


THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2010-11

**Women in agriculture:
Closing the gender gap for development**



The agricultural and rural economies of developing countries are underperforming, in part, because women lack the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive.



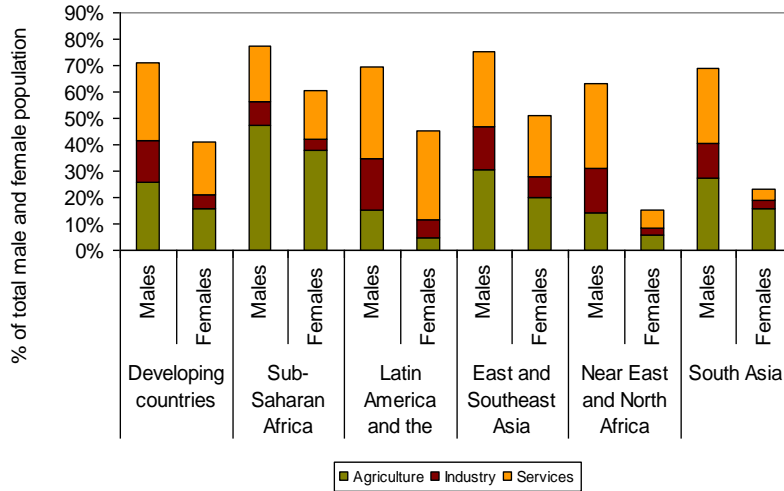
Economic and social gains from closing the gender gap

- Productivity gains
 - 20 to 30 percent increase on women's farms
 - 2.5 to 4 percent increase in agricultural output
- Food security gains
 - 12 to 17 percent reduction in number of hungry
 - 100 to 150 million people lifted out of hunger
- Broader economic and social gains
 - Better health, nutrition and education outcomes for children
 - Builds human capital which promotes economic growth



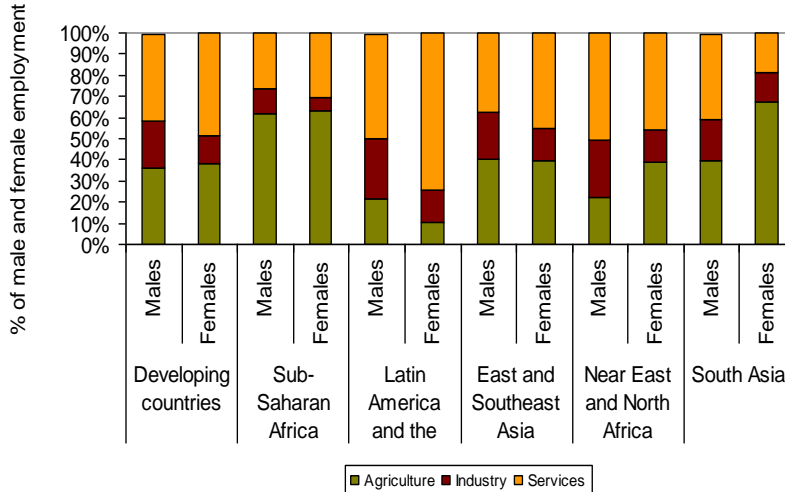
Women's participation and contribution to agriculture and rural economies

Female employment rates vary across regions but are always lower than those for men.



Source: ILO, Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM, 6th Edition).
 Note: The ILO, KILM data covers only a subset of the countries in each region. Definitions of adult labour force differ by country, but usually refers to the population aged 15 and above. Employed includes self-employed, employed, employers as well as contributing family members. There is no distinction between formal sector employment and informal sector employment.

