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3/CP.23 (Gender Action Plan, activity E.1)

## **Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in relation to Activity E.1, Priority Area E: Monitoring and Reporting of the Gender Action Plan, as mandated by Decision 3/CP.23.**

FAO welcomes the establishment of the Gender Action Plan,<sup>1</sup> which recognizes the need for gender-responsive policies in all aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation activities. FAO also welcomes the opportunity to submit its views and inputs to help shape the Plan's implementation.

It is FAO's view that gender must be mainstreamed and anchored in national and sectoral policies, strategies and plans, with special attention paid to the gender implications of the agriculture sectors<sup>2</sup> in the context of climate change. More than any other sectors, the agriculture sectors provide diverse opportunities for empowering women and reducing their vulnerability to climate-related shocks. Exposure to climate-related shocks, and strategies for coping with these, are typically analysed at the household level, which means that men's and women's experiences are not differentiated in analyses, and sex disaggregation is made only at the level of household heads; thus, such analyses are unable to fully identify gender gaps.

Gender equality is central to FAO's mandate to achieve food security for all by raising levels of nutrition, improving agricultural productivity and natural resource management, improving the lives of rural people, and reducing climate change. Moreover, agriculture is uniquely placed to help countries deliver on both climate commitments and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup> and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The inextricable linkages between the agriculture sectors, climate change, food security and poverty have been outlined in detail in previous FAO contributions to the UNFCCC, as well as in forthcoming submissions on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (4/CP.23) and under Activity A.2 of the Gender Action Plan (3/CP.23, GAP A.2).

### **A. Information on the differentiated impacts of climate-related hazards and disasters on women and men, with special attention paid to local communities and indigenous peoples**

FAO has generated vast knowledge and information on analysing and addressing the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men in the agriculture sectors, such as those described below.

**The labour burden of rural women exceeds that of men and includes a higher proportion of unpaid household responsibilities related to preparing food and collecting fuel and water.** A 2017 analysis by the World Bank and FAO<sup>4</sup> found that, in terms of household food provision, women are spending a growing amount of time collecting woodfuel and water and their workloads, therefore, are increasing. In natural disasters, women have a higher incidence of mortality than men, and they are also more vulnerable in situations of forced migration. The gender-differentiated impacts of climate change are especially pronounced among rural women, who rely more on biomass for their energy needs and livelihoods than do men.<sup>5</sup> Women's reduced access to resources (compared with men) makes them more vulnerable to climate shocks, especially in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist systems. Women and children primarily shoulder the burden of collecting woodfuel and preparing meals for their families, with major

<sup>1</sup>Decision 3/CP.23.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this document, the agriculture sectors comprise crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry.

<sup>3</sup> FAO. 2017. FAO Strategy on Climate Change. Available at [www.fao.org/3/a-i7175e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7175e.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> FAO & World Bank. 2017. Training module: How to integrate gender in climate smart agriculture (available at [www.fao.org/3/a-i6097e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6097e.pdf)).

<sup>5</sup> FAO. Undated. Differentiated impacts of climate change [online]. Climate smart agriculture sourcebook. FAO. [Cited 10 March 2018]. Available at: [www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/enabling-frameworks/module-c7-gender/chapter-c7-1](http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/enabling-frameworks/module-c7-gender/chapter-c7-1)

consequences in terms of productive time lost and risks to personal safety and health. In Nigeria, for example, 5 percent of internally displaced persons have reported cases of assault during woodfuel collection and 4 percent have reported abduction.

**Indigenous women are keepers of genetic resources (in the form of seeds), holders of ancestral knowledge, and stewards of natural resources and biodiversity.** As documented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and National Geographic for Central America, Indigenous peoples' territories, lands and natural resources often overlap with remaining pockets of biodiversity.<sup>6</sup> The role of indigenous women in protecting the environment while using it to supply food, shelter, medicines and other products is insufficiently taken into consideration in policy formulation.

**Gender inequalities in agriculture hinder the ability of women to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices and thus undermine their potential and capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** Climate change can also exacerbate existing gender inequalities in agriculture and the rural sector. The division of labour between men and women in many agrifood contexts is unequal, which frequently means that women's activities are overlooked or underestimated in conventional "gender-blind" value chain analyses.<sup>7</sup> It is important, therefore, to understand the primary aspects of women's economic empowerment in the development of agrifood value chains.

