

European Workshop on Gender Sensitive Statistics for Analyzing Change and  
Development in Agriculture  
Steinkjer, Norway, 7-9 June 2006

## **REPORT**

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## **I. BACKGROUND**

The European Workshop on Gender Sensitive Statistics for Analyzing Change and Development in Agriculture. The FAO/ECA Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development (WPW) has through the years urged the need for better and more gender sensitive official data and statistics in agriculture and rural development and the topic has several times been suggested for both Sessions and specific Workshops during the recent years. In Norway a similar initiative referring to both a national and a more global perspective on data and statistics development, was put forward to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Innovation Norway from the County Governor of Nord Trøndelag.

Since the last 15-20 years information and knowledge on women and men and their living conditions in agriculture and rural areas has increased, both in quantity and in quality. But there are still many gaps and there are still demands for improvements. Information is not always satisfying rooted in reliable statistics. Rapid changes in society lead to changed needs for new knowledge. Yesterdays' statistics may not be the best knowledge base for developing a policy for tomorrow. In addition there is a continuing need to develop methods for studies and analyses of the gender perspective in agriculture and rural development, including data collection and tabulation of datas.

The workshop has been planned and carried out in collaboration with Gender and Population Division (SDW) in FAO. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Innovation Norway and The County Governor of Nord Trøndelag have jointly financed the workshop budget.

## **II. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

The main goal was to promote and contribute to the development of Gender Sensitive Statistics in Agriculture and Rural Development in Europe.

Following objectives were set for the workshop:

- To contribute to increased consciousness among planners, politicians and others of the importance of statistics as a tool for policy development
- To promote interdisciplinary collaboration in the production of a more gender sensitive agricultural and rural development statistics
- To make visible fields and topics where reliable statistics serve as a knowledge base for policy development
- To provide participants with improved skills for the management and analysis of gender sensitive statistics for agriculture and rural development
- To promote a creative arena for the exchange and cooperation between statisticians and practitioners

## **III. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS**

The participants were a mixed group of producers and users of statistics. Approximately 50 % represented the user-group; policy advisers and officers in public administration and NGOs, researchers. The other group included statisticians and administrators of statistical offices in ministries. The participant list is on pages 13-20.

## **IV. WORKSHOP CONTENT, ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS**

The three days workshop included presentations based on theory and practice, case studies, a field trip and several discussions in plenary and in groups. The presentations and case studies

are only briefly mentioned in this report. They are available on a CD (send a request to the County Governor of Nord Trøndelag, see address list) and on the workshop website [www.gdd2006.no](http://www.gdd2006.no)

## **Day 1 Wednesday**

### **Opening session**

Ms **Viil Søyland**, Deputy Director General, The Ministry of Agriculture and Food opened the Workshop. She gave a brief overview of the gender situation in Norwegian agriculture and of the importance of gender sensitive statistics as a source for a targeted policy.

Mr **Anstein Lyngstad**, Deputy Director of Agriculture Department, County Governor of Nord Trøndelag, introduced the participants to some statistical data on national and regional agriculture and forestry of Norway. He also mentioned some of the strengths and challenges that Nord Trøndelag and its agricultural population face now and in the future. He wished the participants welcome to Nord Trøndelag.

### **From sex-aggregated data to gender-sensitive agriculture statistics**

Gender research officer in SDW-FAO Mr. **John Curry**, gave a presentation of the SDW support to the European region in Gender –Disaggregated data for agriculture and rural development. The presentation highlighted the need for more adequate concepts and improvements in both the analysis and dissemination of gender disaggregated data. SDW can support member countries by training, technical and strategy assistance. Some areas for improvements in statistics are: the hidden (black, grey) labour market, self-employment in rural areas, female farm heads in transition countries, rural/farming women's access to resources, land rights/use, domestic violence, human trafficking, women's representation in decision making. His conclusion was that policy issues require GDD.

### **Agriculture statistics and gender – An overview and case study of Northern Ireland**

Dr **Sally Shortall**, Queens University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, focused on the gaps on gender in official statistics and the consequences for policy making and for the common knowledge of "rural life". In spite the considerable knowledge about the gender gaps in statistics and the relatively high political commitment to gender quality in most countries, the context of gender and agriculture/rural development is not very well reflected in statistics. The Northern Ireland case shows that one is still fighting against a traditional and often sexist way of thinking about data collection. In her comments to the situation she underlined that statistics are both constructed and analysed in line with a "male norm". Mainstream development programmes represent the male pattern. Women's participation in agriculture and rural development is judged against this. Women's activities, e.g. through women's NGOs and networks, is seldom tabulated as rural development but as social activities.