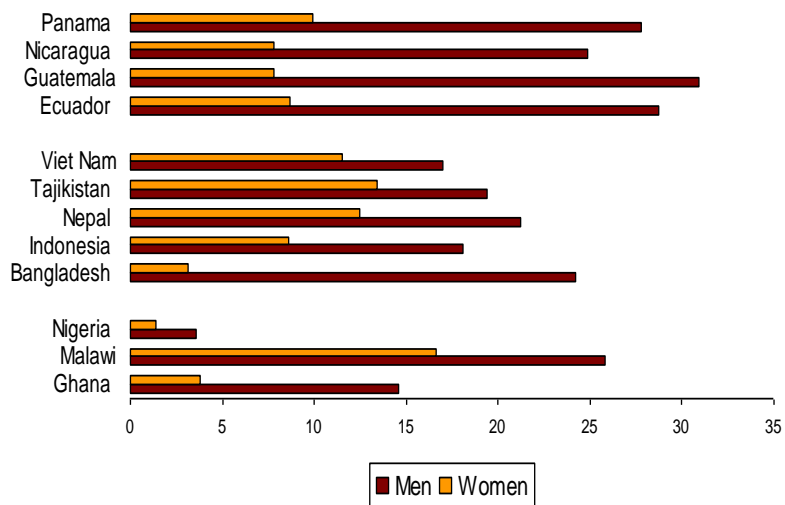
In most regions women who are employed are more likely to be employed in agriculture as compared to men



