



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Gender and Land Statistics

Recent developments in FAO's Gender and Land Rights Database

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INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Rome, 2015

GENDER AND LAND RIGHTS DATABASE | TECHNICAL NOTE



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This work was undertaken by FAO in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This publication has not gone through IFPRI's standard peer-review procedure. The opinions expressed here belong to the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of FAO, PIM, IFPRI, or CGIAR.

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Acknowledgements

This technical note was prepared for the Gender and Land Rights Database by Ana Paula de la O Campos and Nynne Warring from the Social Protection Division of the FAO (ESP) and Chiara Brunelli from the Statistics Division also from FAO (ESS), based on the analysis undertaken by Cheryl Doss and Caitlin Kieran from the CGIAR research program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM). The authors are most grateful for the feedback from numerous FAO colleagues including Susan Kaaria, Piero Conforti and Rob Vos, as well as to Cheryl Doss and Caitlin Kieran from PIM-IFPRI for their valuable inputs.

Abbreviations and acronyms

Agricultural and Rural Integrated Surveys	(AGRIS)
Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research	(CGIAR)
Demographic Household Surveys	(DHS)
FAO World Programme of Agricultural Census 2000	(WCA)
International Food Policy Research Institute	(IFPRI)
Living Standards Measurement Survey's Integrated Surveys in Agriculture	(LSMS-ISA)
Latin America and the Caribbean	(LAC)
Middle East/North Africa	(ME)
Sub-Saharan Africa	(SSA)
Sustainable Development Goals	(SDGs)
The Gender and Land Rights Database	(GLRD)
Evidence for Data and Gender Equality	(UN EDGE)

I. Introduction

Although there is global consensus that women's land rights are fundamental for the realization of food security and rural development, accurate and reliable statistics to monitor the attainment and realisation of these rights are still lacking. Indeed, the lack of clear and accurate statistics on landownership and land management— that are disaggregated by sex - is problematic for developing clear policy responses to, and for monitoring of, inequalities faced by women and men in rural areas (Doss *et al.*, 2015).

Women's land rights are often discussed using indicators of agricultural holders and landowners interchangeably. The agricultural holder is the manager of the holding and is a useful concept for understanding issues of agricultural productivity and responsibilities in production. The landowner has legal claims to the land and typically has the right to sell, bequeath or mortgage the land. Both are important components of women's land rights, but they are different and should not be confused with one another –rather they should complement each other to enhance our understanding of women's rights to and control over land resources. Both landownership and management statistics are becoming increasingly available as multiple international efforts are underway with the aim to increase availability of, and access to, relevant data on gender and land. Indicative of this increased focus, the '52 Minimum Set of Gender Indicators' approved by the UN Statistical Commission on its 43rd session includes the “*Proportion of adult population owning land, by sex*” and in addition, methodological work is on-going under the UN EDGE (Evidence for Data and Gender Equality) project on collecting sex disaggregated landownership data.

Furthermore, at the end of the FAO World Programme of Agricultural Census 2000 (WCA 2000, on-going from 1996 to 2005), the FAO Statistics Division began encouraging countries undertaking an agricultural census to compile and report key sex-disaggregated structural indicators, including the share of agricultural holders by sex¹. This is a measure of management, not landownership, which captures women's responsibilities and management in agriculture. The value of investigating land ownership and management at the plot level has been recognized in view of the next World Programme of Agricultural Census (WCA 2010, on-going from 2016 to 2025) (see section III).

¹ A census of agriculture is a statistical operation for collecting, processing and disseminating data on the structure of agriculture, covering the whole or a significant part of the country. See: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1595e/i1595e00.htm> or <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-wca/wca-2000/ess-wca2000-tables/en/>.

Increasingly, data on women's land ownership is becoming available through nationally-representative household surveys. Interestingly, most of the currently available data on women's and men's landownership comes from Sub-Saharan Africa. This in part is explained by growing interest in agricultural productivity issues on the continent from policy makers, development practitioners and academic institutions which has led to data collection at the plot level allowing one to link plots to plot owners or managers.

In order to monitor progress on land rights globally, a common framework for the processing and interpretation of data is crucial. While there are many challenges to developing comparable indicators of land ownership and management, some cross-country harmonization efforts are on-going. The CGIAR Research Program on **Policies, Institutions, and Markets** (IFPRI-PIM), led by the International Food Policy Research Institute, has spearheaded these efforts. A notable achievement is a conceptual framework and set of indicators to analyse landownership by sex, as proposed by Doss *et al.* (2015). The work capitalizes on new data from the *Living Standards Measurement Survey's Integrated Surveys in Agriculture*² (LSMS-ISA) as well as *Demographic Household Surveys* (DHS) for several African countries to derive the proposed sex-disaggregated indicators, and concludes that better and more data on landownership is needed to monitor and guide development interventions. Analysis by Kieran *et al.* (2015) with similar data from Asia reached the same conclusion.

These current efforts to streamline and compile international statistics on gender and land in a unified framework provide the entry point for the expanding the statistical content of the Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD). The Database draws on the framework by Doss *et al.* (2015), while supplementing with other statistics. The following sections describe the statistics of the GLRD in detail.

² See Living Standards Measurement Surveys-Integrated Surveys in Agriculture project of the World Bank (LSMS-ISA) for more information.

II. Statistics available in the GLRD

The [Gender and Land Rights Database](#) (GLRD) is an on-line platform that was launched by FAO in February 2010 with the objective of highlighting the major political, legal and cultural factors that influence the realisation of women's land rights throughout the world. As of May 2015, the database included [83 country profiles](#) that contain key information on women's land rights, mainly legal-based information, but also information about customary land tenure and gender and land-related policies. The database has [a tool](#) for assessing the extent to which national legal frameworks enable gender-equitable land tenure, assessing 30 legal indicators in different countries.³

In 2014, FAO embarked on a collaborative effort with IFPRI-PIM to develop a common framework for sex-disaggregated indicators for the GLRD. This collaboration builds on existing theoretical and analytical work by IFPRI as described in the previous section, adapted to the purposes of the GLRD and other statistical work in FAO. The GLRD statistical framework comprises five sex-disaggregated indicators, and the database makes use of already available indicators. In addition, analysis of additional data is currently underway. Sex-disaggregated ownership data derives mainly from large-scale household surveys, while agricultural holders' data is obtained from several rounds of WCA. Internal collaboration with the *FAO Statistics Division* has been instrumental in the usage of the WCA data. The following section discusses the five indicators of the GLRD framework and presents the data that is currently available in the GLRD.

