



Regional Workshop on Linking Population with Agriculture Censuses, Amman, 24-28 June 2012

Engendering Agriculture



ESCWA

United Nations
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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Why Gender in Agriculture?

- Global agenda last 20+ yrs
- Quantifying women's participation in the productive process enriches development debate
- Rational relates to agricultural productivity, food security, nutrition, poverty reduction, and empowerment
- Rural women are active agents of economic, social change & environmental protection
- Farmers, producers, investors, caregivers & consumers

HOWEVER,

Roles are constrained

Challenges = gender-based stereotypes & discrimination

Denied equitable access to opportunities, resources, assets & services.

Therefore,

- **Increase awareness of gender issues in agriculture**
- **Fundamental to increasing productivity, incomes, nutrition, food security, sustainability, and ultimately the contribution of agriculture to poverty reduction.**
- **Ensure data and methods are developed to capture gender differences in needs, contributions, and outcomes**
- **Improve the production and use of gender statistics in agricultural and rural sector.**

International mandates

- The Platform for Action of the Beijing Conference 1995
 - *“generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation”.*
- CEDAW3 Convention (1979), particularly article 14 on rural women
 - *“the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families”*
- FAO’s World Food Summit Plan of Action, adopted by Member Nations in 1996, recommended
 - *“the improvement of the collection, dissemination and use of gender-disaggregated data in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development.”*



Gender & Food Security

- Women play key roles in maintaining all four pillars of food security:
 - Availability
 - Access,
 - Utilization
 - Stability.
- *Women play distinct food-security roles throughout the entire value*
- *Productivity would increase up to 30%*
- *hungry people drop by 17%*
- *150 million individuals lives would improve*



Concepts

Gender & sex-disaggregated data

Quiz



Gender Statistics

- Gender statistics is not a discrete or isolated field. It cuts across traditional fields of statistics, such as:
 - Economics
 - Agriculture
 - Health
 - Employment
- Explore the differences that exist between women and men in society.
- Vital information to inform policy and decision-makers and to make advances towards achieving gender equality



Gender Terms

- Gender equality
- Gender roles
- Gender responsibilities
- Gender blind
- Gender responsive
- Gender mainstreaming
- Gender analysis

