

# The Gendered Impact of Agricultural Reform in Rwanda

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# Sources of Information

- Literature, EICV3, Policies and Strategies
- Women and Economic Empowerment funded by Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Evaluation of impact of land reform on women funded by Oxfam
- Mapping Study of Women in Agriculture funded by ACBF
- Baseline Study of Women Farmers in 11 Sectors of Rwanda funded by ActionAid International Rwanda

***The overall agricultural sector goal is to achieve sustainable economic growth and social development leading to the increase and diversification of household incomes and ensuring food and nutritional security for the entire population.***

***If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 per cent. This could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4 per cent , which could in turn reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 per cent (Food and Agricultural Organisation 2010, p 40).***

# Food Security in Rwanda

- Potential for food security (Actionaid2011 Scorecard)
- 24% population in extreme poverty (EICV3)
- 4% poor food consumption, 17% borderline, 51% food access issues (CFSVS 2012)
- 44% children under 5 stunted, 11% underweight, 3% wasted

EICV3 no evidence women headed HH poorer than male ones. Single parent mother HH at greatest risk of poverty

CFSVS – female headed households greater risk of poor and borderline food consumption

Issue of allocation of resources in HHs

# General Issues

- High dependency on agricultural employment – about 75% of workers but over 90% of households derive some ‘income’ from agriculture
- Degradation of land etc – erosion and soil fertility e.g. 40% high erosion risk
- Size of farms and of plots – 84% cultivating HHs farm less than 0.9hc
- Traditional farming methods and lack of use of modern inputs
- Mainly subsistence farming
- Climate change

# Gender and Equality

- UN Declaration on Human Rights
- Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Optional Protocol to the African Charter of Human and People's Rights for Women's Rights in Africa
- Ratified and domesticated Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme and Muputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa
- 2003 Constitution, Vision 2020, EDPRS 1 & 2, PSTA1, 2, 3
- Gender Based Violence , Employment & Land Laws
- Agricultural Gender Strategy
- Gender Responsive Budgeting
- National Gender Cluster
- Decentralisation Policy

Policy –implementation gap

# Women in Agriculture

- Independent farmers – generally widowed, divorced or single women
- Dependent family workers – wives, daughters or other relative of independent farmer

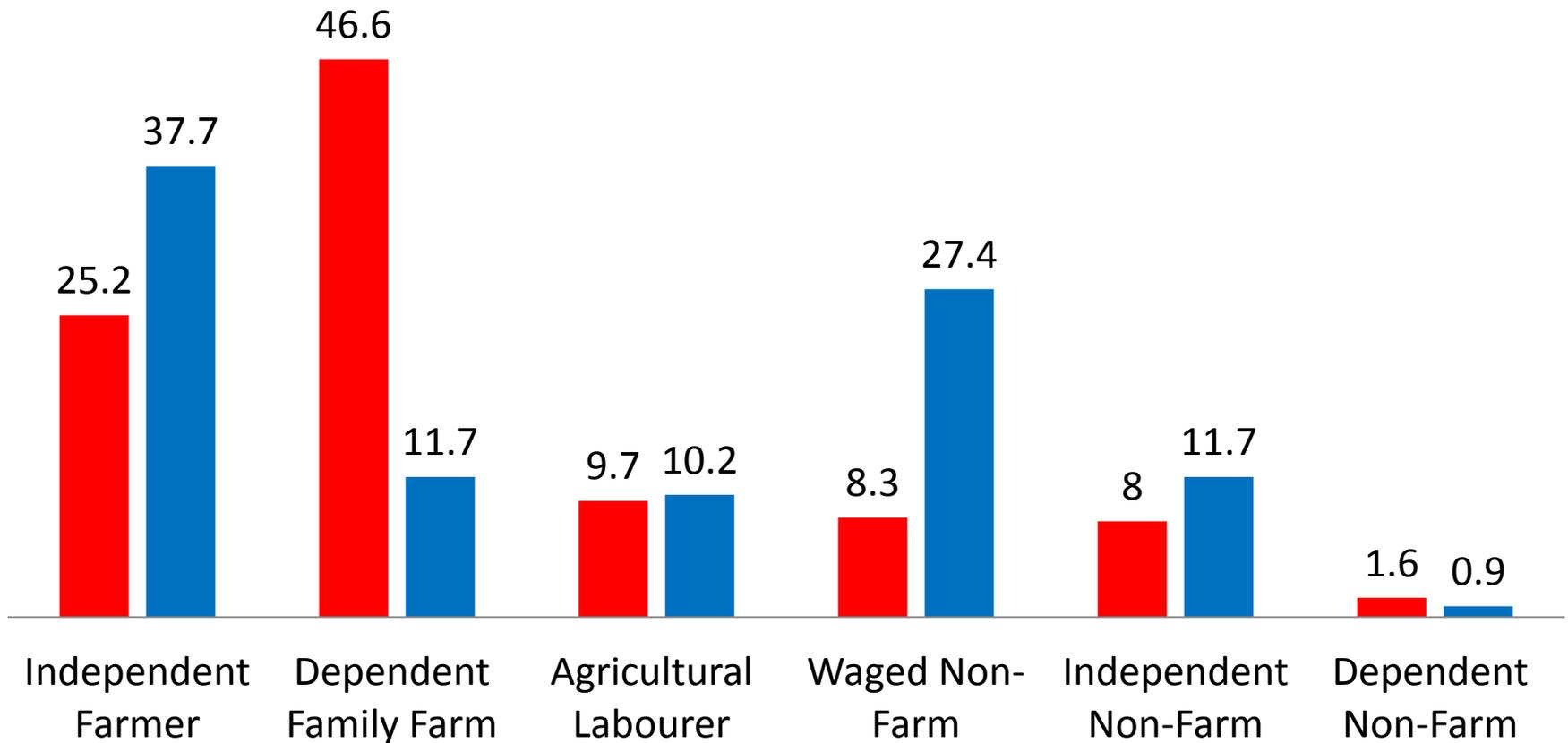
There are few if any gender differences between male and female headed farming households – e.g. poverty levels, crops grown, animals kept, involvement in land consolidation and crop specialisation, use of fertilizers and improved seeds.

