



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

Kick-off meeting

Women in agriculture and rural development in Serbia, an Overview
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Contextualization



- There are over 3 million women in Serbia, of which 1.1 million live in rural areas in Serbia (Eurostat data for 2021).
- Strategic documents show that
 - rural women face unfavorable economic position;
 - gender inequalities are pronounced among the rural population;
 - existing support for women in agriculture and rural development is insufficient



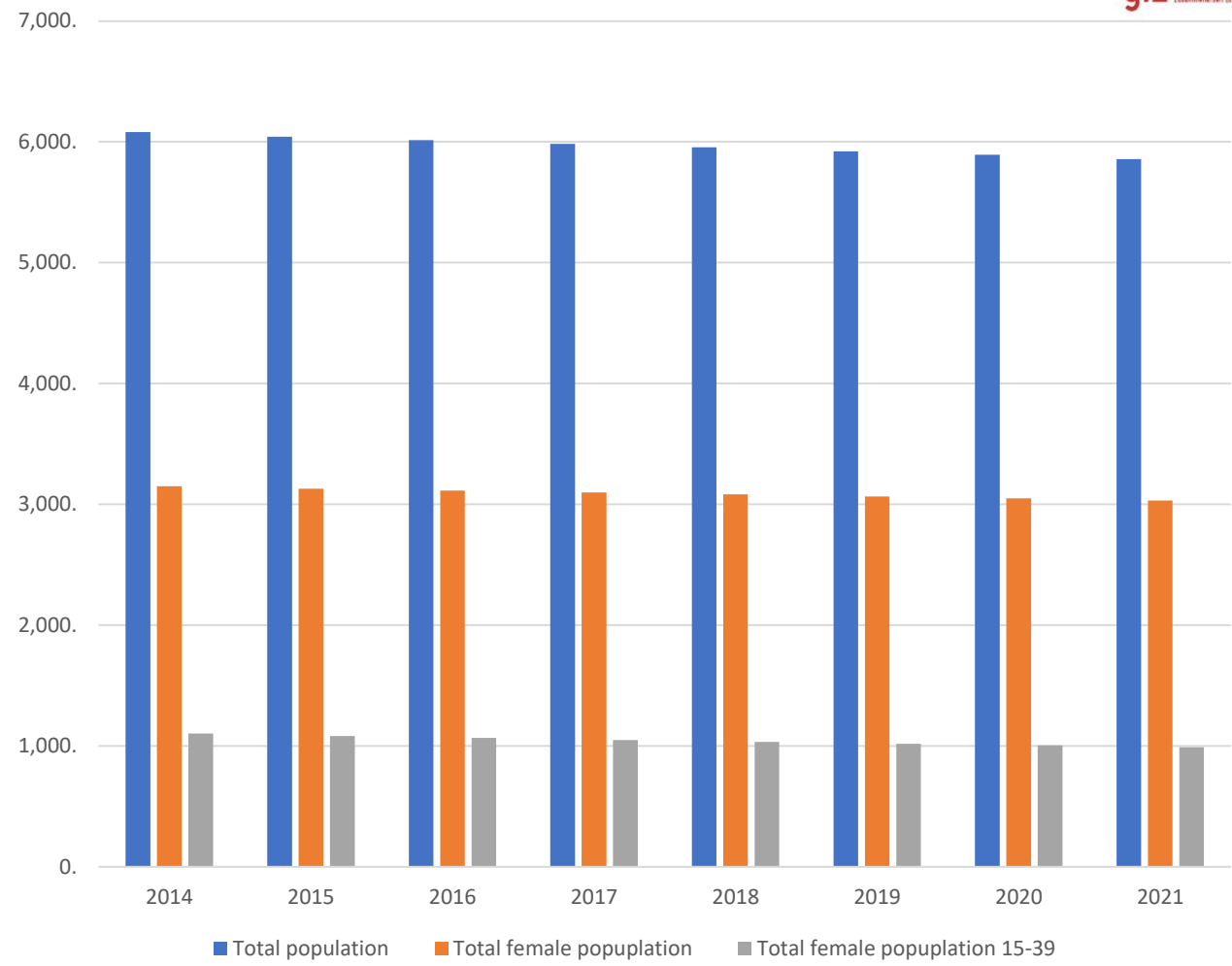
Women in Serbia – population (thousands)

The female population in Serbia accounts for over 51%.

