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# The role of women in agriculture and rural development in the WB

## The case of Albania

### Kick-off meeting

Ohrid, 29 – 30 March 2023



# Structure

- Background
- Objectives and approach
- Main working experience on rural women empowerment
  - Research
  - Capacity building
- Main research gaps
- Considerations for further research



# Background



- A revival of customary rights in rural areas and weak awareness of gender equality of titling
- Male managed family farms and an orientation of women in unpaid activities (family chores and child/elder care)
- Agriculture rents reduced compared to other sectors
- Male opt out for seasonal migration to urban areas and neighboring countries
- Yet high labor inactivity which can be a feminization of farming.
- Might be true for low land areas!?



# Women involvement in value chains



- Major part of the farms do not create the possibility for two full-time workers
- Women are often oppressed by customary “rules” preventing them from perceiving land as own asset.
- A depletion of social care services in rural areas push women become less involved into works in agriculture but also took less responsibilities in the farming decisions avoiding.
- Partial isolation from cash maintenance and extra-kinships contacts makes women scarcely involved in input purchasing, transport of the product and sale.

A very low presence of women in the upper part of the value chains

- A vicious cycle increasing further the gender segregation.
- Less education and information created from isolation, bring less power, willingness and efforts of women to take part into farming decisions.
- Risks of proletarianization of women.



# Ratification of Conventions- Gender Equality



- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>67</sup> (KDKPAK), ratified by Albania with Law no. 108/2012.
- Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and conclusions from the implementation of this platform by member states in the context of its 20th anniversary
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



# Several national strategies-Gender Equality



- National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Integration 2021-2027
- National Plan for European Integration (NPEI) 2021-2023, specifically Chapter 19, II.7 “Equality between women and men in employment and social policy”
- National Strategy For Gender Equality 2021-2030
- Strategy for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (SARDF) 2021 – 2027
- National Employment and Skills Strategy 2019 – 2022
- National Youth Strategy 2022-2029



# Legal framework



- The Constitution of the Republic of Albania in Article 18.
- The Law on Gender Equality in Society, No. 9970, dated 24.07.2008 specifically aims to guarantee protection from gender discrimination.
- Law on Protection from Discrimination, No. 10221, dated 4.2.2010 further extends from gender discrimination to include many grounds of discrimination.
- The Law No. 9669, dated 18.12.2006 “On Measures against Violence in Family Relations”, amended by Law No. 47/2018 aims to prevent and reduce all forms of domestic violence.
- Law No. 7895 “Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania”<sup>17</sup>, dated 27.01.1995 and amended by Law No.36/2017 and Law No.89/2017
- Law No. 75/2019 “On Youth”; Law 22/2018 “On social housing”; Law 111/2018 “On Cadaster”; Law No. 139/2015, “On Local Self-Government”; Law No. 57/2016 “On some amendments and addenda to Law No. 9936, dated 26.06.2008 “On the budget system management in the Republic of Albania”, as amended
- Law 65/2016 “On Social Enterprises in the Republic of Albania”
- Law No. 69/2012 “On the Pre-University Education System in the Republic of Albania”, addenda to Law No. 7703, dated 11.05.1993, “On Social Insurance in the Republic of Albania”, as amended



# Institutional framework



- The main national authority in charge is the Minister of Health and Social Protection (MHSP)
  - Sector of Policies and Strategies for Social Inclusion and Gender Equality as part of the General Directory of Policies and Development of Health and Social Protection is the structure that covers gender equality.
- National Council of Gender Equality (NCGE)-the highest advisory body in terms of gender equality .
- Deputy Prime Minister is assigned as the coordinating national authority on gender equality with the purpose of strengthening the gender machinery.
- Each line ministry has a gender focal point and gender employees in each municipality.
- Parliament: The Sub-Commission on Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence against Women as part of Commission on Labor, Social Issues and Health
- Commissioner for Protection Against Discrimination protects individuals from discrimination including gender-based discrimination
- National Councilors Alliance (NCA) aims at implementing protective and inclusive policies for women in need and achieving gender equality at the local level.





# Programmes for economic empowerment



- DCM No. 465, dated 16.07.2012 “On gender mainstreaming in the mediumterm budget program”, allow gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) in Albania.
- In 2021, support allocated to agriculture reached 2.6 % of GVA, with EUR 68.3 million.
- During the period 2020-2021 approximately 1000 women have benefited from ARDPF.
- In addition 10% to 15% of farmers contacted by advisory services are women.
- Additional scores (criteria) are provided for women farmers at IPARD (if applicant has 35% of staff women).
- Considering the reduced number of overall beneficiaries the share of women is much higher in 2018.



