



Gender in agriculture and rural development

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1. Relevance of gender in the policy area of agriculture and rural development

Agriculture is one of the most widespread activities in the world and has a crucial role in food production, environmental protection, landscape preservation, rural employment and food security. Agriculture is not uniform throughout, there are different elements such as:

- the scale of farming;
- crop and livestock combinations;
- intensity of farming;
- ways and means of disposal of farm produce;
- the level of farm mechanisation (small-scale farmers/informal small-scale agriculture, commercial farming/plantation agriculture, self-sufficient farming, organic farming, etc.).

From a gender point of view, there are significant gaps between women and men ⁽¹⁾. For example, women farm holders have significantly smaller farms than men farm holders. Moreover, the share of female farm holders is particularly high on farms with no clear specialisation in livestock rearing or crop production. Indeed, 71 % of EU farms with livestock are run by male farm holders, and only 27 % by female farm holders (the remainder belongs to legal persons). Organic farming is practised by around 2 % of all EU farm holders, regardless of gender. In 2013, women represented 24 % of EU farm holders in organic farming, and they occupied 13 % of the EU area devoted to organic farming.

While agriculture is the major food-producing sector, rural development is related to the promotion of the vitality of the countryside and the well-being of rural communities. Rural areas provide food, raw materials, jobs and a wide range of environmental goods and services such as cultural landscapes, biodiversity, carbon storage, water and soils. More than half of the EU's land area is classified as being predominantly rural (51.3 % in 2012), whereas 22.2 % of the European population is living in these areas ⁽²⁾.

Participation of women in employment and economic growth is crucial for reaching the EU 2020 strategy goals, and in this respect agricultural and rural areas could make a contribution. In 2014, in the EU-28, agriculture was the seventh largest employer of women (3.3 %). For men, agriculture is slightly more important in terms of providing employment (5.2 %). However, these data may be misleading as they do not cover the informal rural economy, in which women are still involved. Women play a key role in rural families, communities and economies, and they are also important as farmers. In addition to paid farm work, women still assume the main share of unpaid responsibilities involved in the running of families and communities.

There is also under-reporting of women's work, as women tend to classify and report themselves as not in employment, particularly when undertaking unpaid agricultural work. In fact:

women provide a large proportion of the labour of agricultural production, even though official statistics based on census and survey instruments often underestimate women's work and its contribution to national wealth. Problems persist in the collection of reliable and comprehensive data on rural women's work in agriculture and other productive sectors because of: 1) invisibility of women's work; 2) [the] seasonal and part-time nature of women's work; and 3) unremunerated family (mostly women and children) labour ⁽³⁾.

Nevertheless, rural areas are crucial for the attainment of the Europe 2020 headline target of reaching an employment rate of 75 % of the population aged 20-64 ⁽⁴⁾. Predominantly rural regions generate 22 % of total employment in the EU-28, but the employment rate in these areas is lower than in other types of regions. This is especially the case among women, older people and low-skilled workers ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), 'Women in EU agriculture and rural areas: hard work, low profile', *EU agricultural economic briefs*, Brief no 7, June 2012, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-area-economics/briefs/pdf/07_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ Eurostat, *Rural development statistics by urban-rural typology*, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Rural_development_statistics_by_urban-rural_typology.

⁽³⁾ Lastarria-Cornhiel, S., *Feminization of agriculture: trends and driving forces: background paper for the World Development Report 2008*, World Bank, Washington DC, 2006, http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/477365-1327599046334/8394679-1327599874257/LastarriaCornhiel_FeminizationOfAgri.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ European Commission, *Europe 2020*, http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

⁽⁵⁾ DG AGRI, 'Rural areas and the Europe 2020 strategy: Employment', *EU agricultural economic briefs*, Brief no 5, November 2011, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agrista/economic-briefs/2011/05_en.pdf.



Generally speaking, this is mainly due to the lower level of employment opportunities and the lower level of education among the workforce in rural areas ⁽⁶⁾.

Development of entrepreneurship and self-employment in agriculture and rural areas is also crucial for the improvement of women's employment situation. The contribution of women in the rural economy may be promoted through self-employment and small businesses. According to the European Commission, women can be at the forefront of innovation and diversification in rural areas by developing new activities, production lines and services. For example, women can develop agro-tourism activities, artisan food and drink production, craft enterprises, and telecommunication and caring services. Women often have the added advantage of an awareness and knowledge of local needs, and specific interpersonal and communication skills ⁽⁷⁾.

Women are a driving force for the maintenance, conservation and development of rural areas, both in cultural and economic terms. They contribute to the preservation of a rich and diversified cultural heritage and the transmission of traditions. They also represent a considerable proportion of the workforce in agriculture and contribute to the development of the rural sector in the face of constant depopulation. Unfortunately, women in rural areas are also an invisible force as their presence and role are not accurately reflected in statistics. Many of those who are involved in agricultural work do not receive a separate income from their husband or other male members of the household. By assisting their farmer husbands and other self-employed men, they are not entitled to social security in their own right and often do not hold property rights to land or farms ⁽⁸⁾. To overcome this latter aspect, gender-sensitive initiatives such as shared ownership of farms and agricultural enterprises are being implemented in some European countries ⁽⁹⁾.

The development of rural areas requires the creation and development of new economic activities in the form of new farms and diversification into non-agricultural activities. This may include the provision of services to agriculture and forestry, and the development of activities related to healthcare, social integration and tourism. Furthermore, the diversification of farmers into non-agricultural activities and the establishment and development of non-agricultural small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in rural areas

could be promoted. This measure may also encourage entrepreneurship among women in rural areas ⁽¹⁰⁾.

The advancement of gender equality in agriculture and rural areas faces some major obstacles. For example, the unequal participation of women and men in agriculture and rural development, and the under-representation of women in farm ownership and agricultural decision-making.

⁽⁶⁾ DG AGRI, 'Rural areas and the Europe 2020 strategy', *EU agricultural economic briefs*, Brief no 5, November 2011, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agrista/economic-briefs/2011/05_en.pdf.

⁽⁷⁾ DG AGRI, *Women active in rural development: assuring the future of rural Europe*, 2000, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/women/broch_en.pdf.

⁽⁸⁾ Council of Europe, *Rural women in Europe*, 2011, <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewPDF.asp?FileID=12607&lang=en>.

⁽⁹⁾ See, for example, the Spanish initiative at http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/desarrollo-rural/temas/igualdad_genero_y_des_sostenible/titularidad_compartida/.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0487:0548:EN:PDF>.

2. Issues of gender inequality in the policy area

Unequal participation of women and men in agriculture and rural development

Agriculture was one of the first sectors of the economy (following coal and steel) to receive the attention of EU policy-makers. Persons working regularly in EU agriculture totalled 22.2 million in 2013, which corresponds to 8.7 million average working units. Approximately 91 % of this was regular family labour (expressed in persons), where the sole holders and his/her family members together make up the family labour force ⁽¹⁾.

However, in most Member States employment in agriculture has been declining over the last 50 years, and ageing of the existing workforce is another challenge ⁽²⁾. In the EU-28, 58.2 % of the total labour force (expressed in persons) is masculine. The 'visible' contribution of women in the agricultural labour force is less pronounced than for men, as the share of agricultural jobs in female employment is around 41 % ⁽³⁾.

