

MAKING SENSE OF LAND STATISTICS AND GENDER

Land statistics disaggregated by sex are useful for showcasing the disparities in land rights between women and men. They also provide a sense of women's economic empowerment in agriculture. Unfortunately, land statistics are not always used properly. We want to help you understand and interpret better the different land statistics available in FAO's Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD).

We invite you to travel with us to a rural community in Sub-Saharan Africa and meet **Tafadzwa**, **Wema** and **Chimango** who will tell us their story. Our hosts are part of the same extended family, they all contribute to the family farm and yet the data collected about them differ greatly as a result of their relationships to each other and to agricultural land. Their situation reflects well the situation in their country about gender differences in land rights.



TAFADZWA



WEMA



CHIMANGO

" I am 55 years old and a widow "

Tafadzwa retained her right to the family land through a custodial arrangement in her village after her husband died.

" I am Tafadzwa's younger sister. I'm 45 years old "

Wema often is the main decision-maker in the farm when her husband is away for other work, deciding what crops to plant and when.

" I am Wema's husband. I'm 48 years old "

When not working on the farm -which he inherited when his father passed away- he works on a tobacco plantation field.

WHAT STATISTICS CAN WE USE TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?

Q: ARE THERE MORE MALE THAN FEMALE HOLDERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND?

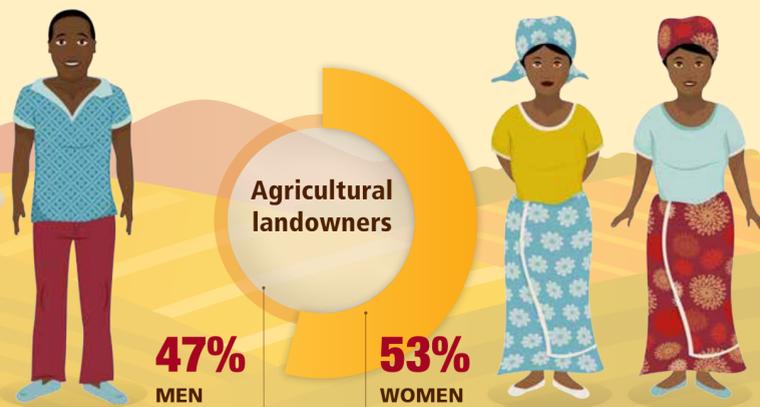
A farm holder is a person who makes the majority of decisions regarding the agricultural operation of the farm. When the last agricultural census was undertaken over 20 years ago, **Tafadzwa** was not accounted as the farm holder. Only her husband – who is now deceased - was accounted as one.



A: USE [DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDERS BY SEX](#)

Q: ARE THERE MORE MALE THAN FEMALE LANDOWNERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND?

The landowner is the legal owner of the land; however, definitions of ownership may vary across countries and surveys, depending on their tenure systems. Documented ownership is verified through title or deed, while reported ownership relies on individuals' own judgment. **Tafadzwa** and **Wema** both report to be landowners. In fact, **women constitute more than half of the total owners of agricultural land** in their country.



A: USE [DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS BY SEX](#)

Q: WHAT IS THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN WHO OWN AGRICULTURAL LAND?



23%
SOLE OWNERS

Adult women

48%
SOLELY + JOINTLY WITH MEN



Tafadzwa is today the sole owner of her land. Her sister **Wema** owns her land together with her husband. Taking into account both sole or joint ownership, **almost half of the adult female population** in their country **own agricultural land**.

A: USE [INCIDENCE OF FEMALE AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS](#)

Q: WHO OWNS MORE LAND, MEN OR WOMEN?



42%
MEN

Agricultural land area

18%
JOINT

40%
WOMEN

Although women in the country make up the majority of landowners, they own slightly less *agricultural land area* than men. **Tafadzwa's** farm, for example, is smaller than the average farms owned by men in her village.

A: USE [DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AREA OWNED BY SEX](#)

CAN YOU GUESS WHERE TAFADZWA, WEMA AND CHIMANGO ARE FROM?

They are from **MALAWI**

Visit the the Gender and Land Rights Database to obtain statistics about other countries and regions and to learn more about progress in advancing women's land rights globally:

www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database

The CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) partnered with FAO to develop the gender and land statistics presented in the Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD). Since 2010, the GLRD has been highlighting the major political, legal and cultural factors that influence the realization of women's land rights throughout the world. Designed for policy makers and women's land rights advocates, this hub of information serves as a platform to address and provide information about gender and land issues. The GLRD has three main tools: *Country Profiles* for over 80 countries, *Gender and Land Statistics*, and a *Legislation Assessment Tool* (LAT).



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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