# Women in Agriculture

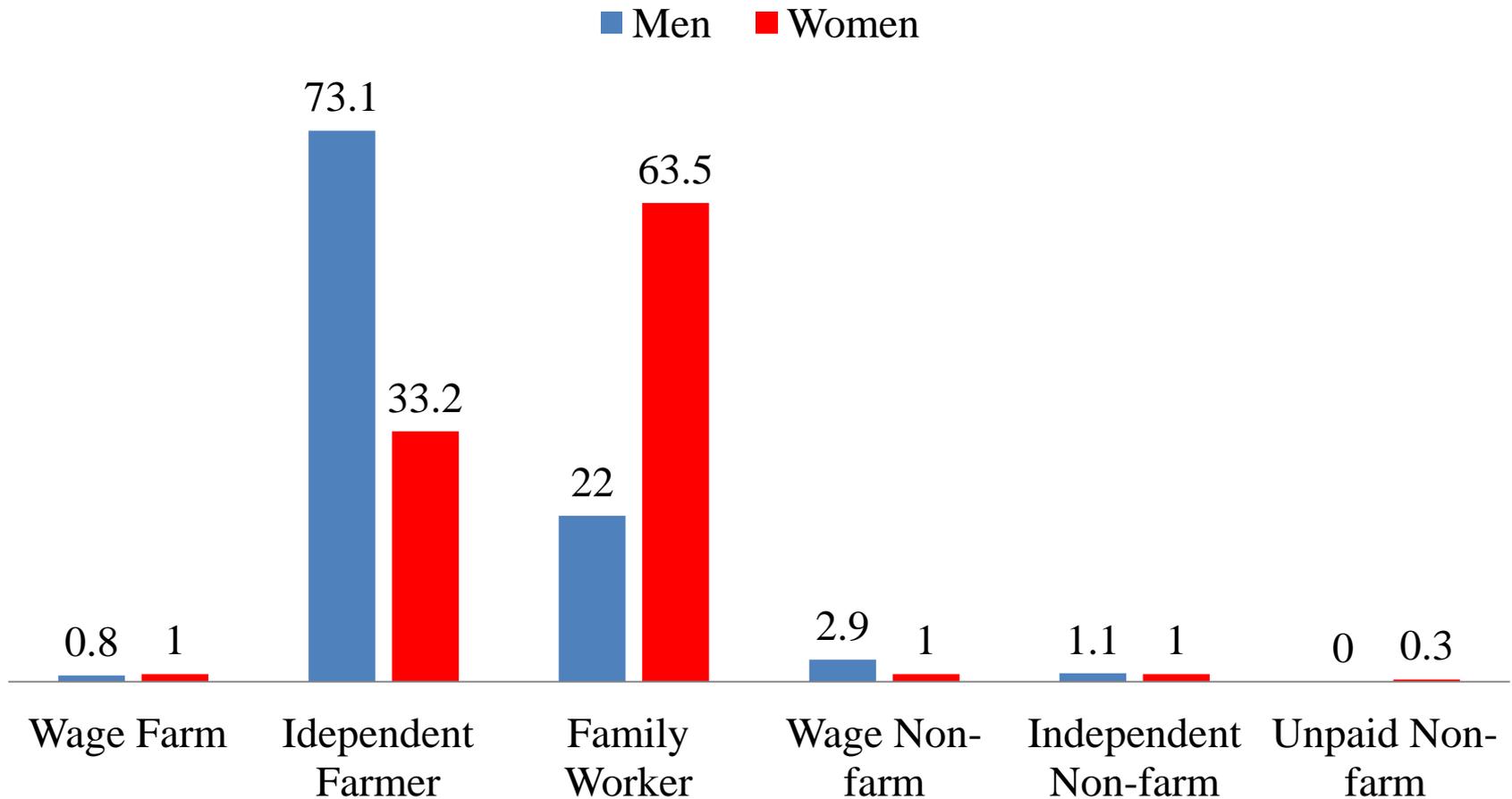
- Women more heavily concentrated in agriculture than men
- Women more likely to be dependent family workers and less likely than men to be the independent farmer
- Men are mainly responsible for marketing , herding , milking and land clearance
- Women are mainly responsible for land preparation, sowing , weeding and hoeing, collecting fodder, storage and processing.
- Women are generally seen as producing food for the table while men have control over cash crops
- Women work longer hours in agriculture than men even before account is taken of domestic work
- Men/head of HH generally control financial resources and dominate decision making - many claim decision making is joint but conflict is said to be common.