**In a bioeconomy, climate variations can affect the supply of biomass and thus the livelihoods of rural and indigenous communities.** This can have differential impacts on women, who often play a disproportionate role in the harvesting and processing of biomass. For example, 80 percent of seaweed farmers in Zanzibar are women; they are having to adapt their practices in the face of declines in the production of high-value seaweed as waters in the south of the island become warmer due to climate change. FAO support to Zanzibar include a joint study launched in 2017 with the Government of Zanzibar on identifying new techniques and varieties of seaweed.

**Unequal Access to and management of natural resources (land and water).** Although the contributions of women to agriculture and food production are significant, women often lack formal rights to the land they farm and the water resources they need to irrigate their fields. In many regions, women suffer discrimination in land rights, including with respect to communal lands, which are controlled largely by men. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women<sup>8</sup> has urged the international community to take all measures necessary to achieve the substantive equality of rural women in relation to land and natural resources.

### **Approaches, guides and tools to promote the generation of sex-disaggregated data**

**Mainstreaming gender statistics at the FAO corporate level.** To enable the monitoring of statistical activities with a focus or component on gender, FAO's Office of the Chief Statistician has added a module on gender statistics in the Quality Assurance and Planning Survey (QAPS). The QAPS is run at the beginning of each biennium to collect information on all FAO's statistical activities. The module on gender will allow the identification of areas in which a gender component is relevant and already taken into account and gaps where action should be taken to ensure gender mainstreaming in FAO statistics.

**Gender-sensitive weather and climate services.** Ensuring that women have equal access to weather and climate information will increase the participation of women in farm decision making, risk management at the local level, and policy-making at the national level. Developing the capacity of women and men in climate-sensitive sectors as service providers, relevant authorities and end-users is integral to the provision of gender-sensitive weather and climate services. FAO with several partners, organized an international conference<sup>9</sup> on the gender dimensions of

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<sup>6</sup> Indigenous peoples as guardians of Central American ecosystems. IUCN, 2016. Available at: <https://www.iucn.org/content/map-shows-indigenous-peoples-guardians-central-american-ecosystems>

<sup>7</sup> Developing gender-sensitive value chains: a guiding framework. FAO, 2016. Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i6462e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6462e.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> General Recommendation No. 34 on the Rights of Rural Women.

<sup>9</sup> Conference Report: Conference on the gender dimensions of water and Climate services. WMO, 2014. Available at: [https://library.wmo.int/pmb\\_ged/wmo\\_1148\\_en.pdf](https://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1148_en.pdf)

weather and climate services – Universal access/empowering women in Nov 2014 at WMO, Geneva. The conference proceedings, information and case studies serve as a toolkit to assist in addressing gender issues in weather and climate services.

**Climate-smart agriculture.** FAO has adopted climate-smart agriculture (CSA) as an approach that can transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate while addressing the specific needs of men and women. FAO and the World Bank have recently published a training module, *How to Integrate Gender Issues in Climate-smart Agriculture Projects*,<sup>10</sup> which presents a comprehensive set of tools for integrating gender into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of CSA projects, including gender-sensitive indicators. The training manual further provides examples of CSA good practices drawn from the organization’s work in countries.

**National adaptation plans.** FAO’s *Addressing Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in National Adaptation Plans [Supplementary Guidelines]*<sup>11</sup> is designed to assist countries and regional economic communities to integrate gender equality in agricultural policies in the context of climate change, Nationally Determined Contributions, national adaptation plans (NAPs) and national agricultural investment plans. The Organization is also working to improve climate impact assessments and the design of adaptation options for agriculture, including livestock, and feed balances, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. FAO is also developing a monitoring and evaluation guide for agriculture and gender analysis in national adaptation planning, which will be available in mid-2018.

