

Gender issues in agricultural and rural household well-being

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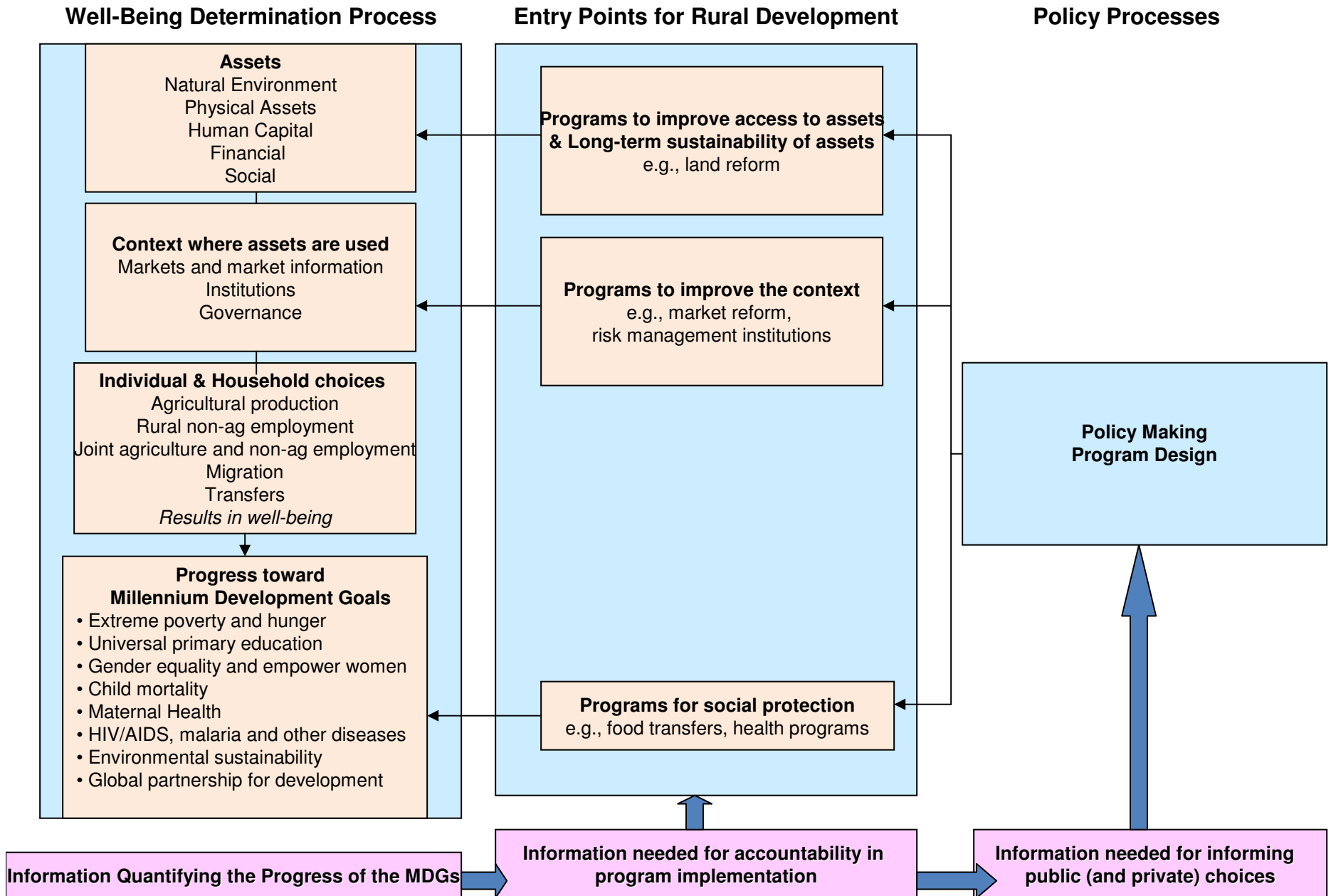
Presentation at the 3rd Wye City Group,
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Gender matters

- ***“If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, it is that human rights are women's rights - and women's rights are human rights.”*** Hillary Clinton, United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, 5 September 1995