# Employment Women and Men 2010/11

■ Women ■ Men



# Main Employment of Men and women that Cultivate their Own Farm 2010/11



# Responsibility for Sale of Crops

	Person Mainly Responsible for Selling Small-Scale Crops Regularly	Person Mainly Responsible for Selling Small-Scale Crops Occasionally	Person Mainly Responsible for Selling Large-Scale Crops Regularly	Proportion of All Persons 16+
HH Head	89.1	89.6	89.5	38.3
Spouse of HH Head	8.0	8.4	8.3	25.5
Son/ Daughter	1.9	1.5	1.7	25.4
Other	1.0	0.5	0.5	10.9

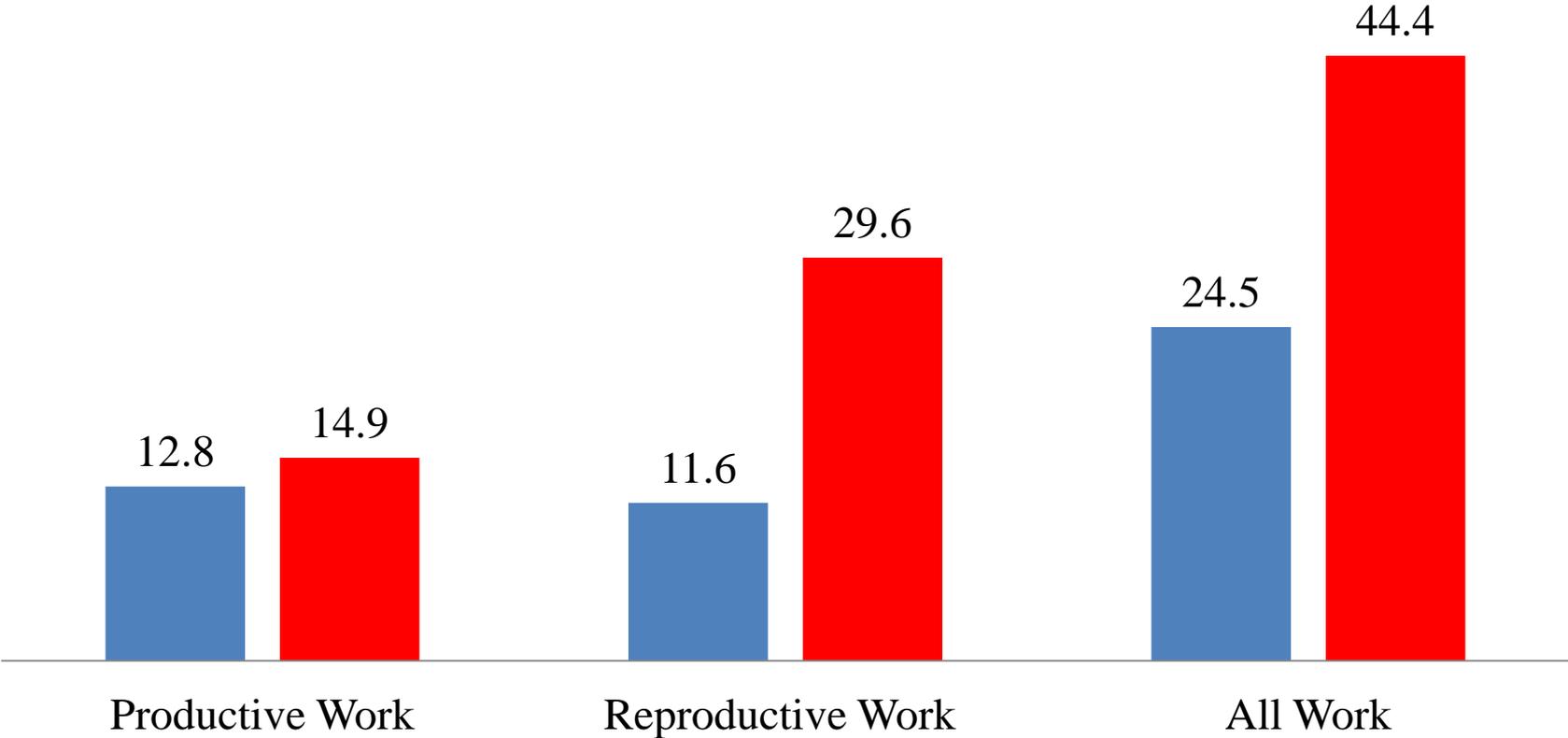
# Gendered Experience of Agricultural Workers

- Women work significant longer hours than men because of their responsibilities for reproductive work
- Women are seen as responsible for the welfare of the family including producing food for the table
- Men dominate decision making and control finances

Government policies to encourage crop specialisation and selling of surplus to purchase food may reduce women's ability to ensure that there is sufficient food for the family.

# Average Hours Worked by Men and Women Employed in Agriculture 2010/11

■ Men ■ Women



# Main Findings

- Rwanda has made a strong commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women
- The decentralisation policy ensures that all Rwandans are involved in the planning process and the implementation of policy and the Women's National Council ensures representation of women at all administrative levels.
- The Government has increased the budget for agriculture and it is now in line with its commitments to CAADP, there is a commitment to gender-responsive budgeting.
- increase in the sale of agricultural products and a reduction in rural poverty due both to the increased sale of agricultural surpluses and the increase in women as well as men having more than one source of income.
- Women have benefitted from investment in improved inputs, land conservation and land consolidation, crop specialisation and Grinka.
- Women have benefited from increased access to radios and mobile phones and improvements in educational and health provision.