The female population in Serbia is decreasing.

Depopulation among young women (15-39) is going at a slower pace than among the total female population.

Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws)

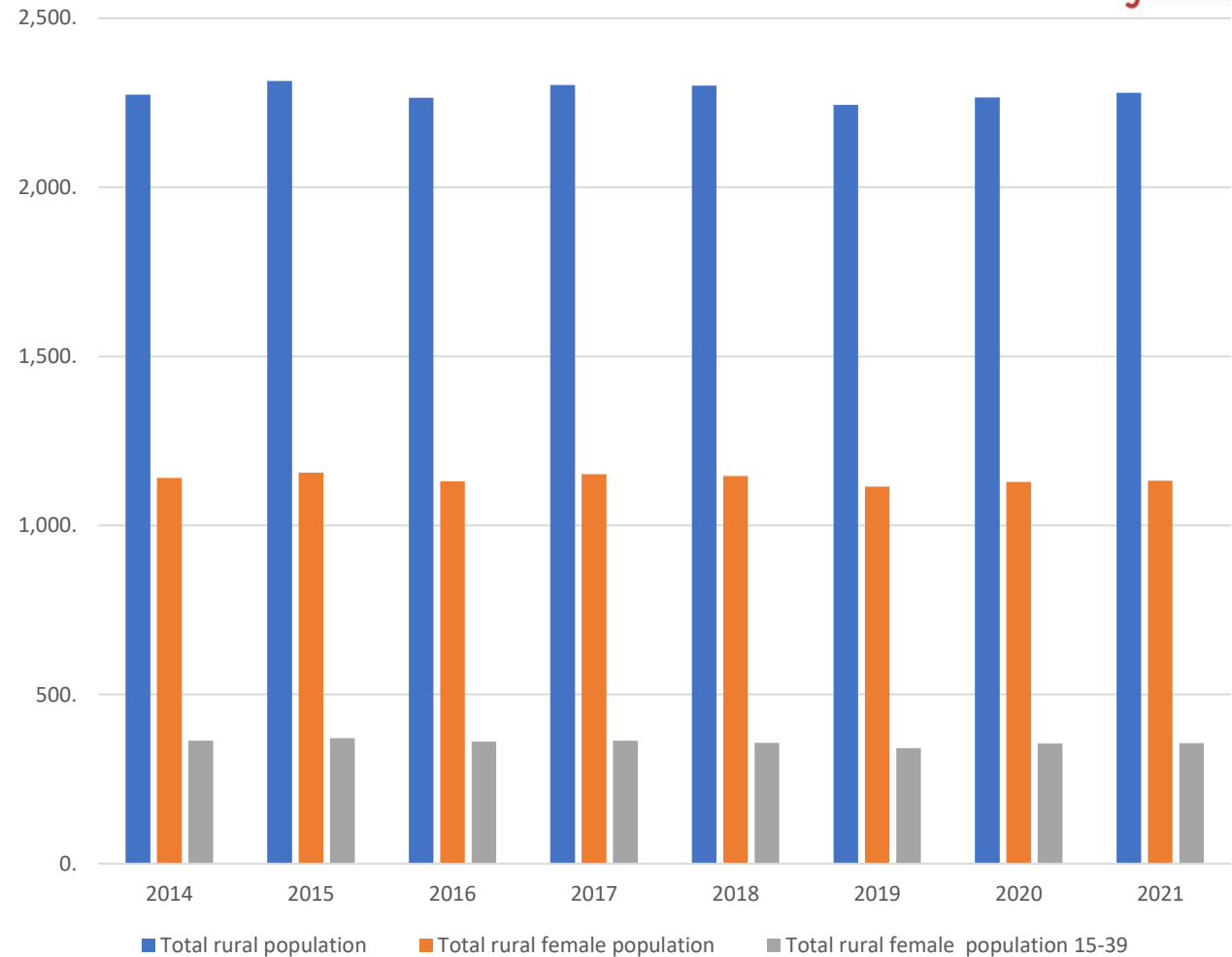


Women in rural areas in Serbia – population (thousands)

