

Women farmers
make up



60%

of employed women
in Sub-Saharan Africa.

YET, FEWER WOMEN THAN MEN IN AFRICA OWN

OR HAVE SECURE RIGHTS TO THE LAND THEY CULTIVATE.

ON AVERAGE, MEN CONTROL A HIGHER

PROPORTION OF LAND THAN WOMEN.

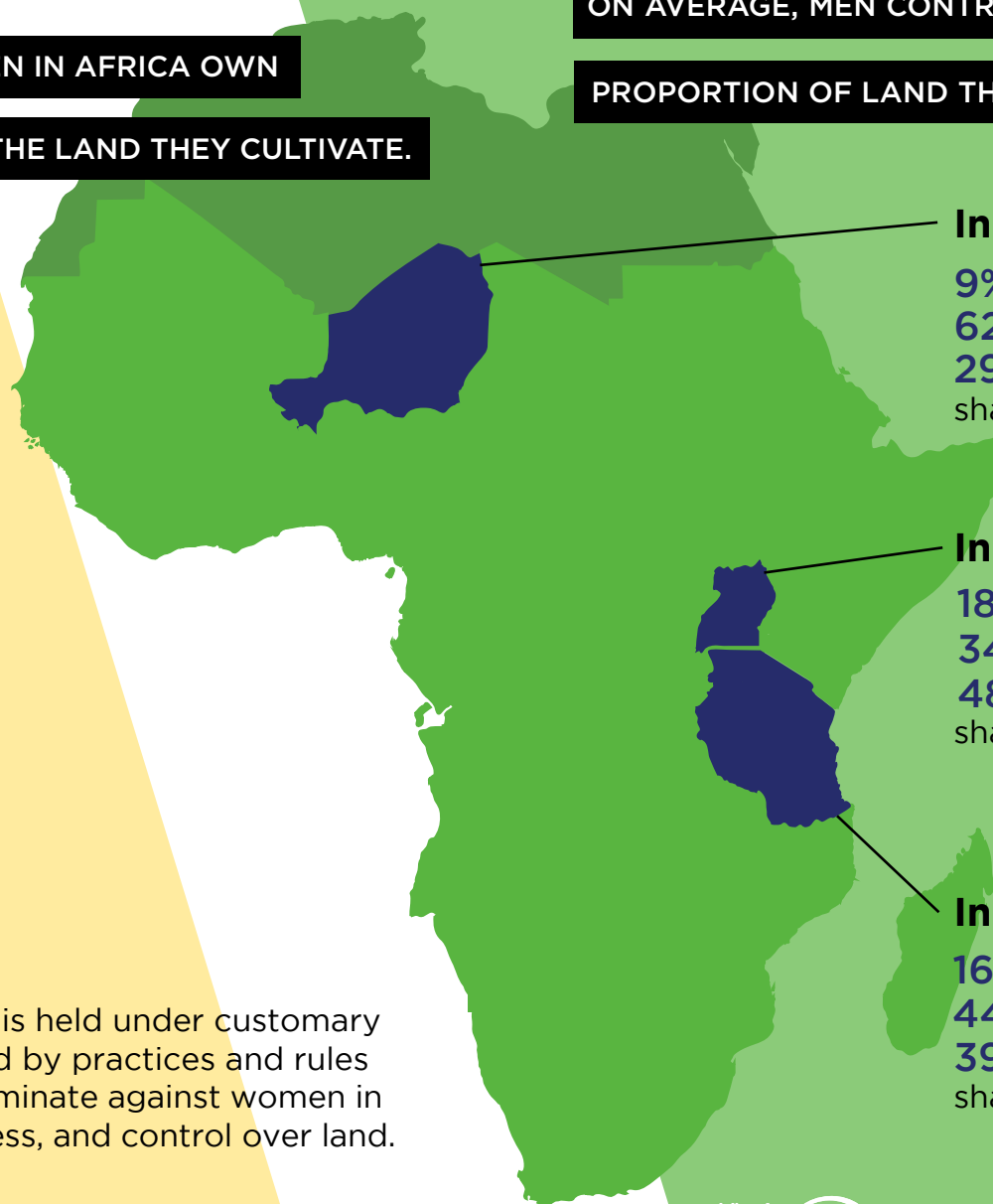
A 2010-11 STUDY
OF 10 AFRICAN
COUNTRIES FOUND
THAT ON AVERAGE

12% of women
31% of men
owned agricultural
land individually

39% of women
48% of men
owned land either
solely or jointly

Nearly
80%

of land in Africa is held under customary
tenure, governed by practices and rules
that often discriminate against women in
inheritance, access, and control over land.