All of the indicators in the GLRD are calculated mainly for agricultural land, rather than all land, in both urban and rural areas. This choice is consistent with the fact that agricultural land,⁴ and not any land, is a crucial resource for poverty reduction, food security and rural development. In addition, women's empowerment passes through the ownership of productive resources, such as agricultural land.⁵ Other types of land, although relevant for women's empowerment, are better captured by other statistics (e.g. those related to dwelling ownership).

³ [GRLD Legislation Assessment Tool](#) has over 30 legal indicators available for 18 countries.

⁴ Agricultural land is land devoted to agriculture, including land for livestock rearing in addition to land for the production of crops. Agricultural land includes arable land, permanent cropland and permanent pastures.

⁵ In the cases where the indicator is only available for land in general (not specifically agricultural land), this is highlighted in the database notes.

Indicator 1: Distribution of agricultural holders by sex

Definition. Indicator 1 measures the percentage of female and male agricultural holders out of total agricultural holders. The indicator is created as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Female agricultural holders}}{\text{Total agricultural holders}} \right) \cdot 100 \quad ; \quad \left(\frac{\text{Male agricultural holders}}{\text{Total agricultural holders}} \right) \cdot 100$$

The agricultural holder is defined in agricultural censuses as: “*The civil or juridical person who makes the major decisions regarding resource use and exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation. The agricultural holder has technical and economic responsibility for the holding and may undertake all responsibilities directly, or delegate responsibilities related to day-to-day work management to a hired manager*” (FAO, 2005).

An agricultural holding is defined as: “*An economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form, or size. Single management may be exercised by an individual or household, jointly by two or more individuals or households, by a clan or tribe, or by a juridical person such as a corporation, cooperative or government agency. The holding’s land may consist of one or more parcels, located in one or more separate areas or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, providing the parcels share the same production means, such as labour, farm buildings, machinery or draught animals*” (FAO 2005).

This indicator illustrates the management of agricultural holdings by sex, identifying the extent to which women and men have the management responsibility of agricultural production resources. The holder may also be the owner of the holding but not necessarily so. While agricultural holdings typically are land holdings, they may also comprise other agricultural production resources, and in some cases only non-land resources.⁶

Per definition, a holding is under single management. Most countries report a single holder for each agricultural holding. However, it would be possible to identify the joint management of a

⁶ The area of a holding may be zero, such as where the holdings keep livestock but has no land; this is called a landless holding (FAO 2010).

single holding. In such cases, the total number of holders would therefore be larger than the total number of holdings.⁷

Furthermore, a holder can also belong to the “juridical person” category (e.g. a cooperative or a corporation), which is typically not gender-disaggregated. In the GLRD, the numbers reported are aligned as much as possible with the numbers reported by the countries themselves in their agricultural censuses. Most often the numbers will not include juridical persons and refer to civil persons only.⁸ The data solely on civil persons provide a better picture of the gender split for holders.

Data sources. The agricultural holders’ data come from agricultural censuses, which are undertaken by National Statistical Offices and/or Ministries of Agriculture.⁹ The sex of the agricultural holder is a core item that has long been suggested to countries for data collection by the FAO World Census of Agriculture (WCA) Programme and is increasingly collected by countries that fall under this programme (FAO, 2010).

Advantages and challenges. Indicator 1 is by far the most prevalent of the currently available gender and land indicators and is easy to extract from national agricultural censuses. It is created under the common guidelines for agricultural censuses and is as such broadly comparable across countries.¹⁰

However, the indicator has a number of disadvantages. Firstly, Indicator 1 is measured at the holding level and hence does not capture management *within* the holding. A holding may consist of several plots of land, with different household members responsible for different plots, but this is generally not captured in the indicator, as typically only one holder is identified per holding. As such, it tends to underestimate the management role of household members

⁷ A joint holder can be both male and female. When countries do not report joint holders as a separate category, they may or may not include them with individual male and female holders, respectively, in the tabulations. In many cases, however, countries report holders as equivalent to holdings (e.g. one holder per holding).

⁸ The GLRD as much as possible uses the statistic inclusive of civil persons only; however, not all countries report it in this way, and thus the GLRD uses the statistic inclusive of juridical persons.

⁹ Management data is also available in other sources, such as the LSMS surveys discussed in the following sections. It would be possible to analyze management data by plot using some of these surveys, but this would not be directly comparable with the data from the WCA, since WCA use agricultural holdings as the basis for sampling, while household surveys are representative of households.

¹⁰ For example, some countries use agricultural household and agricultural holding interchangeably, some countries explicitly include landless holdings in the holding data while others do not. Common, however, is the concept of the holder being the responsible manager of the holding, with the technical and economic responsibility. This makes the data largely comparable across countries.

other than that of the person designated as the official holder. For example, married women often hold some responsibility for the family farm or manage some plots within the holding, but their husbands will typically be identified as the head of the household and the single holder. In this situation, married women's shares of management responsibility will not be reported in Indicator 1. To address this issue, the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture Guidelines elaborated by FAO is proposing the collection of data on managerial decisions and landownership within the holding in addition to the sex of the holder, which hopefully will lead to increased availability of intra-holding data in the future (see last section).

Secondly, some countries adapt a threshold for minimum size of the holdings included in the census (often due to implementation constraints), leaving out holdings that fall below a certain value. If women are more likely to manage agricultural holdings below the threshold, this could potentially reduce the percentage of female agricultural holders captured by the agricultural census.

Finally, agricultural censuses are undertaken only approximately every 10 years. While yearly collection of this indicator is likely to be redundant - as it is unreasonable to expect the percentage of female agricultural holders to change significantly on annual basis – it may be useful to have it collected more frequently than every ten years. Patterns of male migration out of rural areas, for example, may shift the pattern of women landholders. Initiatives such as the Agricultural and Rural Integrated Surveys (AGRIS) (see last section) could lead to more frequent data collection. Furthermore, the indicator is not necessarily reported in the national agricultural census reports, even when the necessary data have been collected.

Current availability. As of May 2015, Indicator 1 was available for 104 countries and territories in the GLRD. Tables 1-6 in the annex show the available sex-disaggregated data across regions. Most of the data points shown in these tables belong to the 2000 and 2010 agricultural census rounds.¹¹ However, some data derives from the 1990 census round and is consequently relatively outdated, including data for seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and several data points for Middle East/North Africa and from Asia and Latin America/the Caribbean.¹² Therefore, for some countries the data available can be as old as 20+ years

¹¹ The FAO World Programmes of Agricultural Censuses follow a 10-year cycle. Every 10 years new guidelines and recommendations are provided to countries to help them generate internationally comparable figures on the structure of agriculture.

¹² SSA: Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Senegal and Uganda. MENA: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. Asia: Indonesia and Laos. LAC: Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

depending on how often agricultural censuses are conducted or whether countries include this item or not in their census report.

