



Implemented by:



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

Kick-off meeting

Ohrid, 29 – 30 March 2023





Implemented by:



Overview of the current policies affecting the situation of rural women and their engagement in the rural areas

The Case of North Macedonia

Association of Agricultural Economists of the Republic of North Macedonia



1, 29 – 30 March 2023



Background-Conclusions from the study

“Measuring women’s empowerment in agriculture with survey-based and experimental economics method “



➤ *Measuring women’s empowerment in agriculture with survey-based and experimental economics method, Nacka et al., 2019, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food, supported by UnWomen*

➤ *Conclusions from the study:*

- **women are disempowered** in all domains but domains that contribute most to the women’s disempowerment are: **ownership of assets, input in decision making, and control over use of income.**
- a positive impact on the **higher empowerment** of the households and smaller gender parity gap is when women are responsible for **farm accountancy** within the household.
- In decision-making, 90.0% of women **have contribution in some or most decisions for income distribution** for household purposes, showing the important role of the women for the household.
- **women behave differently when deciding alone or deciding jointly**; in the husband’s presence, women tend to align their decision with their husband. On the other hand, men tend to have higher bargaining power for intra-household decision-making.
- The findings clearly suggest that women disempowerment **negatively affects welfare of women** but also the household.



Background-Conclusions from the study “Measuring women’s empowerment in agriculture with survey-based and experimental economics method “



- The agricultural and rural development policy supports women mostly in the **production and group membership domains**.
- From an institutional perspective, strong institutional capacity for gender responsive budgeting requires **strong political will, transparency and availability of gender statistics and gender-disaggregated data** (UN Women).
- The **policy and strategic goals in the country are not gender specific**. The beneficiaries of those goals are agricultural and food producers, consumers (by ensuring stable supply of safe, quality and cheap food), and rural population (by developing rural areas). Yet, goals need to address the needs of both women and men equally, that often might differ.
- **Gender indicators** to track program implementation are **available only for the IPARD program**, whereas the NARDS and NPARDs have not proposed ones. This might be one evidence that the gender equality described and supported in them, might not be fully understood and applied.



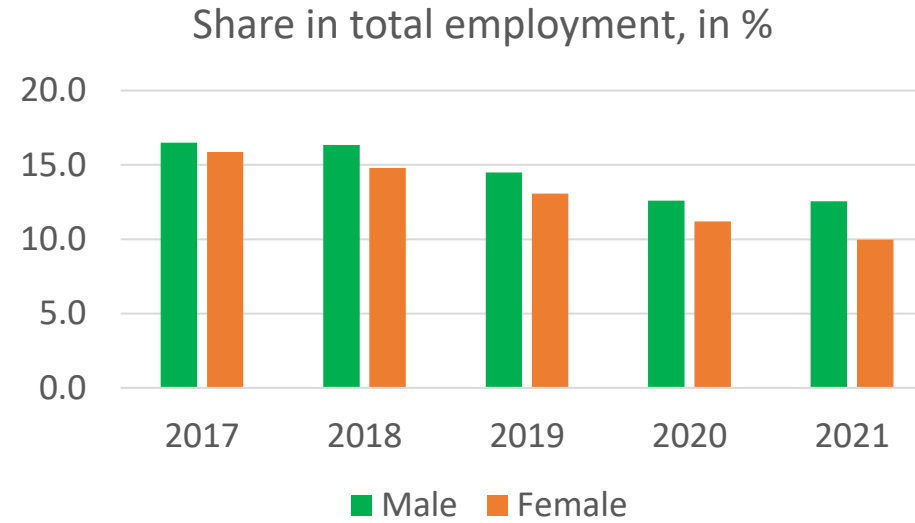
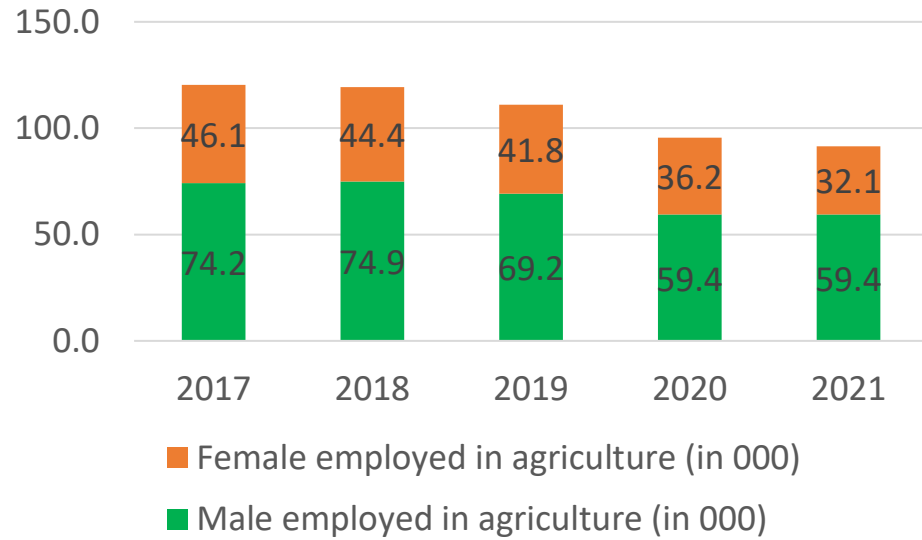
Access to resources and opportunities for economic and social strengthening