Ageing and masculinisation of rural areas

Population growth in rural regions continues to be more limited compared to urban population growth. Only 15.6 % of the new population could be seen in rural regions, amounting to just 3.3 million people moving from urban areas to rural regions over the period 2000—2008. The negative net migration in EU-12 rural regions is a particular concern, as about 1.2 million people have left the rural regions of these countries in just 8 years (a decline of 2.8 % compared to 2000). On the contrary, in the EU-15, the number of rural newcomers reached 4.5 million in 2008, accounting for a population increase of 6.4 % compared to 2000. The average proportion of women in the total EU population is around 51 % and has been declining over the last decade. However, the proportion of women in rural regions is lower than in urban or intermediate regions. This difference has

been widening since 2007, with the decline in rural regions starting to appear in 2005. In 2009, there was a 0.8 % difference between urban and rural regions, which is the largest recorded disparity in this area in the last decade ⁽⁴⁾.

Women's participation in formal economic activities in rural areas within the EU still lags behind that of men. Unemployment among women is generally higher in rural areas, and over the last 15 years there has been no conspicuous progress in reducing existing gaps between female and male unemployment ⁽⁵⁾. In 2011, women represented slightly less than 50 % of the total working age population in the rural areas of the EU. However, this was only 44 % of the total economically active population, so a lower percentage of women than men were working or looking for a job ⁽⁶⁾.

In rural areas in recent decades, women were more likely to opt for part-time work than in urban areas. In 2010, women represented 53 % of total part-time employment in agriculture. Looking at part-time employment by sex, the percentage of women in part-time work is around 33 % of the total employment in agriculture, compared to 16 % of men ⁽⁷⁾. This might be due to inadequate care services for children and elderly people, transport facilities and the inaccessibility and scarcity of training centres in rural areas. The enhancement of employment opportunities and the improvement of infrastructure and services is needed to attract and retain women in rural areas. This should ensure the sustainability of rural communities and facilitate women's participation in economic activities in rural areas ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ DG AGRI, CAP context indicator 22, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-indicators/context/2015/c22_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ Eurostat, *Agricultural census 2010—main results*, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Agricultural_census_2010_-_main_results.

⁽³⁾ DG AGRI, CAP context indicator 22, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-indicators/context/2015/c22_en.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ The European Commission's staff working document, *A view on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas* (SWD(2012) 44 final), partly analyses the situation of women and young people in rural areas: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/reports/ruralemployment/swd-2012-44_en.pdf.

⁽⁵⁾ European Commission, *A view on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas* (SWD(2012) 44 final), 7 March 2012, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2012, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/reports/ruralemployment/swd-2012-44_en.pdf.

⁽⁶⁾ DG AGRI, 'Women in EU agriculture and rural areas: hard work, low profile', *EU agricultural economic briefs*, Brief no 7, June 2012, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-area-economics/briefs/pdf/07_en.pdf.

⁽⁷⁾ DG AGRI, *Elaboration from Eurostat statistics: Labour Force Survey 2010* (table: *ifsa_epgan2*).

⁽⁸⁾ DG AGRI, *Study on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas (SEGI-RA): main report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2012, prepared by ECORYS Nederland BV, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/employment/full-text_en.pdf.



Invisibility of women's role

While women are active in rural communities, their multiple roles and responsibilities are not well recognised. They often receive lower remuneration for their work than their male colleagues. Women represent a significant share of the farming labour force, but mostly in the lowest paid, most insecure jobs. The time burden of unpaid household activities can significantly limit women's involvement in the labour market.

Furthermore, in the agricultural sector women occupy few managerial positions. Their role is often linked to farming within the context of household production or unpaid support to the work of men, and is therefore not included in the value chain. The vast majority of the EU's farms are relatively small, family-run holdings, and often only family members provide labour. Thus, they may not be registered in the statistics as salaried workers carrying out an economic activity⁽¹⁹⁾.

Under-representation of women in farm ownership and agricultural decision-making

Women's contribution to local and community development is significant, but rural women are in a minority in decision-making and planning. While this phenomenon is significant in all economic sectors, it is particularly present in the agricultural sector. This is due partly to their multiple roles and workload, but also to the persistence of traditional views about women's and men's roles in society. For example, this is often seen in land ownership and control—in 2007, only 28.7 % of farm holders were women⁽²⁰⁾.

Farms run by women are generally smaller than those run by men. In terms of physical and economic size, the farms of men farm holders are more than twice the size of those of women farm holders. As beneficiaries of EU payment schemes, women have as yet been disproportionately under-represented. It is now widely recognised that ownership and control over assets such as land and housing provide direct and indirect benefits to individuals and households. These include a secure place to live, a livelihood, protection during emergencies and collateral for credit that can be used for investment or consumption. Recent studies suggest that assets are important in terms of reducing poverty and cushioning vulnerability to natural disasters, illness or financial crises. At the macro level, a growing literature finds

that asset equality is positively correlated with economic growth⁽²¹⁾. Furthermore, female farm holders are slightly older than the male farming population (46.1 % of women working in agriculture were 55 years or older in 2005, compared to 43.6 % of men)⁽²²⁾. The low share of young women in the family-farm labour force can be taken as a sign of the low attractiveness of agricultural careers among women⁽²³⁾.

⁽¹⁹⁾ European Commission, *A view on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas* (SWD(2012) 44 final), 7 March 2012, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2012, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/reports/ruralemployment/swd-2012-44_en.pdf.

⁽²⁰⁾ Eurostat (Farm structure survey (FSS), table: *ef_ov_lfft*).

⁽²¹⁾ International Food Policy Research Institute, *Reducing the gender asset gap through agricultural development: a technical resource guide*, 2014, <http://ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/128594/file-name/128805.pdf>.

⁽²²⁾ DG AGRI, elaboration from Eurostat statistics (FSS, table: *ef_so_lfsexage*).

⁽²³⁾ DG AGRI, 'Rural areas and the Europe 2020 strategy', *EU agricultural economic briefs*, Brief no 5, November 2011, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agrista/economic-briefs/2011/05_en.pdf.

3. Gender equality policy objectives at the EU and international levels

EU level

The Commission, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement on the reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) on 26 June 2013, contributing to its design.

European Commission

Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome on the European Economic Community (1957) set out the objectives for the first CAP. This was focused on increasing agricultural productivity as a way to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community. As well as this, it included topics such as stabilising markets and ensuring security of supply at affordable prices for consumers. The objectives of the CAP have remained unchanged since the Treaty of Rome came into force. Since then the CAP has set the conditions in order to allow farmers to fulfil their multiple functions in society the first of which is to produce food.

At the moment, Article 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) sets out the specific objectives of the CAP:

- to increase agricultural productivity by promoting technical progress and ensuring the optimum use of the factors of production, in particular labour;
- to ensure a fair standard of living for farmers;
- to stabilise markets;
- to ensure the availability of supplies;
- to ensure reasonable prices for consumers.

Alongside the specific objectives of the CAP set out in Article 39 TFEU, a number of Treaty provisions lay down other objectives which are applicable to all EU policies and measures. On that basis, the following are becoming objectives of the CAP in their own right:

- promoting a high level of employment (Article 9);
- environmental protection to promote sustainable development (Article 11);
- consumer protection (Article 12);

- animal welfare requirements (Article 13);
- public health (Article 168(1)); and
- economic, social and territorial cohesion (Articles 174 to 178).

The policy deals not only with agriculture but also with rural areas, in particular, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The fund supports multiannual rural development programmes implemented either at national or regional levels.

In December 2006 the Commission adopted its Communication to the Council and the European Parliament, *Employment in rural areas: closing the jobs gap* ⁽²⁴⁾. The Communication identified the significant challenges for employment in rural areas in Europe and called for efforts to close the jobs divide between rural and urban areas. It also pointed to the lack of opportunities for women (and young people) in rural areas. The Communication stated, in particular, that:

the situation of women and young people in rural areas remains precarious, often resulting in the out-migration of females and youngsters in economically active age groups. In some rural areas, the lack of training infrastructure and appropriate childcare facilities prevent entry or upskilling in the labour market.