**Gender-sensitive value-chain analysis and mapping guides.** The Investing in Energy Sustainable Technologies in the Agrifood Sector (INVESTA) aims at supporting the development of clean energy solutions in agrifood sector in countries that lack access to reliable, affordable and clean energy. INVESTA projects used indicators and sex-disaggregated data to measure the impacts of introducing clean energy to the value chains of three agrifoods (milk, rice and vegetables) in four countries (Kenya, the Philippines, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania).<sup>12</sup> The methodology provides guidelines for the sound, comprehensive cost–benefit analysis of energy interventions in agrifood value chains. The FMM/Sida<sup>13</sup> programme, “Enabling Women to Benefit More Equally from Agrifood Value Chains” (2015–2017), which was implemented in eight countries in Africa, is another example of gender-sensitive value-chain analysis using indicators and sex-disaggregated data to identify underlying gender issues in value-chain performance. Key aspects of gender-sensitive value-chain analysis are set out in other FAO publications.<sup>14</sup>

**Agriculture and rural integrated surveys.** FAO’s Agricultural and Rural Integrated Survey (AGRIS), which is in a pilot phase, addresses individual-level, sex-disaggregated data on agricultural holdings, management and production, as well as household-level demographic and socio-economic characteristics that could be correlated with these outcomes. In 2016, FAO and its partners supported a technical workshop on Establishing Agriculture and Rural Survey calendar in Bangladesh. The aim was to prepare a blue print of Integrated Agriculture Census 2018 and to share a survey calendar which will contribute to the Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistic.

**Gender in Agricultural Policies Analysis Tool (GAPo).** FAO developed the GAPo to assist national governments and relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of effective gender-sensitive agricultural policies, with a view to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In 2015, FAO partnered with the Ghana Ministry of Food and Agriculture to implement the GAPo. FAO also supported the Ministry in the formulation of technical

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<sup>10</sup> How to integrate gender issues in climate smart agriculture projects. FAO, 2017 Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i6097e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6097e.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Addressing agriculture, forestry and fisheries in National Adaptation Plans – Supplementary guidelines. FAO, 2017. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6714e.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Investing in Energy Sustainable Technologies in the Agrifood Sector (INVESTA). Details at: [www.fao.org/energy/agrifood-chains/energy-sustainable-technologies](http://www.fao.org/energy/agrifood-chains/energy-sustainable-technologies)

<sup>13</sup> FAO Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM)/Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

<sup>14</sup> Developing gender-sensitive value chains. FAO, 2016. Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i6462e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6462e.pdf);

Running out of time: the reduction of women’s work burden in agricultural production. FAO, 2015. Available at : [www.fao.org/3/a-i4741e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4741e.pdf)

Addressing women’s work burden : key issues, promising solutions and way forward. FAO, 2016. Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i5586e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5586e.pdf)

Rice–rice and rice–shrimp production A gender perspective on labor, time use and access to technologies and services in southern Viet Nam. FAO, 2017. Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i7277e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7277e.pdf)

cooperation programme to help the Government address gender inequalities in agriculture policies and programme.

**Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit.** FAO working jointly with statisticians in Africa,<sup>15</sup> developed the Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit to improve the production and use of sex-disaggregated agricultural data. This also led to the development and piloting of a Gender and Agriculture Statistics Framework to improve the production and use of sex-disaggregated agriculture data in the Asia-Pacific region.

**AQUASTAT and gender.** FAO's global water information system, AQUASTAT,<sup>16</sup> collects, analyses and disseminates data and information – by country – on water resources, water use and agricultural water management. It displays sex-disaggregated national-level data and includes case studies on the role of women in agricultural water management. The AQUASTAT consistently includes information on women and irrigation and country water profiles have been prepared for countries in Africa, Asia, South and Central America and Caribbean and Eastern Europe

**Safe Access to Fuel and Energy approach for crisis-affected populations.** FAO's Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) approach<sup>17</sup> provides a multisectoral response to diverse challenges, particularly in the context of forced displacement, migration and climate change. The SAFE approach contributes to resilience building in protracted crises and includes six performance and impact indicators for monitoring gender-related aspects of interventions. FAO and the UN Refugee Agency introduced fuel-efficient cook stoves with biomass that last for four years to the Bidi Bidi settlement in Uganda, which resulted in a drop in the annual demand for fuelwood.

**Fisheries and aquaculture employment statistics.** FAO developed the Fisheries and Aquaculture Employment Statistics database to collect employment statistics for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The first reporting of sex-disaggregated data by a member country was in 1970, and there has been a gradual increase in the number of reporting countries since then. Calls for improving the evidence-based understanding of the role of women in fisheries and aquaculture are made in the *Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication*<sup>18</sup> and its companion document, *Towards Gender-equitable Small-scale Fisheries Governance and Development: A Handbook*.<sup>19</sup>

**Post-disaster needs assessments on agriculture.** FAO collects sex-disaggregated data as part of the joint Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) process. PDNA is a government-led exercise with integrated support from the United Nations, the European Commission, the World Bank and other national and international actors. FAO's recently launched "Impacts of disasters on Agriculture and Food Security", outlines examples of areas and countries where the organization has worked on PDNA.