Rural Gender Issues

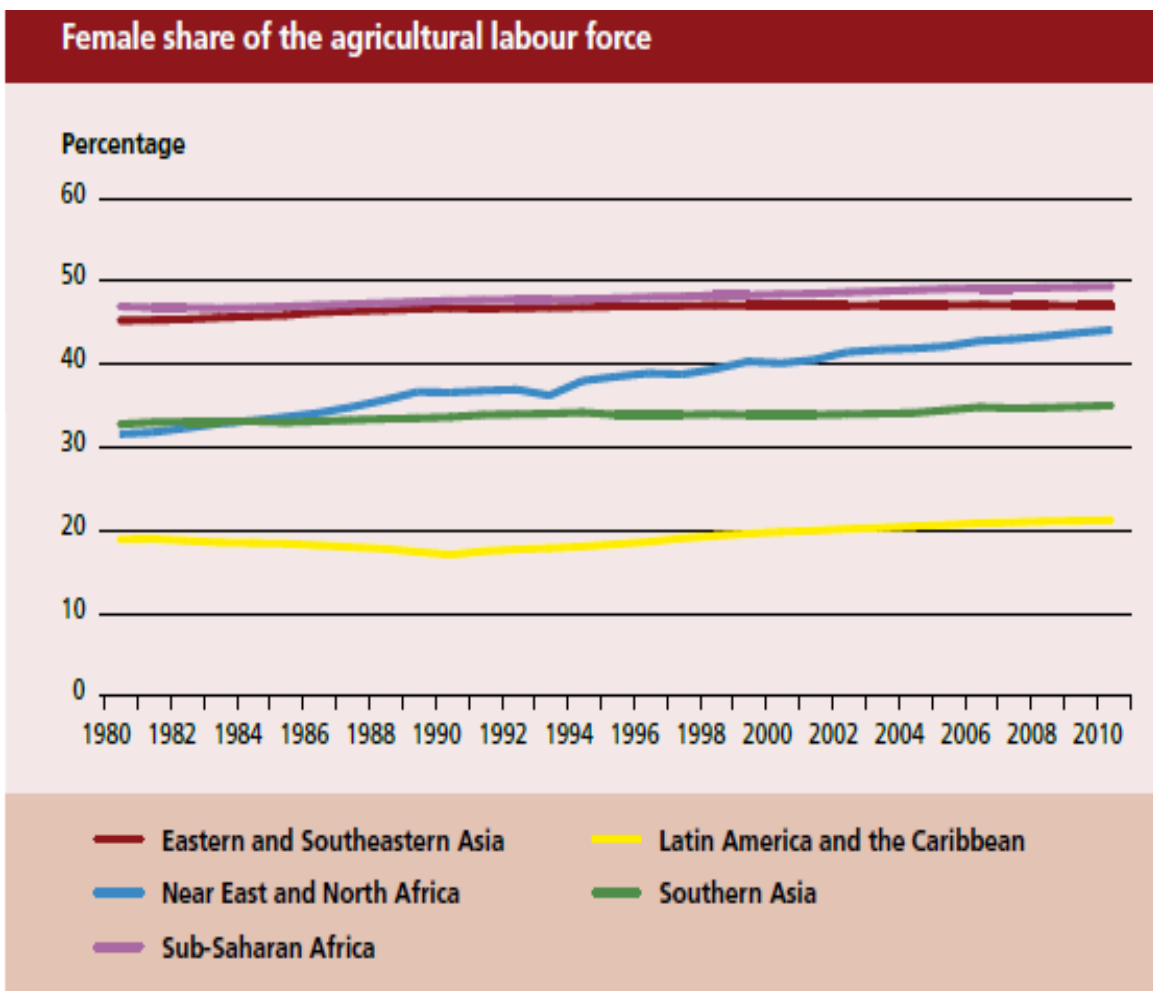
- Population issues -rural-urban migration (youth), ageing,..
- Rural economic issues -unemployment, commuting, below-average agricultural incomes, poverty..
- Feminization of agriculture (gender-based inequalities in access to productive resources, in employment opportunities, capacity building, participation, ..
- Rural women - self-employment, female farm-heads. women's access to resources, land rights/use, domestic violence in rural areas, human trafficking , representation in decision-making; farm/agricultural organizations

Rural Women & MDGs



- G1 Poor access to infrastructure limits opportunities to reduce poverty and hunger. Economic empowerment help reduce the number of underweight children.
- G2 Poverty and inequality are barriers to universal education. More higher rural illiteracy
- G3 Girls are doubly disadvantaged in secondary school attendance. Rural women are less likely to work for wages than rural men. and under-represented in politics and decision making and many experience DV
- G4 Child mortality rates in rural remain higher than in urban areas.
- G5 Improvements in antenatal care & assistance during delivery, but inequalities remain
- G6 Limited understanding of HIV . Antiretroviral therapy coverage is uneven. Women assume the burden of care giving, including in rural areas.
- G7- Involvement in local environmental management is limited.
[Handout 3](#)
Access to improved sources of water significant.
- G8- No data on impact of aid on rural women's empowerment & gender equality.

Sex-disaggregated data tell us the story..



Women comprise 43% of agricultural labour force in developing countries

Note: The female share of the agricultural labour force is calculated as the total number of women economically active in agriculture divided by the total population economically active in agriculture. Regional averages are weighted by population.

