

# **G7 International Symposium on Food Security and Nutrition**





# Rural women's contributions to agriculture and food security

- Producers:
- ✓ unpaid or paid workers
- √ employees or employers
- √ on- or off-farm wage labourers
- Beside food production, women play key roles in:
- √ agri-food processing and marketing
- ✓ unpaid care and domestic work, incl. food preparation and reduction of food waste

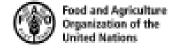


# However, rural women continue to face serious constraints in access to:

- Education and extension services
- Productive resources (land, water)
- Decent employment opportunities
- Workers' and producers' organizations
- Decision-making processes
   (household, community, beyond)
- Climate change adaptation practices (FAO SOFA 2016)



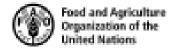




## Feminization of agriculture

- FAO's research shows that women's roles in agriculture have changed dramatically in last 2-3 decades
- Women tend to move out of agriculture more slowly than men and their roles in farming may actually expand
- In many parts of the Near East and North Africa, Central Asia, South Asia, and Latin America, the share of women in agriculture is growing significantly



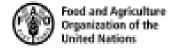


### Feminization of agriculture:

Good or bad?

- Depends mainly on the characteristics of women's jobs whether they empower women, or exacerbate gender inequalities:
  - ✓ When women continue to be concentrated in low-skilled and less formal jobs, then feminization of agriculture <u>hinders rural poverty</u> reduction
  - √ When feminization of agriculture improves women's access to assets, jobs and services





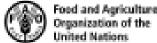
## How can we close the gap in agriculture?

No blueprint exists, but some basic principles are universal:

- Increase awareness that policies have different impacts on women and men
- Improve data collection on women's paid and unpaid work
- Guarantee gender equality both on paper and in practice
- Build women's human capital
- Recognize, redistribute, reduce rural women's work burden

Source: FAO SOFA 2010-11





#### **Nutrition-sensitive social protection**

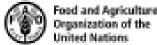
#### Social protection can address the underlying causes of malnutrition by:

- Increasing food consumption and dietary diversity.
- Minimizing negative coping mechanisms affecting nutrition and health.
- Enhancing households productive capacity: addressing economic and social barriers to accessing services (direct and indirect).

#### **Special focus on:**

- Infants and young children and women and girls of reproductive age
- Pre-schoolers, school-aged children and youths
- At-risk households





# Guiding principles for nutrition-sensitive social protection

- Target the nutritionally vulnerable particularly women, children, and vulnerable groups
- Incorporate explicit nutrition objectives and indicators.
- Empower women and make them the recipients of social protection benefits, which can break the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition.
- Promote strategies that enable households to diversify their diets and livelihoods.
- Strengthen linkages to health and sanitation services by incorporating health objectives.
- Integrate nutrition education and promotion into social protection Scale up safety nets in times of crises.



# What could be done together to empower women?

#### Stakeholders join forces to:

- Provide robust evidence through sex-disaggregated data and analysis
- "Bundle" interventions to achieve better results on the ground
- Influence legislative and political progress towards gender equality in agriculture and food systems
- SDGs offer a unique opportunity
- Monitor progress through SDG indicators



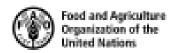
# Actions already taken by the G7 and further actions for consideration

- The G7 affirmed its support for the CFS-RAI and VGGT in the past.
- The G7 Ise Shima Vision for Action on Food Security and Nutrition provides for a number of activities that support women in agriculture and food security.



# Actions already taken by the G7 and further actions for consideration

- The G7 could consider to:
  - Practical guidance on the operationalization of RAI and VGGT with a special focus on gender.
  - Design national mechanisms that facilitate the operationalization of VGGT and CFS-RAI and promote the participation of women.
  - Support social protection mechanisms and safety nets designed to focus and address gender issues.

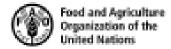




# Thank you for your attention





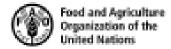


#### How does FAO empower rural women?

Some examples

- FAO-ECOWAS programme "Gender Responsive National and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans"
  - ✓ assisting ECOWAS Member States to meet the Zero Hunger Challenge
- Rural women's access to agri-food value chains
  - ✓ Africa programme "Enable women to benefit more equally from agri-food value chains"
  - ✓ Assessments of rural women's work burden in specific farming systems
  - ✓ Identifying labour-saving technologies, promotion of related services



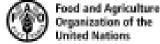


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## Some examples

- Strengthening institutional capacities to collect, analyze and use sex-disaggregated data
  - ✓ World Programme for Census of Agriculture 2020: guidelines/standards for data collection on women's ownership of land and livestock
  - ✓ custodian on SDG indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2
  - ✓ **supporting natl. stats. offices** to improve availability of gender statistics
- FAO's work on land tenure
  - ✓ supporting implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure of Land
  - ✓ FAO Gender and Land Rights Database (over 80 countries!) and Legal Assessment Tool
  - ✓ E-learning course on "Governing land for women and men"





#### At the community level

- FAO empowers rural women by building platforms to access information and voice their needs:
  - ✓ FAO Dimitra Project: over 300,000 rural women and men directly involved in 1,300 existing Dimitra Clubs in 5
    African countries
  - ✓ Concrete results achieved in many areas: access to land, employment, social protection, participatory decision-making