



Why Gender Equality

Matters when dealing with governance of land

The eradication of hunger and poverty largely depend on how people, communities and others gain access to land. The livelihoods of many, particularly the rural poor including women, are based on secure and equitable access to and control over land and other natural resources. Land is a source of food and shelter; the basis for social, cultural and religious practices; and a central factor in economic growth.

However, women who on average comprise 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and are heavily involved in food and cash crops production have less access than men to productive resources and opportunities across all regions.

For instance, available data show that women landholders are significantly fewer than male landholders in all regions of the world. Moreover, evidence also reveals that, women who hold land generally have smaller plots, of an inferior quality and with less secure rights.

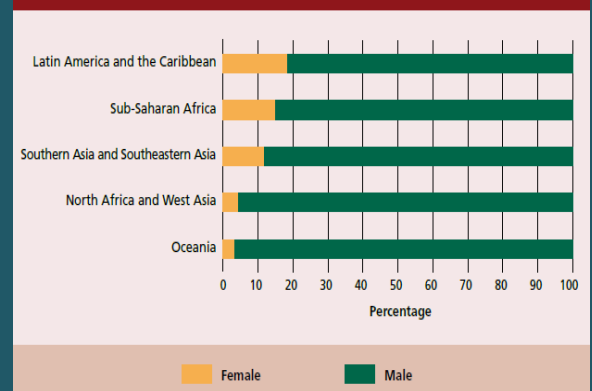
The principle of Gender Equality in the VGGT

The VGGT provide a paramount opportunity for reversing gender inequalities in agriculture and for promoting more gender equitable governance of land tenure.

They highlight the centrality of gender equity and gender equality to the responsible governance of natural resources. Gender equality is one of the 10 principles of implementation of responsible tenure governance.

Gender equality in the VGGT is at the core of all processes and aspects of tenure governance, including policy formulation, institutional set up for administration, service provisioning, land administration programs, access to justice and information.

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 A (Source: FAO, 2010f.)



Key FAO activities to support

the implementation of the

Voluntary Guidelines of the Responsible

Governance of Tenure

Women in general receive less credit than men and are less well-represented in land administration and decision-making institutions than men, affecting their access, use and control over agricultural land.



What FAO is doing to support the implementation of the principle of gender equality of the VGGT?

Improving responsible land governance requires a fundamental change in the way gender is perceived and is mainstreamed in governance work from the field to the policy levels. To this end, FAO is carrying out several initiatives spanning from knowledge generation, development of tools and sex disaggregated data, dissemination of information, multi-stakeholders dialogue promotion, capacity development and technical support to countries.

Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD)

The Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD) was launched by FAO in 2010 to highlight the major political, legal and cultural factors that influence the realisation of women's land rights throughout the world. The GLRD serves as a platform to discuss and provide information about gender and land issues with the support of 83+ Country Profiles, Land Tenure Statistics disaggregated by gender, and a Legislation Assessment Tool for gender-equitable land tenure (LAT).

- **83+ regularly-updated country profiles** that provide information on national policy and legal frameworks related to gender and land rights.
- **Gender and land-related statistics** from national agricultural censuses and household surveys available through maps, tables and graphs.
- **A Legislation Assessment Tool for gender-equitable land tenure (LAT)** to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines of the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).
- **Online discussions on selected topics** in collaboration with the Land Portal and country-level partners.

Legislation Assessment Tool (LAT)

The Legislation Assessment Tool for gender-equitable land tenure (LAT) was developed for the purpose of providing prompt, targeted and effective policy advice and capacity development to FAO's Member countries working towards gender-equitable land tenure.

- **The LAT is built around 30 legal indicators**, divided under 8 clusters of key elements for targeted policy intervention (i.e ratification of human rights instruments, elimination of gender-based discrimination in the constitution, recognition of women's legal capacity; Gender equality in inheritance, among others).

For more information about the **Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD)** and the **LAT** please visit <http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/> write to **Gender-And-Land@fao.org** or contact:

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For more information about the **Gender Equitable Land-related Agriculture Investment Programme** please contact:

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- **The LAT assessments are currently available for 18 countries** : China – Colombia – Ecuador – Ethiopia – Ghana – Guatemala – Kenya – Madagascar – Mali – Mexico – Mongolia – Morocco – Nepal – Nicaragua – Panama – Rwanda – Sierra Leone – Tunisia
- **Field tested in Sierra Leone** in the context of the implementation of the VGGT in the country and other in-country assessments are planned in the future.
- **Dissemination and capacity Development** on applying the LAT to National Legal Frameworks (Training workshops in collaboration with Landesa).

Gender Equitable Land-related Agriculture Investment Programme

The program aims to shed light on the differentiated implications of land related agriculture investments on access, use and control of land and employment/income generation of rural women and men. The purpose is to inform policy makers and relevant stakeholders so that investments that respect women's and men's land rights and equally benefit both of them can be fostered. Key activities in this program are

- **Case studies** on selected land related agriculture investments in seven countries (Ghana, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Philippines, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Zambia)
- **Regional Multi-stakeholder Conferences** in Africa and Asia involving key stakeholders from various sectors, including government, CSO, producer organizations, development partners, private sectors and academia.
- **National Multi-stakeholder Consultations** to influence processes taking place at national level (Ghana).
- **Engendering the Principles of Responsible Agriculture Investments**: one specific principle on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in which land issues are explicitly mentioned

Gender and VGGT Capacity development Programme

- **Gender Technical Guideline**: Governing Land for Women and men to support the implementation of the VGGT. It focuses on five key areas: Policy-making, Legal issues, Institutions, Technical issues and effective message dissemination.
- **E-learning course based on the technical guide** has a modular design which allows learners to build specific skills

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depending on their particular work-related responsibilities and tasks, and/or interests. It will be publicly available by January-February 2015.

- **Blended Learning Program** for actors from various sectors: on-line course, face to face workshops and mentoring (4 countries: Ethiopia, Mongolia, Nepal and South Africa)
- **Training of trainers workshop**

Integrating Gender Equity in Territorial Issues Initiative (IGETI)

IGETI is an approach to the overall question of governance of natural resources to assist stakeholders to promote gender equality in management of natural resources. Government officials; CSOs/ NGOs; field workers and development planners/consultants; researchers and policy makers working at field level are the target audiences of this initiative.

- **IGETI Guidelines** aim to support the enhancement of the capacities of most marginalized groups to face increasing asymmetries of power and information and how these affect participation in decision-making process.
- **IGETI field application:** Angola, Somaliland, Kenya.
- **IGETI adaptation** of the IGETI guidelines taking into account key components such as pastoralist , forestry, climate change and fisheries.

Technical support to countries in the implementation of VGGTs

In the framework of VGGTs implementation, NRL-ESP- LEGN- AGP are currently providing technical support to two projects in Kenya and Somalia founded by EU (GCP/KEN/077/EC; GCP/SOM/054/EC).

Ongoing activities:

- **Ad hoc trainings** on land rights and land basis of Improving Gender Equity in Territorial Issues (IGETI) guidelines.
- **Technical Workshops** on implementation of VGs targeting GoV representatives at national and county level, NGOs .
- **Reinforcement of Technical Government Units** dealing with land delimitation issues.
- **Harmonization and revision of legal framework** related to