

WOMEN & land management

In Asia, while women play central roles in the use, management and conservation of forest resources and agricultural lands, they are often excluded from land management decision-making. Customary practices and widespread perceptions that the forest and land-related sectors are more “suitable for men” result in women’s lack of opportunities to take part in landscape decision-making, lack of access to financial services, and lack of ownership of land.

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This infographic builds on the Regional Dialogue on Women’s Inclusion in Landscape Management, organized by WOCAN in-partnership with RECOFTC and The Forests Dialogue, 7-9 Oct. 2014, Thailand



VOICE

Women are under-represented in forestry organizations, which limits their opportunities to influence forest-related decisions. **For example, in Cambodia, women comprise less than 10% of officers in government forestry agencies.**¹

LAND

Women continue to be disadvantaged because of their insecure access to and limited property rights over forests, trees and land—**only 10.7% of women in Asia own land on average.**²



RESOURCES

Only 10% of total international development assistance expenditures for agriculture, forestry and fishing-related activities reaches women.³

What would happen if WOMEN HAD THE SAME ACCESS AND CONTROL of land, forests and water as men?

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ WOULD INCREASE

If women had the same access as men to technologies that reduce their workloads, **they could increase their engagement in income generating activities, which will benefit their families, rural economies and national growth.**

FOOD SECURITY WOULD INCREASE

When women and men’s complementary experiences are considered, **the result is more efficient decisions about land use management.**⁵

If women had the same access to productive resources (land, quality seeds, technologies, financial and extension services, etc) as men, **they could increase yields on their farms by 20–30 percent.**⁴

NATURAL RESOURCES WOULD BE USED MORE SUSTAINABLY

WHAT CAN WE DO?

For women to have equal access and control of land, forest and water, we must use a gender-responsive approach to land management. This includes:

- ✓ Collect and analyze gender disaggregated data to better understand women and men’s concerns, challenges and opportunities and design gender responsive initiatives.
- ✓ Build financial and technical capacities of agriculture and forest sector public and private stakeholders to include women in their decisions and interventions on land use and supply chains.
- ✓ Review and revise legal frameworks and investment strategies related to land rights, forests, water, energy and agriculture to integrate women’s concerns.
- ✓ Foster knowledge sharing, management and dissemination about women’s concerns related to landscape management.
- ✓ Include women in certification schemes (e.g. Forest Stewardship Certification and Fairtrade) and specifically apply the W+ Standard to measure women’s empowerment.
- ✓ Build cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platforms to drive innovative gender-responsive landscape approaches and collaboration.

¹ Setyowati, A., 2012. *Policy Brief: How Bringing gender Perspectives into REDD+ Policies Could Enhance Effectiveness and Empowerment*. [pdf] WOCAN. Available at: http://www.wocan.org/system/tdf/WOCAN_How%20Bringing%20Gender%20Perspectives.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=602

² FAO, 2011. *The State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture - Closing the gender gap for development*. [pdf] FAO. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

³ Farming First, 2013. *The female face of farming*. [online] Available at: http://www.farmingfirst.org/women_infographic/

⁴ FAO, 2011. *The State of Food and Agriculture. Women in Agriculture - Closing the gender gap for development*. [pdf] FAO. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

⁵ The Forest Dialogue, 2013. *Scoping dialogue in Nepal – The exclusion and inclusion of women in the forest sector*. [pdf] TFD. Available at: <http://www.wocan.org/resources/tfd-co-chairs-summary-report-scoping-dialogue-exclusion-inclusion-women-forest-sector>