The population of women and young women in rural areas has been trending steadily and slightly downward from 2014 to 2021.

The female population in rural areas of Serbia accounts for over 49% in Serbia, slightly lower than in the general population.

Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws)



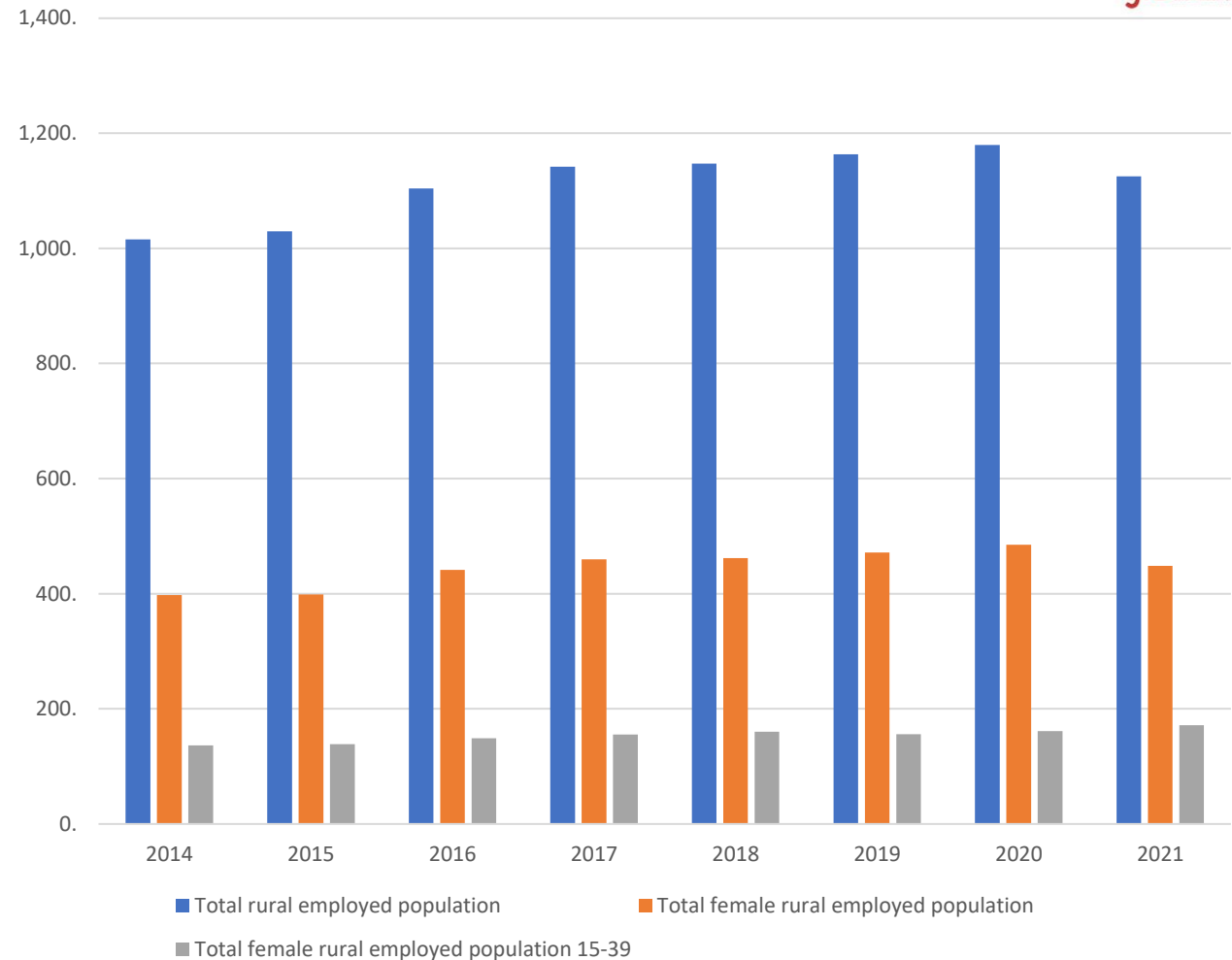
Women in rural areas in Serbia – employed (thousands)

