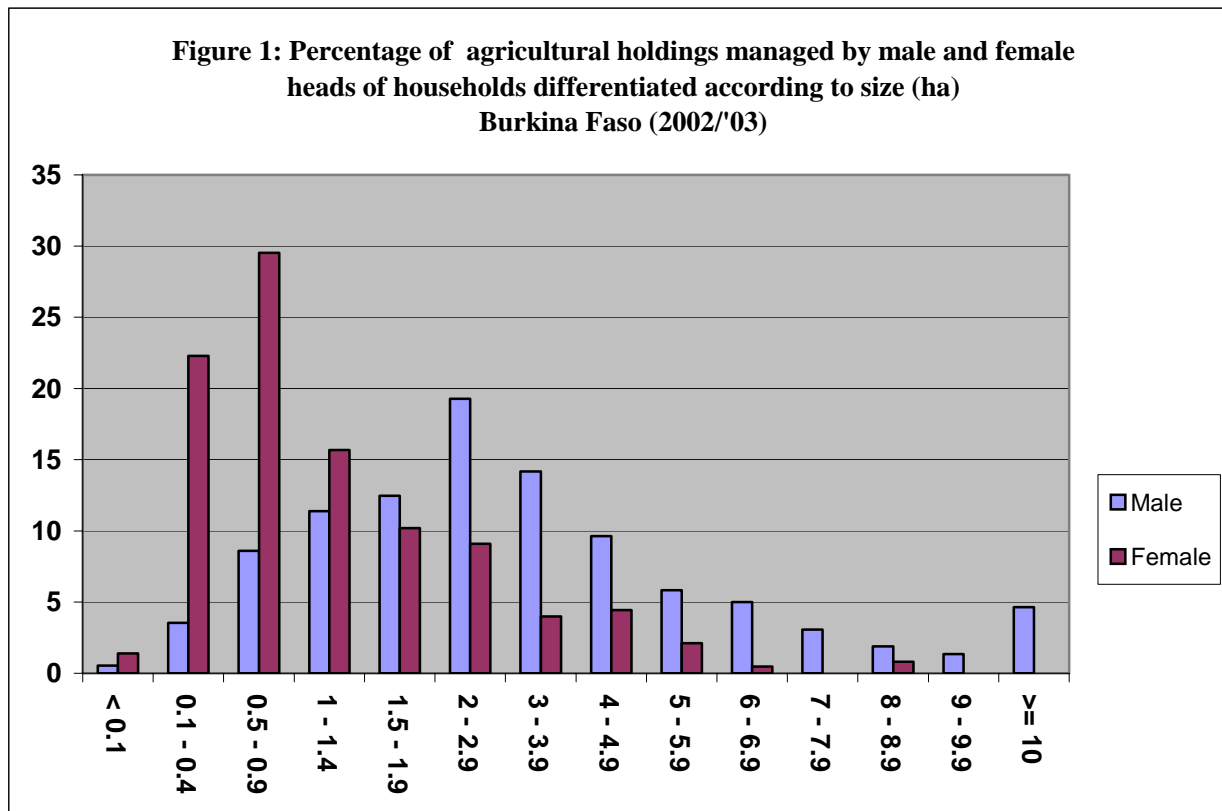
Systematic underreporting of women farmers' involvement in agricultural production has occurred especially when censuses focused on *commercial* rather than on *communal or subsistence farming activities*, on *large-scale agricultural production units* while omitting *small-scale agricultural production units*, and when censuses excluded *peri-urban and urban agricultural activities*. This is due to the fact that in many countries in the African region, women farmers tend to be more actively involved in small-scale subsistence and (peri) urban farming activities.

- Gender concerns were specifically mentioned in the objectives of Senegal's 1998/'99 National Agricultural Census, which aim was to "enhance the analysis of the differences, similarities and distinctive characteristics of gender and produce statistical data disaggregated by sex on the role and place of both men and women in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and animal production". As a result, the census produced a large number of tables reflecting gender-based intra-household differences in agricultural production, and gender differences in access to productive resources in Senegal (Soumaré, 2002).
- Mozambique's 2000 Agricultural and Livestock Census made it a point to include all plots of agricultural holdings, irrespective of size or type of cultivation (cash crops versus food crops). This was done to avoid an under-representation of women farmers' contributions to agricultural production because Mozambican female farmers often cultivate small sub-plots of land within larger agricultural

