Drivers of land degradation are not gender-neutral

Globally, women make up 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force but they tend to have smaller farms on more marginal lands and less access to technical information and credit facilities.

Less than 20 per cent of land holders worldwide are women.

Only 13 per cent of the land users who make the major decisions on agricultural land are women.

Only 15 per cent of agricultural extension officers are women.

Twice as many women suffer from malnutrition as men, and girls are twice as likely to die from malnutrition as boys.

Women are agents of innovation and change for sustainable land management

Gender equality in agriculture alone can increase yields on women’s farms by 20-30 per cent and total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4 per cent.

Uganda
After women adopted sustainable land management techniques, they constantly produce surplus food. Now they seek government expertise on how to enter food trade.

Morocco
Women’s participation in a regional project to restore degrading oases motivated them to participate in local governance. In the first year, 12 women became representatives of three communities.

India
A 4-year land restoration project with community and gender-driven interventions resulted a 10 per cent increase in livelihood opportunities.

Ethiopia
Devolving the allocation of titles to local governments through certificates has encouraged women to apply for and own land.

Land-based gender empowerment in action

Closing gender gaps in all areas related to land use could raise national outputs.

Ensure women’s participation and interests are reflected in all land-related government programs and projects.

Identify and empower social mobilizers to motivate women’s participation, mentor them in leadership and provide expert advice on sustainable land management.

Provide incentives such as financing to support large-scale pilot and trail-blazing projects focused on gender parity.

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