**WOMEN'S LAND:
CLOSING THE GENDER GAP
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**



FOR SOURCES, VISIT WWW.LANDESA.ORG/RESOURCES/WLR-AFRICA



GOVERNMENTS HAVE PLEDGED TO UPHOLD GENDER EQUALITY IN THEIR

CONSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES, BUT LAWS FAIL TO FULFILL THESE PROMISES.

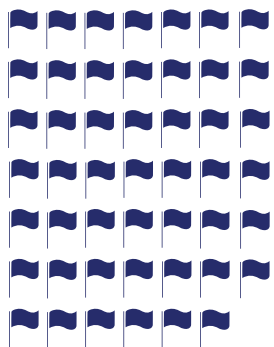
In Sub-Saharan Africa:

All

48

Countries

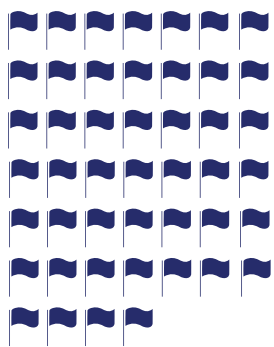
include some gender equality guarantees in their national constitutions.



46

Countries

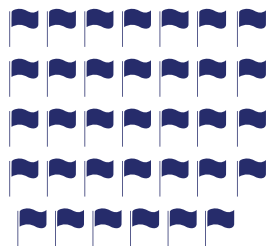
have ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (CEDAW)



34

Countries

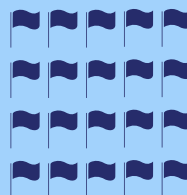
have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.



Yet, women's land rights are specifically protected under the law in

20

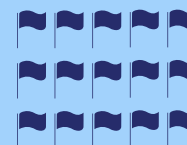
Countries



Land under customary tenure is exempt from gender equitable inheritance laws in

15

Countries



Women are explicitly entitled to co-ownership of land through marriage in

5

Countries



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WOMEN ARE ROUTINELY MARGINALIZED IN LAND GOVERNANCE,

EVEN WHERE LAWS CALL FOR THEIR INCLUSION IN DECISION-MAKING.

Under **Tanzanian** law, at least **25%** of the seats in village councils must be held by women.

TANZANIA

In **Uganda**, the 1998 Land Law Reform guaranteed minimum representation for women in key decision-making institutions on land and natural resources.

UGANDA

In **Ethiopia**, Land Administration Committees, which are responsible for field-based land registration and certification, require inclusion of at least one female member.



ETHIOPIA

However, quorum rules do not account for gender, making it possible to conduct meetings without women councilors in attendance.

However, women make up just **4%** of chairpersons of District Land Boards.

However, because social norms often dictate that women should remain at home to care for their families, women's participation is quite low.

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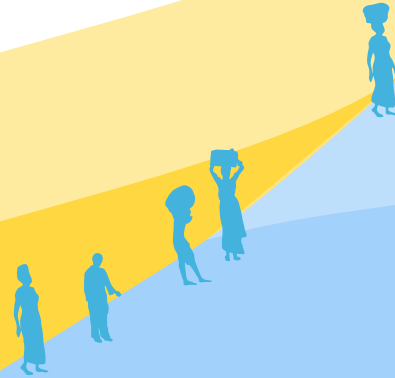
RURAL WOMEN AND LAND RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

RIISING UP TO CLOSE THE GENDER GAP IN LAND

THE AFRICAN UNION
LAND POLICY INITIATIVE'S
CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S
LAND OWNERSHIP CALLS FOR

30%

OF LAND IN WOMEN'S
NAMES BY 2025.



The **Kilimanjaro Initiative** has mobilized rural women and advocates, culminating in an iconic climb up Africa's highest peak by women from more than 20 countries to demand equal land rights. The African Union formally endorsed their grassroots-fed Charter of Demands to actualize women's land rights in Africa.

The **Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights** is building a network through its Visiting Professionals Program, to facilitate collaboration between women's land rights experts throughout the region and across the world.

The **Deliver for Good** campaign is building a movement to fuel concrete action and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including a focus on the importance of land rights for women, at the global and country levels.



To learn more, please visit
landesa.org/womensland.

To learn more and join the campaign,
please visit deliverforgood.org.

WOMEN'S LAND: CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

PART
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