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**Establishment of a Core Set of Gender-Sensitive Indicators for the Agricultural Sector:
A Preliminary Proposal**

Submitted by FAO¹

Although readily available for a variety of sectors, gender-sensitive indicators that enable researchers and policy makers to analyse the participation in—and benefits from—agriculture by men women and children at national, regional and global levels are generally lacking. Within the last decade, there has been increasing demand for such indicators to fill in data gaps and render more visible women farmers. However, a generally-agreed upon set of gender-specific data and indicators for the agricultural sector that can be applied internationally across a wide range of agricultural circumstances has yet to emerge.

A gender focus that incorporates both age **and** sex is acknowledged to be important for the analysis of the agricultural sector internationally, as in many regions of the world women and children are recognised as making important contributions to both agricultural production and food security. In future, planners will need to have reliable information disaggregated by age and sex in order to monitor structural changes in the agricultural sector and fashion appropriate intervention strategies. For this, gender-sensitive data and indicators on the structure of land ownership, access to and use of productive resources and cropping and livestock production patterns are required to supplement available data on the age-sex composition of the labour force of economically active in agriculture.

Given its global mandate to serve as a source for agricultural statistics and its UN mandate as a focal point for rural women, the FAO has considerable interest in the establishment of a core set of gender-sensitive indicators for the agricultural sector. In its efforts to assist member countries improve their national system of agricultural statistics, the organization provides technical support in agricultural statistics and gender analysis, particularly within the framework of the World Census of Agriculture 2000. These experiences have made the Organization very aware of the constraints facing many national agricultural statistical systems, and the need to have gender-sensitive indicators that can be estimated using data from agricultural censuses and/or annual agricultural surveys, rather than from special surveys or studies.

This paper discusses the need for such a core set of gender-sensitive indicators that will permit analysis of the gender aspects of agricultural structure and trends, and summarises the work of FAO in gender-sensitive indicator development and gender-disaggregated data, with special reference to collaborative work in the context of the World Census of Agriculture 2000. As a first step to such a formulation, it offers a framework for establishment of such a set using available sources of data. A core set of indicators is offered in following major areas: ownership of land, access to productive resources (machinery, fertilizer and pesticide use), and the role of women in agriculture (participation in the agricultural labour force). The paper also discusses data requirements and estimation issues associated with these indicators, and uses examples drawn from the World Agricultural Census 2000 as illustrations.

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