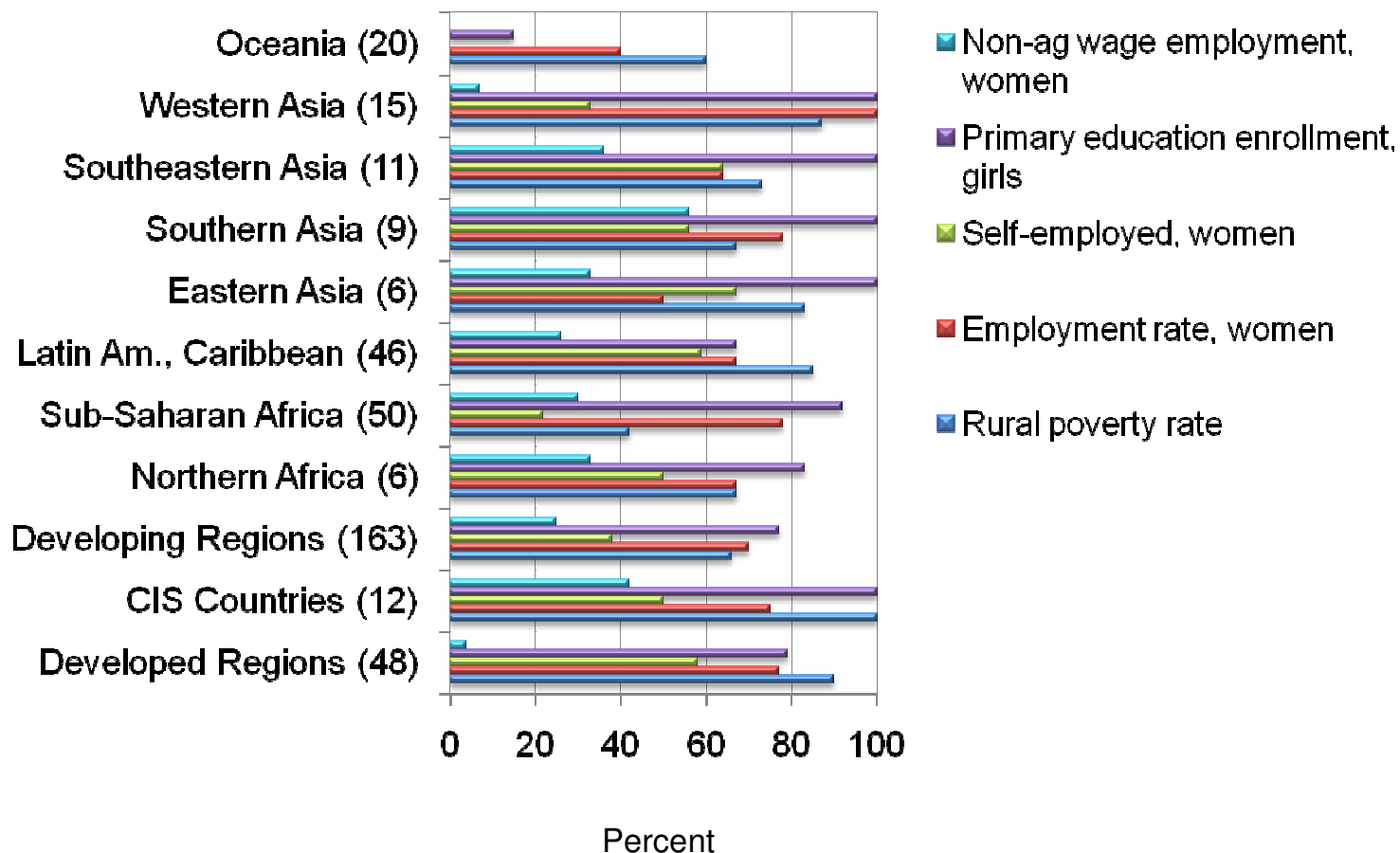


Figure--Framework for Agriculture and Rural Development Activities: Data Requirements for Action



Source: Adapted from de Janvry, Alain, 2003.

Figure--Share of countries in region with at least 2 data points for selected MDG indicator



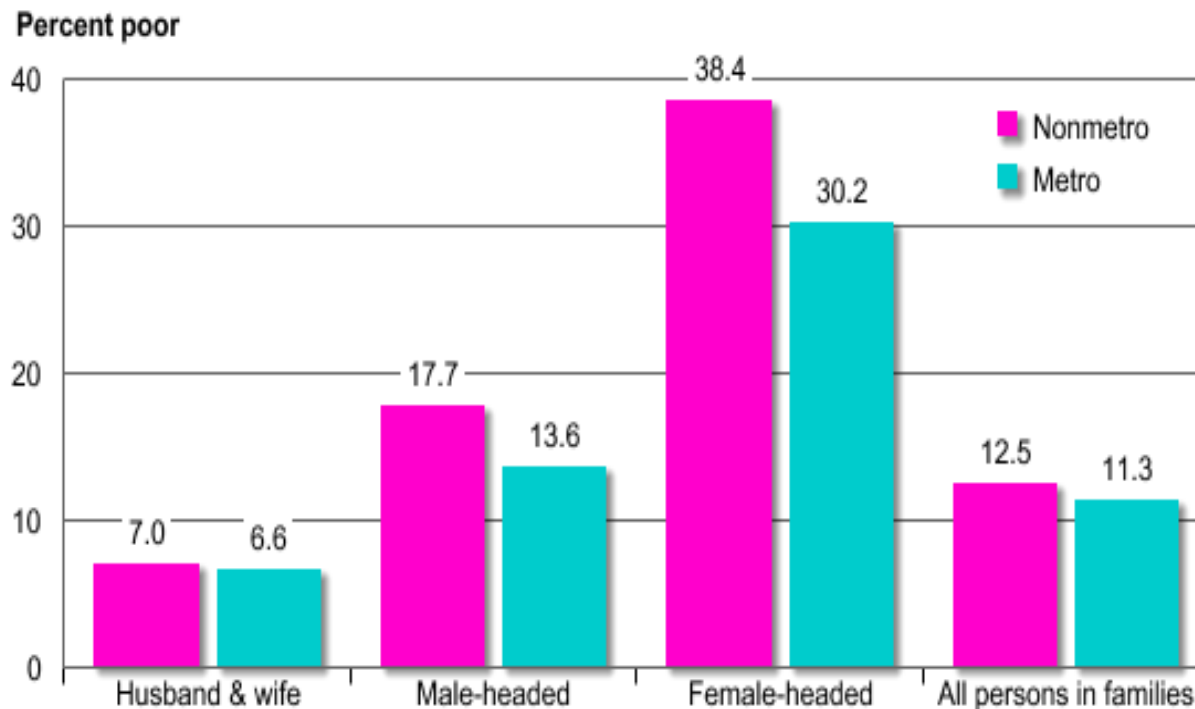
Source: UN MDG Indicators, <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/DataAvailability.aspx#Capacity>.
 Note: Number of countries in each region in parentheses. Data points exclude modeled data.
 CIS countries are Commonwealth of Independent States.