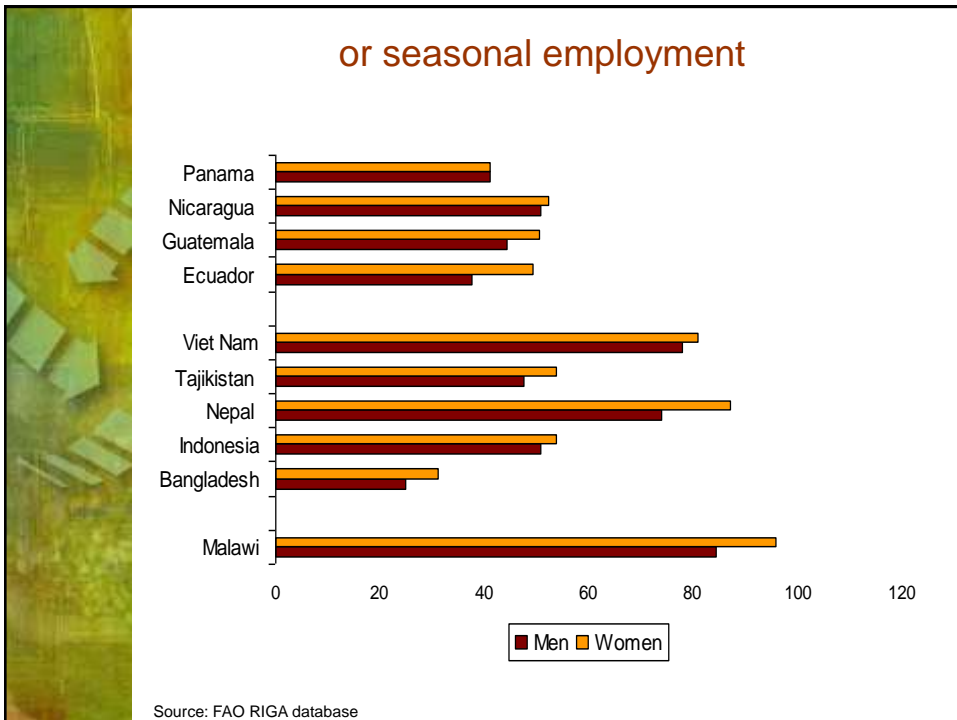
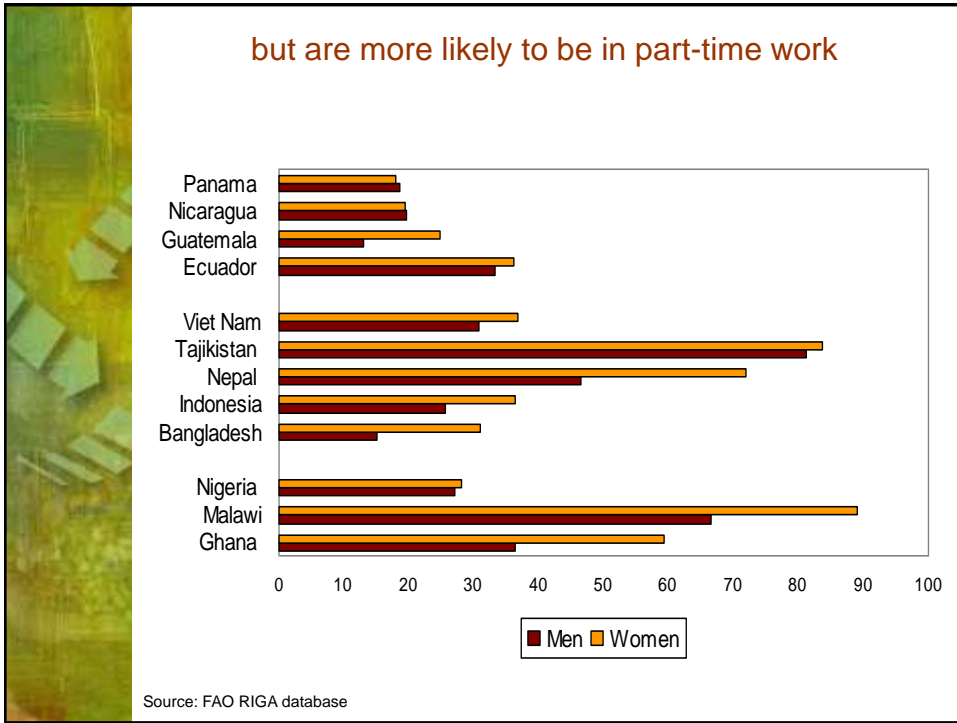
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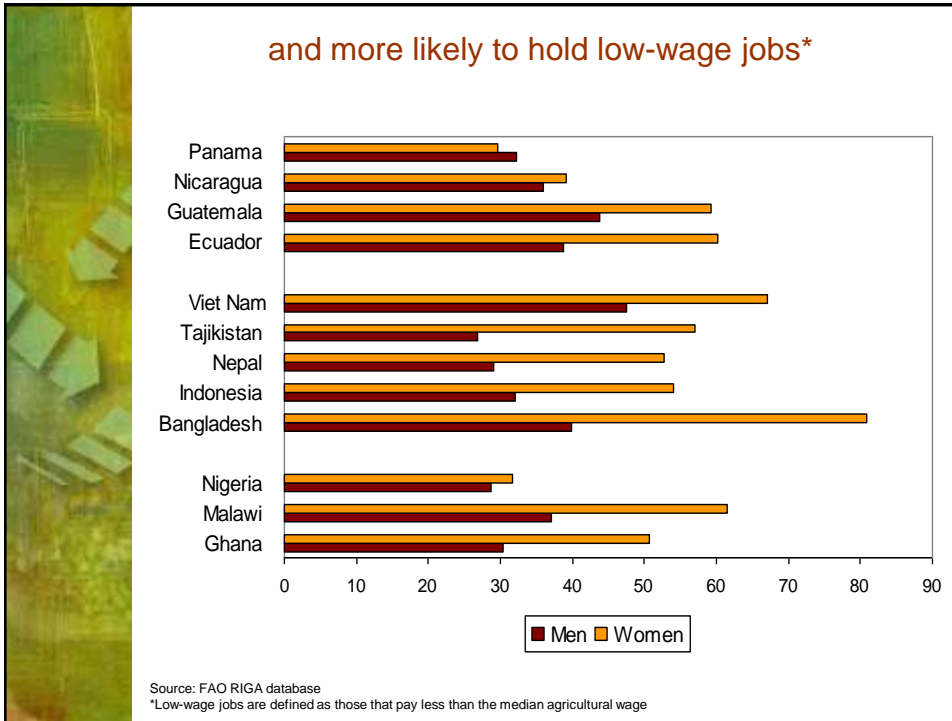
Women in rural labour markets


Women are less likely to participate in rural wage employment than men



Note: Refers to percentage of the adult population working for a wage.
Source: FAO RIGA database