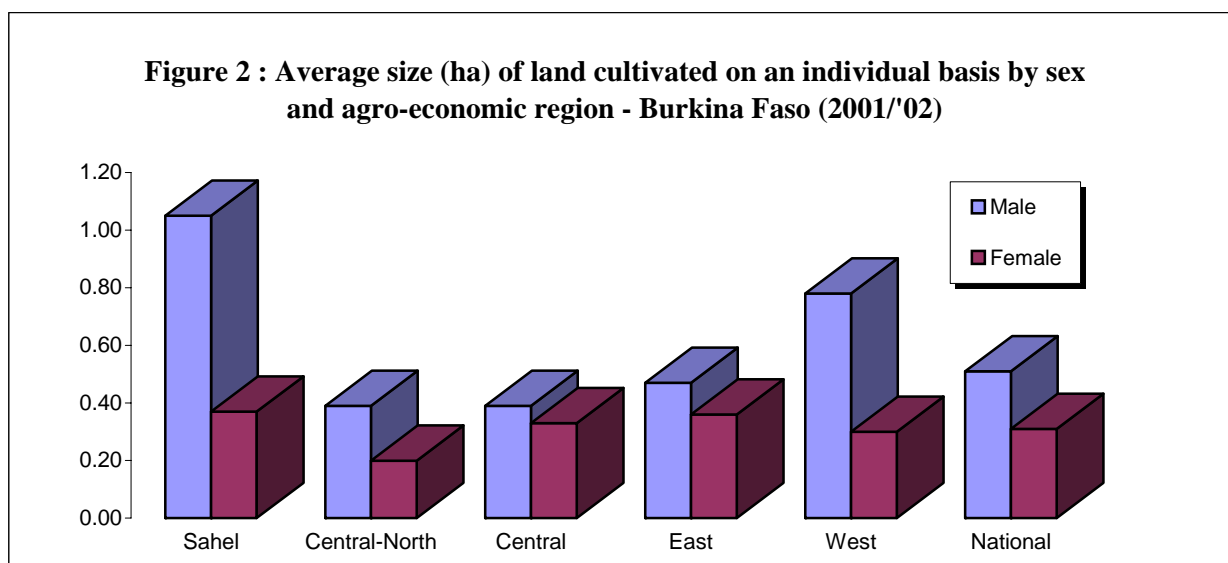
holdings, including vegetable gardens and other parcels located around the house (Diogo and Waterhouse, 2004).

More gender-disaggregated data need to be produced on ownership of, access to and control over *productive resources*, whether land, water, equipment, inputs, information and/or credit in order to gain greater insight into intra-household decision-making processes. This is essential for the planning and development of agricultural interventions and poverty reduction strategies.

- Data collected during the 2001/'02 Annual Agricultural Survey (EPA) undertaken in Burkina Faso showed that male farmers, whether head of agricultural holding or individual farmer, managed and cultivated on average more land than female farmers, as indicated in Figures 1 and 2. This is likely to result from gender based differences in access to and control over land. Please also note that the variation in areas managed by individual male and female farmers differs from region to region (See Figure 2).



Source: Annual Agricultural Survey (EPA) 2002/'03



Source: EPA 2001/'02

Furthermore, there is need to improve data collection on *agricultural labour* in order to obtain a comprehensive presentation of who does what in the agricultural sector allowing to plan for changes in available agricultural labour. Such data is essential from a development perspective given: (i) the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, (ii) the importance of labour in otherwise resource-poor households, and (iii) the increasing feminization of the agricultural sector in many countries.

- The Senegal case study noted that despite Senegalese women being active in all economic sectors, producing goods and services for home consumption and generating income, the bulk of their work does not have a formal economic value. This is because their work is underestimated and undervalued and there is a lack of reliable statistical data on it (Soumaré, 2002).

Many countries have tried to improve the availability of agricultural labour data by collecting data on the sex and age of agricultural labourers and the type of labour provided, e.g. family versus non-family labour, paid versus non-paid labour, permanent, seasonal and occasional labour, and labour support groups. Such data contributes to a better understanding about labour relations in the agricultural sector in general and women's involvement in agricultural production in particular, irrespective of their access to productive resources. Moreover, this information is essential for realistic planning of sustainable agricultural development.

- The 2000/'01 National Agricultural Census of Guinea revealed that male heads of holdings could call upon a greater number of active household members than female heads of holdings (Refer to Table 1). This observation is often made by development agents working in the agricultural sector but seldom proven for lack of data. It affects not only the size of area cultivated by the households, but also their productivity, the income generated and their food security situation.