In the years following that discussion, the EU faced changes in its economic development, borne out by the continuing financial and economic crisis.

In 2009 the Commission launched a call for a study on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas ⁽²⁵⁾. The working paper pays special attention to women and young people in rural areas as well as to local initiatives, cooperation, partnership approaches and local business development.

⁽²⁴⁾ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament — *Employment in rural areas: closing the jobs gap* (SEC(2006)1772), COM(2006) 857 final, 21 December 2006 and SEC(2006) 1772, 21 December 2006, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52006DC0857&from=EN>.

⁽²⁵⁾ DG AGRI, *Study on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas (SEGI-RA): main report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2010, prepared by ECORYS Nederland BV, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/employment/full-text_en.pdf.



A separate chapter looks into the value added by EAFRD support to innovative areas, such as the following:

- renewable energy;
- tourism;
- skills;
- young farmers and agricultural development;
- rural business and stimulating entrepreneurship among rural women;
- collective trade behaviour;
- food processing and short supply chains.

European Parliament

In 2011 the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development approved a motion for a European Parliament resolution on the role of women in agriculture and rural areas ⁽²⁶⁾. Underlining the importance of rural development and the role of women in rural areas and economies, the resolution:

- points out that the promotion of gender equality is a core objective of the EU and its Member States and stresses the importance of incorporating this principle into the CAP as a way to promote sustainable economic growth and rural development;
- points out the efforts that are needed to create living conditions in rural areas which correspond to those in urban areas while reflecting the realities of the countryside, in order to offer women and their families reasons for staying and making a successful life there;
- stresses the importance of a viable, dynamic rural environment with a diverse population and, relatedly, emphasises the importance of adequate development opportunities and challenges for young women;
- calls for framework conditions to be provided in rural areas that will enable women of all generations to remain in their own immediate environment and contribute to its revival and development;
- calls for electronic forms of enterprise, such as e-business, which make it possible to do business irrespective of the

distance from large urban centres, to be promoted and supported among women in rural areas;

- points out that, as in urban areas, it is crucial to improve the quality and accessibility of infrastructure, facilities and services for everyday life in rural areas in order to enable women and men to balance their family and professional lives and to preserve communities in rural areas;
- calls for the new EAFRD Regulation to provide for specific measures to support women in the 2014-2020 programming period, as this would have a beneficial impact on women's employment in rural areas;
- calls on the Commission and the Member States to contribute to an informative database on the economic and social situation of women and their involvement in business in rural regions, and to optimise the use of data already available (e.g. from Eurostat) for the purposes of tailoring policy measures;
- considers it desirable to work towards the creation of a European rural women's network (or a network of women's associations) and draws attention to the successes achieved through CAP second-pillar measures;
- calls for women's entrepreneurial spirit and initiatives to be encouraged, in particular through the promotion of female ownership, networks of women entrepreneurs, and provision in the financial sector for facilitating access of rural businesswomen (including individually self-employed women, part-time self-employed women with low earnings, and young women) to investment and credit;
- takes the view that, as part of the forthcoming reform of the CAP, the needs of women in rural areas and the role of women working in agriculture should be taken into account and given priority as regards access to certain services and aid, in line with territorial needs in each Member State.

The European Parliament had a central role, together with the Council of the European Union, in the approval of the CAP 2014—2020 reform. The CAP reform 2014—2020 ⁽²⁷⁾ promotes more sustainable EU agriculture as well as innovation and bridging the gap between science and practice. It comprises two pillars. Pillar 1 supports farmers' income through direct payments and market measures and is entirely financed from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund.

⁽²⁶⁾ European Parliament—Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, *Report on the role of women in agriculture and rural areas (2010/2054(INI))*, 2011, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2011-0016+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>.

⁽²⁷⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/policy-perspectives/policy-briefs/05_en.pdf

Pillar 2 supports the development of rural areas in the form of rural development programmes, and is co-financed through EAFRD.

The reform offers new opportunities in its aim to increase competitiveness and sustainability over the long term for the agricultural sector in the EU Member States. It is based on a comprehensive approach, which is better targeted, more equitable and 'greener'. Through the national rural development programmes a focus on gender mainstreaming could improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the agricultural sectors, and contribute to the achievement of the CAP objectives ⁽²⁸⁾.

CAP 2014–2020

The CAP reform 2014–2020 is based on new legislative instruments that aim to simplify the rules of the CAP. In particular, it involves Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the EAFRD ⁽²⁹⁾.

EU Regulation No 1305/2013 provides rules and articles to address gender issues in the policy area, as summarised below.

- Article 7: Thematic sub-programmes—states may include within their rural development programmes thematic sub-programmes that address specific issues and are especially related to, young farmers, small farmers, mountain areas, short supply chains, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and women in rural areas;
- Article 9: *Ex ante* conditionalities: general *ex ante* conditionalities shall apply to the EAFRD programmes. Among them, the *ex ante* conditionality on gender which should ensure the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of European structural and investment (ESI) funds.

Furthermore, rural development measures might target women as a beneficiaries through the use of selection criteria where duly justified.

Council of the European Union

The Agriculture and Fisheries Council adopts legislation (in most cases together with the European Parliament) in a number of areas relating to the production of food, rural development and the management of fisheries.

Areas under agricultural policy include:

- the common agricultural policy (CAP);
- rules on the internal market for agriculture, forestry and organic production;
- quality of production;
- food and animal-feed safety.

Measures relating to the CAP aim to:

- increase agricultural productivity;
- ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community;
- stabilise markets;
- assure the availability of supplies;
- ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices ⁽³⁰⁾.

Within the framework of the CAP, the Council of the European Union, together with the European Parliament, establishes the regulation on support for rural development by EAFRD.

In the context of the discussion surrounding the Commission communication *Employment in rural areas: closing the jobs gap, the conclusions of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of March 2007* the important role of EU rural development policy (RDP) under the CAP was confirmed, in terms of increasing employment in rural areas. It underlined that the creation and preservation of jobs and employment must be one of the priority objectives of rural development programmes.

⁽²⁸⁾ DG AGRI, *The common agricultural policy after 2013*, <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/>.

⁽²⁹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0487:0548:EN:PDF>.

⁽³⁰⁾ Council of the European Union, *Agriculture and Fisheries Council configuration*, <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/configurations/agrifish/>.



The Agriculture and Fisheries Council also stressed the need to further develop the CAP's second pillar as a key instrument to accompany CAP reform and the accelerated restructuring of agriculture. In addition, it stressed the need to implement the Lisbon ⁽³¹⁾ and Gothenburg ⁽³²⁾ strategies in light of new region-specific challenges in regions with different socioeconomic structures. This would lay the foundations for an overall improvement in rural living conditions. It was also considered crucial to develop adequate family-friendly infrastructures within reasonable distances of places of residence and work, to encourage women and young people to remain in rural areas.

In light of these policy developments, in 2009 the Commission launched a call for a study on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas (SEGIIRA) ⁽³³⁾. This document complemented the impact assessment report on the reform of the CAP and responded to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council's request for an updated report on employment in rural areas. It also served as input in the current debate on the future of EU rural policy, particularly the RDP proposals for the post-2013 period ⁽³⁴⁾.