Key findings. The data for this indicator in the GLRD shows that gender inequalities are quite evident in the management of agricultural holdings:

- The share of female agricultural holders ranges from 0.8% in Saudi Arabia to 51% in Cape Verde, with an overall global share of 12.8%
- The region showing the greatest gender gap for this indicator is the Middle East/North Africa (table 4), while the region showing the narrowest gender gap is Europe (table 5).
- Figure 1 shows the share of female agricultural holders against the country's GDP per capita¹³ indicating no correlation between these two indicators. In addition, the figure indicates that gender inequalities in the management of agricultural holdings are present both in developed and developing countries.
- Figure 2 shows the shares of female agricultural holders by region as well as the share of female employment in the agricultural sector, both self-employed in their own farms and wage workers, as a percentage of total female population. The key comparison indicator in this graph is the share of women who are self-employed in agriculture, which includes all women working on their own farms. The share of female agricultural holders for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is similar, despite a larger participation of women in self-employed agriculture in SSA than in LAC (54% vs. 23%). This is in stark contrast to the Middle East/North Africa (ME), where less than 5% of holdings are managed by females and where participation of women in agriculture is almost 40%.¹⁴

¹³ GDP is matched to the year for which the holding data is reported, and adjusted to 2005 values.

¹⁴ Comparing these numbers should, however, be done with caution as figures for agricultural employment are not available for all countries and not always for the same years as for agricultural holdings.

Indicator 2: Distribution of agricultural landowners by sex

Definition. Indicator 2 measures the share of female and male agricultural landowners in the total population of landowners. The indicator is created as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Female agricultural landowners}}{\text{Total agricultural landowners}} \right) \cdot 100 ; \left(\frac{\text{Male agricultural landowners}}{\text{Total agricultural landowners}} \right) \cdot 100$$

All of the following indicators are based on the landowners, rather than agricultural holders. The agricultural landowner is defined as the legal owner of the agricultural land; however, definitions of ownership may vary across countries and surveys. The indicator may not necessarily reflect documented ownership certified by a legal document. Especially in places where much of the land is not formally titled or documented, surveys often simply ask whether someone in the household owns the land, and if so, who owns it. In addition to officially titled ownership, it may also include proxies, such as the right to use, sell or bequeath the land, or the right to use it as collateral. This enables the indicator to capture different aspects of the “bundle of rights” related to land, rather than land ownership in the strictest sense of the term. The current indicator in the GLRD uses different definitions of ownership; they are specified for each country in the data notes. As data for more countries become available, it will be useful to calculate these measures using more than one definition of ownership. This will be useful for policy analysis. For example, we may want to know both how many people report that they are landowners and how many have documents for their land. (Doss *et al.*, 2015).¹⁵

An individual is defined as a landowner whether they own land solely (they are the only owner of a plot of land) or jointly with someone inside or outside the household. Thus, households may have multiple landowners. In addition, households may own multiple plots of land with different owners identified for each plot. This contrasts with the data on agricultural holdings where all of the household plots comprise one holding and typically identifies a single holder

¹⁵ The literature on property rights defines bundles of rights, which refer to gradients of control over a given resource usually applied to land and other natural resources (Lastarria-Cornhiel *et al.*, 2014). These rights can be divided into the rights to use the land (including the right to access and the right to extract resources), the right to appropriate the return from the asset (earnings and income), the right to change its form, substance, and location (decision-making rights such as management and the exclusion of other users), and alienation (including transfer or rights to others) (Di Gregorio *et al.*, 2008 cited in Lastarria-Cornhiel *et al.*, 2014).

with management responsibility.

Data sources. The data used to construct Indicator 2 typically stems from large-scale household surveys in which questions on landownership for individual household members are included in an agricultural module (LSMS approach), making it possible to calculate total agricultural landowners by sex. Until now, the data have been collected mainly from LSMS surveys, and particularly the LSMS-ISA, in collaboration with National Ministries of Statistics or other relevant ministries.

Data for this indicator will need to be collected in the future, and initiatives such as the EDGE or the AGRIS are likely to contribute to this process. The indicator is nationally representative insofar as the household survey data are nationally representative, and it may be possible to disaggregate the indicator at subnational level, based on the domains of reference of the survey sample design. The indicators can be collected periodically (about every 2-5 years), which is a reasonable frequency for capturing significant changes in agricultural landownership¹⁶.

Advantages and challenges. Indicator 2 tells us what proportion of landowners are women. Because multiple owners can be identified within a household, it better reflects individual level land rights. An increase in the percentage of women owning land indicates that more women relative to men obtain rights to this key resource for rural livelihoods. However, comparability across countries - mainly due to differing ownership definitions and low availability of data - limits the current use of this indicator.

There are challenges with collecting data on land ownership that affect this and the following indicators. One is the reliability of people's response about whether they are owners. One approach would be to confirm documented ownership with the enumerator requesting to see the documents, but this is difficult to implement if for instance these documents may not be available at the time when the survey is conducted, or don't exist. In addition, there is some evidence that the responses about land ownership will differ, depending on who within the

¹⁶ On the other hand, the indicator is collected in different years, depending on when surveys are conducted in individual countries. This may negatively affect comparability across countries if collection periods have a very wide span

household is interviewed¹⁷. Different country definitions of ownership and data collection years pose a challenge for cross-country comparability of Indicator 2.

Current availability. Table 8 (annex) shows the available data for this indicator in the GLRD based on data analysis by Deere *et al.* (2012), Deere & Leon (2013), Doss *et al.* (2011) and Kieran *et al.* (2015). Data on individual landownership are currently available for fewer countries than are data on agricultural holdings (Indicator 1). As of May 2015, Indicator 2 had been calculated for 11 countries in the GLRD¹⁸. The data necessary to calculate this indicator is available for at least 10-15 additional countries¹⁹.

Key Findings. Similar to Indicator 1, gender inequalities are evident; however, the gender gap appears narrower when examining ownership (Indicator 2) rather than management of holdings (Indicator 1), highlighting the importance of using different indicators to complement each other.

- At present, the GLRD has only both Indicators 1 and 2 available for six countries, though not for the same years. For all these countries, the gap between men and women is narrower for Indicator 2. This difference may reflect the different data collection approaches; Indicator 1 typically only lists one person per household while Indicator 2 may include multiple household members.
- For the 11 countries where data is currently available, Ecuador is the only where women make up a (marginally) large proportion of landowners than men (51 versus 49%).

¹⁷ The EDGE project is analyzing some of these data collection issues. The Gender Asset Gap Project has done some work analyzing how to collect individual level asset data, including land:

<http://www.genderassetgap.org/sites/default/files/Lessons%20from%20the%20Field.pdf>

¹⁸ Bangladesh, Ecuador, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Tajikistan, Vietnam.