# Number of women beneficiaries in the ARDPF



Year	Number of projects	Female beneficiaries	Total number of beneficiaries
2013	5,601	466	
2014	8,768	510	
2015	12,718	540	
2016	11,566	479	
2017	1,165	159	
2018	4,053	627	
2019	3971	571	
2020	5503	964	5498
2021	6758	1164	6759



# Rationale



- Scientific and policy-making communities have acknowledged the critical contribution of women in agriculture and rural development (FAO, 2011, UN, 2000).
- Closing the gender gaps would contribute to increase agriculture productivity and better child nutrition, enhance women's self-esteem and promote overall rural growth (OECD, 2011).
- The role of women has witnessed significant changes due to a change in rural households vis-a-vis changes in rural institutions and production structure (World Bank, 2002).
- Albania makes no exception!

# Objectives

- Explore the current situation in each country/territory, with focus on the current policy context affecting the situation of rural women
- Explore main research activities carried for rural women
- Provide recommendation for further actions



# Main research activities cont



Topic	Year	Financing	Implementation
Time use survey analysis	2011	INSTAT	
Gender analyses of extension services for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection in Albania".	2012	UNWOMEN	Zhllima
Property rights of women in Albania. An analysis of legal standards and its implementation in practice.	2012	UNWOMEN	Mandro-Balili
Analysis of development project models implemented for the economic empowerment of women in Albania	2013	UNDP	Zhllima
Empowering Albanian Rural Women: Economic and Social Perspectives. Committee for Equal Opportunities Report for CEDAW	2013	EU	Cela ad Arqimandriti
Study on Women Entrepreneurship in Albania. Tirana, Albania.	2013	USAID	ISB



# Main research activities



Topic	Year	Financing	Implementation
Gender perspectives in Albania-Gender analysis of the 2011 population and housing census results	2014	UNWOMEN	Gardner and Miluka
Women LGU council member perception based on scorecards	2016	UNDP	Dauti
National Study on Rural Women and Economic Diversification in Rural Areas	2016	UNWOMEN	DSA
Research over the public perceptions of gender equality and women's involvement in business and career in Albania	2017	UNDP	Dauti and Zhllima
Market and value chain analysis of selected sectors for the diversification of rural economy and women's economic empowerment	2018	FAO	Gerdoc and Mece
Assessment of gender and climate change needs for action in Vjosa River	2019	UNDP	Zhllima
Gender analyses of selected value chains in Albania	2022	GIZ	Zhllima
Gender and climate change in Albania	2021	UNDP UNFCC	Zhllima



# Gaps on research for rural women empowerment



- More studies=>Limitations
  - gender composition in the family has not been taken in considerations
  - women power to decisions in the family is reported by the respondent but no gender comparative values on reporting.
  - No historical patterns of farming decisions
  - Lack of a comparative indicator framework to collect and construct indicators of attitude and beliefs
  - Lack of panel data for monitoring trends
  - Weak use of surveys LSMS, HBS, DHS, SILK, TUS, etc.
  - No linkage with current SDG framework of indicators
  - Lack of disaggregated data at Municipality level



# Required research activities- empirical content



- Use of indicators frameworks which are consistent and comparable
  - E.g. Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis approach (SEAGA) was used in 2016 but framework do not allow comparative research with other Balkans
  - Gender land rights analysis in 2012 but not as part of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)
  - Other absent studies for> General Social Survey, World Values Survey, Public Perceptions Survey on Gender Equality in Georgia, and the Eurobarometer Survey on Gender Equality





# Required research activities- empirical content



- Need for introduction of experimental and semi-experimental design to explore attitude and beliefs.
- Need for contingent evaluation methods to assess shadow costs and prices from barriers
- Need for calibrating women contribution in agriculture productivity and structures, resource conservation, diversification, family aid, etc.
- Need for using time series data to explore trends



# Required research activities-policy impact



- Research activities to collect evidences for SDG indicators with focus on:
- Target 5.A: Equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services
  - Indicator 5.A.1 is the proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.
  - Indicator 5.A.2 is the proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.



# Required research activities-visibility



- Establish a Balkan research forum on rural women (i.e. SWG SEE alike)
  - Increase visibility through conferences and papers in scientific Journals
  - Provide evidences for the Rural Development Parliament
  - Explore opportunities for funding
  - Use capacities for PhD programs and cross-country research





# Thank you!

[ezhllima@ubt.edu.al](mailto:ezhllima@ubt.edu.al)