**Table 1: GUINEA - Distribution of rural agricultural holdings by number of agriculturally active persons and sex of the head of the holding**

Number of agr. active persons	Male head of holding			Female head of holding			Total (N)
	N	%	% / Total per category	N	%	% / Total per category	
1	6 337	0.9	32.5	13 179	33.5	67.5	19 516
2	151 058	21.1	92.9	11 626	29.5	7.1	162 684
3 -4	307 113	42.9	96.5	11 248	28.6	3.5	318 361
5 – 9	228 296	31.8	98.7	3 029	7.7	1.3	231 325
10 –14	20 345	2.8	98.6	285	0.7	1.4	20 630
≥ 15	3 668	0.5	100	-	-	-	3 668
<b>National</b>	<b>716 817</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>39 367</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>756 184</b>

Source: National Agricultural Census, Guinea, 2000/'01

Such data would indicate that female agricultural holders are likely to be more involved in agricultural work than male agricultural holders, given that the latter can more easily call upon family labour. Data from Lesotho however indicate that this may not always be the case. Table 2 shows that female heads of agricultural households provide somewhat less agricultural work than their male peers. The Lesotho situation might, however, be the result of women receiving remittances from family members working elsewhere with which they employ paid farm workers or they may be forced to spend more time on other time-consuming responsibilities. Though the difference is relative small in this case, such information may be important for development planners.

**Table 2: LESOTHO Heads of agricultural households providing agricultural work by sex and by district**

Districts	Male head of agricultural household			Female head of agricultural household		
	N	providing agric. work	%	N	providing agric. work	%
Butha – Buthe	12 759	10 850	85.0	5 525	4 334	78.4
Leribe	32 921	31 500	95.7	13 979	11 900	85.1
Berea	26 800	24 900	92.9	11 300	10 500	92.9
Maseru	33 300	30 400	91.3	13 700	12 000	87.6
Mafeteng	25 700	23 400	91.1	10 700	9 300	86.9
Mohale’s Hoek	21 600	20 500	94.9	11 100	10 100	91.0
Quthing	13 600	11 400	83.8	6 100	4 500	73.8
Qacha’s Nek	7 600	6 900	90.8	4 900	4 100	83.4
Mokhotlong (mountain)	10 400	8 900	85.6	5 800	5 000	86.2
Thaba-Tsek (mountain)	17 700	16 450	92.7	5 500	5 200	94.5
<b>Total Rural</b>	<b>202 380</b>	<b>185 150</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>88 604</b>	<b>76 934</b>	<b>86.8</b>

Source: 1999/2000 Agriculture Sampled Census, Lesotho

### 2.3 Adjustment of concepts and definitions used and the level of data presentation

At times agricultural censuses fail to accurately capture existing gender interactions, differences and inequalities in the agricultural sector due to gender biases in the way standard statistical concepts and definitions are applied. Often such biases can be reduced by improving the use of the standard concepts through better training of interviewers and supervisors, drawing their attention to gender concerns in the agricultural sector and in particular in interview situations. Similarly, census sensitization campaigns could already stress the importance of reporting on both men and women’s work in the agricultural sector, stimulating that responses by the head of the household be complemented with information provided by other household members directly involved in agricultural production. In addition, new concepts need to be introduced after having been tested on their usefulness to obtain accurate gender specific data and the presentation of census results at sub-national levels should be promoted.

#### 2.3.1 Standard statistical concepts requiring careful implementation: *head of household, agricultural holder, agricultural holding*

There is a tendency in many countries to report a man (usually the eldest male) as the *head of household* regardless of his role in household or farm management and decision-making. This is because men are ascribed greater status compared to women, which at times has led to an over-recording of the number of male-headed households. The use of such biased data can lead to the development of ineffective development plans and policies for the agricultural sector. Various attempts have been undertaken to correct this problem:

- The Mozambique 2000 Agriculture and Livestock Census only recorded someone as a household member if the person was present for more than six months per year. Household members who were “temporarily” absent were recorded as such only if they had participated in the previous harvest. This contributed to greater accuracy in the data collected on the actual head of household (Diogo and Waterhouse, 2004).
- In the case of Senegal’s 1998/’99 Agricultural Census, special attention was given to the correct recording of the “owner” or “holder”. S/he was considered the person taking the most important decisions with regard to the agricultural holding. This was done specifically to avoid an underreporting of female holders.

Percentage-wise distribution of male and female heads of agricultural households varies per country and over the years as Table 3 and 4 illustrate for respectively Cameroon and Burkina Faso.