International level

Council of Europe

One of the legal approaches to the gender equality issues in rural areas at the EU level was the Council of Europe Recommendation No 1321 (1997) on improving the situation of women in rural society ⁽³⁵⁾. This document calls on governments to take up actions in order to increase women's participation in decision-making and make an integrated approach to equality a primary concern. In addition, it called for equal access to social services and cultural revival, and to increase women's participation in the economy. With this document, the Assembly called on governments to take the following steps in order to make an integrated approach to equality a primary concern:

- ensure a gender perspective is incorporated into the mandates and activities of organisations through the development of concerted action plans and programmes;
- disseminate information among the organisations/institutions on the situation of rural women, their concerns, and the required strategies to be taken for their advancement;
- develop methodologies that allow the particularities of each sex and the needs of rural women to be taken into account in the planning processes at all levels;
- provide training and awareness-raising programmes for decision makers, as well as for staff of those ministries/governmental bodies dealing with rural issues, on the experiences and needs of women in rural areas and the importance of recognising gender in RDPs and planning.

In its Resolution No 1806 (2011) on rural women in Europe ⁽³⁶⁾, the Parliamentary Assembly stated that, considering that women are a driving force for the maintenance, conservation and development of rural areas, they can contribute to the agriculture workforce and the preservation of tradition in rural areas. Nevertheless, women still face discrimination in the labour force and economic activities that represent further challenges in the achievement of gender equality.

The Resolution calls on the Member States of the Council of Europe to devise legal measures and policy specifically focusing on rural women. This should incorporate a gender-sensitive approach in the elaboration and implementation of policies having an impact on their situation. In particular, among others, the Assembly therefore calls on the Council of Europe Member States to:

- devise specific legal measures and policies focusing in particular on improving the situation of rural women and aimed at achieving progress in equal opportunities to create conditions which will enable women to remain in rural areas;
- ensure a gender-sensitive approach in the elaboration and implementation of all policies that have an impact on the situation of rural women;
- provide for the involvement of rural women in agricultural policy development at national, regional and local levels and in all decisions affecting them;

⁽³¹⁾ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/summits/lis1_en.htm

⁽³²⁾ European Parliament, *Lisbon European Council 23 and 24 March 2000: Presidency conclusions*, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV%3A128117>

⁽³³⁾ DG AGRI, *Study on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas (SEGIIRA): main report*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2010, prepared by ECORYS Nederland BV, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/employment/full-text_en.pdf.

⁽³⁴⁾ The European Commission's staff working document, *A view on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas* (SWD(2012) 44 final), partly analyses the situation of women and young people in rural areas: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/reports/ruralemployment/swd-2012-44_en.pdf.

⁽³⁵⁾ Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Recommendation No 1321 (1997) on improving the situation of women in rural society of 19 March 1997, <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewPDF.asp?FileID=15355&lang=en>.

⁽³⁶⁾ Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Resolution 1806 (2011) — rural women in Europe, <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/X2H-Xref-ViewPDF.asp?FileID=17985&lang=en>.

- promote greater participation by rural women in decision-making, encouraging their presence in local political life, in the governing bodies of businesses, cooperatives, local agricultural boards and agricultural associations;
- support information and communication networks between rural women and government institutions, with the help of professional organisations, civil society and the media, and apply gender budgeting;
- improve statistical data and information and produce statistical studies on the impact of poverty and social exclusion in rural areas, including a gender impact assessment, in order to establish policies to tackle these problems.
- extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
- organise self-help groups and cooperatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment;
- participate in all community activities;
- have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;
- enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

United Nations

Article 14 of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) ⁽³⁷⁾, a bill of women's human rights, specifically deals with rural women. Article 14, in particular states the following:

1. Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetised sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present convention to women in rural areas.

2. Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right to:

- participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
- have access to adequate healthcare facilities including information, counselling and services in family planning;
- benefit directly from social security programmes;
- obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
- Strategic objective A.3: Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions; encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organisations and support innovative lending practices, including those that integrate credit with women's services and training and provide credit facilities to rural women;
- Strategic objective B.2: Eradicate illiteracy among women; reduce the female illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on rural women, migrant, refugee and internally displaced women and women with disabilities;

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) ⁽³⁸⁾ pays attention to rural women, considering the plight of women living in rural and remote areas who deserve special attention given the stagnation of development in such areas. In developing countries in particular, the majority of rural women continue to live in conditions of economic underdevelopment and social marginalisation. Actions could be taken to promote women's economic independence, including employment, and eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing its structural causes. This can be through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women including those in rural areas as vital development agents to productive resources, opportunities and public services.

In several objectives, actions for improvement in the situation of rural women are suggested, in particular for combating poverty, eradicating illiteracy and facilitating access to resources:

⁽³⁷⁾ CEDAW (1979) and its optional protocol (1990) is a legally binding international treaty, ratified by 187 (out of 194) countries (as at January 2014), which guarantees equality of treatment between women and men, and requires state parties to take positive action to end discrimination. Its optional protocol gives individuals and groups the right to complain about violations of the norms of the convention, and it enables the Committee to conduct independent inquiries.

⁽³⁸⁾ UN, the Beijing Platform for Action, 1995, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>.



- Strategic objective B.4: Develop non-discriminatory education and training; provide non-formal education, especially for rural women, in order to realise their potential with regard to health, micro-enterprise, agriculture and legal rights;
- Strategic objective F.2: Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade; enhance, at the national and local levels, rural women's income generating potential by facilitating their equal access to and control over productive resources, land, credit, capital, property rights, development programmes and cooperative structures.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Gender equality is central to the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. This is to help achieve food security for all by improving agricultural productivity, levels of nutrition and the lives of rural populations. Working simultaneously towards gender equality and the empowerment of women as agricultural producers is central to the FAO to accomplish its goals. The FAO policy on gender equality⁽³⁹⁾ serves as a framework to guide the FAO's work on gender equality, support women's roles in agriculture and mainstream gender equity in all its programmes.

For FAO, women make crucial contributions in agriculture and rural enterprises. Women play a key role in rural economies where the fight against hunger and poverty is most pressing, as this is where the majority of the world's poor live. They are also central to family food security and nutrition, as they are generally responsible for food selection and preparation, and the care and feeding of children.

FAO believes that progress towards eliminating hunger and poverty will result from:

1. ensuring that its programmes and projects, as well as its normative work, reduce the gap between rural women and men in access to productive resources and services;
2. ensuring that women and men have the ability to influence programme and policy decision-making, and building institutional responsiveness and accountability (voice);
3. ensuring that rural women and men can take up economic opportunities to improve their individual and household well-being (agency).

⁽³⁹⁾ FAO, *Policy on gender equality attaining food security goals in agriculture and rural development*, 2013, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3205e/i3205e.pdf>.

FAO's major contributions towards achievement of its gender equality goal and objectives will come from:

- generating and communicating the evidence base through the use of sex-disaggregated data to substantiate the importance of closing the gender gap for achieving FAO's overall mandate;
- developing and sharing gender equality norms and standards for agricultural policies and programmes;
- building and disseminating knowledge on rural women's needs and priorities in all of FAO's areas of work;
- ensuring that gender analysis is incorporated in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all field programmes and projects;
- sharing comparative data on how effectively countries are closing the gender gap in different technical areas of agriculture and rural development;
- ensuring that rural women's needs and priorities are documented, heard and addressed in all the processes that FAO leads and supports;
- ensuring that none of FAO's efforts perpetuate gender inequality or worsen discrimination against women;
- working with partners to learn how FAO's support for gender equality in agriculture can be made more effective;
- developing internal structures and systems that promote gender equality, and ensuring equal participation of men and women in decision-making in FAO.