### **Group work**

The objective of the first group work was to check the availability of statistical data in the different countries and the possible variety. These given indicators were discussed:

- Property ownership
- Farm managers
- Share of total agricultural work
- Average age of owners
- Off farm employment
- Access to agricultural education

- Memberships of / participation in agricultural organisations
- Rural entrepreneurship

The groups discussed the definitions of the given indicators, both how to understand and translate them and then the informational value of them. These are some of the comments:

- Access to education – a better picture of situation would have been proportion of population graduating from different levels of agricultural education
- Farm managers – sole or shared holdings?
- Share of total agricultural work – very often gender biased as does not account for all kind of farm work
- Off-farm employment- who is included: Owner, worker, and family members?
- Membership of agricultural organizations- very seldom in official statistics, membership of local NGOs is underestimated
- Rural entrepreneurship- Definition is missing, only some activities are included

The group discussions showed that different definitions and conceptions of the indicators could confuse. The more accurate definition, the more useful information and knowledge will be gained. The discussions gave also an insight in the different challenges faced in the participating countries. One of the most important and basic information sources is the agriculture census. In addition to population statistics, the census is the basis for gender sensitive statistics in agriculture.

### **Gender Sensitive Data in Hungary and in New EU Member States**

Ms **Eva Laczka**, Director of Agriculture and Environmental Statistics Department, Central Statistics Office of Hungary, gave a presentation on the Hungarian Agricultural Statistics, the Hungarian Agriculture in figures, a project for re-tabulation of agricultural Census 2000 and some gender sensitive data in new EU member states from 2003. The objective of the re-tabulation project was to improve the volume and quality of gender disaggregated data and fills the data gap for gender-responsive policy and planning. After the project a FAO supported workshop for analysing and discussing the project results were organised. She also referred to a joint analysis of Agricultural and Population Census Data. where private holdings and household were the target population. The results of these analyses show that such linking of data from different sources can increase the richness of the data and information.

### **Group work**

The objective was to experience how information can effect a rural development planning process. An imaged case was discussed and more information was fed to the group during the session. The group was instructed to keep track of how this new information affected their discussion designing and planning of their project. The task was to design and plan a rural tourism development project, based on an existing tourist attraction (salt mine) in the area. Some information about the area, the labour market, the agriculture and the population were given.

Although this case was artificial and the information about local conditions was quite limited, the groups carried out a planning process as if it was real. Their general recommendations for what kind of statistical information needed for planning local development projects are for this reason not exhaustive:

- Human and natural resources in the area

- Educational level, skills and capacities of local people: youth, woman&men, different groups
- Cultural and social aspects, traditions
- Local goals, desires
- Potential market demands and desires
- Educational training facilities available

They all agreed that more people oriented information would help them to target their project better, and to fulfil the local people's own needs and objectives.

Through the group work the participants experienced the importance of the relevance of the available information to be able to understand local conditions.

## **Day 2 Thursday**

### **The paradox of gender and recruitment in Norwegian agriculture**

Ms Reidun Heggem, Center for Rural Research, Norway, presented results from a research project focusing on the recruitment of new generations to Norwegian farms and some of the challenges that this process are facing. She focused on the gender dimension of it and of the connection between external conditions (economy, laws and rules) for agriculture and the individual choices of the farmers and their sons and daughters regarding taking over the farm. Quantitative survey data show that the number of women taking over farms is still considerable lower than of men. This low recruitment of women as farmers is a paradox to the agricultural policy, which seems to be well suited to adapt many women's ideas of modern agriculture. Surveys show that more women would like to see themselves in agriculture in. But the actual number of new female owners and holders are very low. She introduced the "tractor gene" as a possible explanation of the continuing male dominance in Norwegian farming. It is a metaphor of a socially constructed situation and used as an argument to legitimate the favourisation of a man as the most suited farmer.

### **Entrepreneurial development in Agriculture**

Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser from the Federal Institute for Less Favoured Areas, Austria, presented some gender sensitive statistics on Austrian agriculture and rural development and results from entrepreneurship projects. Historically women have played a crucial role in pluractivity in the Austrian agriculture and the range of activities are widening. In spite of the importance of these activities and their economic contribution to the farms and the Austrian agriculture, there is a data gap in the statistics. Among the missing data are gender disaggregated data on different spatial levels, diverse on-farm activities in respect to job creation and income effects and farm proprietors.