The percentage of male headed agricultural households in Cameroon at national level reduced from 85.4 percent in 1984 to 79.4 percent in 1990. There is no indication that this trend reversed in the mean time and it

is to be expected that the percentage of female headed agricultural households has increased since. In selected regions more than one third of the agricultural households were headed by a woman already 15 years ago. (See the Coastal and Western Regions)

**Table 3: CAMEROON - Heads of agricultural holdings by sex and province (in %)**

Province	Head of holding Agricultural Census 1984		Head of holding Agricultural Survey '85/- '86 *		Head of holding Agricultural Survey'89 – '90*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Extreme – North	91,8	8.2	91,8	8.2	92,6	7.4
North	93,2	6.8	94,7	5.3	93,6	6.4
Adamaoua	91,0	9.0	91,5	8.5	88,1	11.9
East	91,6	8.4	90,8	9.2	85,6	14.4
Central	77,8	22.2	78,5	21.5	71,8	28.2
South	84,9	15.1	81,1	18.9	71,2	28.8
Coast	79,1	20.9	79,9	20.1	63,2	36.8
South-West	83,9	16.1	83,1	16.9	84,6	15.4
North – West	85,4	14.6	89,1	10.9	75,4	24.6
West	75,8	24.2	73,6	26.4	66.0	34.0
<b>National</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>79,4</b>	<b>20.6</b>

\* Direction des Enquêtes Agro - Economiques et de la Planification Agricole

Source: Agricultural census 1984; Agricultural surveys, 1985/'86 and 1989/'90

The situation is clearly different in Burkina Faso, where the percentage of female headed holdings is much lower and has remained stable between 1993 and 2003, as shows from their last agricultural census (1993) and subsequent surveys.

**Table 4: BURKINA FASO - Heads of agricultural holdings by sex and agro-economic region (in %) –**

Agro-economic region	Head of holding ENSA 1993		Head of holding EPA* 2001/'02		Head of holding EPA* 2002/'03	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Sahel	97.0	3.0	97.1	2.9	99.2	0.8
Central-North	92.4	7.6	93.9	6.1	95.2	4.8
Central	88.3	11.7	85.3	14.7	84.9	15.1
East	93.2	6.8	93.0	7.0	92.3	7.7
West	94.0	6.0	95.7	4.3	96.1	3.9
<b>National</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>

Sources: ENSA 1993; EPA 2001/'02; EPA 2002/'03

In defining the *agricultural holder*, one tries to identify one person as the principal decision-maker of the holding. That may however provide an unrealistic picture of the way management and decision-making processes are taking place in all holdings. At times a holding may be jointly managed by, for example, a wife and husband, or different household members may have distinct responsibilities for managing particular aspects of the operations of the holding. For instance, one person may take the broad-level decisions (e.g. on what to plant), whereas another may be responsible for operational decisions on when to plant and whom to employ (FAO, 2005).

Similarly, an *agricultural holding* is defined as being under single management and therefore there cannot be more than one agricultural holder for an agricultural holding. If there are two quite distinct agricultural management units in a household, the household should be split into two agricultural holdings (FAO, 2005). However, this solution may not always be acceptable socio-culturally.

Another limitation related to using the *agricultural holding* as the basis for data collection in agricultural censuses is that communal lands are not taken into account, thus leaving out the sometimes considerable number of landless agricultural households.

### 2.3.2 New concept: *sub-holder*

In view of the aforementioned biases, various countries<sup>2</sup> have tried to capture more detailed information on the management of agricultural holdings through the introduction of *sub-holding* and *sub-holder* concepts (also referred to as *head of plot/field*, *plot manager* or “*responsable de parcelle*” in French-speaking countries).

- The Senegal 1998/'99 Agricultural Census, for example, introduced the sub-holder concept to avoid an under-reporting of agricultural activities carried out by female farmers. The use of this concept has permitted extensive cross tabulations of production factors (e.g. plot/field sizes, cultures and inputs used) and socio-demographic factors, thus providing the basis for in-depth analysis of intra-household gender and age-based differences in agricultural production.

Table 5 clearly illustrates the impact of the use of the sub-holder concept on the accuracy of the data provided. At national level, female headed households are responsible for only 2 percent of the total area cultivated. When looking at the individual plot level = sub-holding level, individual women farmers in general cultivate slightly more land than individual male farmers and differences in crop preferences show clearly. Collective and individual plots combined now give a completely different picture of men and women's involvement in agricultural production compared to the data presented at the head of household level alone.

**Table 5: BURKINA FASO - Distribution of areas, differentiated by crop, cultivated by male and female heads households and plot managers**

Crop	Head of household/sex (collective plots) %		Plot manager/sex (individual plots) %		Both (all plots) %	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Millet	97	3	45	55	87	13
Maize	99	1	90	10	89	11
Rice	98	2	65	35	85	15
Groundnuts	97	3	32	68	54	46
Vouandzuo	96	4	20	80	50	50
White sorghum	98	2	58	42	90	10
Red sorghum	97	3	55	45	91	9
<b>(Sub) Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>14</b>

Source: National Agricultural Census (ENSA), Burkina Faso, 1993

The *sub-holder* and *sub-holding* concepts are complex because they revolve around notions of management, decision-making and delegation of authority. Still, the sub-holder concept provides greater insight into intra-household gender and age-based differences in the management and operations of holdings and related decision-making processes, thus providing valuable information required for planning, monitoring and evaluation purposes (FAO, 2005).