Evidence that gender matters in household well-being

- Feminization of poverty and food insecurity
- Research using small area data has shown that when women are able to control resources on a basis equal to men, agricultural productivity increases (e.g., Fafchamps and Quisumbing, 2008).

Example of the feminization of poverty in the developed world

Figure 3. U.S. poverty rates by family type and residence, 2008

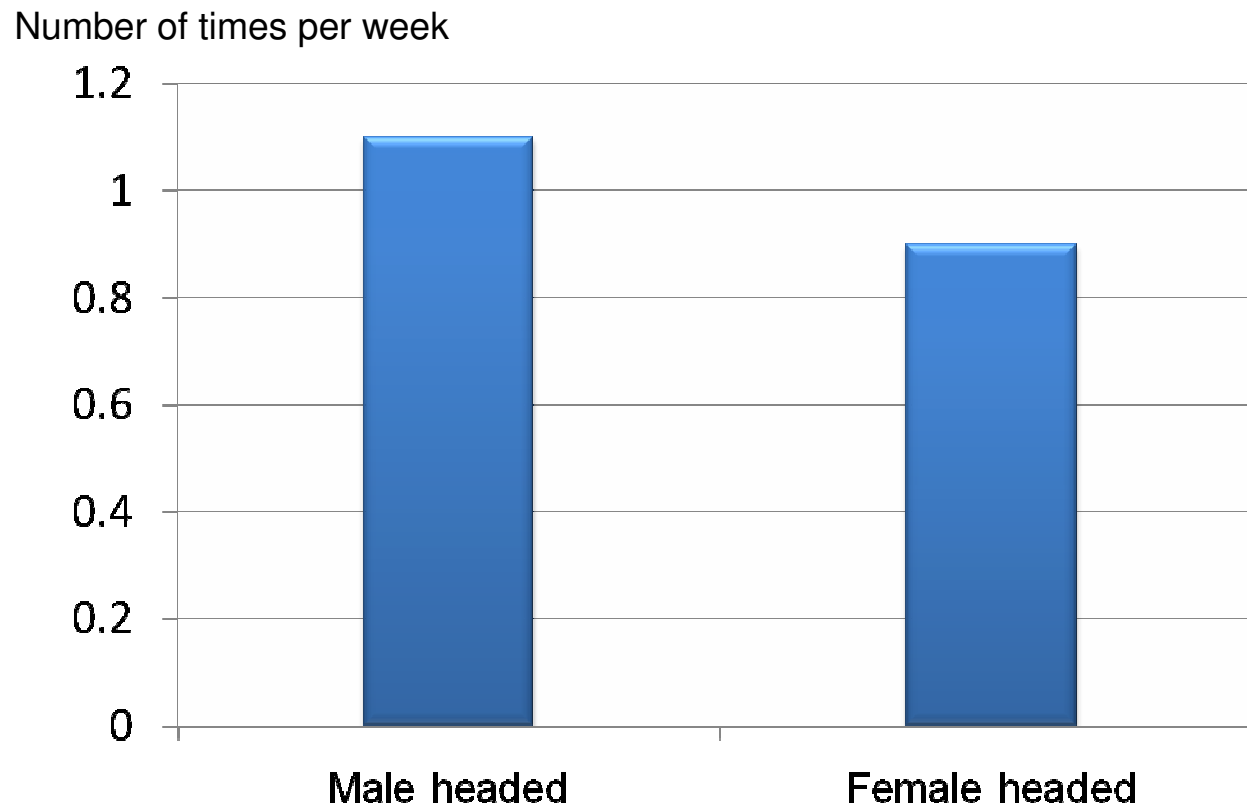


Note: Percent of people in families, either primary or related subfamilies, who are poor.

Source: Prepared by the Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement .

