



POLICY BRIEF

BRIDGE THE GENDER GAP IN THE AGRICULTURE AND LAND SECTORS

ACT NOW!



May 2018

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABOUT NETRIGHT

The Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) is a network of civil society organisations (CSOs) and individuals who have a clear interest in working together to bring a gender perspective to national processes as well as policy content and implementation. NETRIGHT draws attention to violations of women's rights and campaigns for changes to achieve women's equality. The network also creates space for debate and clearer articulation of different positions within the women's movement in Ghana. NETRIGHT focuses on three (3) core areas, namely- economic justice, movement building and natural resources. To ensure inclusiveness, NETRIGHT provides a national advocacy platform for CSOs around national and international processes and educates the public about gender equality and women's rights issues.

BACKGROUND

Successive Governments since independence have acknowledged the important contribution of agriculture to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Studies and research findings also underscore the invaluable role women play in food production.

Women contribute 70% to food crop production in the country and form 52% of the agricultural workforce. Women work so hard but do not receive the requisite benefits. They are at the **Centre of Production** but are at the **Periphery of Benefits**. The World Bank Development Report (2012) – *Gender Equality and Development*, estimated that if women farmers in Ghana had the same access to fertilizers and other inputs as do male farmers, overall maize yield would increase by almost one-sixth.

The many challenges women face in food production, in tandem with their reproductive role in the family include: women's access and right to land, their inability often to employ modern and improved agricultural practices and technologies, difficulty in accessing extension services, favourable credits, guaranteed markets and lastly their inability to embark on profitable value – addition enterprises in the food value chain. Most of the above constraints result from women's high illiteracy rates and limited knowledge and skills as well as the many outmoded discriminatory and prohibitive cultural practices they are subjected to, particularly in the land sector.

Ghana's avowed aim of achieving Gender Equality and Social Inclusion is anchored in International and National Instruments, Laws and Policies. Particular reference is made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979 and the National Gender Policy 2015. Article 17 (1) and (2) of the 1992 Constitution guarantees gender equality and freedom of men and women from any form of discrimination. Additionally, Ghana and its development partners have put in place various measures including policies, laws, regulations and guidelines which include, the Land Administration Projects (LAP) I and II, The Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy (FASDEP II) 2007, The Medium Term Agricultural Sector Investment Plan (METASIP) 2013, The Gender and the Agricultural Development Strategy (GADS I) 2001 & (GADS II) 2015,



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the Lands Bill 2018 and Lands Commission Guidelines on Large-Scale Land Acquisition 2016, and other relevant Policies to bring sustainable gender equity in the sectors.

POLICY ISSUES

The Gender Analysis of Agriculture and Land Sectors Policies initiated by NETRIGHT under the LFS grant and sponsored by AWDF respectively identified the following gender gaps:

- **Access to Credit and Financial Services** – Lack of collateral, reasonable and affordable credit facilities.
- **Access to Agricultural Extension Service Delivery** – Ratio of male and female farmers was 34.4% and 9.5% respectively. Only 13% of Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) are females. AEAs farmer ratio in Ghana is 1:1,500 instead of the required 1:500.
- **Access to Technology** – 33% of males as opposed to 12% females had access to new technology.
- **Access, Control and Ownership of Land** – The Land Tenure system is governed mainly by customary law where women's access, control and ownership to land is highly limited and restricted. The Lands Commission under LAP II, the Lands Bill, 2018 Large-Scale Land Acquisition Guidelines have made some interventions that are expected to bring equity in the land administration.
- **Harnessing the Potential of Vulnerable Women.** People Living With Disabilities (PLWD), People Living with Aids (PLWA) and the Youth, need to be targeted.
- **Gender Disaggregated Data** – An essential tool in promoting gender equity in the sectors not easily available and accessible.
- **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Women's Right Organisations (WROs)** have key roles to play in promoting gender equity in the Agricultural and the Land Sectors.
- **Agro-Input Support** – These include certified seeds, fertilizers and crop protection materials. The knowledge required for proper application is limited among illiterate

farmers who are mostly women.

- **Irrigation Practices** – This is mostly beyond the reach of rural farmers; hand pumps should be made available to the rural farmer especially the woman farmer.
- **Agricultural Engineering Services** – Farm Power, Machinery and Transport, Post-Harvest Management, Soil and Water Conservation.
- **Equipment** – Urgent need for appropriate, women friendly and affordable equipment to reduce the drudgery and add value to the products.
- **Transport** – Intermediate Means of Transport for the women to carry produce from farm to farm gate and the markets - Use of motor tricycle, donkey carts etc. to be considered.
- **Livestock Production** –
 - Women mostly engage in poultry and small ruminants, processing and marketing of livestock.
 - Lack of funds to procure and maintain the livestock.
 - Inadequate knowledge of veterinary services.
- **Institutional Arrangement and Implementation** –
 - MoFA seems to have limited institutional capacity to promote gender responsive Policy development, Planning and Implementation.
 - Staff are often constrained by lack of logistics, scarcity of other relevant resources and time for gender related work.
- **Agribusiness** – Value addition to agricultural produce is in the domain of 95% women who however, lack appropriate processing equipment and have limited knowledge in post-harvest management systems.
- **Research and Extension Linkages Committees** – Translating research into appropriate women friendly press bottom machinery and equipment.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made for consideration and necessary action:

- Gender equality should be seen to be practised at all levels of the agricultural and land sectors.
- The Government through its MDAs should mainstream gender in all its policies, programmes and activities as well as strategies especially in the agricultural and land sectors.
- The Government should have the Political Will to prioritize gender issues and allocate the necessary funds to the agricultural sector.
- Gender-disaggregated data should be available and accessible to Policy Makers (especially MoFA), Development Partners, the Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations in the Agricultural and Land Sectors.
- Gender awareness and sensitisation training programmes should be organised for all the stakeholders including – The Lands Commission, MoFA, Traditional Council and Authorities, Parliament, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) etc.
- Civil Society Organisations particularly the Women Rights Organizations should be well resourced to enable them enhance their advocacy and training roles.
- The Traditional Authorities, Traditional Council and Family Heads should be sensitised on gender equality and gender provisions in the Constitution, the Lands Bill, 2018 and the Large Scale Land Acquisition Guidelines. There should be intense public education on the provisions of the Lands Bill by all stakeholders to allow for its early passage.
- The Government, with financial and technical assistance of the African Development Bank and the UNECA, should establish Land Banks to facilitate women's easy access to land. The Lands Commission and MoFA should spearhead the process.

- The government should provide soft loans to rural farmers especially women farmers to carry out their agri-business and other related activities in the food value chain.
- MoFA should be strengthened with both human and financial resources to implement the strategies outlined in the Gender and Agricultural Development Strategies II (GADS II).
- The Government should through the appropriate MDAs embark on infrastructural development at farm to farm gate and market centres to ease the burden of the rural farmers who carry heavy loads. This would also minimise post-harvest losses.
- The Research Institutions notably, the Crop, Soil, Water and Food Research Institutes of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) should be well resourced to accomplish and share innovative results which can add value to agricultural produce and increase the income of the rural female farmers.
- Development Partners and Funding agents should earmark adequate funds for M&E to ensure that projects achieve their desired outcomes which can be objectively verified.