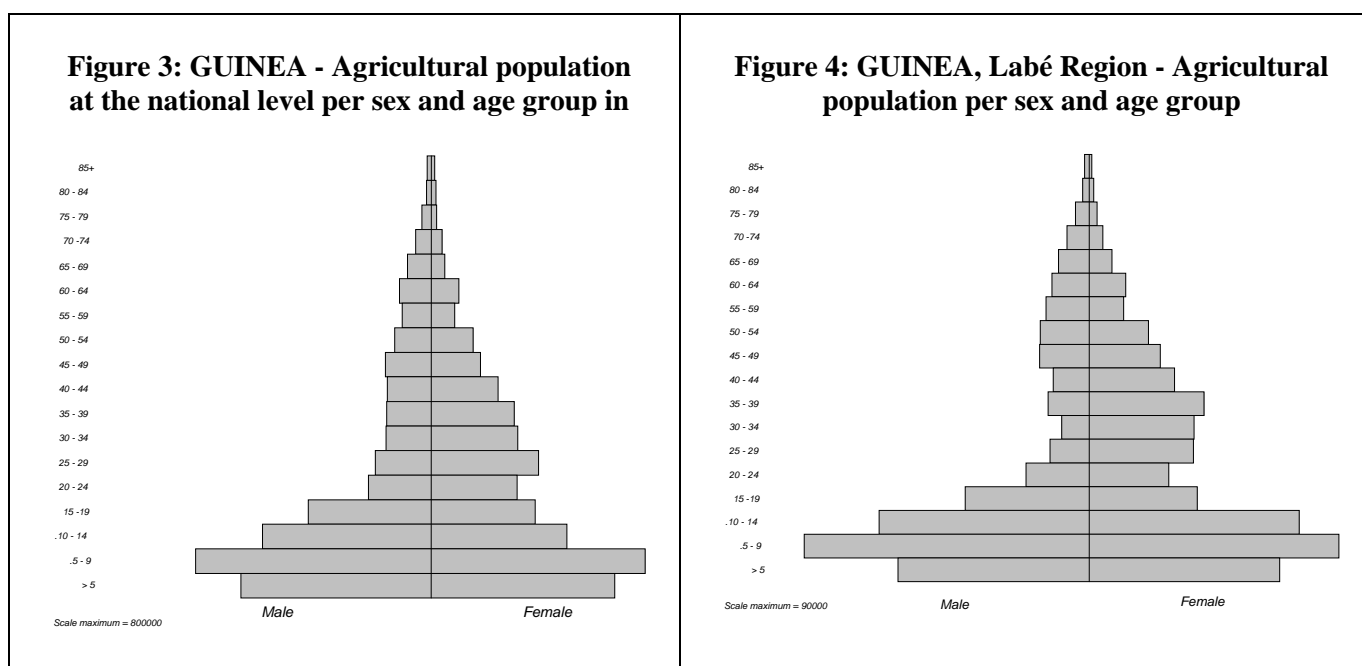
### 2.3.3 Presentation of data at *sub-national* level

The demand for sub-national data has increased considerably over the past decade due to political changes, such as the decentralization of decision-making and the increased stakeholder participation in planning and decision-making processes. The following figures and tables will show that differences between male and female farmers become even more apparent when gender-disaggregated data is presented at sub-national level.

Agricultural population figures in most African countries show a close to equal representation of men and women at the national level. However, this ratio may change significantly when data are presented at the sub-national level and per age category. The National Agricultural Census of 2000 conducted in Guinea, for example, reported that the agricultural population consisted of 48 percent men and 52 percent women at the national levels. This rather balanced representation did not apply to the 25 to 49 year age group, where the number of women exceeded by far the number of men (refer to Figure 3). Even greater differences were

<sup>2</sup> such as Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal

observed at sub-national levels: the Labé region, for example, registered 21 percent men and 79 percent women in the 30 to 34 years age group, showing four female farmers to one male farmer in this age category (refer to Figure 4).