### **Group work**

The objective was to identify arguments and drivers for development of more gender sensitive statistics for analyzing change and development in agriculture, in general, for the recruitment of new generations in agriculture and for entrepreneurial development in rural areas. The second part of the discussion was to discuss how to sell the arguments to different target groups: policymakers, the agricultural and rural community and to the farmers' organizations. The best arguments for gender sensitive statistics are that they can contribute to better understand the realities and to help directing the policies according to goals, to be able to facilitate programmes and projects with gender sensitivity. For the recruitment of new generations and for entrepreneurial development in rural areas such statistics will support better knowledge the drivers for change. The way of selling the arguments to different groups

will vary. Politicians want to re-elected, people need understandable and concrete examples and statistics, the farmers' organizations would enjoy international networks and help for targeting strategies in this field.

The group work enabled the participants to discuss possible solutions and ideas to bring home and use in their own work.

### **Development of gender sensitive agriculture statistics**

Mr **Ole Osvald Moss**, Statistics Norway, gave a presentation touching upon the role of official statistics, distinction between data and statistics, standard contra tailor-made statistics, and the struggle for priority among other issues. Development of gender sensitive agricultural statistics has been somewhat in the background of emerging needs on other crosscutting fields like environmental issues, food safety and rural development. A brief review of official agricultural statistics on national and international level clearly indicates lacks in the gender perspective. At the same time, it is evident that some countries, especially the Nordic, can improve the situation by relatively simple measures. A concerted action by EUROSTAT and FAO is vital to attain comparability across country borders.

### **Gender sensitive Statistics Development projects and Research**

Dr **Roald Sand**, Nord Trøndelag Research Centre, presented an example of how available statistics can be used to increase the knowledge of gender in agriculture, based on a study of regional differences in Norwegian agriculture. Data were collected from different official surveys. Some interesting empirical results of the analyses were: The share of labour-intensive farms and the share of highly mechanized and capital-intensive farms affect the regional shares of female farm managers. Labour- and capital-intensive farms have a low share of female managers. The number of women establishing entrepreneurial activities on the farms is increasing and more of the traditional female work on the farm is rationalized. In this situation an increasing number of their husbands are replacing them as managers on the farm and doing the traditional farm work and production.

### **Field Trip**

A field trip in the Steinkjer region was organised in the afternoon and evening. There following places and sites were visited:

- Brandheia Villmarksleir- a nature camp owned and run by two farm couples.
- Bøla – a rock carving site, naturalistic artwork around 5500 year old
- Bjørka- a 4 generations family farm, with milk, meat and honey production
- Mære church- a church from the 12<sup>th</sup> century
- Bjerkem- a 3 generation family farm with a variety of cultural and business activities, everything based on the history, traditions and the human resources on the farm

## **Day 3 Friday**

### **Gender Sensitive Indicators for Agriculture and Rural Development**

Ms **Anne Nicolaysen**, FAO, gave a presentation on gender sensitive indicators (GSI), highlighting how GSI can monitor gender-related progress and change over time. She talked about different types of GSI (input, process, output, impact, quantitative and qualitative indicators), factors that influence gender differences and important elements of functional GSI, e.g. SMART GSI (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Reliable and Time-bound)

### **Group work**

The theme was to identify a policy goal with a gender dimension, to determine a desired change and suggest how this could be measured, to specify indicator types and to develop SMART Gender Sensitive Indicators, to specify the necessary information and to indicate whether this information is available in own country.

The task was quite complex and the participants were not prepared to discuss the topic thoroughly. Such discussions needs more time, especially to detail the indicators. In many countries there are a lot of data, it's a challenge to "discover" the usefulness of them.