- Patriarchal structures and traditional social norms still prevail
- **Limited** access to resources and opportunities for economic and social strengthening between men and women in rural areas (MLSP, 2022)
 - In 2021, only 28.52% of the properties in the Republic of North Macedonia belong to women, while 71.48 % belong to men (MLSP, 2022)
 - a very small percentage of women are owners of property rights, namely 4.07% of women are property owners, against 95.9% of men, 21.96%, their parents are the owners of the property
 - In terms of land ownership, 12.01% of women are land owners, and 87.99% of men are land owners.
 - 50% of women who are land owners, are not active in the decision-making process for the activities related to the land.
- Due to the unfavorable position of women as a stake in the workforce and in terms of family income,
 - young women in rural areas often **do not see their future in agriculture** and **are likely to leave the rural areas** unless new economic opportunities and employment are offered.



Labour market



Activity rate of total population in rural areas (%)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Activity rate (total)	53.9	55.5	55.6	55.0	54.5	55.3	57.0	57.4	55.5	54.9
Male	70.5	71.0	72.3	71.4	71.5	71.0	72.0	70.6	69.5	69.2
Female	37.4	40.0	39.0	38.7	37.4	38.9	41.2	43.6	40.7	40.0
Employment rate (total)	37.0	40.7	40.9	41.2	41.4	43.2	44.9	46.9	45.6	45.6
Male	48.4	52.0	53.4	52.8	53.9	55.2	56.8	58.8	57.5	57.5
Female	25.6	29.3	28.3	29.6	29.0	30.5	32.4	34.4	33.0	33.2
Unemployment rate (total)	31.4	26.7	26.7	24.8	23.6	21.9	21.2	18.3	17.7	16.9
Male	31.4	26.7	26.1	26.0	24.7	22.2	21.1	16.7	17.2	16.9
Female	31.4	26.6	27.3	23.5	22.5	21.5	21.5	21.1	18.7	16.8

Labour market



- Rural women are the least active in the labor market,
 - especially women in the age category of **40-59 years**.
 - A high percentage is stemming from most of their home, child care, care for the elderly, and other home responsibilities that are **unpaid labor**.
- Even in cases of paid women work labor,
 - women earn only 33% of what men earn in the same sector.
- In 2020 there were 175,088 registered agricultural businessmen in the only register of agricultural holdings.
 - Of these, **38,328 were registered women as agricultural holding carriers**.



The degree of awareness of gender discrimination is relatively low in rural areas

- which hinders the realization of other activities related to gender equality, such as equal representation in politics, the economy, and fair distribution in society and at home.

Some gender related terms and Gender responsive, neutral and blind policies



- **Gender perspective** - a view of gender differences, needs and interests in each given area/activity, necessary in the process of assessing the implications of each planned action on women and men, including the legislation, policies or programs in all areas and at all levels. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.
- **Gender mainstreaming** in policies and practices, represents the integration of the gender perspective in each phase of the process of creating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies by considering the promotion of equality between women and men.
- **Gender neutral policies** are those policies that are created under the assumption that the goals and the instruments of a given policy are widely applicable, regardless of the different and effects the policy can have on women and men.
- A **gender responsive policy** recognizes the characteristics and differences that come from gender roles, so that policy effects can ensure gender equality.
- **Gender-blind policies** are those that fail to differentiate between men and women. Policies are mostly in favor existing gender relations and therefore likely to exclude women.