In the framework of the sustainable development goals, *Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development*, a set of aspiration goals with 169 targets was established. Goals and targets specifically devoted to sustainable development and gender equality were defined⁽⁴⁰⁾.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld> United Nations, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012, A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

1. By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
2. By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.
3. By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.
4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
5. By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.
6. Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.
7. Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.
8. Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

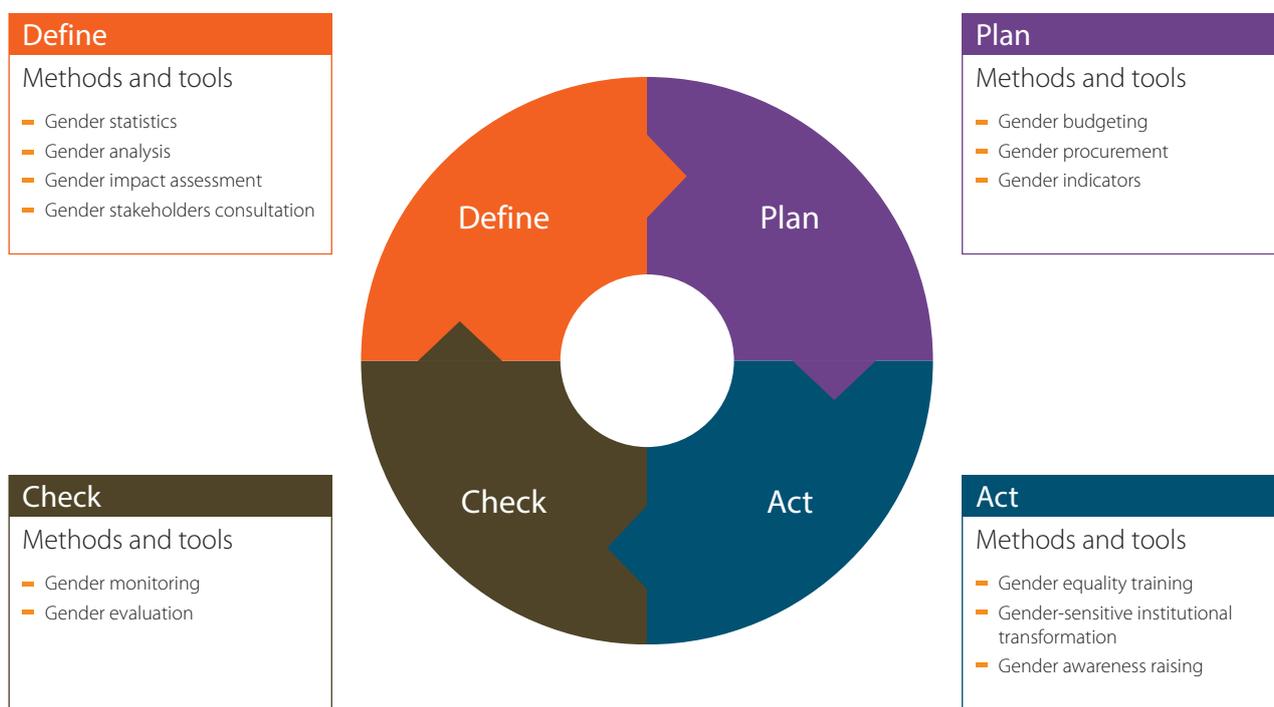
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
4. Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
7. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
8. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
9. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

4. How and when? Agriculture and rural development, and the integration of the gender dimension into the policy cycle

The gender dimension can be integrated in all phases of the policy cycle.

Below, you can find useful resources and practical examples for mainstreaming gender into agricultural policy. They are organised according to the most relevant phase of the policy cycle they may serve.



Define

DEFINE PLAN ACT CHECK

In this phase, it is recommended that information is gathered on the situation of women and men in a particular area. This means looking for sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, as well as checking for the existence of studies, programme or project reports, and/or evaluations from previous periods.

Examples of gender and agriculture and rural areas statistics

Eurostat

Agricultural statistics were designed to monitor the main objectives of the CAP, e.g. the production and supply of

agricultural products and income in the agricultural sector. Data are collected through the FSSs. The FSS is the only harmonised source for a wide range of structural data of EU farms. FSS are carried out in the form of a sample survey every 2 or 3 years, and as a census every 10 years. FSS provides some insights about the role of women in the agricultural sector and, more specifically, on farms, but limitations exist which must be considered. Firstly, even if household work is explicitly excluded from the survey, many women engaged in farming do so within a household production unit. Therefore, their activities are not easily separable from those of the household as a whole. Secondly, according to FSS, the legal person representing the holding (the 'farm holder') can only be one person. Thus, if a couple has shared responsibility of the farm, this is not evident, as only one person — more often the husband — is surveyed as farm holder.

A 'sub' or 'shared-holder' concept would allow for a better assessment of the division of labour and decision-making practice among household members. However, harmonised information on this topic is not available for all EU Member States ⁽⁴¹⁾.

The most recent data available stem from the FSS 2013. For the FSS in the survey year 2016, Member States should transmit validated survey data to the Commission within the period 2017—2018. FSS provide harmonised data on agricultural holdings in the EU, including:

- number of agricultural holdings;
- land use and area (crops);
- livestock;
- main crops;
- farm labour force (including age, sex and relationship to the holder);
- economic size of the holdings;
- type of activity;
- other gainful activity on the farm;
- system of farming;
- machinery;
- organic farming.

FSS

FSSs have been used to produce sex-disaggregated statistics. Given that gender statistics are often compiled from data sources conceived for other purposes, the scope of the analysis is somehow limited by data availability. This is exemplified by the lack of sex-disaggregated statistics on agricultural income.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/agriculture/data/database>

Rural development statistics aim to measure economic, social and environmental issues related to rural areas. They give an insight into the specific features of the regions (NUTS3) in the context of their rural/urban types. It provides data and demographics statistics (population by sex and age) and labour market statistics (employment and unemployment by sex and age) by urban-rural typology.

⁽⁴¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-area-economics/briefs/pdf/07_en.pdf

The European Union labour force surveys (EU-LFS)

Labour market statistics are collected through the European Union labour force survey (EU-LFS) which provides the main aggregated statistics on labour market outcomes in the EU. The EU-LFS is the main data source for employment and unemployment. Tables on population, employment, working hours, permanency of the job, professional status, etc. are included. It provides disaggregated statistics by sex, age groups, economic activity, education attainment and field of education. From this, it is possible to measure the characteristics of the labour force of women, by age and economic activity.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/rural-development/data/database>

European Union Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

CAP context indicators.

A set of 45 indicators has been identified to describe the general context in which policy measures are designed, planned and implemented. They form part of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the CAP 2014-2020 and are used in rural development programmes for a comprehensive overall description of the current situation of the programming area. The European Commission provides an annual update of data (subject to availability) for these indicators. Indicator 22 (farm labour force) presents gender-disaggregated data. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-indicators/context/index_en.htm

Examples of studies, research and reports

European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, 2010

Study on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas (SEGIRA), Main report, final, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

DG AGRI's study on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas (SEGIRA).

It aims to provide 'a thorough assessment of employment and growth in rural areas with particular attention paid to women and young people, agriculture and the agri-food industry; the key conditions for stimulating economic growth in rural areas; and providing a classification of major drivers of employment and socioeconomic development in rural areas'.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/analysis/external/employment/full-text_en.pdf



Shortall, S. and Bock, B., 'Introduction: rural women in Europe (2014)'.