Evidence of the feminization of food insecurity in the developing world

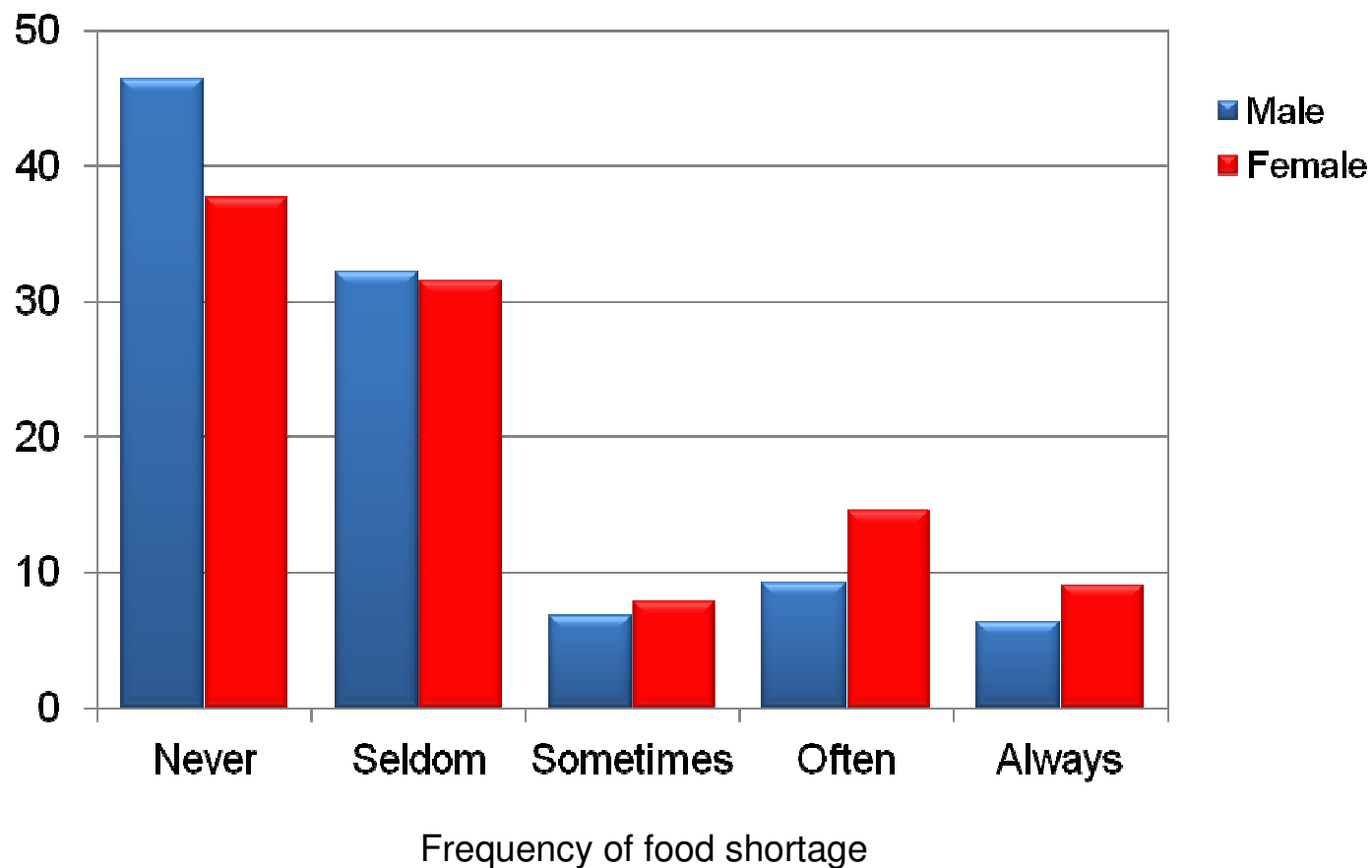
Figure--Average number of times a Tanzania household eats meat in one week



Source: Tanzania Agriculture Sample Census 2003, National Gender Report.

Figure--Percent of male and female headed households by frequency of facing food shortages in Tanzania

Percent of households



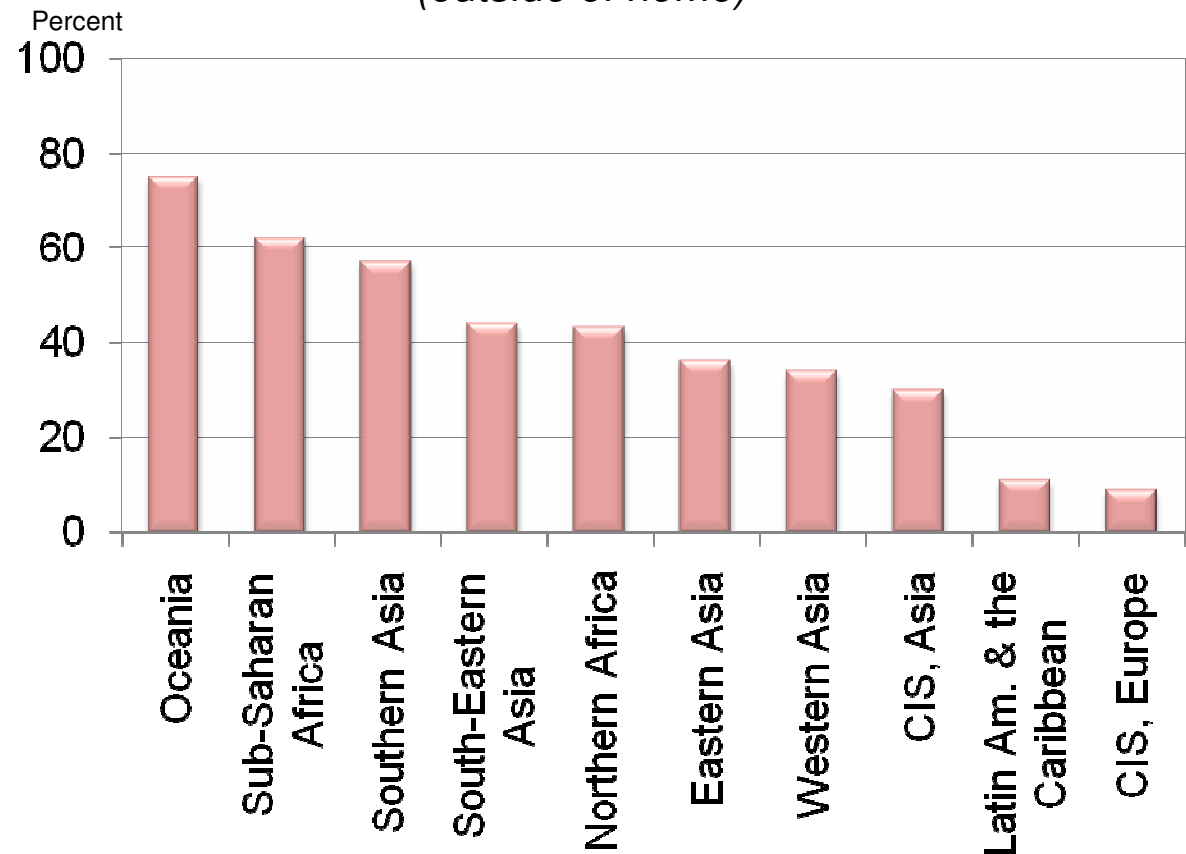
Source: Tanzania Agriculture Sample Census 2003, National Gender Report.

Gender also matters in agriculture, but differently...