There is a general trend of increasing employment in rural areas, except in 2021.

This trend is slightly higher in the female population.

This trend is significantly higher among young females (15-39).

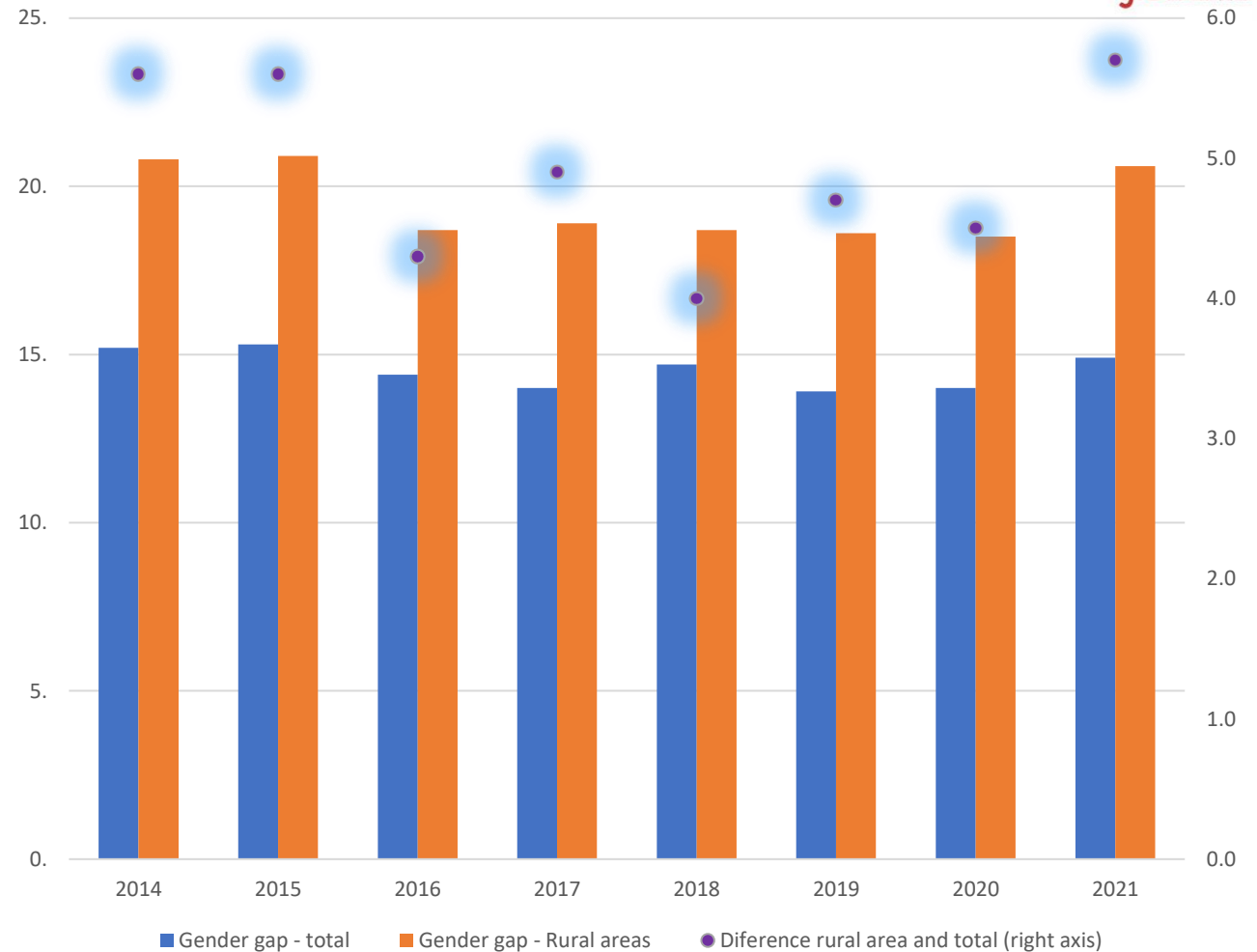
Source: Eurostat (lfsa_pgauws)