¹⁹ The Gender and Land Rights Database is currently analyzing household survey data to expand the number of data points available for this and other indicators under a broader stream of work, FAO's Rural Livelihoods Monitor.

Indicator 3: Incidence of female and male agricultural landowners

Definition. Indicator 3 measures the incidence of female and male agricultural landowners as a proportion of the total female and male population. Separate indicators are created for sole ownership by women and by men and for any ownership, whether sole or joint, by women and by men. It is created as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Female agricultural landowners, sole}}{\text{Total female adult population}} \right) \cdot 100 ; \left(\frac{\text{Male agricultural landowners, sole}}{\text{Total male adult population}} \right) \cdot 100$$
$$\left(\frac{\text{Female agricultural landowners, sole and joint}}{\text{Total female adult population}} \right) \cdot 100 ; \left(\frac{\text{Male agricultural landowners, sole and joint}}{\text{Total male adult population}} \right) \cdot 100$$

While the proposed measure for the “52 Minimum Set of Gender Indicators’ would count a person as a landowner if they own any land, whether solely or jointly, it is also useful to know how many women and men own land solely. There is evidence from some countries that joint ownership does not confer equal rights on men and women; thus, it is useful to know the extent to which women have their own land rights as well.

Data sources. As for Indicator 2, the main sources of data to construct this indicator are large-scale household surveys that include questions on individual land ownership. There are currently two potential sources of nationally representative data for constructing Indicator 2. The DHS surveys in 2009 began collecting landownership data in selected countries. The DHS surveys ask both male and female respondents whether their household owns land and whether they own land themselves. They are nationally representative for adult men and women of reproductive age²⁰. Another important data source for this indicator is the LSMS-type surveys, where the information is collected at the plot level. These surveys typically ask one respondent to identify the owner or owners of each plot of land owned by anyone in the household.

Advantages and challenges. Indicator 3 sheds light on how common it is for men and women to own land and as such depicts how widespread ownership is in a given population, which may obviously differ substantially across country contexts. It is important to compare the percentage of women who own land with the same indicator for men: a national female

²⁰ The age range varies by country. It can be 15-49 or 15-54 or 15-59.

landownership incidence of 3% may sound like a very small figure when quoted alone, but if the corresponding figure for men is 4%, the implications are quite different. It may also be useful to analyse this indicator alongside the incidence of female and male participation in agriculture and in the agricultural labour force, which would put the indicator into the context of the broader agricultural sector.

As for Indicator 2, Indicator 3 have challenges with collecting data on land ownership in terms of reliability of people's response about whether they are owners as and lack of documentation, well as different country definitions of ownership and data collection years posing a challenge for cross-country comparability.

Current availability. The indicator is available in the GLRD as of May 2015 for 16 countries²¹, based on the analysis by Doss *et al.* (2015) and Kieran *et al.* (2015); additional countries will be added in the near future. The data is shown in table 8.

Key Findings:

- The unweighted average of 11 countries from Africa, even if these countries do not represent the whole continent, show that 36% of women own land either solely or jointly. This should be held up against the corresponding figure of 44% for men, revealing some gap between male and female incidence of ownership.
- Data from Asia is more in line with the distributions shown for the indicator of agricultural holdings (Indicator 1); however, it is hard to draw any conclusions given the small number of countries with available data.

²¹ Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Indicator 4: Distribution of agricultural land area owned by sex

Definition. Indicator 4 measures the share of agricultural land area that is owned by women, men, and jointly by men and women, using the total land area owned by households. (Thus, it excludes land owned by the government and corporations). This indicator is created as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Agricultural land area owned by women}}{\text{Total agricultural land area owned by households}} \right) \cdot 100 ; \left(\frac{\text{Agricultural land area owned by men}}{\text{Total agricultural land area owned by households}} \right) \cdot 100$$
$$\left(\frac{\text{Agricultural land area owned jointly by men and women}}{\text{Total agricultural land area owned by households}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Data sources. Nationally representative household surveys that include questions to identify the area of each agricultural plot and the owner (or owners) are necessary to construct Indicator 4. Relatively few surveys collect this detailed information; the LSMS surveys, particularly the LSMS-ISAs, are currently one source. Surveys that collect data on the area of each plot could easily add questions to identify the owner, making it possible to calculate Indicator 4.

Advantages and challenges. The indicator reveals gender-based differences in the amount of land owned by men and women. While this does not tell us how many men and how many women own land, it does provide a good measure of how the land area is distributed between men and women. Since women's plots are generally smaller than men's, Indicator 4 would typically show more gender inequality than Indicators 2 or 3. This indicator also provides information on how much of the land is owned individually by men and by women and how much is owned jointly. These patterns vary widely across countries.

When data allows, it would be of interest to include corporations and institutions as another category of landowners in this indicator. While it would not add to the picture in terms of gender inequalities, it would reveal to which degree productive land is controlled by non-households and provide a sense of the importance of those other players in agriculture

The same caveats as mentioned for Indicators 2 and 3 with respect to comparability of ownership definitions across countries and increased reliability if ownership is documented apply to Indicator 4 as well.

Current availability. As of May 2015, the GLRD has this indicator available for six countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and for three countries in Asia²², based on the analysis by Doss *et al.* (2015) and Kieran *et al.* (2015).

Key Findings. The data shown in table 9 (annex) once again show evident gender inequalities in landownership:

- In all nine countries available from Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, men own a larger proportion of the land area than women.
- The patterns of individual vs. joint ownership differ by country. In the two Asian countries for which joint ownership is reported, it is a small proportion of total household agricultural land.

²² Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam.

Indicator 5: Distribution of agricultural land value owned by sex

Definition. Indicator 5 measures the share of agricultural land value that is owned by women, men and jointly, using the total value of land owned by households. (Similar to Indicator 4, it excludes land owned by the government and corporations). This indicator is created as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Agricultural land value owned by women}}{\text{Total agricultural land value owned by households}} \right) \cdot 100 ; \left(\frac{\text{Agricultural land value owned by men}}{\text{Total agricultural land value owned by households}} \right) \cdot 100$$
$$\left(\frac{\text{Agricultural land value owned jointly by men and women}}{\text{Total agricultural land value owned by households}} \right) \cdot 100$$

Data sources. The data sources are generally the same as those mentioned for Indicator 4: large-scale household surveys that include questions on individual landownership. Similarly to Indicator 4, this indicator requires plot level data on value and ownership which is typically only available in specialized agricultural surveys (Doss *et al.*, 2015). A current source of these data is the LSMS-ISA surveys and some other integrated household surveys, where the information is collected at the plot level.