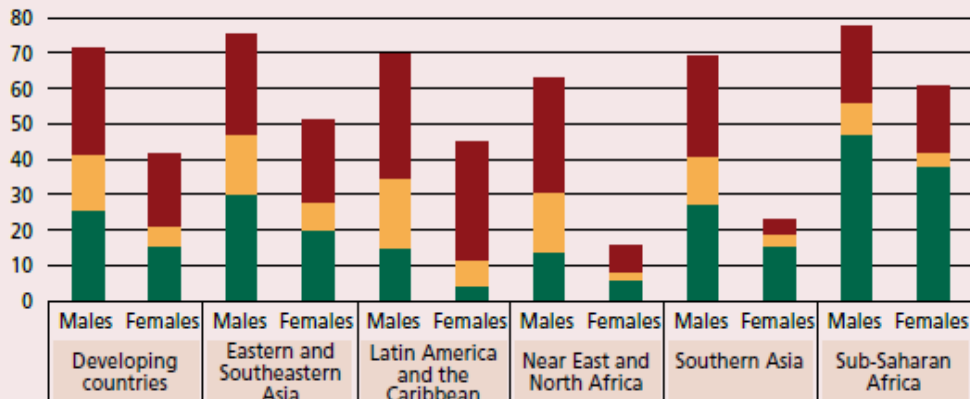
Source: FAO, 2010b. See Annex table A4.

Source: The state of food and agriculture – women in agriculture: closing the gender gap for development, FAO 2010-2011

Employment by sector

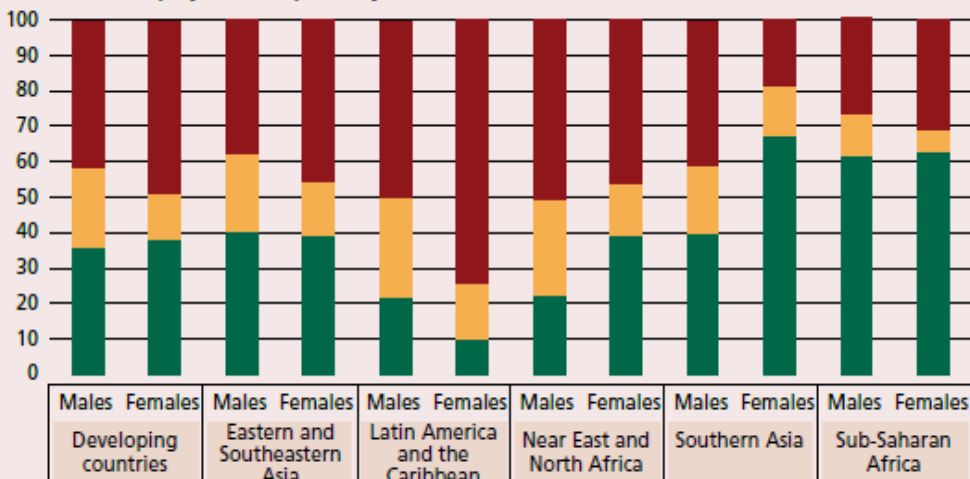
A - Employed population as a share of total adult population, by sex and sector

