

# 9<sup>th</sup> Member Meeting of ReCAMA

## Gender Mainstreaming in Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

02 October 2023



**CSAM**

Centre for Sustainable  
Agricultural Mechanization

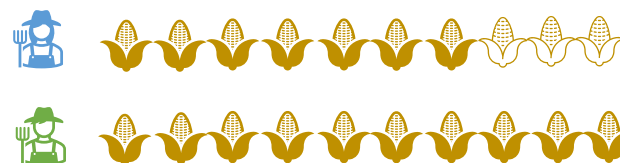
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# Background

## Need for Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture

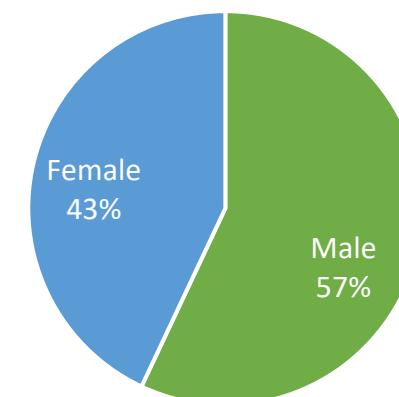
- **60 to 80 per cent**  
 Globally, women form 60 to 80 per cent of smallholder farmers
- **40 to 70 per cent**  
 Agriculture accounts for 40 to 70 per cent of women's primary source of livelihood in Asia
- **20 to 30 per cent**  
 Inequity in women's access to resources, which includes agricultural machinery and innovations, has resulted in a "gender yield gap" with women farmers achieving 20 to 30 per cent lower yields than male farmers.

### YIELD GAP BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE FARMERS



If women and men farmers are given **equal access to resources** (incl. machinery) it can increase agricultural output in developing countries by **2.5 to 4 per cent**, effectively lifting over 100 million people out of food insecurity.

### AGRICULTURE LABOR FORCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



# Major Gender Gaps in Agriculture

## Access to land

- Ownership and tenure

## Access to credit

- Disparity in percentage of female-headed households who access credit compared to their male-led counterparts

## Access to inputs and technologies

- Key reason behind differences in yields between men and women farmers

## Access to extension services

- Cultural attitudes, discrimination and a lack of recognition of women's roles in food production

## Access to markets

- Infrastructure and cultural constraints

## Autonomy and agency in decision-making

- Women have had a limited role traditionally in many cultures/settings



# Gender Mainstreaming Initiatives at CSAM

Workshop on Gender Responsive Food Security Programming with UN Agencies in China (FAO, IFAD, RCO, UNAIDS, UNEP, UN Women, WFP) on the International Day of Rural Women

Development of new gender mainstreaming strategy, based also on interviews with stakeholders

Revision of XB Prodoc governing CSAM with application of new gender mainstreaming strategy

Gender mainstreaming integrated in programme of CSAM Regional Forum



18th Governing Council discussed the need for gender mainstreaming in sustainable agricultural mechanization, sharing their countries' actions and achievements in the areas of gender mainstreaming in agriculture and mechanization, from increase in admission of women to college courses on agricultural engineering to the work of centres dedicated to technology for women in agriculture

The GC recommended that CSAM conduct a dedicated event to study the situation in the region on gender mainstreaming in agricultural mechanization and support the contribution of women farmers to food production

# Challenges and Recommendations

Labour-technologies traditionally designed based on factors important to men

- Need to develop **gender-focused mechanization solutions** that take into consideration women's unique roles in agriculture, address their needs
- Prioritize **modern, time and labor-saving technologies** which free up women's time and reduce labour burden; consider ergonomic needs and ease of use in design



# Challenges and Recommendations

## Women's barriers in learning about technologies and mechanization

- Target both women and men with relevant information on mechanization through various **accessible formats and delivery structures** for extension and advisory
- Utilize **trusted sources** of information (eg. farmer producer organizations and female trainers) and **innovative methods** (eg. digital extension services)



# Challenges and Recommendations

## Lack of land tenure and limited access to credit leading to lower technology adoption

- Address **legal structures** which inhibit women's formal ownership of land and thus affect decisions to invest in machinery
- Pursue measures that allocate resources expressly to women farmers and **address gendered barriers in accessing financial services** (credit, savings, insurance)



# Challenges and Recommendations

## Institutional level factors

- Ensure **women's access** to service providers & subsidies, and build their ability to start individual or household level service provision businesses
- Promote **inter-agency and multi-stakeholder collaboration** for programmes and policies that target women's use and benefit from agricultural mechanization and technologies





# Conclusions

A recent study showed that investing in gender equality in agriculture brought a \$5 return for every \$1 invested, compared to a \$2 return for every \$1 invested in agriculture programmes that ignored gender equality

# Gender Mainstreaming Initiative at CSAM



Workshop on Gender Responsive Food Security Programming with UN Agencies in China



# CSAM

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