The results of the group work are summarized in the following section.

| <b>Group work results</b>             |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Theme</b>                          | <b>Development objective</b>                                   | <b>Gender dimension</b>                                     | <b>Desired change</b>  | <b>How can change be measured</b>   | <b>Indicator 1</b>  | <b>Indicator 2</b>  | <b>Information required:</b>  | <b>Available information?</b>                                      |
| Group 1<br>Migration from the country | To reduce migration and to get men and women to return         | Young people in working age                                 | Reduced migration of young people  | Study reasons for migration by available data, find additional data sources   | Migration by sex, age and socio-economic groups           | Education level   | The reasons and period of the migration process   | Not complete   |
| Group 2<br>Rural-urban migration      | To stop rural-urban migration                                  | Ration of men/women (total by age-groups)                   | To improve living conditions and safety in rural areas   | Survey every 3-5 years  | Population, by sex, education, employment, marital status | Infrastructure of rural area: education, transport, health, etc)  | No of those leaving/coming to rural area  | Community registers  |
| Group 3<br>Rural-urban migration      | Creating more jobs in rural districts based on local resources | Focusing/including on female dimension                      | Pluri-activities and farmers to be more inventive  | Develop stat. indicators on local level, based on data on untraditional activities                                      | No. Of off-farm activities and income                     | % Of rural population moving to urban areas   | Detailed population statistics, population and agriculture censuses                                   | Yes  |
| Group 4<br>Rural entrepreneurship     | Increase rural families income                                 | To strengthen rural women's position in the economic sector | Improve entrepreneurship skills of w&m, Alternatives, Women networks Diversified business, Socio-economic roles and status of w&m, Access to market and credit | Access to credit, training courses, surveys, focus group discussion, face to face interviews, no of people in trainings | Increase of income  | No. of new businesses, certifications, additional jobs created, access to credits, courses organised, vocational trainings, attendance on trainings | No. of businesses and in which sectors Who are willing to start own business Mobility Education level | Yes, several surveys have been initiated, for qualitative research |
| Group 5<br>Rural entrepreneurship     | Increase (the involvement of women in) rural entrepreneurship  | Ensure the participation of women                           | Increased self esteem and autonomy, gain independence  | Gained profit   | No. Of created enterprises                                | Income, employment. Profit  | No. Of employments by sex Income  | Statistics, surveys, registered companies                          |

## Case studies

Case studies from Estonia, Sweden, Georgia and Turkey were presented.

Ms **Marie Louise Widen** from Statistics Sweden presented some European and Swedish examples of how existing data can be analyzed and published to make the gender dimension more visible. The small booklet Facts and figures about men and women has been “exported” to many other countries around the world since the first was published in Sweden. A Eurostat project on rural development indicators has been initiated. The draft proposal includes some gender sensitive indicators. Income figures of agricultural households show the importance of both the husbands and wives off farm employment for the household’s economy.

Ms **Nese Cakir** from GAP in Southern Anatolia Region in Turkey, presented statistical data on different aspects of the region, focusing on social parameters, women’s participation in labour market and their income compared with men. The situation of women in this region is with no doubt very difficult and gender sensitive statistics contribute to make it visible.

Ms **Lia Charekishvili** from Department of Statistics in Georgia gave a presentation on the Agricultural Census of Georgia 2004, focusing on Gender Dimensions. The census obtained data on the holder’s juridical status and ownership form, data on the holder and composition of his/her household, main purpose of the production, ownership and use of agricultural machinery and the household’s food security.

Ms **Aili Maanso** from Statistics Estonia gave a presentation on women in agricultural holdings of Estonia. She presented statistics on the share of holdings operated by women by economic size, by age, by agricultural training, sex disaggregated statistics on labour (permanent, regular and family) force by working time. The number of male and female workers in agriculture is almost equal, a third of managers are women and two third of them are older than 55 years. Women run smaller holdings and most of them have only practical experience, not formal agricultural training/education.

## **V. Future Gender Sensitive Statistics Activities**

### Own follow-up activities

The participants were challenged to indicate relevant follow-up activities in their countries and, if possible, what they can do in their own work.

The following is a summarized version of the afternoon session.

### **FAO**

#### **Follow-up**

- a) Finalize the gender indicators for FAOSTAT
- b) Continue to offer training on gender-disaggregated data in the region
- c) Work to upgrade and expand gender-disaggregated statistics for FAO’s Country Gender Fact-sheets

#### **Networking activities**

- a) Network with ECA to finish their training materials
- b) Network with EUROSTAT on the FARMSTAT survey
- c) Networking with Norway and Sweden for joint collaboration on gender data and indicators for FAOSTAT
- d) Continue networking with the Czech government to offer gender statistics training for countries in Caucasus and Balkan countries

## **Serbia**

Request support from FAO and EUROSTAT to train enumerators and data collectors at the field level

## **Albania**

- Request technical support from FAO – to organize workshops to have users and producers of data to talk together and for awareness-raising
- Research project on entrepreneurship

## **Romania**

- Distribute material from this workshop and organize GDD user-producer workshop
- Establish GSI in ongoing work

## **Georgia**

- Organize regional workshop (Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia) for women's organisations,
- Share materials from this workshop and upcoming work on website.
- Include more GDD in the statistics publications in Georgia.

