



# How can Women control Water?

*Action needed to increase agriculture  
productivity and ensure food and  
nutrition security*

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*Improving rural women's access to productive  
resources is central to addressing hunger*





1. The gender gap in agriculture
2. FAO's experience to promote gender equality in water resources in agriculture
3. Available tools
4. The Way forward

*Women from Sub-Saharan Africa spend 40 billion hours/year collecting water*



***Get more “crop for the drop”***



## What is the world situation for hunger and water scarcity?

- Universal human right to food: yet 805+ million, 1 in 9 suffer from hunger
- Nutrition: 2+ billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies or “hidden hunger”, over half a billion are obese
- Water: 2/3 of the world population are likely to be living in water-stressed countries by 2025





## FAO and the Sustainable development goals

- FAO co-leads 3 SDGs: 1) Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture; 2) Marine resources, oceans and seas; and 3) Ecosystems and biodiversity; and contributes to other focus areas. Our Targets:
- 1) All people have access to adequate food all year round;
- 2) End malnutrition in all its forms;
- 3) Food production systems become more productive, sustainable, resilient and efficient ;
- 4) Small food producers, esp. women, have secure access to inputs, knowledge, productive resources and services to increase productivity sustainably, income and resilience;
- 5) More efficient post-production food systems to reduce food loss and waste rate by 50%.