Percentage of total male and female population, respectively



B - Distribution of male and female employment, by sector

Percentage of male and female employment, respectively

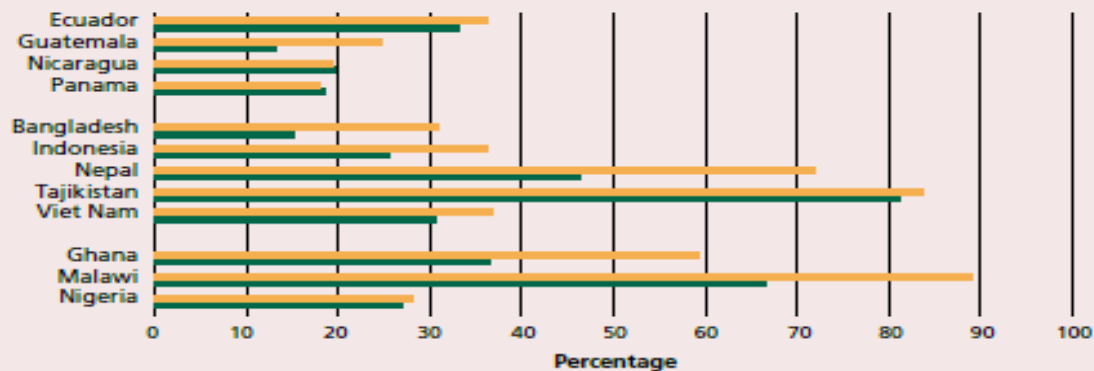


■ Agriculture
 ■ Industry
 ■ Services

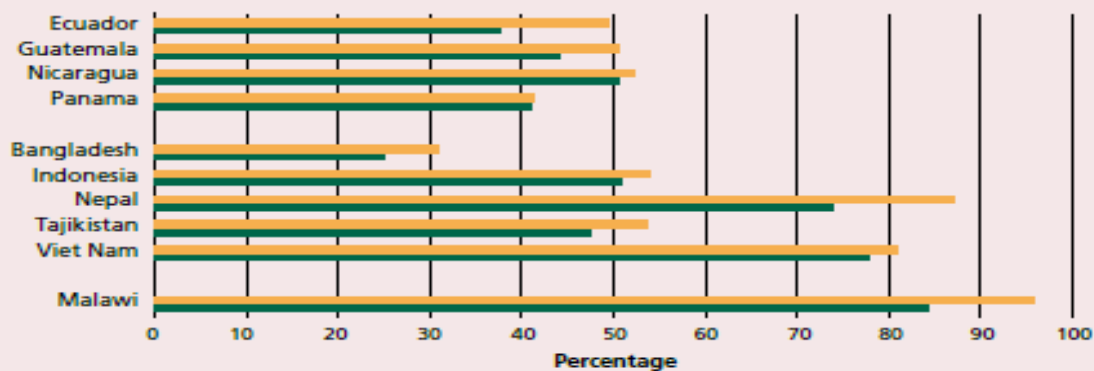
- Agriculture is the most important source of employment for women in rural areas in most developing countries