- A shortage of land means that most farming families have inadequate land to support a household. Women have less access to land than men and married women's access to land is still generally through their husbands.
- Patriarchal attitudes remain pervasive, especially in rural areas, and women tend to be submissive and defer to men. Men tend to make decisions about crops to be grown and to take control over income from the sale of crops.
- Most interventions are targeted at the household, which tends to mean that men benefit disproportionately from interventions.
- Policies of land consolidation and crop specialisation have a differential impact on men and women. Women are responsible for feeding the family and growing commercial crops can have a negative impact on their ability to do so.
- Access to subsidised seeds and fertilisers is low for men and women small farmers and there seems to be little gender difference in access, but male small farmers are more likely to get support from agricultural extension workers than female ones.

- There is low labour productivity but women work considerably longer hours than men when account is taken of reproductive work as well as productive labour. Farm work, which is done mainly by women, remains highly labour intensive, with only hand tools available. There is little pre-school provision in rural areas and women smallholder farmers lack the skills to set up nursery schools or the resources to pay for their children to attend them.
- Infrastructure is poor, women have to walk long distances to collect water and wood and taking goods to market is time-consuming.
- The combination of reproductive and productive work done by women limits the time they have to generate income or for leisure and relaxation.
- There is a policy implementation gap; too few officials are trained in gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting. The budget in agriculture is not gender-sensitive and a majority of agricultural extension workers are men.