The impact of place and culture on gender mainstreaming the European Rural Development Programme.

Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography, Vol. 22, Issue 5.

The report focuses on the ability of gender mainstreaming to advance gender equality through the EU rural development programme — the single most expensive European policy. It considers space and culture as key factors in this process, and how women's identity is constructed in rural areas of Europe.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2014.917819>

One of the first steps to take when defining your policy/project/programme is to gather information and analyse the situation of women and men in the respective policy area. The information and data you collected will allow understanding of the reality and assist you in designing your policy, programme or project. Specific methods that can be used in this phase are gender analysis and gender impact assessment.

Examples of gender analysis

Okali, C., *Gender Analysis: Engaging with Rural Development and Agricultural Policy Processes*, 2012

FAC Working paper 26, Future Agricultures Consortium, Brighton.

The paper details the way in which gender has been incorporated, or not, into agricultural research and development (R & D) activities. The paper also presents some indications as to how more nuanced understandings of gender and social relations can be usefully brought into agricultural research and policy processes.

http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/PDF/Outputs/Futureagriculture/FAC_Working_Paper_026.pdf

UN Joint Programmes, 2010, *Integrating gender issues in food security, agriculture and rural development*, FAO-UN.

These guidelines provide practical guidance to support programme and operations staff in UN country teams to integrate gender equality concerns into joint programmes (JPs) for food security, agriculture and rural development. The guidelines outline opportunities to incorporate gender into both the JP process (formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) and project documents. They include a general gender equality checklist as well as thematic checklists to mainstream gender in areas of cross-cutting importance for agriculture and rural development.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1914e/i1914e00.pdf>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Bank, 2008, *Gender in agriculture sourcebook*

This jointly produced publication on good practices and lessons learned guides practitioners in integrating gender dimensions in agricultural projects and programmes.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENAGRLIVSOU-BOOK/Resources/CompleteBook.pdf>

FAO, *Gender and climate change research in agriculture and food security for rural development*.

This training guide provides a clear understanding of the concepts related to gender and climate-smart agriculture. It describes participatory methods for conducting gender-sensitive research on the impacts of climate change, and offers guidance on different ways of reporting research findings so that they can be properly analysed. Using the guide will ensure that critical information on gender and climate change is collected, allowing researchers and development workers to formulate appropriate gender-sensitive policies and programmes for rural development.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/md280e/md280e00.pdf>

Examples of gender impact assessment

US AID, Gender impact assessment report, 2013 *Agricultural development and value chain enhancement*.

This gender impact assessment was carried out to evaluate project performance in terms of gender for the Ghana agricultural development and value chain enhancement (Advance) project. The goal of Advance is to facilitate a transformation of Ghana's agricultural sector in selected agricultural staples (maize, rice and soybean). This should achieve a greater degree of food security among the rural population in the northern region while increasing competitiveness in the domestic markets. The programme adopts a value chain approach where smallholder farmers are linked to markets, finance, inputs and equipment services. Information is available through relatively larger nucleus farmers and aggregators who have the capacity to invest in these chains. Advance's gender approach has been to mainstream gender within the project to ensure that stakeholders were given equitable access to project resources and capacity-building along the target value chains.

[http://acdivoca.org/sites/default/files/attach/legacy/site/Lookup/ACDI-VOCA-Ghana-ADVANCE-Gender-Impact-Assessment/\\$file/ACDI-VOCA-Ghana-ADVANCE-Gender-Impact-Assessment.pdf](http://acdivoca.org/sites/default/files/attach/legacy/site/Lookup/ACDI-VOCA-Ghana-ADVANCE-Gender-Impact-Assessment/$file/ACDI-VOCA-Ghana-ADVANCE-Gender-Impact-Assessment.pdf)

Consider consulting stakeholders (e.g. gender experts, civil society organisations) on the topic at hand, to share and validate your findings and to improve your policy or programme proposal. This will enhance the learning process on the subject for all those involved and will improve the quality of the work done at the EU level. The stakeholders consultation process will start in this phase, but could also be considered as an important method to be applied along all the policy cycle's phases.

Examples of stakeholders that can be consulted

Women organising for change in agriculture and natural resources management (WOCAN)

Women organising for change in agriculture and natural resource management is a women-led international membership network of women and men professionals. It provides expertise to assist agriculture and natural resource management organisations to strengthen women's leadership and mainstream gender into their internal structures, programmes, projects and policies.

<http://www.wocan.org/vision-mission-guiding-principles>

Advisory Committee on women and rural areas

The committee is made up of representatives of socioeconomic organisations (agricultural producers, trade, consumers, the European women's lobby and workers). The groups enable the Commission to be aware of the range of views these organisations hold on individual agricultural production sectors, rural development, etc.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/advisory-groups/index_en.htm

European Network of Women from Rural Areas (ENWRA)

The European Network of Women from Rural Areas (ENWRA) is a partnership between lead organisations in Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Poland, Turkey and the United Kingdom, funded through the Grundtvig lifelong learning programme. The aim of the partnership is to share the experiences of women across these regions to look at the problems they face and how to overcome them. ENWRA's objectives are to:

- explore different aspects of women in rural areas such as culture and traditions;
- explore working conditions and entrepreneurship opportunities for women;
- improve access to information technologies and educational opportunities;

- promote social and civic participation of women in local communities;
- promote volunteering and other opportunities.

<http://www.enwra.eu/index.php/en/general-information>

COPA-COGECA: the Committee of professional agricultural organisations in the European Union

The Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the European Union (COPA) and the General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union (COGECA) are the organisations that represent the vast majority of farmers — both men and women — and their cooperatives in the EU. They represent 15 million people working either full-time or part-time on EU farm holdings and more than 40 000 cooperatives. They have 76 member organisations from the EU Member States. Their aim is to defend the general interests of agriculture. COPA-COGECA have a Women's Committee. In 2014 the COPA Innovation Prize for Women Farmers was awarded for the third time.

<http://www.copa-cogeca.eu/CopaStructure.aspx?goto=b297>

The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)

The network, and its constituent national networks in the EU-28 Member States, can be used to identify and exchange further examples of measures, data, schemes, local strategies or individual projects promoting gender equality in rural areas. Projects, including women-specific projects, are promoted in the EU *Rural review* magazine and in the RDP project database, including projects focusing on women. It also supports the development of the rural development network in the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) countries.

http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/policy-in-action/rdp_view/eh/view_projects_en.cfm

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Gender office

This office works extensively on gender issues in agriculture and rural development worldwide; its website includes relevant resources and databases, including the gender and land rights database.

www.fao.org/gender/en/



Plan

DEFINE PLAN ACT CHECK

In this phase, it's relevant to analyse budgets from a gender perspective. Gender budgeting is used to identify how budget allocations contribute to promoting gender equality. Gender budgeting brings visibility to how much public money is spent for women and men respectively. Thus, gender budgeting ensures that public funds are fairly distributed between women and men. It also contributes to accountability and transparency about how public funds are being spent.

Example of gender budgeting in agriculture and rural development

The Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development, Kosovo, 2007

Gender-budget analysis and impact of fiscal policies on the poverty level of the women in agriculture.

The research report is based on the analysis prepared by the departments of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development, especially the Rural Development Department and Counselling Services. The analysis was undertaken on the strategy drafted in May 2003 and on the Kosovo agriculture and rural development plan for 2007-2013. It reviews the literature, legal infrastructure, and national and international strategic documents on gender issues, focusing on gender balance and the integration of the gender perspective in government budget and policies. This report is prepared with the support of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

<http://she-era.org/~sheera/eng/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/GENDER-BUDGET-ANALYSIS-AND-IMPACT-OF-FISCAL-POLICIES-ON-THE-POVERTY-LEVEL-OF-THE-WOMEN-IN-AGRICULTURE-MAFRD.pdf>

When planning, don't forget to establish monitoring and evaluation systems and indicators that will allow measurement, and compare the impact of the policy or programme on women and men over the timeframe of its implementation. Remember to define the appropriate times to monitor and evaluate your policy.