Advantages and challenges. Indicator 5 is of interest as land owned by men and women may differ in terms of quality and location, information that is not conveyed by the other indicators in the framework. The value measures may capture these differences. Even if Indicator 4 showed an equal distribution of land area between men and women, women's plots may systematically be of lower value than men's, and this difference is captured by Indicator 5. This indicator also identifies the value of land owned only by men or only by women from that owned jointly by men and women (typically couples).

However, there are challenges with collecting data on land values. In places where there are not functioning land markets, value measures may be misleading or unavailable. (Kieran *et al.*, 2015). And while there have been improvements in data collection techniques on land area, such as using GPS, there have not been similar improvements in the way we obtain value measures. Therefore, Indicator 4 is typically more reliable than Indicator 5 for comparisons across countries.

Lastly, as above, the same caveats as mentioned for Indicators 2-4 with respect to comparability of ownership definitions across countries and increased reliability if ownership is documented apply to Indicator 5 as well.

Current availability. Data are currently only available for five countries for this indicator in the GLRD, based on the analysis by Doss *et al.* (2015).²³ The results are shown in table 9 (annex). More surveys are available for processing to add to the data availability.

Key Findings:

- The proportions of land value owned by women range from 5% in Niger to 39% in Malawi, while the proportions owned by men range from 34% in Uganda to 78% in Nigeria.
- The proportion of land value owned by women solely is lower than the proportion owned by men or owned jointly with men in all countries (Malawi being the only exception as women own the same proportion solely, 39%, as men, which is also larger than the proportion owned jointly with men, 23%).

²³ Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda.

III. Next steps

A new and updated version of the GLRD was launched by FAO early March 2015. New data for the five indicators has been made available in this updated GLRD, thanks to a fruitful collaboration between FAO's Statistics Division and IFPRI-PIM. The GLRD is therefore in a position to disseminate most of the currently available data on gender and land. However, while data has been expanded, there is still plenty scope for further growth. In addition to updating the data through in-house processing of existing but yet unprocessed household surveys in the FAO-ESS repository and data extraction from national agricultural censuses, we expect that the GLRD will continue to grow as more data becomes available through new sources including: WCA 2020, AGRIS and EDGE.

- The WCA 2020 has included a specific theme on the “Intra-holding distribution of managerial decisions and ownership on the holding”. The main purpose of this theme is to assess the role of gender in decision making on the holding as well as women's ownership of critical assets. Indeed, the theme proposes a set of supplementary items – i.e. the sex of the household members making managerial decisions; the area of crops by sex of the crop-manager; the number of livestock by sex of the person managing them; the area of land owned by the sex of the owner; and the number of livestock owned by the sex of the owner.
- Through the AGRIS project, FAO is developing methodological guidelines on how to conduct integrated agricultural surveys, including key indicators to collect, definitions, methods for data collection, periodicity, among others. Effort will also be made to support countries in the actual implementation of these surveys. By doing so, the availability of gender and land indicators is expected to increase substantially in the future.
- The EDGE initiative led by UNSD and UN Women is conducting methodological work on the collection of sex-disaggregated data on assets, including land ownership. This initiative and the related Guidelines are expected to boost the collection of sex-disaggregated data on landownership in nationally representative surveys carried out at country level.

Finally, it is worth repeating that sex-disaggregated landownership indicators are included in the 52 indicators of the *Minimum Set of Gender Indicators* approved by the UN Statistical Commission (L3 has been proposed, but a revised formulation could be proposed based on the

EDGE conclusions). In addition, landownership disaggregated by sex is one of the proposed monitoring indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also are proposing the indicator L3 and are trying to standardize definitions of ownership. This further underlines the increasing recognition of the importance of monitoring and reporting on landownership by sex.

The GLRD will continue to update its indicators by analysing existing information from agricultural censuses, household and agricultural surveys, and continue to build partnerships with other institutions that also analyse gender and land related data, including analysis that goes beyond only landownership (e.g. indicators more specific to security of land tenure). Through these combined efforts, the GLRD will continue to position itself as a key resource on gender and land issues for researchers, policy makers and the general public.

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Annex: Tables & Figures

**Table 1: Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex in Sub-Saharan Africa
(Indicator 1)**

Country	year	total number	total female	% female	total male	% male
Botswana	2004	50,690	17,576	34.7%	33,114	65.3%
Burkina Faso	1993	886,638	74,559	8.4%	812,079	91.6%
Cape Verde	2004	44,450	22,461	50.5%	21,989	49.5%
Comoros	2004	52,464	17,094	32.6%	35,370	67.4%
Côte d'Ivoire	2001	1,117,667	113,312	10.1%	1,004,355	89.9%
DR of Congo	1990	4,479,600	398,400	8.9%	4,081,200	91.1%
Ethiopia	2011/12	15,031,400	2,928,300	19.5%	12,103,000	80.5%
Gambia	2001-2002	69,140	5,731	8.3%	63,409	91.7%
Guinea	2000-2001	840,454	47,562	5.7%	792,892	94.3%
Lesotho	1999-2000	337,795	103,878	30.8%	233,917	69.2%
Madagascar	2004-2005	2,428,492	371,158	15.3%	2,057,334	84.7%
Malawi	1993	1,561,416	501,919	32.1%	1,059,497	67.9%
Mali	2004-2005	805,195	24,636	3.1%	780,559	96.9%
Mozambique	1999-2000	3,064,195	708,353	23.1%	2,355,842	76.9%
Nigeria	2007	15,732,850	1,579,341	10.0%	14,153,509	90.0%
Senegal	1998-1999	437,036	39,597	9.1%	397,439	90.9%
Seychelles	2011	642	120	18.7%	522	81.3%
Tanzania	2002	4,901,837	966,076	19.7%	3,935,761	80.3%
Uganda	1991	1,704,721	277,693	16.3%	1,427,028	83.7%
Zambia	2000	1,305,783	250,710	19.2%	1,055,073	80.8%
Regional average (weighted)				15.4%		84.6%

Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database.
Regional average is weighted with total holders of each country

Table 2: Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex in Asia (Indicator 1)

Country	year	total number	total female	% female	total male	% male
Armenia	2007	29.7%	...	70.3%
Bangladesh	2008	28,695,763	1,322,937	4.6%	27,372,826	95.4%
Georgia	2004	728,950	211,800	29.1%	517,150	70.9%
India	2005/2006	128,966,000	15,115,000	11.7%	113,851,000	88.3%
Indonesia	1993	20,331,746	1,790,741	8.8%	18,541,005	91.2%
Kyrgyzstan	2002	244,404	30,254	12.4%	214,150	87.6%
Laos	1999	667,900	60,600	9.1%	607,300	90.9%
Malaysia	2005	526,265	94,906	18.0%	405,401	77.0%
Myanmar	2003	3,464,769	519,668	15.0%	2,945,101	85.0%
Nepal	2002	3,364,139	271,507	8.1%	3,092,632	91.9%
Philippines	2002	4,768,317	516,572	10.8%	4,251,745	89.2%
Sri Lanka	2002	1,748,341	285,214	16.3%	1,463,127	83.7%
Thailand	2003	5,787,774	1,585,850	27.4%	4,201,924	72.6%
Vietnam	2001	61,017	5,382	8.8%	55,635	91.2%
Regional average (weighted)				10.9%		89.0%

Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database.