Gender employment gap – Serbia (%)

- The gender employment gap in rural areas is higher than in the total population.
- The difference in gender gap between the total and rural population has an unstable trend and is highest in 2021, with a value of 5.7.

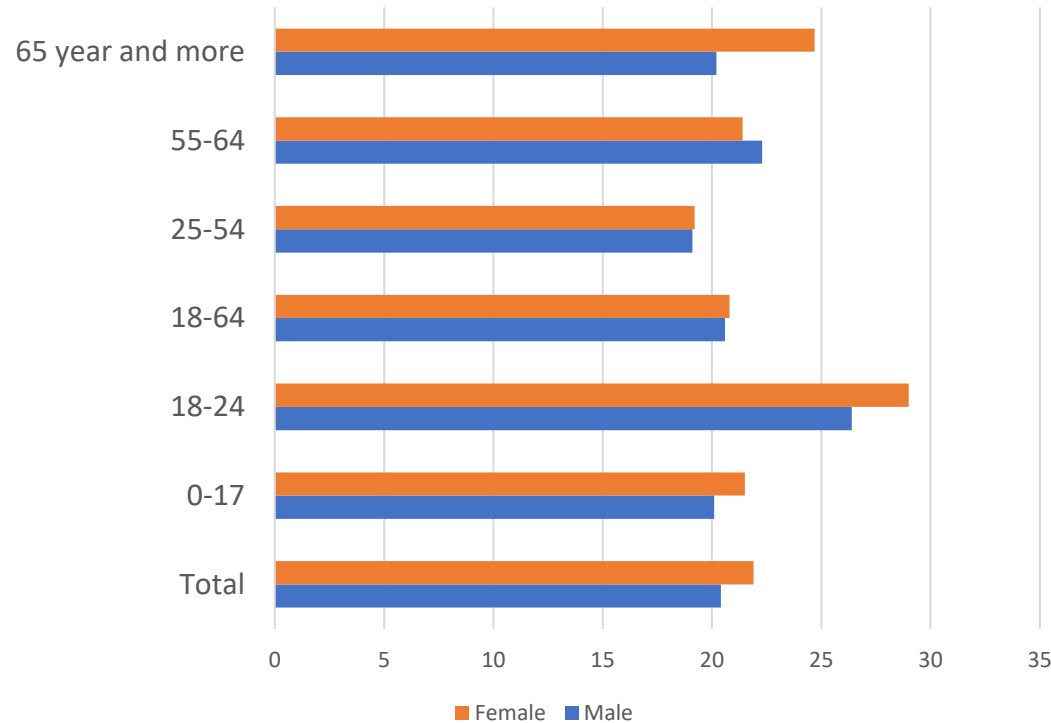
• Source: Eurostat (TEPSR_LM230)