Conditions of employment in rural wage employment, by gender

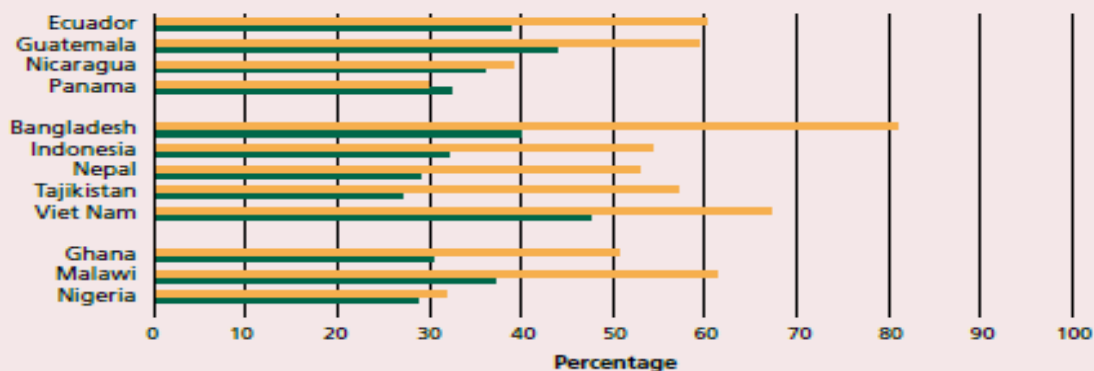
A - Prevalence of part-time work



B - Prevalence of seasonal work¹



C - Prevalence of low-wage work



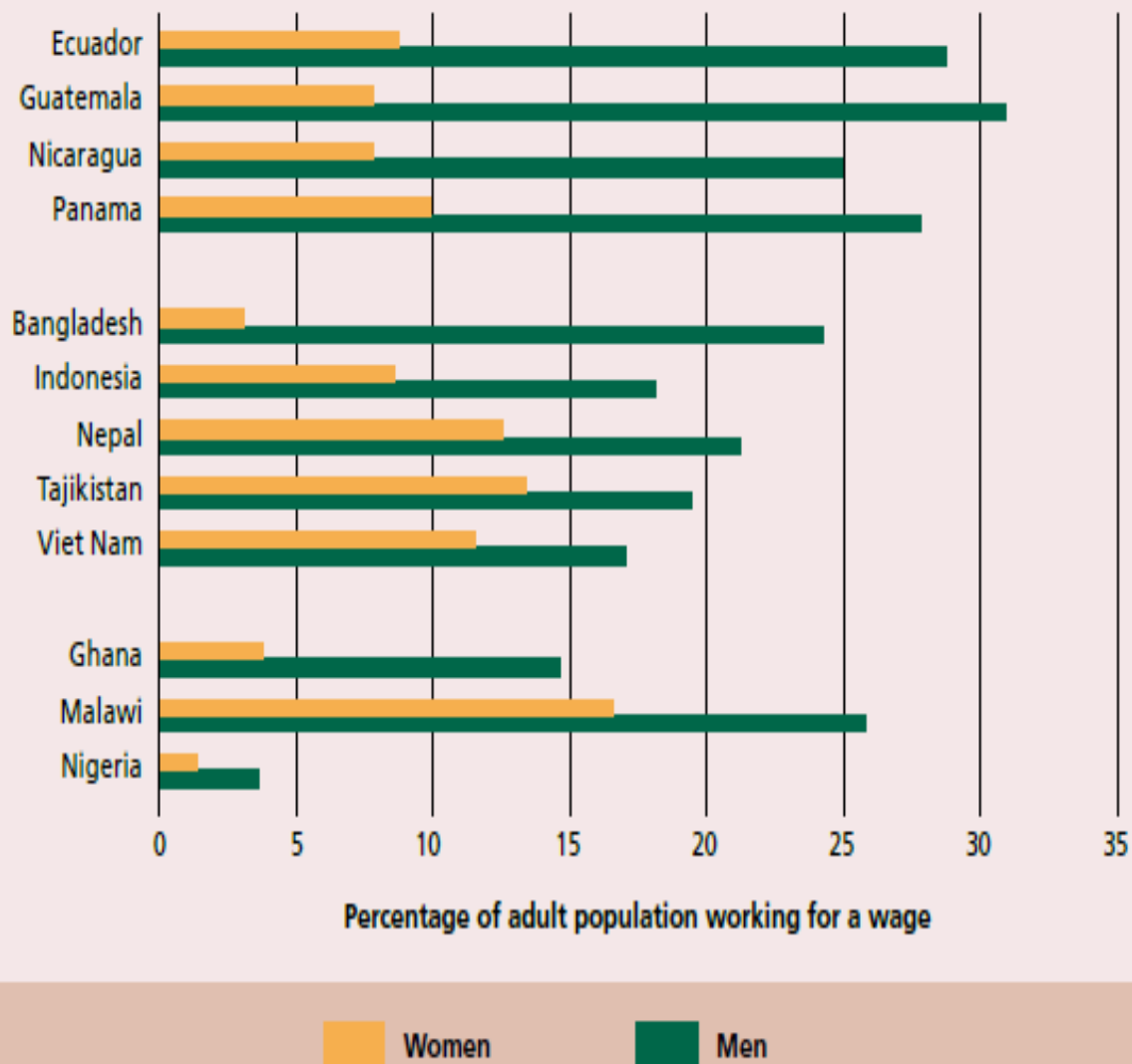
Women Men

- Women are more likely than men to hold low-wage, part-time, seasonal employment

¹Data are not available for Ghana and Nigeria.