## **B. Integration of gender considerations into climate change adaptation, mitigation plans and actions**

FAO continues to integrate gender considerations into various adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes. The Integrating Agriculture into National Adaptation Plans Programme, for example,<sup>20</sup> is testing the integration of gender analysis into vulnerability assessments (Nepal) and impact evaluation studies (Uganda and Zambia). Technical findings are expected in late 2018. Other work is described below.

**Thiaroye fish-processing technique.** In many developing countries, small and medium-sized fisheries commonly use smoking and drying to preserve fish, with women making up the majority of labourers in these activities. Many fish-preservation processes are sources of environmental pollution, emit large quantities of greenhouse gases and create problems related to food safety and contamination. The Thiaroye fish-smoking technique, developed by FAO

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<sup>15</sup> Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit. FAO, 2016. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5769e.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> AQUASTAT. FAO, 2010. Details at: <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm>

<sup>17</sup> FAO's work on Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE). Details at: [www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/safe](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/safe)

<sup>18</sup> Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. FAO, 2015. Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i4487e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4487e.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Towards gender-equitable small-scale fisheries governance and development. FAO, 2017. Available at: [www.fao.org/3/a-i7419e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7419e.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> This programme is a joint undertaking of FAO and the United Nations Development Programme. Available at: [see www.fao.org/in-action/naps](http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps)

and the National Training Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Technicians in Senegal (CNFTPA) in 2008, is now used widely in several African countries. Among other things, the technique lessens women's workloads and increases their incomes.

**Genetic diversity as a risk-mitigation strategy for climate-smart agriculture.** In some areas, the out-migration of men from rural areas has put an excessive burden on women, redefined gender-specific roles and eroded knowledge on biodiversity management, leading to the loss of agricultural biodiversity. An FAO project, "From Machupicchu to Lake Titicaca",<sup>21</sup> is using a gender-sensitive approach to help conserve 177 varieties of potato and quinoa. The initiative, which has benefited 3 500 families in 18 rural communities in Peru, is part of the Global Environment Facility-funded, FAO-led Global Partnership Initiative on the conservation and adaptive management of globally important agricultural heritage systems.<sup>22</sup>

**Early warning, early action to protect livestock from drought.** In 2017, FAO intervened successfully in the Horn of Africa when forecasts of a short rainy season in late 2016 triggered early actions to avert the loss of livestock. FAO was able to safeguard the livestock assets, incomes and food security of pastoralists through the early distribution of livestock feed and supplements, the rehabilitation of water boreholes and the provision of water and animal health treatments.<sup>23</sup> These efforts specifically benefited women and reduced pressure on them because it is women who mostly hold small livestock and who are directly responsible for feeding their children and families.

## Conclusion

The information provided in this submission confirms FAO's commitment to the gender agenda through its work. The approaches, guidelines and tools described above are examples of how FAO is supporting countries by promoting and improving the generation of data, information and knowledge on the nexus between gender and climate change in agriculture and food security. FAO's approaches, guidelines and tools can be used and adapted to enhance national capacities in the design of gender-responsive climate policies, strategies and programmes and to tap into women's potential as agents of change and resilience building.

FAO is at the forefront of the discussions on the nexus between gender and climate change in agriculture and food security with the experience and expertise to offer in this area. FAO can commit to preparing a background paper on the nexus between gender and climate change in agriculture and food security in relation to selected UNFCCC-mandated areas, to enhance knowledge and sharing of information relevant to monitoring and reporting on gender and climate change in the agriculture sector. FAO stands ready to further support countries in the implementation of activities in the Gender Action Plan.

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<sup>21</sup> Andean Agriculture, Peru. Details at: [www.fao.org/giahs/depot/andean-agriculture-peru](http://www.fao.org/giahs/depot/andean-agriculture-peru)

<sup>22</sup> Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). Details at: [www.fao.org/giahs](http://www.fao.org/giahs)

<sup>23</sup> Saving the livestock of drought-hit pastoralists in the Horn of Africa. Details at: [www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/stories/stories-detail/en/c/1099641](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/stories/stories-detail/en/c/1099641)