Examples of indicators for monitoring gender and agriculture and rural development

Number of persons and farm work (AWU) by sex of worker

The indicator provides the number of people and farm work (annual work unit (AWU)) by sex of worker, legal status of holding and agricultural size of farm (utilised agricultural area (UAA)). Data are disaggregated by sex and available only at Member State level. Data could be used for calculating the share of women and men working in agricultural farms. Data are collected through the Eurostat FSS and included in the Eurostat agricultural statistics.

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=ef_lflegaa

Share of women and men farm holders

The indicator provides the number of people and farm work (AWU) by sex of worker, legal status of holding and agricultural size of farm (UAA). Data are disaggregated by sex and available only at Member State level. Data could be used for calculating the share of women and men farm holders. Data are collected through the Eurostat FSS and included in the Eurostat agricultural statistics.

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=ef_lflegaa

Population in rural areas by sex

The indicator provides the number of people living in urban and rural areas (predominantly urban regions, intermediate regions, predominantly rural regions) by sex and age. Data could be used for calculating the share of women and men in different age living in the urban/rural areas of the EU Member States. Data are disaggregated by sex and available only at Member State level. When compared with the total population, the population in predominantly rural regions tends to have fewer people of working age, more older people, and more young people aged 10-19. This general pattern can be seen for men and women. Among the working age population the difference between predominantly rural regions and the total population was most notable in particular age groups. This was between the ages of 25 and 49 for women, and between the ages of 30 and 59 for men. Among older people the differences were most notable for the age groups between 70 and 84 for women and from 75 upwards for men⁽⁴²⁾. Data are collected by Eurostat and included in the rural development statistics.

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=urt_pjanaggr3

⁽⁴²⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Rural_development_statistics_by_urban-rural_typology

Unemployment rates in rural areas by sex

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the unemployed in the age group 15 to 64 years compared to the total labour force (both employed and unemployed) in that age group. Data are disaggregated by sex and available only at Member State level. Data are collected by Eurostat and included in the rural development statistics (online code: *urt_pjanaggr3*).

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=urt_pjanaggr3

When preparing calls for proposals in the framework of funding programmes, or terms of reference in the context of public procurement procedures (notably for contractors to be hired for policy support services), don't forget to formalise gender-related requirements. This will ensure that the projects and services which the European Commission will fund are not gender blind or gender biased.

Act

DEFINE PLAN ACT CHECK

In the implementation phase of a policy or programme, ensure that all who are involved are sufficiently aware about the relevant gender objectives and plans. If not, set up briefings and capacity-building initiatives according to staff needs. Think about researchers, proposal evaluators, monitoring and evaluation experts, scientific officers, programme committee members, etc.

Examples of capacity-building initiatives about gender, and agriculture and rural development

Training course — *Gender inclusion in rural areas (GIRA)*

The training course *Gender inclusion in rural areas (GIRA)* involved 28 youth workers from South East Europe (SEE) and EU countries working in geographically isolated areas. It was financed by the European initiative *Youth on the move*. The aim of GIRA is to provide information, perspectives and resources for empowering youth living in rural areas, focusing on young women especially.

<http://www.asapeurope.eu/en/news-archivie/item/123-%E2%80%9Cgira%E2%80%9D-gender-inclusion-in-rural-areas-%E2%80%93-tirana-al-04-%E2%80%93-11-07-14.html>

Collett, K. and Gale, C., *Training For Rural Development: Agricultural And Enterprise Skills For Women Smallholders*, 2009, City and Guilds Centre for Skills Development, London

This guide presents a variety of training approaches that can be applied in agricultural and rural areas. It also considers

the factors that can support the application of training. It looks at how training interacts with these factors, and how successfully integrating training with each supportive factor can improve the ability of women to make use of their productive skills. Several examples and case studies are presented together with practical tips to implement effective training sessions.

<http://www.skillsdevelopment.org/pdf/Training-for-rural-development-research-report.pdf>

During the implementation of your policy or programme, publications, communications, press releases might be issued. Don't forget to give visibility to gender issues and to pay attention to the language and visuals: these can convey gender stereotypes and gendered concepts, but they can also contribute to deconstructing stereotypes, thus underlying the importance of using gender-sensitive language.

Examples of gender language in agriculture and rural development

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Communicating gender for rural development — integrating gender in communication for development.

This document is designed to promote the introduction of a gender perspective into communication for development initiatives in rural areas, and suggests practical ways of going about this. It consists of two parts. The first focuses on key concepts and guidelines relating to gender on the one hand and communication for development on the other, and the synergy between gender and communication for development. The second part focuses on the various stages of a communication initiative, revisiting them from a gender perspective.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am319e/am319e00.pdf>

Check

DEFINE PLAN ACT CHECK

A policy cycle or programme should be checked both during — monitoring, and at the end — evaluation, of its implementation.

Monitoring the ongoing work allows for the follow up of progress and for remedying unforeseen difficulties. This exercise should take into account the indicators delineated in the planning phase and realign data collection based on those indicators.

At the end of a policy cycle or programme, a gender-sensitive evaluation should take place. Make your evaluation publicly accessible and strategically disseminate its results to promote its learning potential.



Example of monitoring and evaluation on gender and agriculture and rural development

Gender in monitoring and evaluation in rural development: a tool kit. World Bank, 2008

This tool kit for integrating gender into monitoring and evaluation has been developed to assist project task teams, borrowers and partners to recognise and address gender concerns in designing rural development sector projects. It aims to monitor progress in gender integration during implementation and to evaluate its impact in achieving overall rural well-being. The document provides general guidelines for integrating gender into monitoring and evaluation and thematic briefs on rural sub-sectors.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/07/21/000334955_20080721082201/Rendered/PDF/445520WP0BOX0327404B01PUBLIC10July02008.pdf

Practical examples of gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development

UK

A gender thematic working group in Northern Ireland

Within the Northern Ireland Rural Network financed during the 2007—2013 programming period, a thematic working group on women in rural development was established. The group explored the role of women in rural life and rural businesses. The main aims of the group were to:

- examine the current levels of female participation in the Northern Irish (RDP);
- identify good practice projects implemented by women under the current RDP;
- identify the best approaches and good practices in rural women's issues.

The group focused on a range of issues facing rural women and held events and activities to encourage women to become economically active.

[http://www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk/download/files/Gender%20factsheet\(1\).pdf](http://www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk/download/files/Gender%20factsheet(1).pdf)

Spain

Rural woman: employment and new technologies project

The project develops interregional cooperation in the framework of the National Rural Network financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. It involves the participation of eight local action groups located in five Spanish regions (Andalusia, Asturias, Castile-La Mancha, Castile-Leon and Madrid). The initiative is part of the broader National Rural Network which is a platform integrated by the most relevant agents in the rural policy field in order to reinforce alliance between them, disseminate good practices and network. National, regional and local administrations, professional associations and ecologist groups are represented.