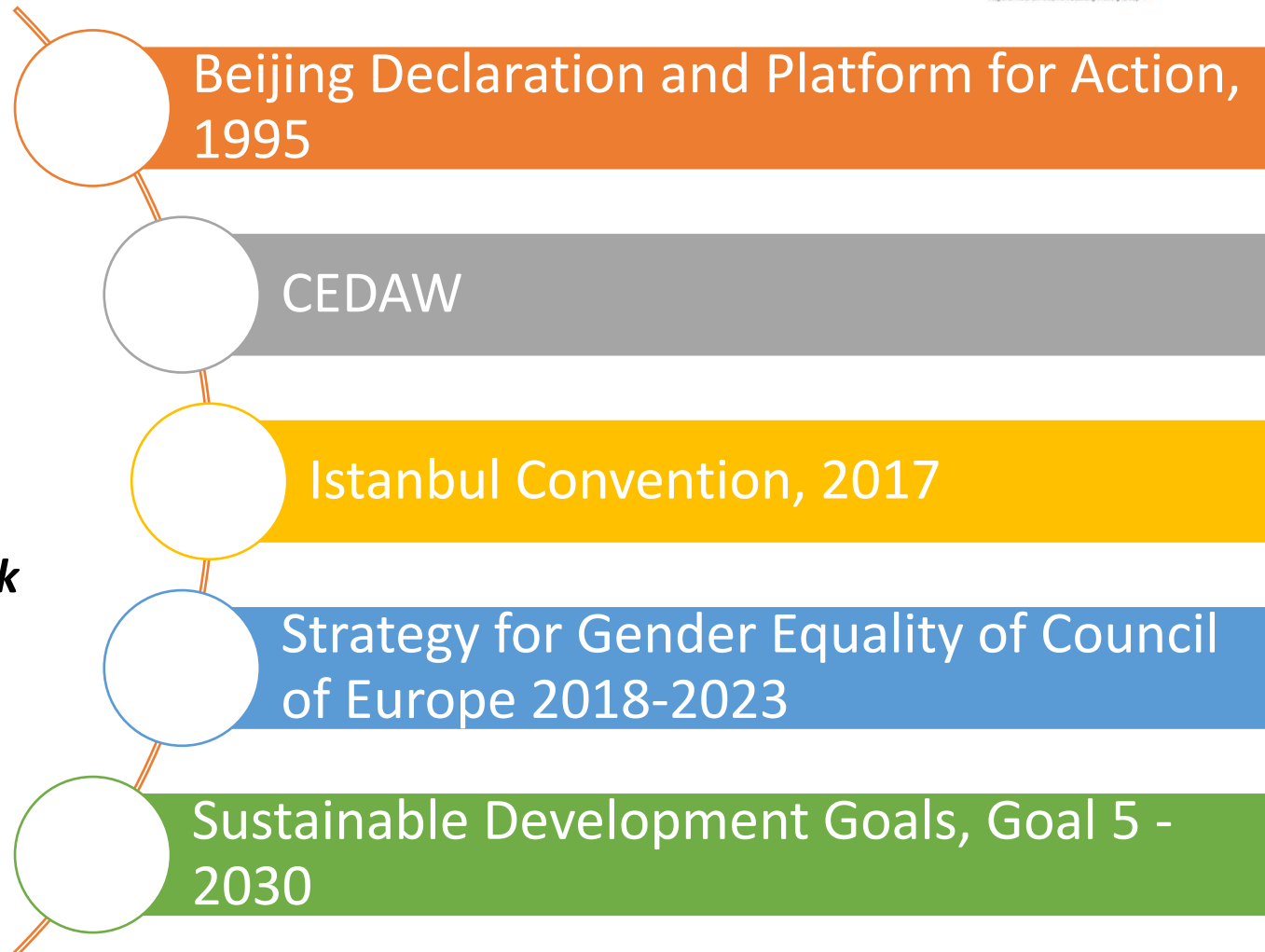
Legal framework tackling rural women



- North Macedonia is a signatory of a dozen of United Nations and the Council of Europe documents pertaining to the human rights (MLSP, 2021), among which the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),
 - commitment to advance gender equality and empowerment in the country
 - the Convention specifically takes into account the problems rural women face and obliges state parties to provide adequate resources and adopt measures to support them
- **Law on equal opportunities between women and men**, adopted in 2006 and amended in 2012 to formalize the requirement of central and local government to incorporate gender aspects in the strategic plans and budget.
 - 2012: The first *National Strategy for Equality and Non-discrimination (2012-2015)* and the *Strategy for Introducing Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Republic of Macedonia (2012-2017)*
 - 2013 and 2016: *Strategy for Gender Equality (2013-2020)* and the *National Strategy for Equality and Non-discrimination (2016-2020)*
 - **2021: Strategy for Gender Equality (2022 – 2027), based on which the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2022-2024) is also prepared.**
 - 2022: *National Strategy for Equality and Non-discrimination (2022-2026)*



**Strategy for Gender Equality
(2022 – 2027), in line with
International Legal Framework**



Strategy for Gender Equality (2022 – 2027)



Institutional mechanisms for gender equality

- As a central gender equality mechanism is the **Department of equal opportunities within the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy**
- **Inter-sectoral consultation and advisory group on gender equality** for monitoring the adopted strategies for introduction of gender responsive budgeting
- **Working groups in line Ministries**, including MAFWE with Coordinators
- On local level, **Committees for equal opportunities of men and women**

Gender responsive budgeting

- Gender responsive budgeting refers to application of **gender perspective in the budgeting process**, i.e. an assessment of the budgets from a gender perspective.
- The **methodology for gender-responsive budgeting** for state administration is an instrument and guide for the successful implementation of the obligations arising from the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Strategy for the Introduction of Gender-Responsive Budgeting