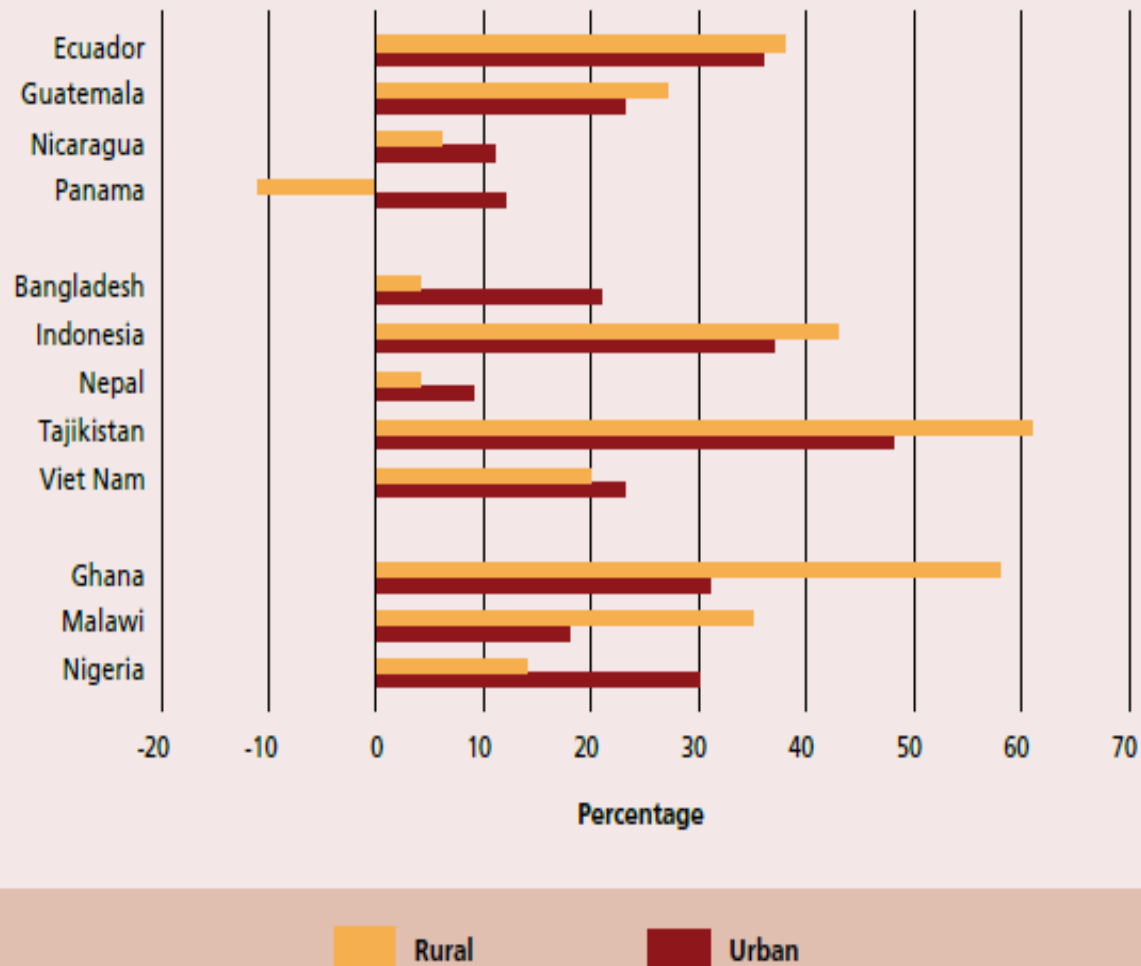
Source: FAO, 2010d.