Source: National Agricultural Census (RNA), Guinea, 2000/'01

Guinea is not an exceptional case, as shown in the examples of national level data from Senegal and Mozambique and sub-national data from Burkina Faso and Cameroon. All these data indicate male dominated rural out-migration in these countries, resulting in what is now commonly called the “feminization of the agricultural sector”

**Table 6: SENEGAL - Agricultural population by age group and sex - national level**

Age group	Numbers		Ratio	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
< 5 years	398 482	383 860	50.9	49.1
5 – 9 years	466 462	434 389	51.8	48.2
10 -14 years	371 185	324 750	53.3	46.7
15 – 19 years	295 556	288 336	50.6	49.4
20 – 24 years	217 599	210 133	50.9	49.1
25 – 29 years	171 560	191 558	47.2	52.8
30 – 34 years	121 075	153 659	44.1	55.9
35 – 39 years	108 628	134 873	44.6	55.4
40 – 44 years	88 025	104 417	45.7	54.3
45 – 49 years	71 054	83 039	46.1	53.9
50 – 54 years	60 159	76 076	44.2	55.8
55 – 59 years	49 545	50 856	49.3	50.7
60 – 64 years	50 138	52 009	49.1	50.9
65 – 69 years	36 691	30 931	54.3	45.7
> 70 years	39 646	32 257	55.1	44.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 545 806</b>	<b>2 551 145</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>

Source: Recensement National de l'Agriculture 1998/'99



**Table 7: MOZAMBIQUE - Agricultural population by age group and by sex**

Age group	Total	Male		Female		Male-Female Ratio (%)	
		N	N	Male	Female		
0 – 9 years	5 408 596	2 720 435	2 688 161	50.3	49.7		
10 – 19 years	3 791 138	1 974 888	1 816 250	52.1	47.9		
20 – 29 years	2 385 546	1 016 438	1 369 108	42.6	57.4		
30 – 39 years	1 794 783	824 607	970 175	45.9	54.1		
40 – 49 years	1 324 826	637 767	687 059	48.1	51.9		
50 – 59 years	846 551	453 930	392 622	53.6	46.4		
60+ years	756 877	420 267	336 610	55.5	44.5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 308 317</b>	<b>8 048 331</b>	<b>8 259 986</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>50.6</b>		

Source: 2000 Census of Agriculture and Livestock

**Table 8: BURKINA FASO - Distribution of agricultural population by sex, age group and agro-economic region**

Age group/ Region	Distribution of men (M) and women (F) within the agricultural population											
	National		Sahel		Central North		Central		East		West	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
< 5 years	50	50	45	55	48	52	51	49	50	50	50	50
5 – 14 years	51	49	51	49	53	47	52	48	50	50	50	50
15 – 24 years	48	52	53	47	47	53	46	54	48	52	50	50
25 – 34 years	43	57	45	55	46	54	37	63	42	58	47	53
35 – 44 years	42	58	46	54	40	60	41	59	42	58	43	57
45 – 54 years	44	56	52	48	42	58	42	58	43	57	44	56
55 – 64 years	52	48	57	43	50	50	49	51	59	41	52	48
≥ 65 years	54	46	60	40	53	47	51	49	48	52	62	38
Average	48	52	50	50	49	51	48	52	48	52	49	51

Source: Enquête Permanente Agricole 2002/'03

**Table 9: CAMEROON - Distribution of agricultural population by sex, age group and province**

Age group/ Province	Distribution of men (M) and women (F) within the agricultural population																					
	National		Extreme North		North		Adam-aoua		East		Central		South		Littoral		South-West		North-West		West	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
< 5 years	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
5 – 14	51	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	53
15 – 24	44	56	48	52	43	57	50	50	44	56	41	59	50	50	46	54	43	57	43	57	38	62
25 – 34	37	63	37	63	33	67	31	69	45	55	42	58	42	58	41	59	48	52	32	68	29	71
35 – 44	41	59	46	54	51	49	31	69	39	61	34	66	42	58	33	67	45	55	44	56	32	68
45 – 54	43	57	46	54	55	45	48	52	44	56	39	61	41	59	46	54	62	38	37	63	34	66
55 – 64	54	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	55
≥ 65	54	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	55
<b>Average</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>

Source: Agricultural Census 1984 (Direction Nationale du Recensement Agricole)

## 2.4 Capacity building of statisticians in the production of gender-disaggregated data

Data producers often assume that the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data will create considerable extra work, extra costs and a need to significantly modify survey instruments and methods, which may have contributed to a certain reluctance to collect this data.

- Senegal's case study explicitly stated that: “[c]ontrary to what some data producers and users think, the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data do not require any specific [statistical] method. Conventional statistical methods were used to analyse the gender-disaggregated data” (Soumare, 2002). Moreover, it was noted that the integration of a gender perspective into the census did not create any technical problems nor lead to additional human or financial costs. The statisticians needed to be convinced that the mainstreaming of gender aspects into the census and the collection of gender-disaggregated data were only a question of changing aims and mentalities and would not necessarily lead to an increased workload or costs.

Nonetheless, more training is required for statisticians to facilitate the production of gender-disaggregated agricultural data. Gender statistics is a dynamic field in which new options for gender-specific data collection are developed and new needs and demands established. Statisticians require a good understanding of gender concepts and gender analytical tools for data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination if they are to adapt to such changes. Furthermore, they need to be able to critically assess the gender-disaggregated data that they collect in order to produce meaningful information for planning purposes. Training programmes and instruction manuals should address these issues (FAO, 1999).