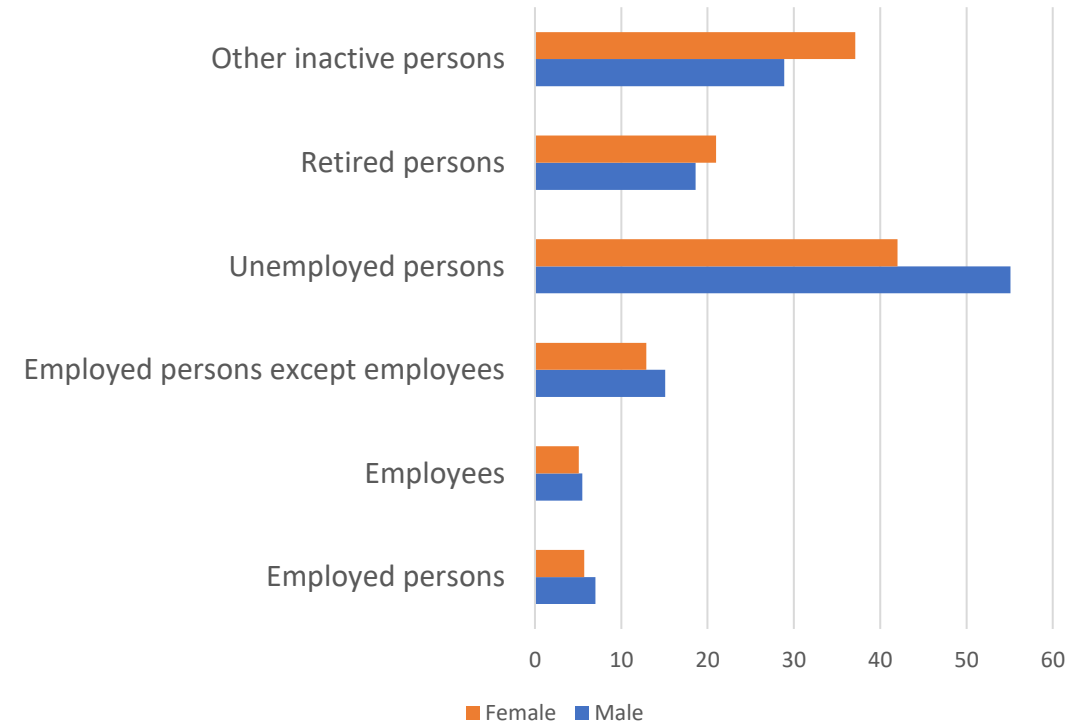
At-risk-of-poverty rate



At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and sex [%] 2021



At-risk-of-poverty rate by most frequent activity and sex [%] 2021



Source: Serbian Statistical Office



Strategic framework



- The Strategy for gender equality 2021 to 2030
- The Strategy of agriculture and rural development of the RoS 2014-2024
- Employment Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026
- The strategy for the development of digital skills in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024



Strategy for gender equality 2021 to 2030



- The unfavorable economic position of rural women is reflected in
 - fewer chances for sustainable employment,
 - less ownership of private resources such as land, arable land and real estate,
 - inadequate access to services in the community that would increase their chances on the labor market
 - low access to information about rights and available forms of support,
 - low access to information technologies, access to knowledge and lifelong learning programs that would create opportunities for sustainable employment, self-employment, cooperatives and social entrepreneurship.
- The existing support for women in agriculture and rural development is insufficient and it is necessary to replace it with systemic support that contributes to sustainable changes and improving the quality of daily life in the rural areas.



Strategy of agriculture and rural development of the RoS 2014-2024



- Gender inequalities in the domain of economic participation are very pronounced among the rural population. Among women, the participation of active persons is lower, fewer are employed and fewer of those who work outside of agriculture, than among men.
- The largest share in support for rural development is provided by funds intended for incentives for investments in agricultural holdings (in some years, criteria with a very pronounced social component were used, in the sense that during the evaluation of projects, priority was given to agricultural holdings registered with female members or special measures were created for social vulnerable rural groups.
- One of the key principle of the Vision of the development of agriculture and rural areas of the Republic of Serbia is achieving the well-being of the rural population, which would stop the further deterioration of demographic trends; full appreciation of the sensitive position of young people and women on the rural labor market, as well as the social position of other sensitive groups;





Thank you for your attention!