## **Armenia**

- Present information and materials from this workshop to people involved in collecting and disseminating
- Agricultural Census – will ensure that gender-disaggregated data is included
- Request FAO support for the upcoming agricultural census

## **Norway**

- Get more out of what we have already – improve the visualization and publication of our statistics, e.g. on web page
- Re-tabulate existing data
- Fill the data gap – the economic value of rural development initiatives (monitor and get statistics about the non-farm, on-farm activities by sex, and analysed by gender variables).

## **Sweden**

Continue collaboration between users and producers

Norway and Sweden will raise the GDD issue at the Nordic Statistics meeting on Iceland that will take place towards the end of June 2006.

## **Latvia**

Publish more GDD information

## **Lithuania**

- Improve the data that we have for the agricultural sector –information to the Ministry of Agriculture
- Try to show agricultural income differences between women and men

## **Turkey**

- Request gender disaggregated data on holders and ownership in agricultural sector, as well as data showing gender differences in access to extension services
- Training in entrepreneurship 2008 in Southern Anatolia – workshop on gender-sensitive statistics – will request technical support from FAO

## **Macedonia**

- Contact the national statistics bureau to distribute results from workshop.
- Share this information with women's organisations in their network.

## **Austria**

- Mapping gender in agriculture and rural development – GDD should be made visible for users – with maps showing also regional differences.
- Try to strengthen linkages between the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Statistics Office.

## **Spain**

Share information with Ministry of Agriculture, the National Statistics Office

## **Activities of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development (WPW)**

Ms **Celia Fernandez Fontanillas**, chair of the Board of WPW, gave a presentation of the WPW and its activities. The FAO European Commission for Agriculture Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development has worked since its establishment in 1965 to increase the recognition of the role women and the family play in agriculture and rural development in the European Region. WPW membership is open for all member countries of ECA. WPW has an extensive network of people working in agricultural and rural development, most often also with a gender focus, across Europe. WPW serve as a meeting arena for a variety of professionals. WPW seeks to promote gender equality through the compilation and collection of information on key gender issues in the form of case studies and through organisation of training to provide participants with tools and methods to address gender-linked challenges in rural development. Awareness rising about the roles, responsibilities, opportunities and constraints of rural women and men is one of the core stones of its work. Information is shared and ideas are exchanged through formal and informal meeting and, publications and e-mail communication. A newsletter about its activities and related issues are spread among the network, and this service is free for anybody. More information about WPW on webpage [http://www.fao.org/world/Regional/REU/Content/Meetings/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/world/Regional/REU/Content/Meetings/index_en.htm)

## **VI. Evaluation of workshop**

An evaluation form was distributed among the participants. Here are the most important findings from the 22 filled-in forms:

1. 13 participants define themselves as producers of agriculture statistics and 9 as users.
2. 15 participants received information about the workshop through an official invitation, 4 through personal network, 1 through the Ministry and 2 through direct personal contact with organisers.
3. 12 participants applied for participation through the employer, 7 applied personally.

4. 18 participants were asked to participate because of their position or are involved in relevant projects/work, 2 because of own initiative and 2 because they've attended similar workshop earlier and wanted to follow up.
5. 22 have found the workshop useful for own work and here are some reasons:
  - Some countries experiences are good examples to follow
  - Sharing experiences across countries and professions are very useful
  - It has widened our perspectives
  - Provides an important dialogue between producers and users of statistics
  - Has given a better overview of the international "level" of gender statistics
  - Increased knowledge of gender dimension in Agriculture Statistics
  - Useful for introducing gender statistics in agriculture in own country
  - Got new ideas to involve GSS in educational and project activities in the agri/food sector
6. 21 of the participants confirm that they will have the opportunity to use knowledge, experiences and/or contacts gained from the workshop for the benefit of developing more GSS in own country. Some of the users will contact the producers in order to request more GSS, some will distribute information and materials from the workshop, and some will try to strengthen the dialogue and contact/links between the producers and the users of Agriculture Statistics.
7. Participants were asked to suggest follow up activities  
14 suggest another workshop to follow up this one

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