



# Gender Indicators: An Overview

**FAO SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP  
ON SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA IN  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTH-EAST  
ASIAN COUNTRIES**

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# WHY GENDER STATISTICS...

- To understand gender differences in access to resources and services
- To better understand how those gender differences translate to productivity differences
- To identify what policies related to agricultural/rural resources and services need to be reformulated
- To support agricultural and rural development policy-makers and planners with reliable data to base their decisions
- To monitor/evaluate the impact of agricultural/rural policies and programmes



# QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED...

- Is the gap between women and men decreasing (e.g. in terms of access to resources, services, income, employment, etc)?
- Is the policy/programme appropriate and effective in terms of closing the gender gap?
- How have women and men benefited directly from the policy/programme?
- Are there direct or indirect negative impacts of the policy/programme on men and women?



# USE OF GENDER STATISTICS FOR POLICIES

- Gender statistics are useful for both sectoral policies and specific policies on equality/women's empowerment.
- In sectoral policies, gender is not the leading issue per se BUT the intended outcome might be affected by gender issues and/or the policy itself might affect men and women differently.
- This is because men and women play different roles and experience different constraints and opportunities in the sector.



# IDENTIFYING DATA NEEDS

- What is the key information required to inform us on gender differences in the agriculture sector?
- What are the policies/aspects with gender relevance?
- What are the current policy issues?
- What data will be the most convincing for policy makers?
- What data will help them take urgent action?



# IDENTIFYING GENDER INDICATORS

- Gender indicators relevant for agriculture + related variables -- can be produced using existing data sets.
- Matrix based on: FAO Agri-Gender toolkit, Gender and Agriculture Statistics Framework, and Review of country questionnaires



# IDENTIFYING GENDER INDICATORS – COUNTRY DATA SETS

- Laos (Lao Expenditure and Consumption Surveys, National Agricultural Census and the National Population Census)
- Cambodia (Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey)
- Vietnam (Rural, Agriculture, and Fishery Census)
- Malawi (Third Integrated Household Survey)
- Panama (Encuesta de Niveles de Vida)
- Bangladesh (Labour Force Survey)
- Botswana (Agriculture Census)
- Uganda (Uganda National Household Survey)



# IDENTIFYING GENDER INDICATORS – REMINDERS

- Most data relevant for agriculture is collected at household, more than the individual level.
- Focus on: Agricultural holdings or households (i.e. with at least one member engaged in agricultural activities, regardless of whether the plot/field/land is owned, rented, or free)
- Data availability for indicators depends on questionnaire design by a country
- SDD may be limited on: land ownership (tenure, title, owner), membership in agricultural organisations, access to credit and extension services, labour division, management and income control.



## NEXT STEPS...

- FAO is working on identifying data needs for specific subsectors: fisheries, livestock, water, etc.
- Policy areas of concern: enhanced productivity, strengthening small-scale agriculture, agricultural value chains ...
- FAO is also introducing an accountability mechanism to track progress on collection, analysis & use of SDD and NSO competencies



# DATA LIMITATIONS FOR GENDER INDICATORS

- Few holdings are owned/managed solely by women – may be difficult to make comparisons
- Inadequacy of Agricultural holder concept - may not adequately capture roles of women within male operated holdings.
- Sub-holder concept - currently not widely used.
- Strong reliance on NHS - comparing male and female-headed households, however female-headed households are few
- Problems with comparisons: Little is known about female farmers residing within male-headed households
- Concern with Household concept - assumes homogeneity; collective interests? Resources and benefits shared equally?



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**THANK YOU!**