- Illiteracy and lack of skills are major barriers to women in agriculture benefiting from policies and interventions.
- Access to financial services is a major problem for women. Men have benefitted disproportionately from Government interventions to increase financial inclusion. However, take-up of formal financial credit is low for men and women and is used mainly to meet daily living needs. There is little evidence that women or men in agriculture are borrowing to invest in improved farming methods.
- Women have difficulty in getting their voice heard in local decision making. Women tend not to be consulted by local leaders and decisions at a local level are made by the district administration, which tends to be male dominated.

- There is a lack of high-quality gender-disaggregated data.
- Much of the data that are available come from small-scale qualitative research that uses purposive sampling. Often women from the poorest communities are selected to participate in the research and no comparative male sample is selected.
- The main surveys that provide high-quality data are run only every five years and the reports do not always provide an analysis best suited to inform policy. The gender report for EICV -3 indicates that gender-disaggregated data will be included in the agricultural report for a number of issues but the latter report has no gender-disaggregated data.
- The GMO 2013 Report is a compilation of statistical data from other reports, mainly EICV3 and RDHS. On a number of issues it fails to provide gender-disaggregated data because the reports on which it draws did not analyse the data separately for men and women. This is not always because of inadequate sample size.

# Main Recommendations Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

- Undertake a gender mainstreaming and impact analysis of the revised Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan before it is finalised;
- Ensure that the Gender Budget Statements in agriculture is based on a gender analysis and allocate funding to ensure that women benefit as well as men;
- Specifically target the number of women that should benefit from agricultural training events and ensure that women that are categorised as dependent family workers benefit from training;
- Ensure that there is adequate representation of women on all agricultural policy and implementing bodies at national and local levels;
- Ensure that women are included in consultations re agricultural planning and budgeting at local and national levels;
- Ensure that agricultural extension workers are trained in gender awareness and sensitivity so that they can work with women in agriculture as well as men
- Ensure that local and national officials understand the need to balance the use of land for commercial crops with growing crops for the table.

# Main Recommendations – Other Ministries

## **Ministry of Education**

- Put in place strategies to ensure that poor rural communities are supported in providing pre-school provision;
- Ensure that women in rural areas have access to literacy classes;
- Ensure that women in rural areas have access to TVET including opportunities to learn vocational skills;
- Ensure that strategies are put in place to encourage more girls into science and engineering and specifically agriculture at higher and further education levels.

## **Ministry of Health**

- Continue to sensitise women to the nutritional needs of their family including infants and young children and to the importance of kitchen gardens;
- Ensure that the unmet need for family planning is met and sensitise women in rural areas to the advantages of limiting their family size

## **Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning**

- Consider re-introducing a women's guarantee fund to ensure that women benefit from credit;
- Annex a Gender Impact Statement to the Government Budget submitted to Parliament and require the spending ministries to publish their gender budget statements;
- Require that all sector strategic plans and implementation strategies are gender mainstreamed before they are finalised;
- Ensure that all monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategic plans and budgets is fully gender-informed.

# Other Ministries Con.

## **Ministry of Local Government**

- Ensure that local officials are sensitised and trained so that women are involved in all consultations at local level;
- Ensure that there is better representation of women amongst appointed local government officials;
- Put in place strategies to promote the employment of women as agricultural extension workers

## **Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion**

- Put in place mechanisms for building the confidence of women in rural areas and ensure that they are sensitised to their rights;
- Continue to work with men and boys as well as women and girls to reduce the incidence of gender based violence.

## **National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda and the Gender Monitoring Office**

- Ensure that gender- and location-disaggregated data are collected and reported on;
- Ensure that the analysis of survey data such as EICV and RDHS is carried out so that the reports can fully support gender-informed policy development and implementation.

# Others

## Development Partners

- DPs as members of Sector Working Groups should ensure that they encourage the Government to produce gender mainstreamed policies , strategies and budgets that are responsive to the differential needs of men and women and to the needs of women in agriculture.

## NGOs

- NGOs should work with CSOs to hold the Government accountable for its commitment to gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting;
- NGOs should continue to use a rights-based approach to development and sensitise men as well as women to women's rights.