- In the developing world, women provide the majority of the agricultural labor and agriculture is the most common industry of employment for women employed. This is the so-called *feminization of agriculture*.
- In the developed world, men dominate the operation of farms and provide most of the farm labor.
- But, women play other roles on the farm, less often measured.

In the developing world, women are commonly employed in agriculture

Figure--Share of women in agricultural employment, 2007
(outside of home)



- In SE Asia, 90% of labor in rice production

- In Pakistan, 80% of livestock management

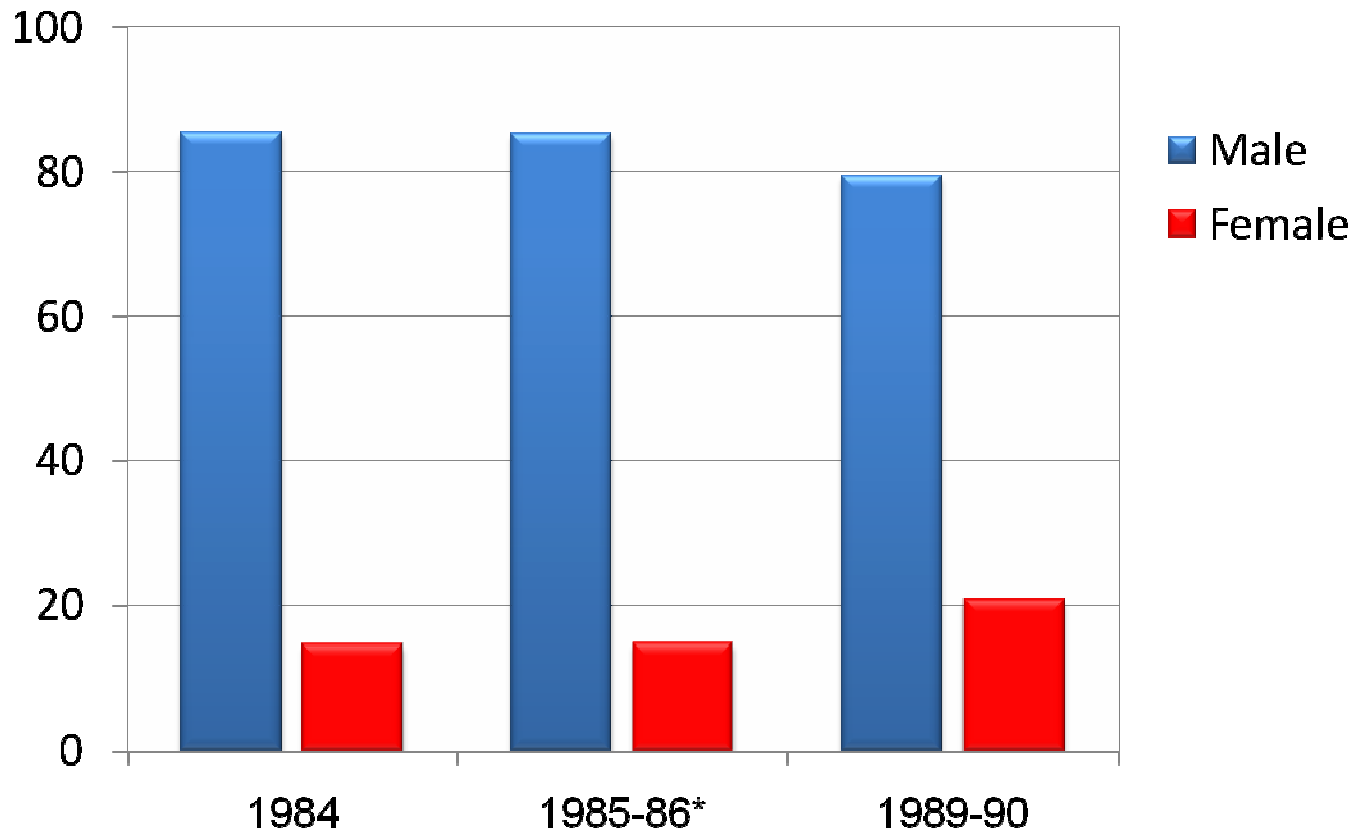
- In Tanzania, 80% of unpaid family labor

Source: UN, MDG: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Progress Chart, 2008.
Note: CIS are the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Feminization of ag can result from an increase in female heads of holdings or...

