

## FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE

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**ABSTRACT- “Women who innovative initiate or adopt business actively are called women entrepreneurs.”**

Agriculture can be an important engine of growth and poverty reduction. But the sector is underperforming in many countries in part because women, who are often a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy, face constraints that reduce their productivity. In this paper we draw on the available empirical evidence to study in which areas and to what degree women participate in agriculture. Aggregate data shows that women comprise about 43 percent of the agricultural labour force globally and in developing countries. But this figure masks considerable variation across regions and within countries according to age and social class. Time use surveys, which are more comprehensive but typically not nationally representative, add further insight into the substantial heterogeneity among countries and within countries in women’s contribution to agriculture. They show that female time-use in agriculture varies also by crop, production cycle, age and ethnic group. A few time-use surveys have data by activity and these show that in general weeding and harvesting were predominantly female activities. Overall the labour burden of rural women exceeds that of men, and includes a higher proportion of unpaid household responsibilities related to preparing food and collecting fuel and water. The contribution of women to agricultural and food production is significant but it is impossible to verify empirically the share produced by women. Women’s participation in rural labor markets varies considerably across regions, but invariably women are over represented in unpaid, seasonal and part-time work, and the available evidence suggests that women are often paid less than men, for the same work. Available data on rural and agricultural feminization shows that this is not a general trend but mainly a sub-Saharan Africa phenomena, as well as observed in some sectors such as unskilled labour in the fruit, vegetable and cut-flower export sector. This paper re-affirms that women make essential contributions to agriculture and rural enterprises across the developing world. But there is much diversity in women’s roles and over-generalization undermines policy relevance and planning. The context is important and policies must be based on sound data and gender analysis.

**Key words:** Women, gender, agriculture, labour force, employment.

**CONCLUSION:-**The emergence of modern supply chains is profoundly changing the way food and high-value agricultural products are produced and traded in developing countries, with important effects for rural women. While export-oriented value chains offer important employment opportunities for women female farmers are largely excluded from contracting with agro-industrial firms for the delivery of high-value produce. India, which had well under 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of chain’s population half a century ago is projected to surpass people population by 200 million people by 2050.

**Reference:-**

Nilakshi Goswami and Anjan Kumar Bordoloi 2013 Female Participation in Agriculture.  
World Bank 2008 Women and Agriculture.