Regional average is weighted with total holders of each country

Table 3: Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex in North, Central & South America (Indicator 1)

Country	year	total number	total female	% female	total male	% male
Argentina	2002	202,423	32,768	16.2%	169,655	83.8%
Belize	2003	9,697	790	8.1%	8,907	91.9%
Brazil	2006	5,175,636	656,255	12.7%	4,519,381	87.3%
Canada	2011	293,925	80,665	27.4%	213,265	72.6%
Chile	2007	268,787	80,255	29.9%	188,532	70.1%
Ecuador	2000	842,882	213,731	25.4%	629,151	74.6%
El Salvador	2007	395,588	45,676	11.5%	348,975	88.2%
Guatemala	2003	819,162	63,627	7.8%	755,535	92.2%
Haiti	2008/08	1,018,951	257,670	25.3%	757,354	74.3%
Jamaica	2007	210,853	63,690	30.2%	139,965	66.4%
Mexico	2007	4,067,618	640,265	15.7%	3,427,353	84.3%
Nicaragua	2011	261,321	60,893	23.3%	200,428	76.7%
Panama	2001	232,464	68,152	29.3%	164,312	70.7%
Peru	2012	2,246,702	691,921	30.8%	1,554,781	69.2%
Puerto Rico	2007	15,745	1,408	8.9%	13,471	85.6%
República Dominicana	1998	243,104	24,772	10.2%	218,332	89.8%
St Kitts and Nevis	2000	3,046	849	27.9%	2,197	72.1%
St Lucia	2007	9,800	2,906	29.7%	6,894	70.3%
Trinidad and Tobago	2004	19,051	2,802	14.7%	16,249	85.3%
Uruguay	2011	44,781	8,839	19.7%	28,433	63.5%
USA	2012	2,109,303	288,264	13.7%	1,821,039	86.3%
Venezuela	2007-2008	410,705	80,984	19.7%	329,721	80.3%
Regional average (weighted)				17.8%	82.1%	

Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database.

Regional average is weighted with total holders of each country

Table 4: Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex in the Middle East/North Africa (Indicator 1)

Country	year	total number	total female	% female	total male	% male
Algeria	2001	1,023,799	41,793	4.1%	982,006	95.9%
Egypt, Arab Rep.	1999	4,537,319	236,632	5.2%	4,300,687	94.8%
Iran, Islamic Rep.	2002	84,679	4,989	5.9%	79,690	94.1%
Jordan	1997	91,585	2,712	3.0%	88,873	97.0%
Lebanon	1998	194,829	13,785	7.1%	180,479	92.6%
Morocco	1996	1,492,844	66,395	4.4%	1,426,449	95.6%
Saudi Arabia	1999	242,267	1,868	0.8%	240,399	99.2%
Tunisia	2004-2005	515,850	32,980	6.4%	482,900	93.6%
Regional average (weighted)				4.9%		95.1%

Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database.

Regional average is weighted with total holders of each country

Table 5: Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex in Europe (Indicator 1)

Country	year	total number	total female	% female	total male	% male
Austria	2010	150,170	51,780	34.5%	98,390	65.5%
Belgium	2010	42,850	6,450	15.1%	36,410	85.0%
Bulgaria	2010	370,490	84,350	22.8%	286,140	77.2%
Croatia	2010	233,280	51,400	22.0%	181,870	78.0%
Cyprus	2010	38,860	8,010	20.6%	30,850	79.4%
Czech Republic	2010	22,860	3,450	15.1%	19,420	85.0%
Denmark	2010	42,100	3,770	9.0%	38,330	91.0%
Estonia	2010	19,610	7,020	35.8%	12,590	64.2%
Finland	2010	63,870	7,100	11.1%	56,770	88.9%
France	2010	516,100	117,120	22.7%	398,990	77.3%
Germany	2010	299,130	25,220	8.4%	273,920	91.6%
Greece	2010	723,060	200,070	27.7%	522,990	72.3%
Hungary	2010	576,810	151,870	26.3%	424,940	73.7%
Iceland	2010	2,590	400	15.4%	2,190	84.6%
Ireland	2010	139,890	16,120	11.5%	123,770	88.5%
Italy	2010	1,620,880	497,850	30.7%	1,123,040	69.3%
Latvia	2010	83,390	39,010	46.8%	44,380	53.2%
Lithuania	2010	199,910	95,360	47.7%	104,550	52.3%
Luxemburg	2010	2,200	350	15.9%	1,850	84.1%
Malta	2010	12,530	1,390	11.1%	11,140	88.9%
Moldova	2011	902,214	327,689	36.3%	574,525	63.7%
Montenegro	2010	48,870	6,290	12.9%	42,580	87.1%
Netherlands	2010	72,320	4,420	6.1%	67,910	93.9%
Norway	2010	46,620	6,560	14.1%	40,060	85.9%
Poland	2010	1,506,620	448,120	29.7%	1,058,500	70.3%
Portugal	2010	305,270	89,370	29.3%	215,900	70.7%
Romania	2010	3,859,040	1,248,580	32.4%	2,610,460	67.6%
Serbia	2002	778,891	141,182	18.1%	637,709	81.9%
Slovakia	2010	24,460	4,170	17.0%	20,290	83.0%
Slovenia	2010	74,650	20,340	27.2%	54,310	72.8%
Spain	2010	989,800	214,380	21.7%	775,420	78.3%
Sweden	2010	71,090	10,950	15.4%	60,140	84.6%
Switzerland	2010	59,070	3,820	6.5%	55,250	93.5%
United Kingdom	2010	186,800	24,490	13.1%	162,310	86.9%
Regional average (weighted)				27.8%		72.2%

Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database.

Regional average is weighted with total holders of each country

Table 6: Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex in Oceania (Indicator 1)

Country	year	total number	total female	% female	total male	% male
American Samoa	2008	5,840	1,133	19.4%	4,707	80.6%
Fiji	2009	65,033	2,326	3.6%	62,463	96.0%
Guam	2007	104	13	12.5%	91	87.5%
Niue	2009	488	113	23.2%	375	76.8%
North Mariana	2007	256	30	11.7%	226	88.3%
Samoa	2009	24,640	5,631	22.9%	19,009	77.1%
Regional average (weighted)				9.6%		90.2%

Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database.

