



CSAM

Centre for Sustainable
Agricultural Mechanization



NIAAM

10th Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific

Gender Mainstreaming in Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

28-30 November 2023; Shanghai, China

Women in Agrifood Systems: Challenges and Opportunities

Jinyi Wang
Programme Analyst
UN Women China

About UN Women

UN Women is the global champion for gender equality, working to develop and uphold standards and create an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise her rights and live up to her full potential.

UN Women is the Secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).



Ending violence
against women



Women's
economic
empowerment



Governance and
participation in
public life

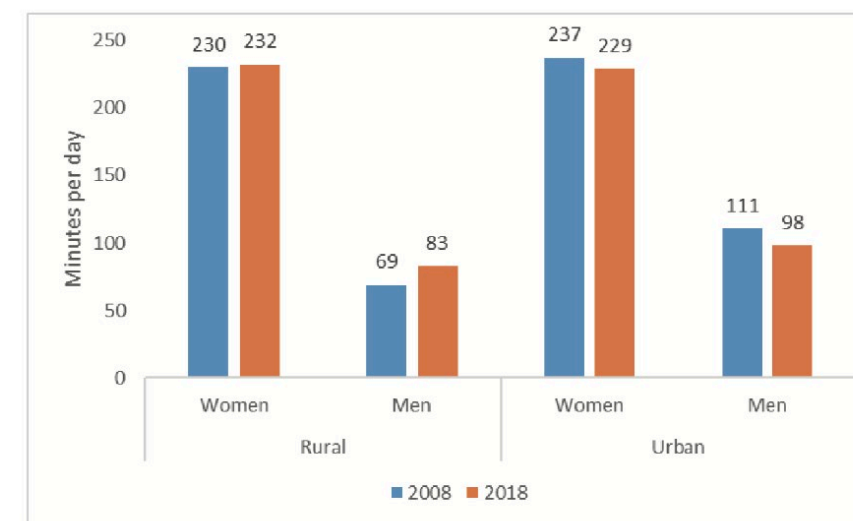


Women, peace
and security

Current Situation

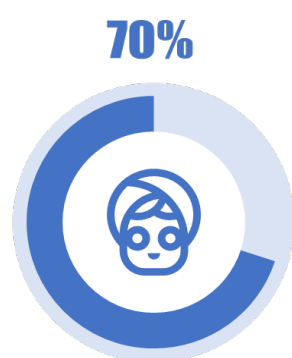
- **Rural women play a significant role in agriculture:** around 1/3 employed women works in agriculture in China and globally. [1]
- **Women have less access to, control over, and ownership of land and other productive assets:** women account for only 12.8% of agricultural landholders in the world. [2]
- **Women earn less than men in rural areas:** rural women's income is 56% that of rural men's in China. [3]
- **Women undertake most of unpaid care work:** rural women spend 149 more minutes on unpaid care work than rural men, yet only half of the families mainly have the husband do farm work. [4]
- **Women have limited access to training:** 72% of women have never attended a training, while that for men is 46%. [5]
- **Women have less access to finance:** the proportion of women with loan eligibility is 77% lower than that of men.[6]

Unpaid care work time of rural and urban residents in 2008 and 2018

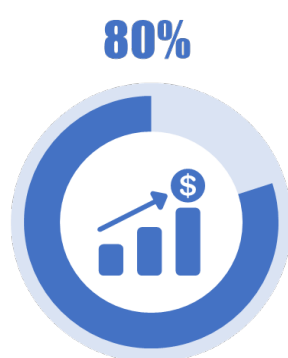


Data source:
[1] ACWF, 2010. [2] FAO, 2015. [3] ACWF, 2010. [4] NBS, 2018. [5] *ibid.* [6] *ibid.*

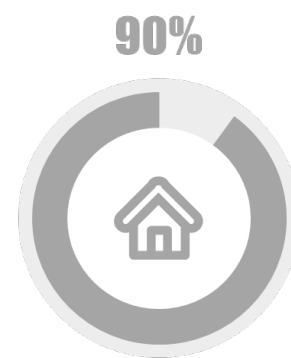
The Business Case for Supporting Rural Women



Women take up to 70% of rural population in China



Rural women generate around 60-80% of the economic value of food production in developing countries through farming.