Specific policies tackling rural women

-Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy



- **Law of agriculture and rural development** (LARD, 2010) is the main legal framework determining the agricultural and rural development policy in North Macedonia.
 - Gender (or woman/women) is mentioned several times in the document.
 - It proposes keeping evidence of the socio-economic partnerships (Art.24), which, among others, includes the civil society organizations working on protection of the interests and role of young farmers and female farmers, as well as promotion of the role of the women in the rural in the development of the agricultural and the rural areas.
 - It fosters women participation in decision making for local rural development by article 89 that defines that civil society organizations focused on farmers, youth, women and environmental protection must be represented with minimum 50% share in local action groups (LAGs).
 - It foresees additional aid for certain categories of holders of agricultural holdings (Article 102), as percentage increase of the received direct payments. Women have been listed together with the young farmers (less than 40 year old), to be eligible for 10% increase of the direct payments. However, with an amendment to the Law (OG 126/2012), the term 'women' has been removed from this article.



Specific policies tackling rural women

-Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy



- **National strategy for agriculture and rural development (2021-2027)**

- Situational analysis about the position of rural women.
- Focus on gender equality and women empowerment in the specific objectives of the strategy, e.g. improving the position of farmers in the value added chain by stimulating the establishment of women cooperatives; promoting employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry, by stimulating women involvement in the diversification processes

- **National strategy for agriculture and rural development (2014-2020)**

- The status and role of rural women and related actions to its improvement receive quite an attention in this document. It identifies the importance of involvement of rural women in obtaining sustainable social structure of rural communities and sustainable development of rural economy

- **National programmes for agriculture and rural development (2014-2020; 2021-2027)**

- The national programs for agriculture and rural development follow the goals defined in the LARD. They are five-year operative plans, linking the NARDS and the annual programs for financial support of agriculture and rural development.



Specific policies tackling rural women

-Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy



• IPARD I (2007-2013)

- The gender approach is much more present in this document.
- The issue on equal opportunities is given a separated space, stating that the IPARD program is prepared following the equality principle and would not tolerate any discrimination based on gender, religion, ethnicity, or physical disability.

• IPARD II&III (2014-2020, 2021-2027)

- The equal opportunities and non-discrimination based on gender, race, skin color, language, religion, national or social background, material and social status are given as principle of the program. Its monitoring and evaluation bases on gender disaggregated evidence.
- Concerned about the status of rural women, projects promoted by women are among the horizontal and cross-cutting priorities to be taken into consideration during the program implementations. Projects by women are granted additional points in the evaluation process in all measures.
- Networking: networking of LAGs, best practice exchange, dissemination of IPARD programme and learning new approaches to rural development.
- Selection criteria, priority to women



Specific results tackling rural women

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy



• Measure 115

- The measure 115 for support of active woman in the agricultural household has been introduced in 2019, with support of 3000 EUR, contracted 130 women farmers. The support is increased on 6000 EUR for the second call for M115.

• IPARD I and IPARD II

- Selection criteria-more credits for women applicants, in 2021 31% of paid contracts are for women applicants

• Agricultural Cooperatives

- Selection criteria-more credits for women applicants, during the period 2018-2021 an increasing trend in the number of women members of cooperatives and women managers of cooperatives is evident

- **Guidelines for gender equality in land registration, 2021; Southeastern Europe** (ГИЗ и ФАО. 2021. Насоки за зајакнување на родовата еднаквост при упис на земјиште – Југоисточна Европа 2021. Рим.)
- **Report for gender responsive budgeting, 2021**
- **Report for equal opportunities of women and men, 2021**



Researches done so far

- Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food



- *Measuring women's empowerment in agriculture with survey-based and experimental economics method, 2018-2019, UNWomen*
 - For a first time experimental economics method was introduced and A-WEIA was calculated
 - Initiative for establishing the WG for gender equality and women empowerment has been established within MAFWE
 - Measure 115 for active female member of the agricultural household has been introduced
- *Towards more gender responsive policies and budgets in agriculture and rural development, 2021-2023, UNWomen*
 - Experimental economics method including risk and time preferences
 - Gender analysis of national policies
 - Policy intervention assessment - Training for women farmers on financial literacy



Annual Report for the activities and the progress in the implementation of equal opportunities for women and men, 2022

- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy



• Challenges for the agricultural sector

- Low rate of women ownership of land and other property
- Women are not fully included in decision making related to the agricultural activity within the household
- Insufficient motivation among youth for engagement in agriculture and thus stay in rural areas
- Low number of women applicants for the programmes for financial support in agriculture
- Lack of paid maternity leave for rural women (in 2023 this initiative has been promoted by MLSP and MAFWE)





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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