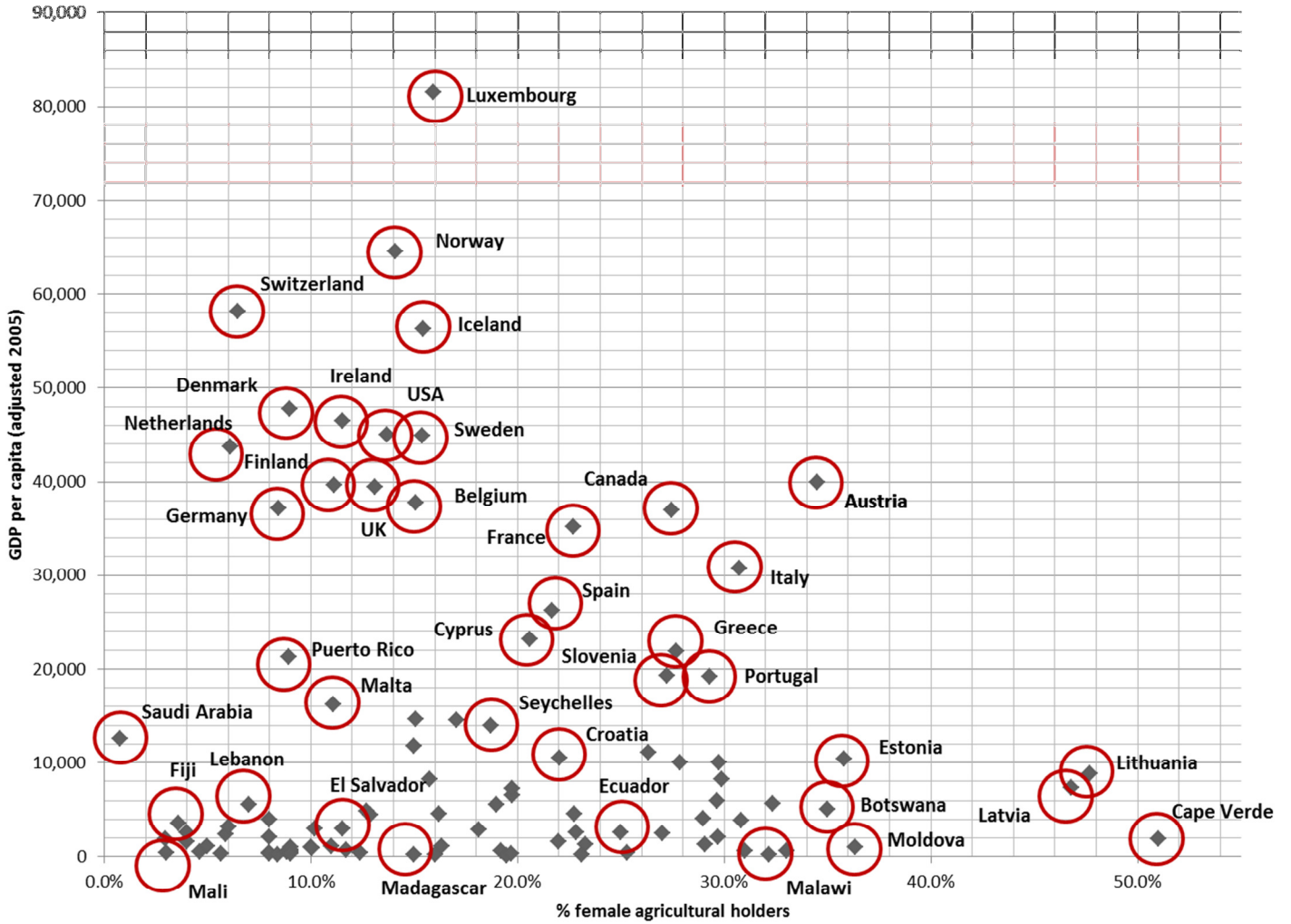
Regional average is weighted with total holders of each country

Table 7: Regional Averages of Agricultural Holders by Sex (Indicator 1)

Regions	pct female holders	# countries
Sub-Saharan Africa	15.4%	20
North America	15.4%	2
Latin America and the Caribbean	18.2%	20
Middle East/North Africa	4.9%	8
Central, East and South Asia	10.9%	14
Europe	27.8%	34
Oceania	9.6%	6
Global	12.8%	104
Developing regions only	12.1%	68

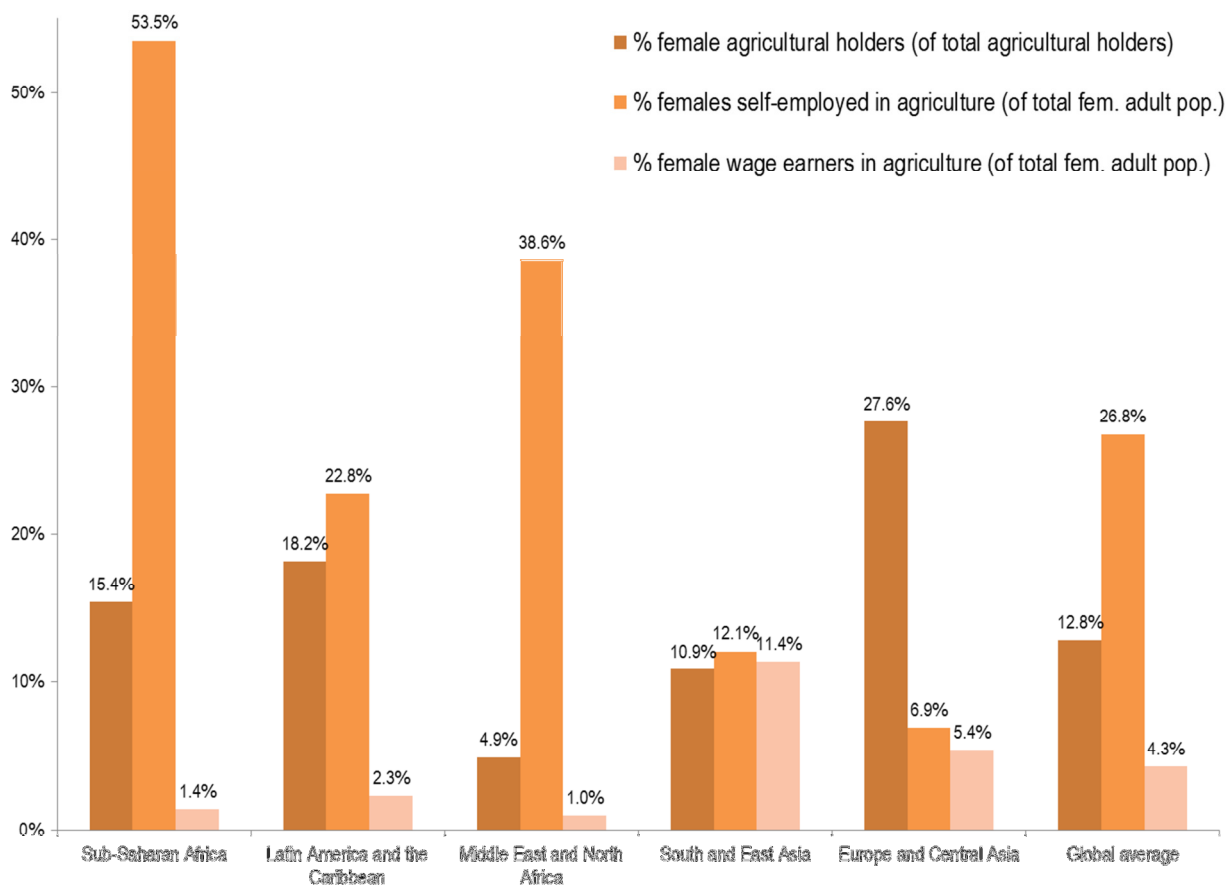
Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database.