The main objective is the promotion of women entrepreneurial initiatives, and employment-based social economy (cooperatives, worker-owned companies, partnerships). This uses information and communication technologies in order to eliminate men and women differences in the access to labour market and business. As the network's main results, 833 women have already participated in training courses and 43 new companies have been created and included in the virtual enterprise incubator. Moreover, 'employability agents' have supported and assisted around 1 000 women since 2010. The virtual enterprise incubator Web 2.0 is available. Project partners have also used the networking opportunity to create the Federation of Development Association for Gender Equality (FADIG).

<http://www.mujieryempleo.com>

<http://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/good-practices/spain/online-business-training-rural-women>

National plan to promote equality between women and men in rural areas (2007—2010)

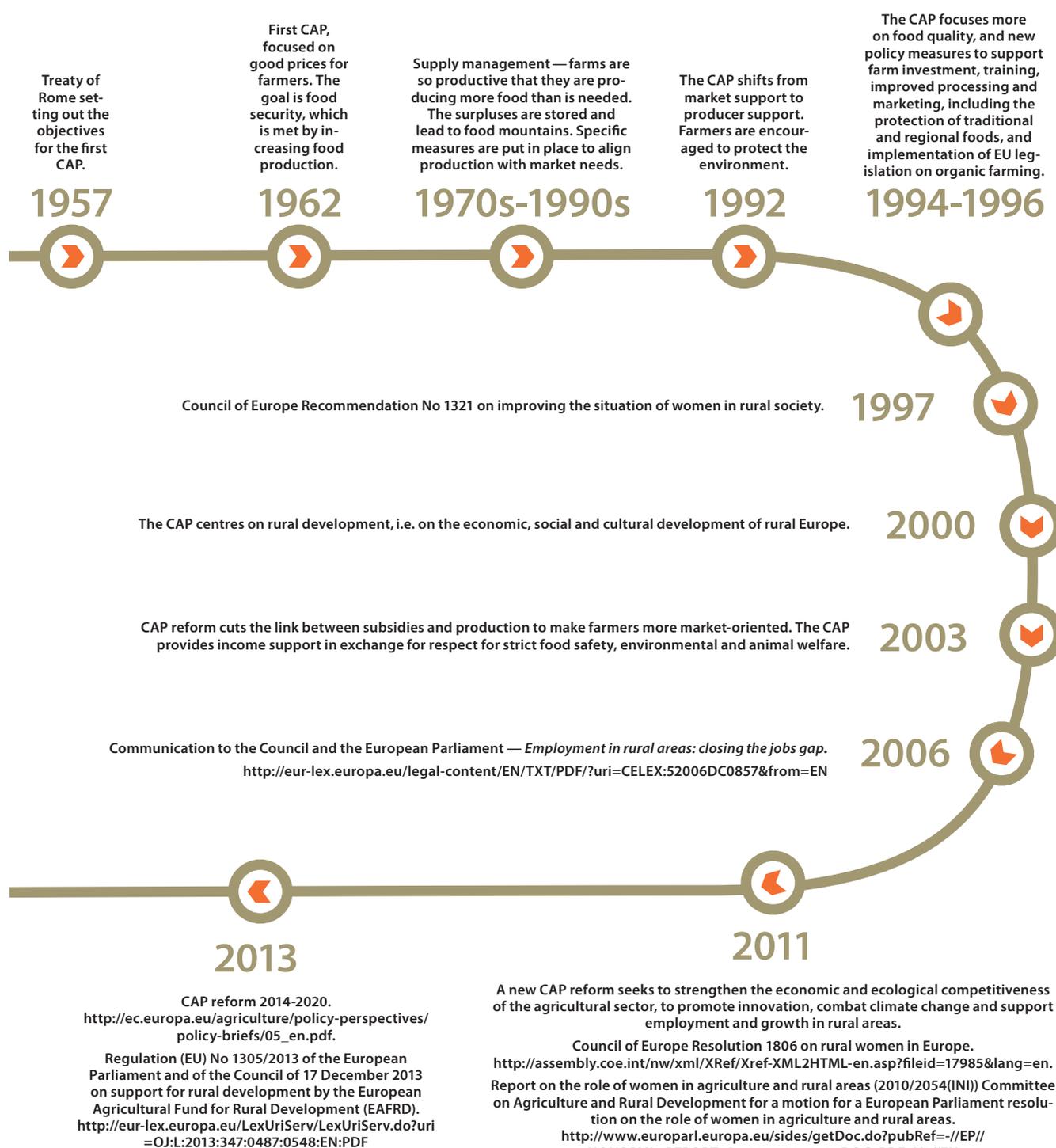
The National plan to promote equality between women and men in rural areas (2007—2010) had as its starting point the fewer employment opportunities and lack of services for the population in the rural areas. It introduced and established general principles of gender mainstreaming and empowerment in the development of rural areas. It was aiming at the following main objectives:

- ensuring that women who live and work in rural areas do not suffer double discrimination;
- curbing the exodus of women from rural areas to urban areas, thereby helping to combat rural depopulation and ageing;
- ensuring that women contribute to the economic development of rural areas with their entry into the labour market.

5. Want to know more?

Timeline

The key milestones of the EU agricultural and rural policy are presented below.



6. Current policy priorities at the EU level

The common agricultural policy reform 2014—2020

After a public debate about the future of the CAP at the end of 2013, reform was agreed for 2014—2020. This is reflected in *The CAP towards 2020: meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future* ⁽⁴³⁾. It has a budget of EUR 363 billion for the period 2014—2020. From 2015 onwards, the CAP will be introducing a new policy instrument in Pillar 1: the *green direct payment*, which will form 30 % of the national direct payment envelope.

The new CAP is placed in and shaped by the overall Europe 2020 strategy ⁽⁴⁴⁾, which indicates that the economic growth in the EU should be smart, sustainable and inclusive. The CAP reform includes economic, environmental and territorial challenges, and has three long-term policy objectives:

- viable food production;
- sustainable management of natural resources;
- climate action and balanced territorial development.

EU rural development policy (2014—2020)

Within the architecture of the EU RDP 2014—2020, Pillar 2 of the CAP, six priorities are identified that need to be pursued to reach the broader long-term objectives of the overall CAP ⁽⁴⁵⁾. The RDP is implemented through national and/or regional 7-year rural development programmes, and should reflect the six EU priorities:

1. fostering knowledge, transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
2. enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forests;
3. promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;

⁽⁴³⁾ European Commission, *The CAP towards 2020: meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future*, COM(2010) 672 final, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/communication/com2010-672_en.pdf.

⁽⁴⁴⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

⁽⁴⁵⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/index_en.htm

4. restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry;
5. promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
6. promoting social inclusion, poverty and economic development in rural areas.

Resources

Selected policy documents relevant to agriculture and rural development

European Commission, *Staff working document: a view on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas* (SWD (2012) 44 final of 7 March 2012), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2012. http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/reports/ruralemployment/swd-2012-44_en.pdf.

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Gender equality relevant policy documents

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- This article offers a pan-European perspective to examine how a stated commitment to gender mainstreaming works in practice, using the CAP as an example. <http://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/critcom/are-eu-attempts-to-gender-mainstream-realistic-the-common-agricultural-policy-cap-as-an-example/>
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- World Bank, *Gender in agriculture: sourcebook*, World Bank, Washington, DC, 792 pp., 2008.

Other resources

EIGE, Gender equality index
<http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/gender-equality-index>

Europe 2020 website
http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

Europe 2020 country-specific recommendations and reports
http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm

Committee of the Regions Europe 2020 Online Monitor Platform
<http://cor.europa.eu/europe2020>

European Community of Practice on Gender Mainstreaming (Gender-CoP)
<http://www.gendercop.com/>



<http://eige.europa.eu>



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