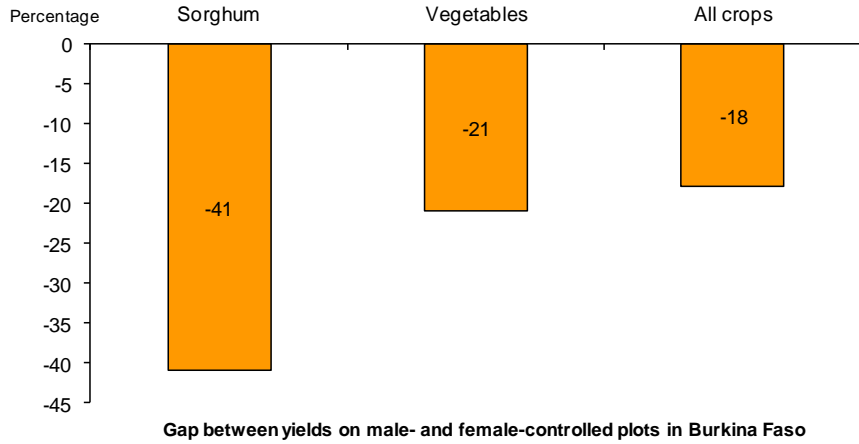
Women farmers are largely excluded from contract farming

- Because they lack control over land, family labour and other resources necessary to guarantee delivery of a reliable flow of produce.
- While men control the contracts women provide much of the family labour.
- The evidence of benefits and/or conflicts over resources due to contract farming to women is mixed.

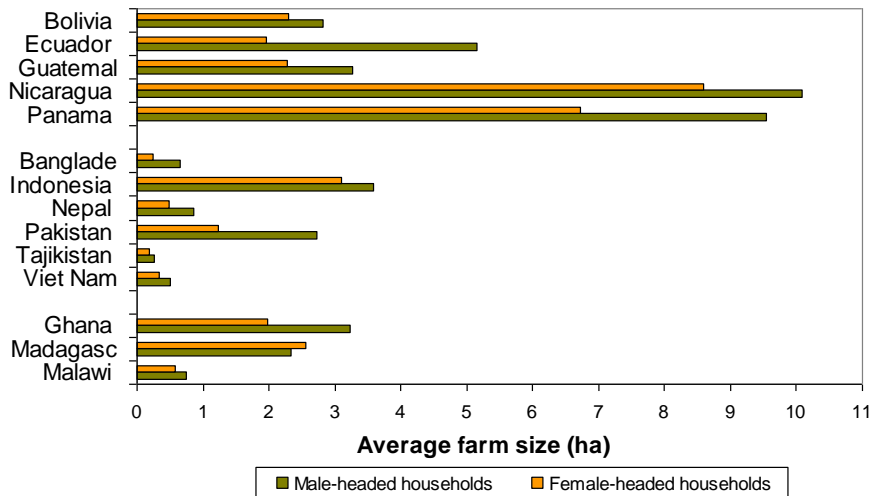


Gains from closing the gender gap

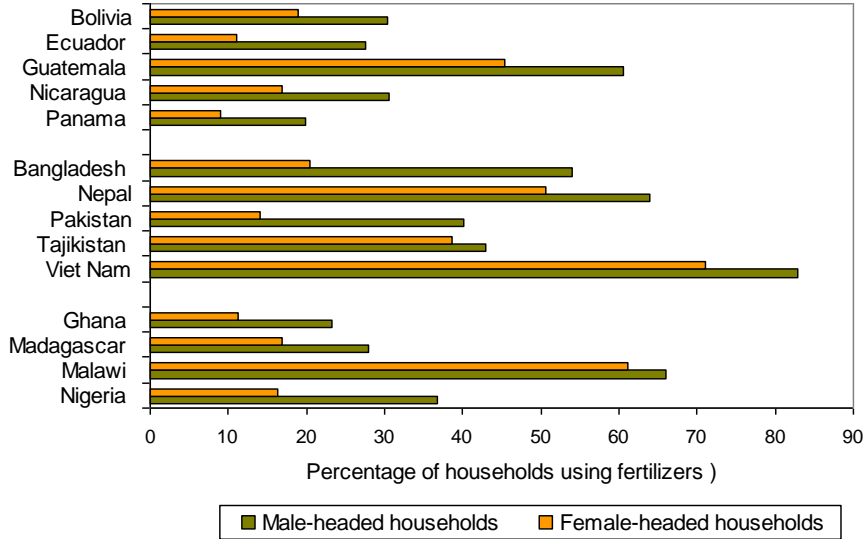
Women farmers produce less ...



because they operate smaller farms...



and use less fertilizers and other technologies.



