

GAFSP



global agriculture & food security program

HOW DO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE INTERVENTIONS HAVE AN IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY?

ANSWER: empowerment of female farmers, the creation of on-farm and off-farm jobs in rural areas, and the enhancement of women's and girls' nutritional status.



How does GAFSP encourage gender equality?

ANSWER: By addressing gender analysis during investment preparation, inclusion of gender actions, and gender-disaggregated monitoring and evaluation. As well as increasing the number of female smallholder farmers and the development of gender diagnostic tools and relevant trainings.

Women account for at least 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries.

Women are key players in the agriculture sector in Africa: 60–80 percent of economically active women work in agriculture, making it the largest employer of women.

In Sub-Saharan African, women represent 40 percent of the agricultural labor force.

60-80%

40%

ENCOURAGING GENDER EQUALITY

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) directly supports the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including **SDG5: encouraging gender equality**.

Beyond increasing productivity and linking farmers to markets, sustainable agriculture interventions of GAFSP have an impact on gender equality-related issues such as the empowerment of female farmers, the creation of on-farm and off-farm jobs in rural areas, and the enhancement of women's and girls' nutritional status.



Hunger and food security remain bigger challenges for women and girls, who are often literally the “last to eat” at mealtime. Despite their high participation in the agricultural workforce, most of these women have very little decision-making power even within their own households in many countries. Studies also indicate that women produce 25–30 percent less than their male counterparts, largely due to limited land tenure rights and lack of access to farm inputs, equipment, and information. If women globally had the same access to productive resources and information as men do, they could increase the yields on their farms by 20–30 percent, thereby raising incomes and reducing the number of people facing hunger by up to 12–17 percent.

If women had the same access to productive resources and information as men do:



20-30%
increase in overall
farm yields

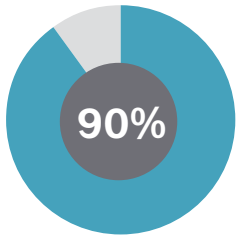


12-17%
decrease in people
facing hunger

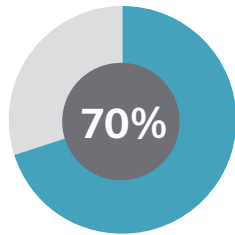
43%

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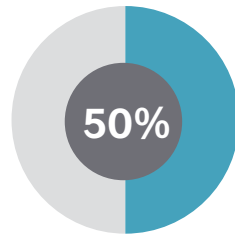




Almost 90 percent of GAFSP Public Sector Window projects address elements of good gender mainstreaming for public investment projects: gender analysis during preparation, inclusion of gender actions, and gender-disaggregated monitoring and evaluation.



Overall, GAFSP Public Sector Window projects have a high proportion of women beneficiaries—as high as 70 percent in Nepal



and at or above 50 percent in The Gambia, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia.



In **Malawi**, the Smallholder Irrigation and Value Addition project supports farmer-based groups to include a larger quota of women in management, training, community representation and decision making, and other income-generating activities. To achieve this, the project provides training to cooperatives to increase the leadership and participation of women in local farmers' groups. Women are also the main targets for nutrition campaigns carried out by the project to prepare food in ways to preserve their nutritional value as well as for campaigns on malaria/HIV-AIDS to increase awareness of prevention measures and treatments.

In **Ethiopia**, the Agriculture Growth Project has strengthened institutional capacity building to promote gender equality by developing Common Interest Groups that have worked to ensure substantive presence of women farmers. With program support, these primary cooperatives have undertaken wider and stronger collective action on a range of services, including input and output marketing and financial services. The project also ensured formal sector-wide gender mainstreaming by regularly conducting gender- and youth-focused consultations and engaging women at all levels of cooperative governance structure.



MALAWI



ETHIOPIA

GAFSP projects

GAFSP projects encompass a range of good practices, working to make agriculture technology, extension, and other interventions more gender-sensitive; ensuring women's equitable access to income-generating activities and employment; promoting women's leadership and decision making in farmers' organizations and self-help groups; ensuring women's equitable access to agriculture-related productive assets and training opportunities; and raising awareness of women in improved nutrition, food preparation, and feeding practices.

GAFSP Private Sector Window

The GAFSP Private Sector Window has also been working to improve gender equality, increasing the number of female smallholder farmers participating in GAFSP investments through the development of gender diagnostic tools and relevant trainings. The Private Sector Window's investment in Cambodia helped increase agribusiness small and medium-size enterprise micro lending and loan portfolio to women, enabling Cambodian women to support their businesses, purchase food for their families, and send their children to school.



About GAFSP

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) is a multilateral mechanism to assist in the implementation of pledges made by the G8++ at the L'Aquila Summit in July 2009 and set up in response to a request from the G20 in Pittsburgh in September 2009. Its objective is to address the underfunding of country and regional agriculture and food security strategic investment plans already being developed by countries in consultation with donors and other stakeholders at the country level.

GAFSP helps farmers to achieve substantial income gains, to be food-secure, and ultimately to be "market-ready" and share in the gains of local growth and development by

investing in a wide range of opportunities across five key components:

- raising agricultural productivity;
- linking farmers to markets;
- improving non-farm rural livelihoods;
- reducing risk and vulnerability;
- and providing technical assistance, institution building, and capacity development.

GAFSP is a funding mechanism that channels funds to stakeholders in different ways, adapted to their need: to countries through their governments, and to private sector enterprises and agribusiness through innovative financing packages. GAFSP is also testing ways to channel funds more

directly to farmer organizations with the support of partners, through its Missing Middle Initiative.

The decision-making body of GAFSP is its Steering Committee, which includes an equal number of donor countries and recipient representatives as voting members. Other stakeholders on the Committee include GAFSP's supervising entities (ADB, AfDB, FAO, IFAD, IFC, IDB, World Bank, and WFP), civil society organizations (from both North and South), and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General.

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