- All case studies pointed out that the census training manuals used in the selected countries did not make any reference to the need for gender sensitivity or addressing gender concerns. At best such information was included verbally on the initiative of the trainers themselves.

### **2.5 Dissemination of (gender-disaggregated) data needs to be more flexible**

Statistics producers need to explore different ways to disseminate (gender-disaggregated) agricultural data in a flexible and more user-friendly manner to cater for a wide range of potential users. The use of modern data dissemination tools and techniques such as the Internet and CD-ROMs has significantly improved the accessibility of statistical data for users who are computer literate and have access to computers and the Internet. Software packages need to be developed to allow for easy custom-made use of the raw data.

- The results of Senegal's 1998/'99 Agricultural Census were published in six volumes. In addition, modern data dissemination techniques were used to further spread the information such as CD-ROMs, electronic files and the launching of all census publications on the Internet. The census organizers had planned to translate summaries of the census reports into five national languages, but could not pursue this due to financial constraints (Soumaré, 2002).
- The findings of the 2000 Agriculture and Livestock Census conducted in Mozambique were presented to the head of the state, the central government and decentralized authorities through national and provincial dissemination seminars. The results were also disseminated through reports, monographs, public presentations and debates, the Internet and CD-ROMs (Diogo and Waterhouse, 2004).

Considerable amounts of sex-disaggregated data can still be obtained through re-tabulations of statistical data available from past agricultural censuses that have not yet been analysed due to a lack of human and/or financial capacity at the time of data collection.

- The Namibia case study indicated that its 1994/'95 Agricultural Census had shown a positive correlation between the holding size and the age of the holder, but stopped short of assessing the possible correlation between the size of the holding and the sex of the holder. Re-tabulation of the census data, however, could reflect existing correlations between the sex of the holder and land access, land ownership and access to credit (Nantanga-Masudi, 2004).

### **2.6 Capacity building of data users for a better use of gender-disaggregated agricultural data**

Planners, policy-makers, development officers, research institutions and other statistics users need first to recognize the importance of using gender-disaggregated data for development planning. Furthermore, they need to be trained in the correct use of gender-disaggregated agricultural data for planning, design, monitoring and evaluation purposes. They need to develop a basic set of skills in order to read, interpret and use statistics correctly. Furthermore, they also require a clear idea of the prerequisites of statistics production to understand the work that statisticians carry out. This will enable users to frame realistic requests and provide feedback to statisticians on how they use statistics in their everyday work and what progress has been achieved (FAO, 1999).

Only trained statistics users will be able to:

- express the exact kind of data they require;
- provide feedback on how they use data provided in their work; and
- explain how suitable the collected data have been.

Trained statistics users would know what to do with the following interesting data from Mozambique regarding the proportions of the three main crops (millet, sorghum and maize) cultivated by sex of heads of agricultural households.

**Table 10: MOZAMBIQUE - Trend in ratio of total production of three principal crops per sex of head of agricultural holdings per cropping season.**

Sex of HoHH	1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03	
	Tons **	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%
Female HoHH	33 018	27	18 092	31	30 134	30	20 330	34	34 720	34	22 157	41	23 374	38
Male HoHH	88 142	73	40 770	69	71 095	70	39 097	66	70 668	66	31 985	59	38 258	62
Total	121 160	100	58 862	100	101 229	100	59 427	100	105 388	100	54 142	100	61 632	100

\*\* Total production (tons) of millet, sorghum and maize combined for the selected cropping season

Source: Annual Agricultural Surveys (1996-2003)

As indicated before, an increase in the use of gender-disaggregated agricultural data will contribute to greater production of such data. In this light,

- the Namibia case study recommended the establishment of a gender statistics co-ordination committee to oversee the execution of a plan for using and producing gender-disaggregated data (Nantanga-Masudi, 2004).
- Other countries have proposed the establishment of a national data bank to store gender statistics. Such a data bank could become part of a larger regional data bank system managed, for example, by an international organization such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the FAO Regional Office for Africa or others.

These organizations could also play an important role in developing standard methods for the integration of gender concerns into statistical data collection, providing technical support to countries and institutions when required, and/or promoting an exchange of experiences in the field of gender and statistics between individuals, institutions and government departments.

Page 20 of the *Lessons learned* document gives an overview of the key lessons learned with regard to the integration of gender concerns into agricultural censuses in selected African countries.

### 3 REMAINING CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE WCA 2010

This presentation will now wind up with an overview of remaining challenges and recommendations on the way forward.