Lower levels of gender inequality are correlated with higher average cereal yields in developing countries



Source: Cereal yields are from FAOSTAT; Gender inequality is measured by the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), a composite measure of gender discrimination based on social institutions, constructed by the OECD Development centre



Gains from closing the gender gap for women farmers

- Closing a yield gap of 20-30% ...
- Could increase agricultural output in the developing countries by 2.5 to 4%
- The number of undernourished people Could decline by 12-17% or 100-150 million people.



Broader social and economic benefits

- Women's income and bargaining power within the family is linked to improved health, nutrition and education outcomes for children.
- Improved gender equality has a long lasting impact on economic growth by raising human capital in society.

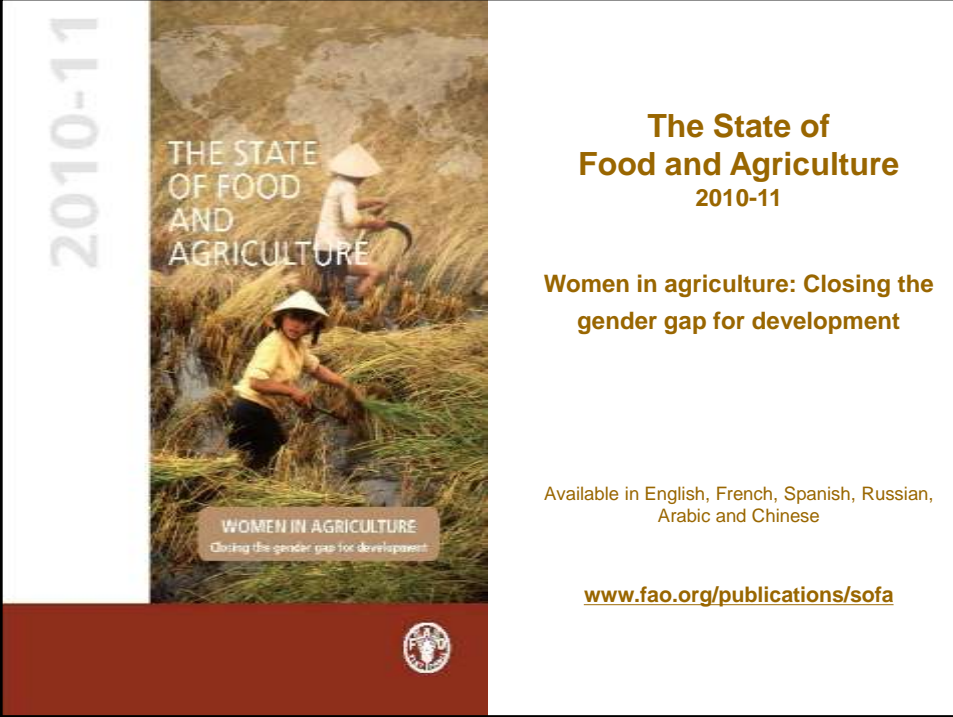


Closing the gender gap in agriculture and rural employment



Policies can make a difference

- Be aware that policies and institutions affect men and women differently
- Eliminate discrimination under the law
- Provide public services and technologies to free-up women's time
- Build the human capital of women and girls
- Address multiple constraints together



The cover features a photograph of two women in a rice field, one in the foreground and one in the background, both wearing traditional conical hats. The text '2010-11' is written vertically on the left side. The main title 'THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE' is centered over the image. Below the image, a small box contains the text 'WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE' and 'Closing the gender gap for development'. The FAO logo is located in the bottom right corner of the cover image.

2010-11

THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE
Closing the gender gap for development

The State of Food and Agriculture
2010-11

Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development

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