

Gender in Agriculture

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Editors

Gender in Agriculture

Closing the Knowledge Gap



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Foreword

The publication of *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11, Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development*, called for renewed attention to the importance of the gender gap in agriculture. This issue had not been addressed in *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11, Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development* since the 1983 special section on “Women in Developing Agriculture.” In almost three decades there have been vast changes owing to the structural transformation of the global economy and changes in social and political institutions, yet fundamental social, economic, and political gender inequalities have continued to persist. Clearly, a knowledge gap needed to be closed in order to give policymakers, development practitioners, and civil society tools with which to attempt to close the gender gap.

This volume represents the culmination of a fruitful collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). As the premier global policy advisory body on food and agriculture, FAO is well placed to advise governments on the design and implementation of agricultural policies that reflect the latest advances from empirical research. Since the 1980s, IFPRI has undertaken pathbreaking empirical research that challenged the dominant paradigm that men and women within households behave “as one.” Its findings that putting more resources into the hands of women has payoffs in terms of agricultural productivity, health, and nutrition have been influential in the design of a new generation of development projects. In the process leading up to *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11*, FAO commissioned many background papers on gender issues in agriculture, and undertook consultations with researchers and policymakers all over the world. The sheer volume of new evidence meant that all this new knowledge could not be presented in *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11*. Because of IFPRI’s contributions to research on gender and development policy, FAO commissioned IFPRI to edit a volume comprising the background papers, and to commission additional papers on specific aspects of gender in agriculture.

The chapters in this book provide evidence to support the main message of *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11*: closing the gender gap in agriculture will generate significant gains for the agricultural sector and for society. Gender equity in access to and control of productive resources—on the farm, in labor markets, and in the nonfarm economy, as well as in the institutions that support agricultural research, development, and extension—is not merely an issue of political correctness, but an essential aspect of development that can benefit women, men, and their families, and society.

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Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ASTI	Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators
ATMA	Agricultural Technology Management Agency
AWARD	African Women for Agricultural Research and Development
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CBAs	Collective Bargaining Agreements
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EADD	East African Dairy Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
GAAP	Gender, Assets, and Agricultural Program
GAD	Gender and Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
ICTs	Information Communication Technologies
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFI	Microfinance Institution
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services (Uganda)
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NGOs	Nongovernmental Organizations
NTAE	Nontraditional Agricultural Export
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal

R&D	Research and Development
RD&E	Research, Development, and Extension
S&T	Science and Technology
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WID	Women in Development

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