Women reinvest up to 90% of income in their families, breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle.

Closing the gender gap in farm productivity and the wage gap in agrifood systems would:

- increase global GDP by **1% (or nearly USD 1 trillion)**.⁵
- reduce global food insecurity by about 2%, and reducing the number of food-insecure people by **45 million**.⁶

Data source: 1 State Council, 2015. 2 FAO, 2021. 3 FAO, 2016. 4 ILO, 2022. 5 FAO, 2011. 6 FAO, 2023.

UN Women's Work in Rural WEE in China

Climate-smart agri-business development

Women's access to clean energy in rural green transition

Women's leadership and entrepreneurship

Stakeholders' capacity development

Research and policy advocacy

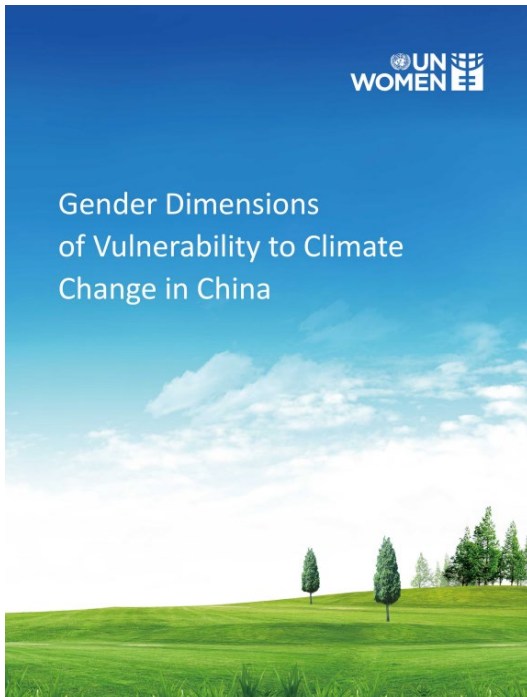


UN Women's Rural WEE Projects in China



- Working with IFAD, Qinghai Rural Revitalization Bureau, and Qinghai Women's Federation, supported **rural women farmers' access to livelihoods opportunities** through training on climate-smart agricultural practices, e-commerce, and access to finance, as well as provision of production resources.
- Through partnership with IFAD, Hunan Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Hunan Women's Federation, UN Women **replicates the project and the lessons learned from Qinghai** to benefit over 320,000 people by 2026 in Hunan Province.
- Working with Qinghai Rural Revitalization Bureau and Qinghai Women's Federation, UN Women works to increase **women's access to and use of renewable energy** to boost agricultural productivity.

Enhanced Knowledge Transfer



UN Women's Rural WEE Programme in China



Bayang, China
Diarist and sustainability advocate

Since 2018, Bayang has been keeping an eco-diary, monitoring local species and changes to water sources, recording the weather and observing plants.

She lives in China's Qinghai Province, which is situated mostly on the Tibetan Plateau and is already experiencing the effects of climate change such as higher temperatures, melting glaciers and desertification.

Bayang is part of the Sanjiangyuan Women Environmentalists Network, and advocates health and sustainability in her community.

She has acquired skills in crafting eco-friendly products - including lip balm, soap and bags - to protect local water sources and inspire others to join the environmental cause.

Bayang, BBC 100 Women

Key Results:

- Benefited around **180,000 rural women** in Qinghai and Hunan Provinces, and over 200,000+ underway.
- Supported **6 women-led businesses** in Qinghai, and 20+ more in Hunan underway.
- Delivered gender training to around **1,000 government officials**.
- Increased women's income, and enhanced women's voice and leadership in their communities.

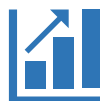
What Works?



Provide skills development opportunities for women



Strengthen the organization of women, from individual smallholder farmers



Enhance access to market



Enhance access to finance



Cultivate women's leadership for community engagement and decision making



Build an enabling environment in the community



Connect women with government, enterprises and social organizations for better service linkage



What Does not Work?