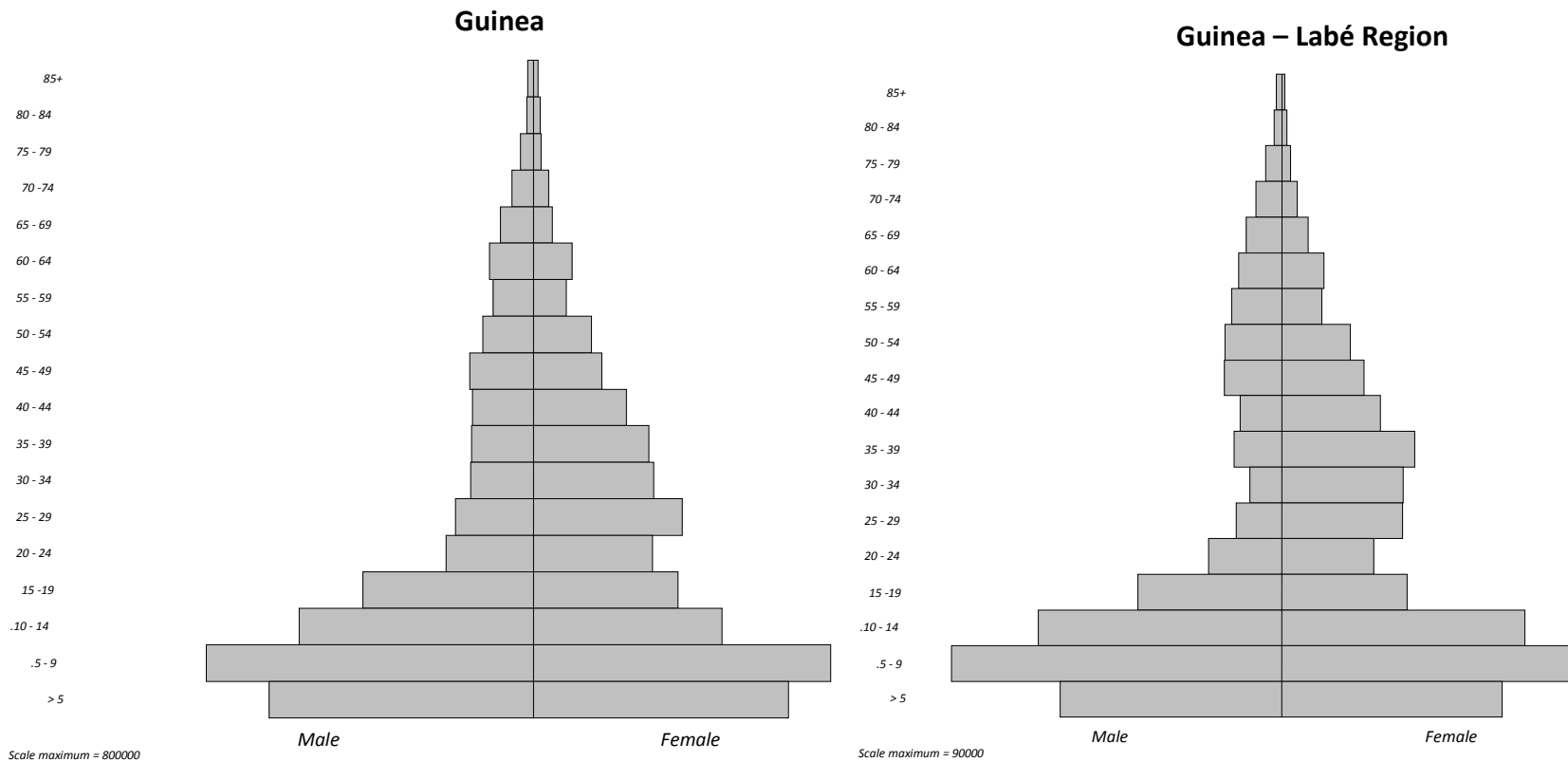
Figure--Heads of agricultural holdings by sex, 1984-1990, percent, Cameroon

Percent



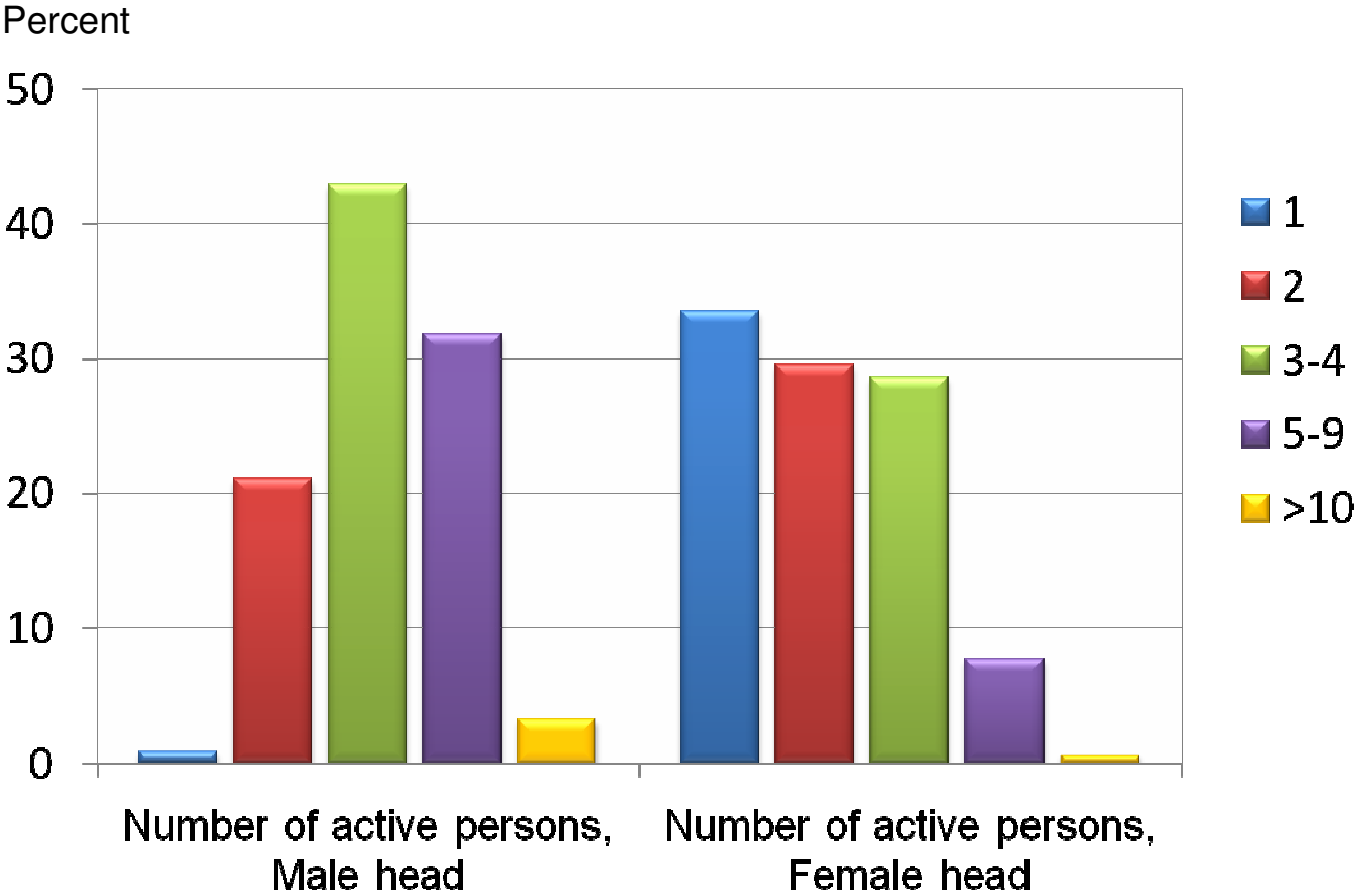
Direction des Enquetes Agro – Economiques et de la Planification Agricole.
Source: Agricultural census 1984, Agricultural surveys, 1985-86 and 1989-90.

