

Closing the Gender Gap in Land Rights: Helping Women Grow a Better Future



AROUND THE WORLD, WOMEN FARMERS HAVE LESS ACCESS THAN MEN TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES¹

FERTILIZER & SEEDS



In Ghana

Women farmers are nearly 40% less likely to apply fertilizer, likely due to resource constraints²

EDUCATION & EXTENSION SERVICES



In India

Women-headed households with land are more than 25% less likely to receive an extension service visit³

FINANCIAL SERVICES



In Kenya

Women farmers are more than three times less likely to obtain formal credit⁴

LIVESTOCK



In Nicaragua

Women are over five times less likely to be the individual owner of household cattle⁵

LAND

Currently, women are less likely to:

Have secure rights to own, control, or access land

Have plots of the same quality or size



IF WOMEN HAD THE SAME ACCESS TO NON-LAND RESOURCES AND SERVICES AS MEN, THAT COULD:⁶

Increase yields on women's land by

20 - 30 percent



Raise total agricultural output in developing countries by

2.5 - 4 percent



Reduce the number of hungry people in the world by

100 - 150 million



Improve household nutrition, health, and education outcomes



SECURE LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN CAN INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVE HOUSEHOLD WELFARE.⁷

SO IF WOMEN HAD EQUAL RIGHTS TO LAND:

How much more would yields increase?



How much more would agricultural output increase?



How many millions fewer people would be hungry?



What other social and economic benefits would accrue?



*Help women feed their families and feed the world.
Support women's secure rights to land.*



¹ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011: Women in Agriculture - Closing the Gender Gap for Development* (2011), pp. 23-38.

² Doss, C. and Morris, M. "How Does Gender Affect the Adoption of Agricultural Innovations? The Case of Improved Maize Technology in Ghana," *Agricultural Economics*, 25(1): 27-39 (suggesting that difference in adoption of chemical fertilizer results from gender-linked differences in access to complementary inputs such as land and extension services) (2001), p. 30.

³ World Bank and IFPRI, *Gender and Governance in Rural Services: Insights from India, Ghana and Ethiopia* (2010), p.107.

⁴ Saito, K., et al. "Raising the Productivity of Women Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa," *World Bank Research Report*, 1(1): 1-110 (1994), p. 95.

⁵ Deere, C., et al. "Gender Inequality in Asset Ownership in Latin America: Female Owners vs. Household Heads," *Development and Change*, 43(2): 505-530 (2012), p. 518.

⁶ FAO, *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011*, p. 42.

⁷ Giovarelli, R. and Wamalawa, B., *USAID Issue Brief: Land Tenure, Property Rights, and Gender* (2011), p. 2-3.