A childcare center named 'Women and children's family'



The plaque saying 'Compliments between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law' in the office of Village Committee

Gender Mainstreaming is a Process

- Gender mainstreaming is the **process** of assessing the implications for women, men and people with diverse gender identities of **any planned action**—including legislation, policies or programmes—in all areas and **at all levels**.
- It is a **strategy** for making the concerns and experiences of women, men and people with diverse gender identities an integral dimension of the **design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of policies and programmes.
- This is done so that all individuals may **benefit equally**—so that inequality is not perpetuated.

“Equality of opportunities and - of outcomes.”

Gender Mainstreaming is not “Women Only”

It is not...

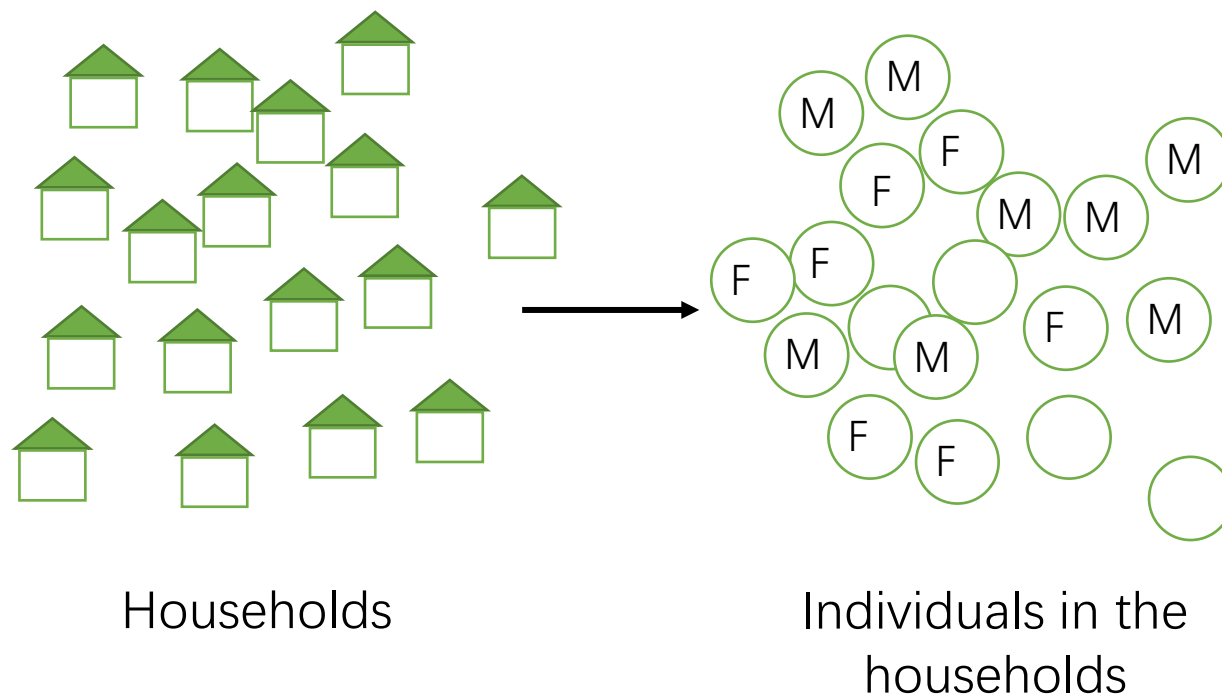
- X About adding a “women’s component” or a “gender equality component” into an existing activity.
- X Only about increasing women’s participation.

It is...

- Bringing the **different experiences, knowledge and interests** of women, men and people with diverse gender identities, on policy and development agendas.
- Considering **rethinking and modifying our development planning**, to ensure all people will benefit equally.
- Working towards **transforming social and institutional structures** for gender equality.

From Theory to Practice:

Gender-sensitive data collection under Hunan project



- Ask women questions directly.
- No other family members, village officials, nor neighbors are not allowed in the interview room.
- Ensure women and other marginalized groups are interviewed in a private environment with a sense of security.
- The interviewees are selected from different income and social groups.

Thank you

jinyi.wang@unwomen.org
UN Women China