Feminization can also result from age-specific male-dominated rural out-migration, as in Guinea



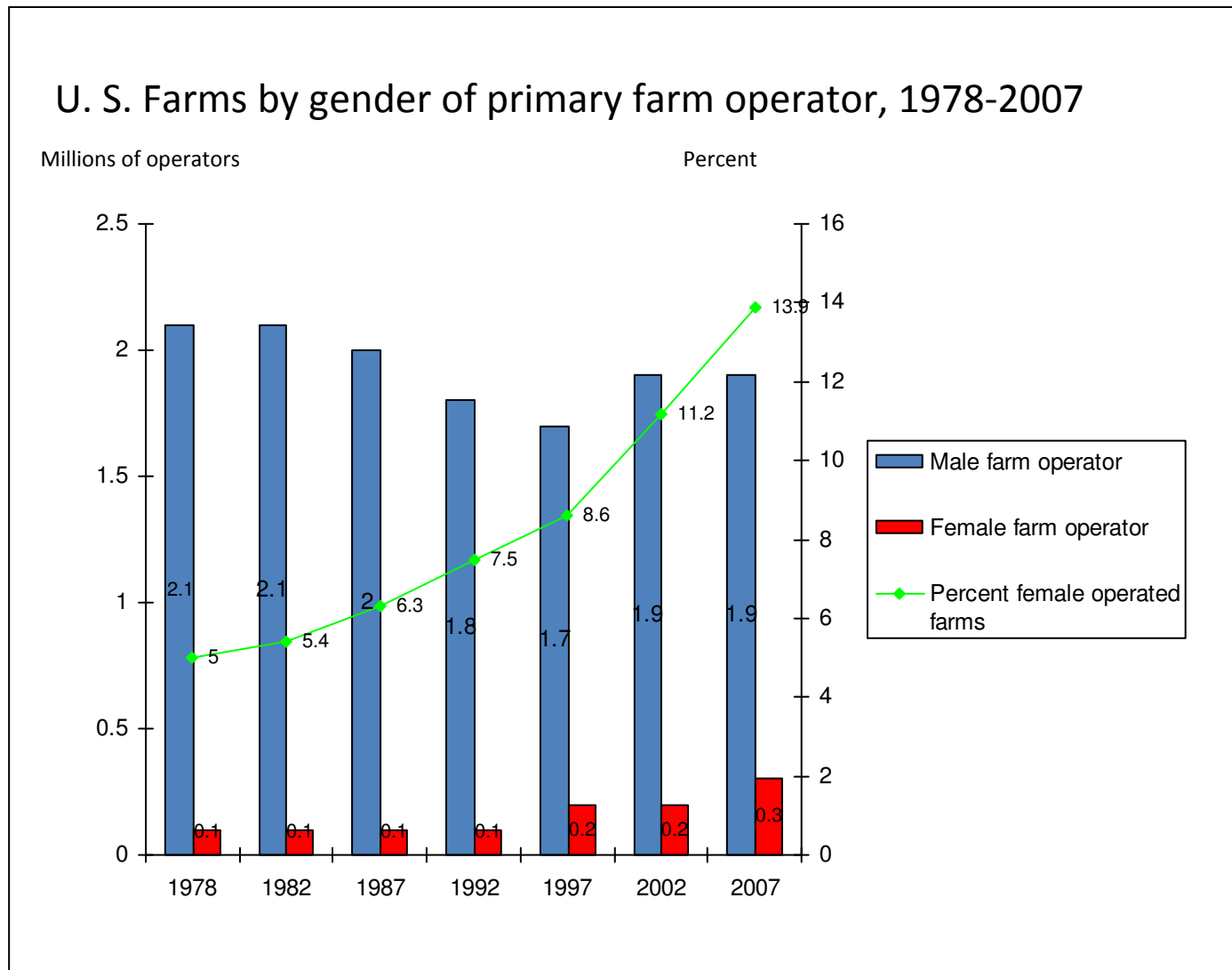
- Fewer men than women in the 20-49 age group of the ag pop in Guinea
- There are 4 times more women than men in the Labe region in the 30-34 age group

Figure--Distribution of rural agricultural holdings by number of agriculturally active persons and sex of the head of the holding, Guinea—evidence that women are operating smaller holdings



Source: 2000/2001 National Agricultural Census, Guinea.

In the developed world, where the average income and wealth of farm households are greater than other households, men are overwhelmingly the principal operators of farms and male-operated farms are more likely to receive farm program payments



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture, various years.