Figure 1: Female Agricultural Holders and GDP per Capita



Note: Source data on agricultural holders is from FAO Gender and Land Rights Database (different years from 1990 to 2012); GDP per capita is from WDI, matching each year for which data on holders is available and adjusted to constant 2005 USD values.

Figure 2: Female Agricultural Holders and Female Employment in the Agricultural sector



Note: Source data on agricultural holdings is from FAO Gender and Land Rights Database (different years from 1990 to 2012), using weighted averages; Employment Rates are from FAO, ILO & IFAD 2010 (year 2000 or the nearest year), using unweighted averages.

Table 8: Distribution of Agricultural Landowners and Incidence of Female and Male Agricultural Landowners (Indicators 2 and 3)

Country	survey year	Distribution of landowners			Incidence of landownership by sex				type of tenure
		% female sole	% male sole	% joint	% female (sole or joint)	% female (sole only)	% male (sole or joint)	% male (sole only)	
Sub-Saharan Africa									
Burkina Faso †	2010	-	-	-	32%	12%	54%	43%	Reported ownership
Burundi †	2010	-	-	-	54%	11%	64%	50%	Reported ownership
Ethiopia †	2011	-	-	-	50%	12%	54%	28%	Reported ownership
Ghana	2010	38%	62%	-	8%	-	15%	-	Reported ownership, agricultural land only
Lesotho †	2009	-	-	-	38%	7%	34%	9%	Reported ownership
Malawi †	2010	-	-	-	48%	23%	-	-	Reported ownership
Rwanda †	2010	-	-	-	54%	13%	55%	25%	Reported ownership
Senegal †	2010-2011	-	-	-	11%	5%	28%	22%	Reported ownership
Tanzania †	2010	-	-	-	30%	8%	-	-	Reported ownership
Uganda †	2011	-	-	-	39%	14%	60%	46%	Reported ownership
Zimbabwe †	2010-2011	-	-	-	36%	11%	36%	22%	Reported ownership
Average (unweighted)					36%	12%	44%	31%	
Latin America									
Ecuador	2010	51%	49%	-	7%	-	7%	-	Reported ownership, agricultural land only
Haiti	2001	24%	77%	-	-	-	-	-	Reported ownership
Honduras	2004	14%	86%	-	-	-	-	-	Documented ownership
Mexico	2002	32%	68%	-	-	-	-	-	Reported ownership
Nicaragua	2005	20%	80%	-	-	-	-	-	Documented ownership
Paraguay	2001-2002	27%	70%	3%	-	-	-	-	Documented ownership
Peru	2000	13%	74%	13%	-	-	-	-	Documented ownership
Average (unweighted)		26%	72%						
Asia									
Cambodia	2010	-	-	-	51%	15%	54%	12%	Reported ownership
Nepal	2011	-	-	-	10%	10%	27%	25%	Reported ownership
Bangladesh	2011-2012	23%	77%	-	9%	-	52%	-	Documented ownership
Tajikistan	2007	17%	83%	-	-	4%	-	29%	Documented ownership
Vietnam	2004	37%	63%	-	16%	-	38%	-	Certified land use rights
Average (unweighted)		26%	74%		21%	10%	43%	22%	

Source: Data in FAO Gender and Land Rights Database based on Doss et al. 2015 (Burkina, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe);

Deere et al. 2012 (Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay); Kieran et al. 2015 (Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Vietnam).

Reported ownership is when the survey respondent identifies him-/herself or someone else in household as an owner of land; however, it does not necessarily imply legal ownership.

Documented ownership means that respondent reports that ownership documents exist for the land. Indicators for most countries had low pct of missing values (0-31 observations).

† Incidence of landownership use sample weights provided in the DHS. In Tanzania, the household ownership data included a "don't know" option.

Land indicators for individual ownership in Malawi DHS were only asked to currently married or partnered women resulting in missing information for 7,575 women

while the indicator's data includes a total sample of 15,399 women (from Doss et al. 2015).

Table 9: Distribution of Land Area by Sex and Distribution of Land Value by Sex (Indicators 4 and 5)

Country	survey year	Distribution of land area			Distribution of land value			type of tenure
		% female only	% male only	% joint	% female only	% male only	% joint	
Sub-Saharan Africa								
Ethiopia	2011-2012	15%	45%	39%	-	-	-	Documented ownership
Malawi	2010-2011	40%	42%	18%	39%	39%	23%	Reported ownership
Niger	2011	9%	62%	29%	5%	59%	36%	Reported ownership
Nigeria	2010	4%	87%	9%	10%	78%	11%	Right to sell/use as collateral
Tanzania	2010-2011	16%	44%	39%	18%	45%	37%	Reported ownership
Uganda	2009-2010	18%	34%	48%	15%	34%	51%	Reported ownership
Asia								
Bangladesh	2011-12	10%	88%	2%	-	-	-	Documented ownership
Tajikistan	2007	14%	86%	-	-	-	-	Documented ownership
Vietnam	2004	15%	72%	13%	-	-	-	Certified land use rights

Source: Data in FAO Gender and Land Rights Database based on Doss et al. 2015 (African countries); and Kieran et al. 2015 (Asian countries).

Reported ownership is when the survey respondent identifies him-/herself or someone else in household as an owner of land; however, it does not necessarily imply legal ownership.

Documented ownership means that respondent reports that ownership documents exist for the land.

