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# Women and sustainable agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa

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3<sup>rd</sup> African Young Water Professional's Forum (Af-YWPF)



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Palmer photography, Kenya

# Introduction

- ✓ On Average women share of agricultural labour in Sub Sharan Africa is 40% (FAO, 2011).
- ✓ It is slightly above 50% in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda, and substantially lower in Nigeria (37%), Ethiopia (29%), and Niger (24%) (FAO, 2011; Palacios-Lopez et al., 2017).
- ✓ More than 12-13 hours than men per week (FAO, 2011; Nhamo et al., 2020).



Mitchell Maher/IFPRI

# Challenges

- ✓ Closing the gender gap require
  - Land rights
  - Access to finance and agricultural inputs (Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) (Mehra and Hill Rojas, 2008)
  - Decision making (Doss et al., 2018; FAO, 2011; Marenya and Rahut, 2019; Nhamo et al., 2020)
- ✓ Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa is 2-4 times effective to reduce poverty (FAO, 2011).
- ✓ Women reinvest up to 90% of their earnings back into their households (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2019; FAO, 2011)

# Subsistence to sustainable production

- ✓ Joint ownership of land in Ethiopia (Girma and Giovarelli, 2010).
- ✓ Conservation agricultural practice in the form of sustainable intensification of Maize legume systems implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda (Marenya and Rahut, 2019).
- ✓ Provision of agricultural information and resources through rural groups and improving cultural norms in the case of Niger Delta (Uduji et al., 2019).
- ✓ African women are also helping each other, with a growing number of women's organizations, such as microfinance groups, working to improve access to financial services, new technologies, and information.



CIMMYT , 2019

# Conclusions

"I make an urgent appeal to grant women access to four major factors of production: land, agricultural inputs and equipment, financial resources and agricultural infrastructures. In this way, we will address the challenges of hunger and poverty that have a feminine face all over the world. "

A. Sika Kabore, First Lady of Burkina Faso

"Achieving gender equality and empowering women is not only the right thing to do; it is a crucial ingredient in the fight against poverty and hunger".

José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General

"It is only through empowering women farmers that we can unlock the power of global food systems. Supporting them is essential in creating resilience, building stronger businesses, and advancing food security in the long term".

Denise Brown, Director of Emergencies, WFP

"Closing the gender gaps in agriculture can provide multiple development dividends, including gender equality for rural women, food security and poverty reduction, improved climate management and peaceful societies".

María Noel Vaeza, UN Women Programme Director

"It is not enough for our work to "include" women: it must empower women – economically, socially and politically. Poor rural women deserve more money, more status and more decision-making power both at home and in the community. With these in hand, they can drive sustainable, transformational change".

Kanayo F.Nwanze, President of IFAD



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# Thank You



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