Participation in rural wage employment, by gender



- Women tend to be paid less than men

Wage gap between men and women in urban and rural areas

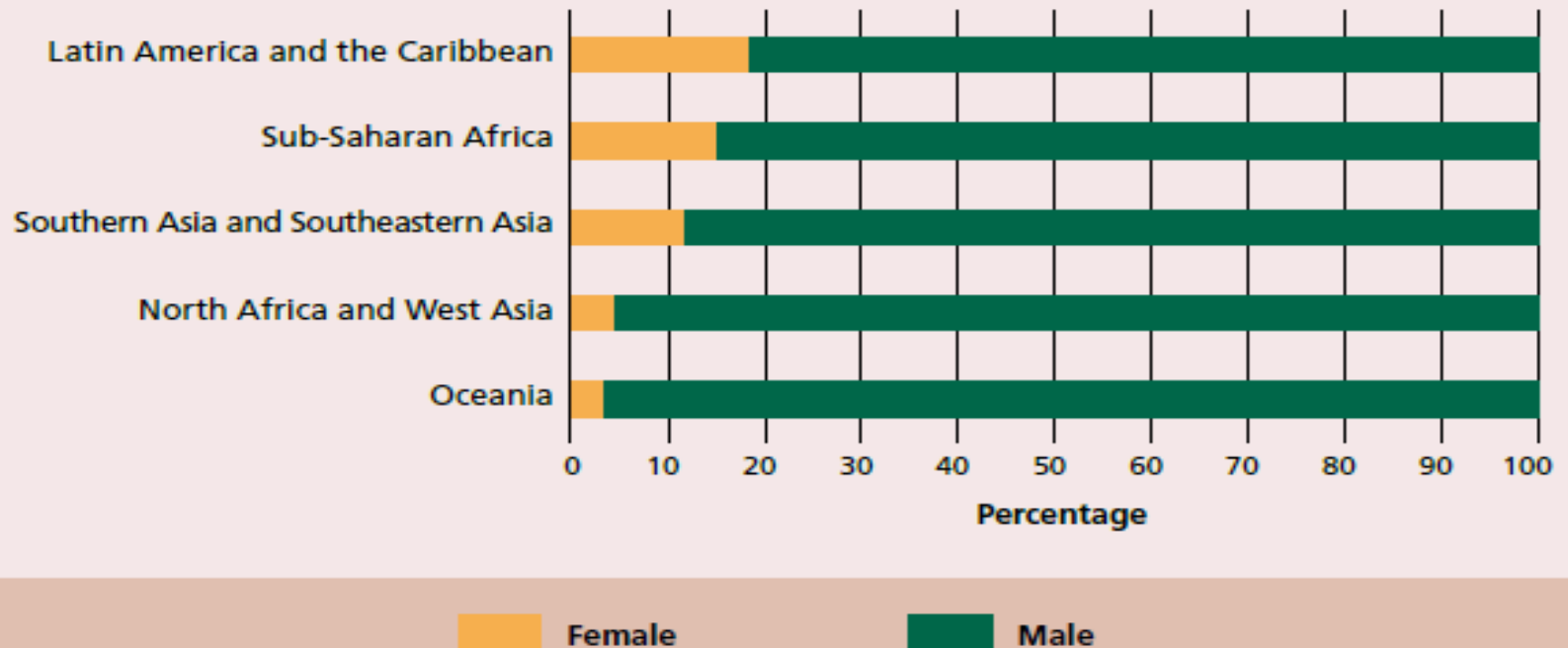


- Wage gap between women and men in rural areas are more than urban areas in many countries

Note: The wage gap is calculated as the difference between average daily male and female wages as a percentage of the average male wage. A positive wage gap means men are paid more than women. The rural wage gap includes farm and non-farm employment.

Source: Hertz et al. 2009.

Share of male and female agricultural holders in main developing regions



Note: Regional aggregates do not include all countries due to lack of data. Country-level data are provided in Annex table A5

Source: FAO, 2010f.

- Women engaged in agriculture face gender-specific constraints limit their access to productive inputs, assets and services. Gender gaps are observed for land, livestock, farm labour, education, extension services, financial services and technology.