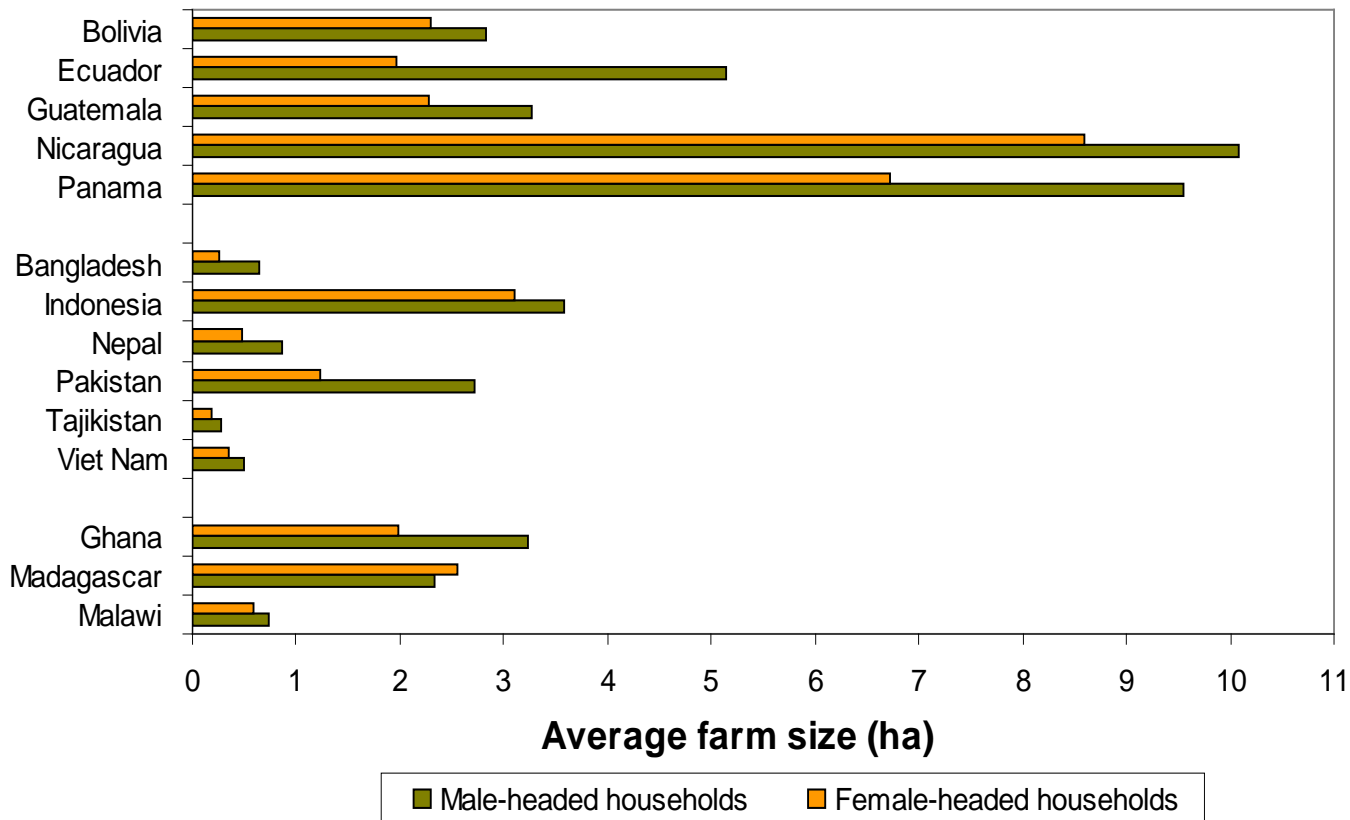


## FAO Strategic Framework

1. Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
2. Make agriculture more productive and sustainable
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Ensure inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
5. Protect livelihoods from disasters



## *Women farmers produce less because they control less land*





## FAO Policy

1. Equal participation as decision-makers in rural institutions and in shaping laws and programs
2. Equal access to decent employment and income, land and other productive resources
3. Equal access to goods and services for agricultural development and markets
4. Women's work burden reduced by 20%
5. 30% of agricultural aid committed to projects for women and gender equality

### ➤ Gender Equality Objectives





## 2. FAO Experience

1. Technical assistance
2. Institutional strengthening
3. Sex-disaggregated databases
4. Networking and information sharing

➤ *Gender Equality*







## Capacity Development

1. Gender awareness of policy-makers
2. Training on land and water management
3. Trained women as irrigation leaders and to claim land and water rights
4. Gender-responsive irrigation schemes
5. Water users' associations and women's groups
6. Strengthened capacity for sex-disaggregated data analysis





## Some gender-sensitive indicators related to agriculture

- % of irrigated farms in region under survey (% irrigated farms managed by/owned by men/women)
- Average size of irrigated farms run by/owned by women/men
- Men and women perceptions of gender discrimination (or equality) regarding women's participation in decision-making in relation to irrigation
- Men and women access to support services for irrigation, participation in technical training
- Men and women access to bank loans/credit and incentives for the development of irrigated agriculture
- Men and women membership in and intensity of participation in community-based irrigation committees





## DIMITRA

1. Women's leadership and self-confidence
2. Women's participation in producer organizations or cooperatives
3. Social mobilization
4. Community governance
5. Changes in agricultural practices
6. Zero Hunger and 3N

➤ *Communication for Social Change*

*<http://www.fao.org/dimitra>*





## Lessons Learned

1. Gender mainstreaming in land and water legislations and policies
2. AMCOW Policy and Strategy for Mainstreaming gender in water sector in Africa
3. Legal literacy and paralegal training with women leaders

➤ *Policy Advice*





## 2. FAO Tools

SEAGA Irrigation  
Sector Guide



Passport to  
mainstreaming  
gender in water  
programmes

SEAGA Guidelines &  
Passport  
for Emergency and  
Rehabilitation Programmes

MASSMUS  
Gender Module





## Water Passport

1. Access to land and water
  2. Farming context
  3. Multiple use of water
  4. Management of irrigation systems
  5. Water distribution, irrigation practices and maintenance
  6. Environmental issues
- Gender mainstreaming in water





## 4. The Way Forward

1. Study on women and water governance
2. Social mobilization and local governance
3. Structuring rural world and transforming gender relations
4. Capacity development and empowerment
5. Information and knowledge products

➤ Gender-responsive water management





## The Way Forward

6. Policy advice for equal access to rural services and resources
7. Labour- and water-saving technologies
8. Invest in women's leadership