#### 3.1 Remaining challenges

There is need for:

- further mainstreaming of the production of gender-disaggregated data in agricultural censuses.
- continued assessment of the concepts and definitions used intended for better visibility of women's roles in agriculture;
- harmonizing the use of definitions and concepts;
- identifying different ways to address complex gender issues;
- enhancing capacities to analyse, use and produce gender-disaggregated data and improve collaboration between data users and producers; and
- Securing funds for the data analysis and presentation at sub-national level.

### 3.2 Recommendations

Based on the outcomes of the desk study *Agricultural Censuses and Gender: Lessons learned in Africa*, it is recommended that:

#### Member countries:

- ★ integrate gender concerns into their agricultural surveys and censuses;
- ★ review their current statistical tools and methodologies on possible gender biases and, if necessary, amend them in collaboration with potential data users;
- ★ promote a continuous and effective exchange of information between users and producers of statistics in general and gender statistics in particular;
- ★ strengthen the capacities of agricultural data producers and users through training in the use of socio-economic and gender analysis tools;
- ★ as much as possible (i) apply the sub-holder concept to allow for in-depth analysis of gender-based intra-household differences in agricultural production, (ii) collect more sex-specific data on agricultural labour, (iii) collect information on small-scale and landless agricultural production units, (iv) collect data on peri-urban and urban agricultural activities, and (v) adjust the definitions of the *head of household*, *agricultural holder* and *agricultural holdings* to reduce gender-based biases;
- ★ present data as much as possible at national and sub-national levels;
- ★ enhance the accessibility of statistical data through dissemination by Internet, CDs, allowing for a more “custom-made” use of the information.

#### FAO:

- ★ continues to provide guidance to member countries on how to integrate gender perspectives into agricultural censuses and surveys;
- ★ ensures that the lessons learned are included in the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010;
- ★ expands its training of data producers and especially data users, in the production and use of gender-disaggregated data for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of rural development and poverty reduction programmes;
- ★ establishes a data bank of successful experiences of member countries in integrating gender concerns into agricultural censuses and/or surveys, including examples of gender-relevant questionnaires, training manuals, tabulation plans and/or communication strategies and messages;
- ★ finally, the FAO Regional Office for Africa should make an effort to share the findings of this document to a wide audience of statistics users and producers, to synthesize the lessons learned in the African region and to translate them into relevant training materials.

### 3.3 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010

Agricultural censuses and surveys are two of the most important sources of gender-disaggregated agricultural data. An *agricultural census* is best suited for the collection of *structural data* (such as areas of holding, land use, livestock numbers, use of machinery and farm labour inputs) rather than performance data (such as prices, production, farm costs and farm incomes). *Performance data* are best collected through frequent *sample surveys*. Consequently, agricultural censuses may not be able to produce all the required gender-disaggregated agricultural data and more in-depth data may need to be obtained from thematic agricultural surveys. As a result, the World Programme for the 2010 Round of Agricultural Censuses encourages countries to plan such surveys as an integral part of agricultural census planning (FAO, 2005).

The complexity of the agricultural holder concept has been recognized in the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 and has resulted in an amendment of the *agricultural holder* definition. The new definition allows for the possibility that a group of people be considered as the holder (FAO, 2005).

#### **Definition of an *agricultural holder***

The *agricultural holder* is defined as the person or group of persons who make the major decisions regarding resource use and exercise management control over the agricultural holding operation. The agricultural holder has technical and economic responsibility for the holding and may undertake all responsibilities directly, or delegate responsibilities related to day-to-day work management. The agricultural holder is often, but not always, the household head (FAO, 2005).

The sub-holder and sub-holding concepts have been introduced in the World Programme for the 2010 Round of Agricultural Censuses in order to obtain a better understanding of the roles of selected household members, especially female members, in the management of a holding. These concepts, which may not be applicable to all countries, need to be further developed and tested in accordance with national agricultural practices.

#### **Definitions of a *sub-holding* and *sub-holder***

A *sub-holding* is defined as a single agricultural activity or group of activities managed by a particular person or group of persons in the holder's household on behalf of the agricultural holder. There may be one or more sub-holdings in a holding. A sub-holding could comprise a single plot, a whole field, a whole parcel, or even the whole holding. A sub-holding could also be a livestock operation associated with a plot, field, parcel, *inter alia*, or a livestock operation without any land (FAO, 2005).

A *sub-holder* is person or group of persons responsible for managing a sub-holding on the holder's behalf. There is only one sub-holder for a sub-holding (FAO, 2005). S/he does not necessarily have to be the formal owner of the productive resources used.

Identifying each sub-holding and sub-holder in the holding requires answering a series of questions on the role of each household member in the management and operations of the holding during the census reference year (FAO, 2005).

Thank you for your attention

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