Rural household assets: farm size

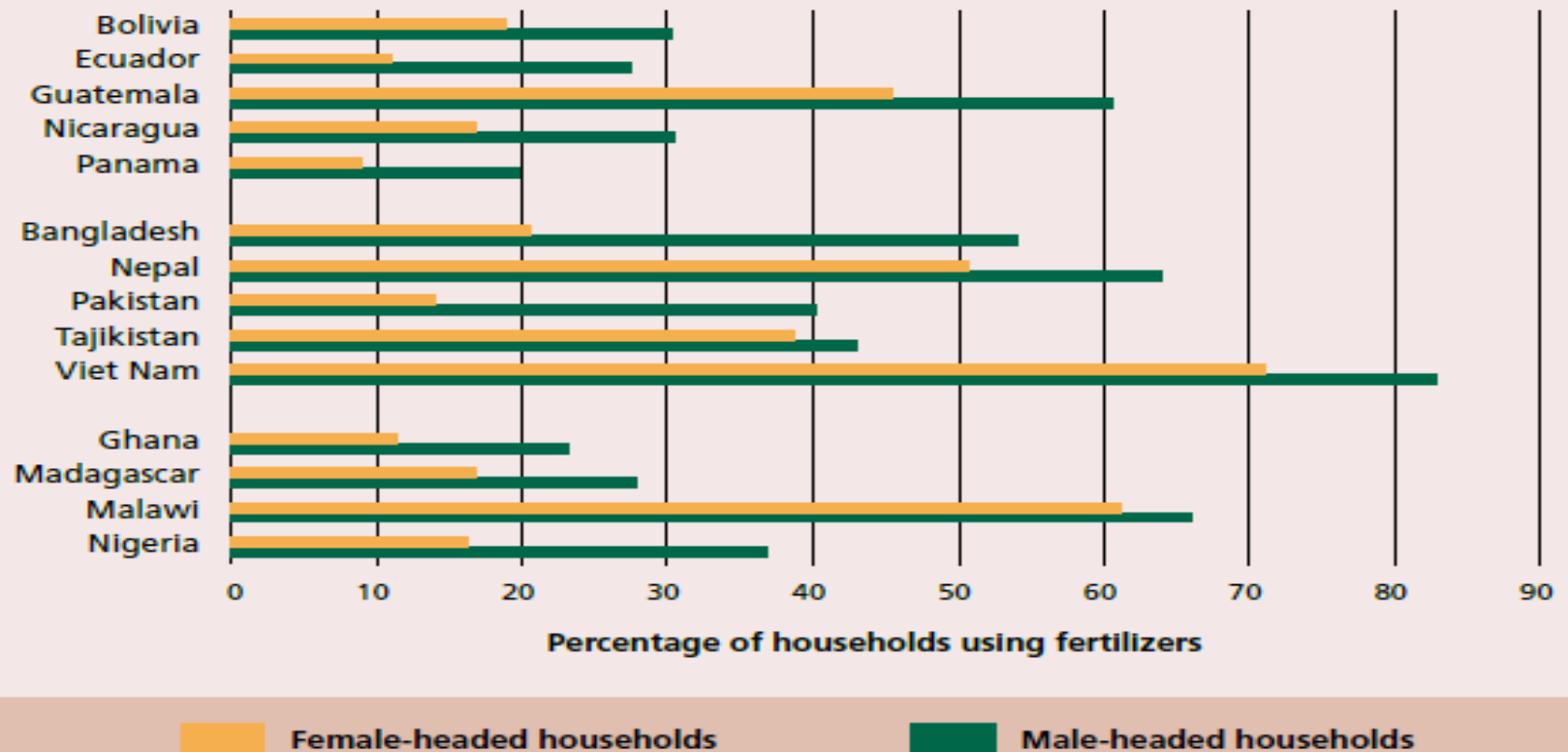


Note: Differences between male and female-headed households are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level for all countries, except for Bolivia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Nicaragua and Tajikistan.

Sources: FAO, 2010d, and Anríquez, 2010.

- Female-headed households own typically smaller farms

Fertilizer use by female- and male-headed households



Note: Calculations made using nationally representative household surveys. Differences between female- and male-headed households are significant at the 95 percent confidence level for all countries.

Sources: FAO, RIGA team, and Anríquez, 2010.

- In many countries women are only half as likely as men to use fertilizers

Recommendation

- *Improvement of the collection, dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated data and gender – sensitive indicators in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development*



- Thank you