Starting in 2002, up to 3 operators can be identified

Women's Roles in U.S. Agriculture: sometimes less visible

- As **nonfamily hired workers** —about 20% of the 731,500 hired workers
- As **farmland owners other than operators** —51% of the 1.4M nonoperator landlords
- As **farm worker-spouses, not operators**, of male operated-farms—about 16% of the 1.6M female spouses work on the farm
- As **primary operators** —11-14% of the 2.1M primary operators
- As **joint operators, other than primary** —75% of the 1M secondary operators

That sums to about 2.8 million women providing capital, labor, and/or management to agriculture

Suggestions for Action-Oriented Data Collection

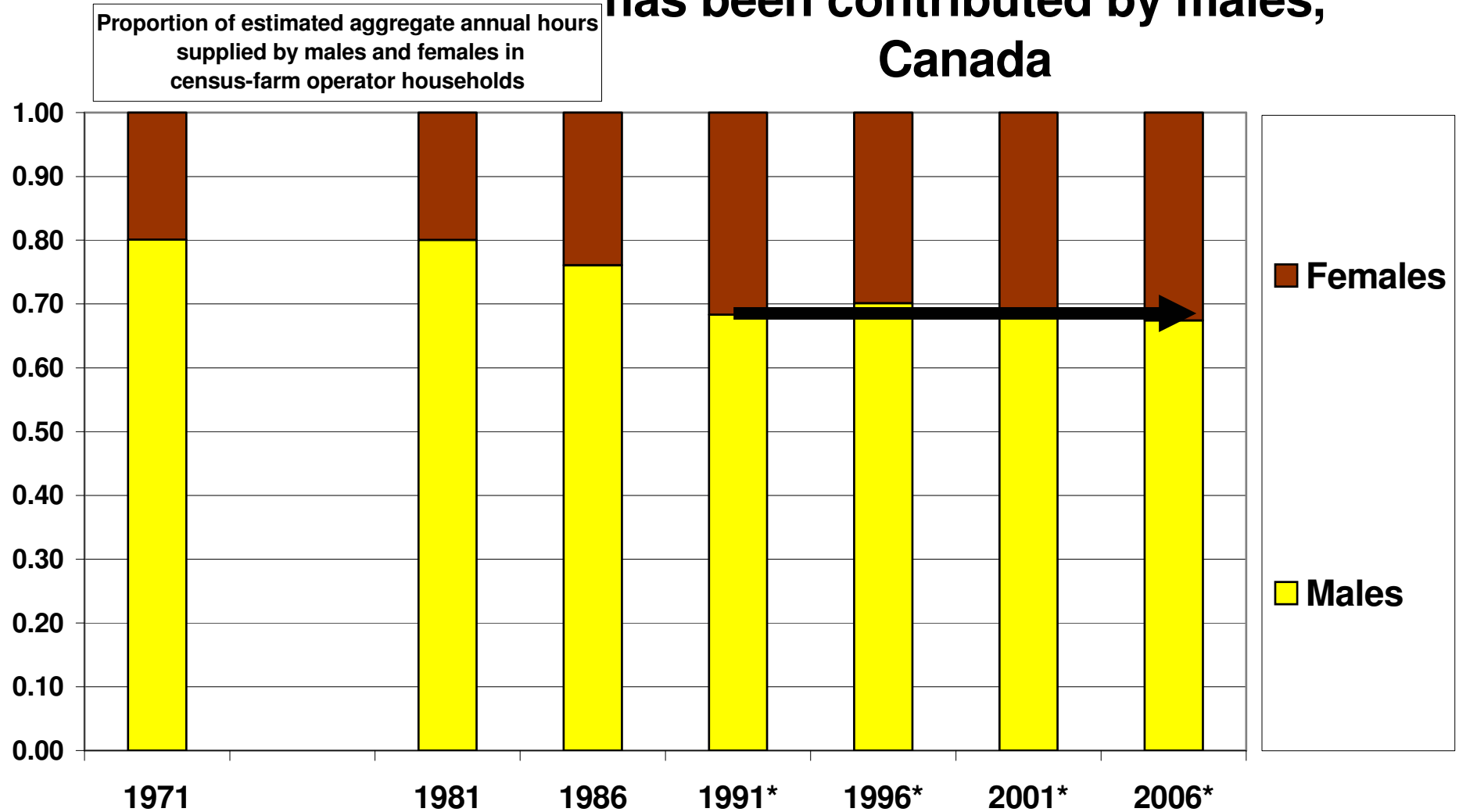
- Target data collection purposes for national and small area collection
 - Focus on national representation and SNA: Especially for developing countries, improve coverage and collect gender of those engaged in farming, including onfarm technologies and the use of those technologies by gender
 - To understand intrahousehold, cultural, and social barriers to improved agricultural productivity: Depend on small area surveys to collect labor allocations (farm and off-farm), asset ownership, access to assets, credit, and services, role in decision-making
- Emerging policy issues and gender: climate change mitigation, multifunctionality

Examples of gender-relevant variables from US and Canada

- Time allocation
- Multiple operators
- Acquisition of land



Since 1991*, 67 to 70% of household labour has been contributed by males, Canada



* Starting in 1991, more than one operator could be identified for each census-farm. Typically, the operators live in the same household. Estimated annual hours of work is calculated as "hours worked last week" (i.e. in the week prior to the census (May 16, 2006)) multiplied by "hours worked last year" and thus this chart only includes individuals with some "hours worked last week" and "some weeks worked last year".
Source: Statistics Canada. Agriculture-Population Linkage, 1971 to 2006.

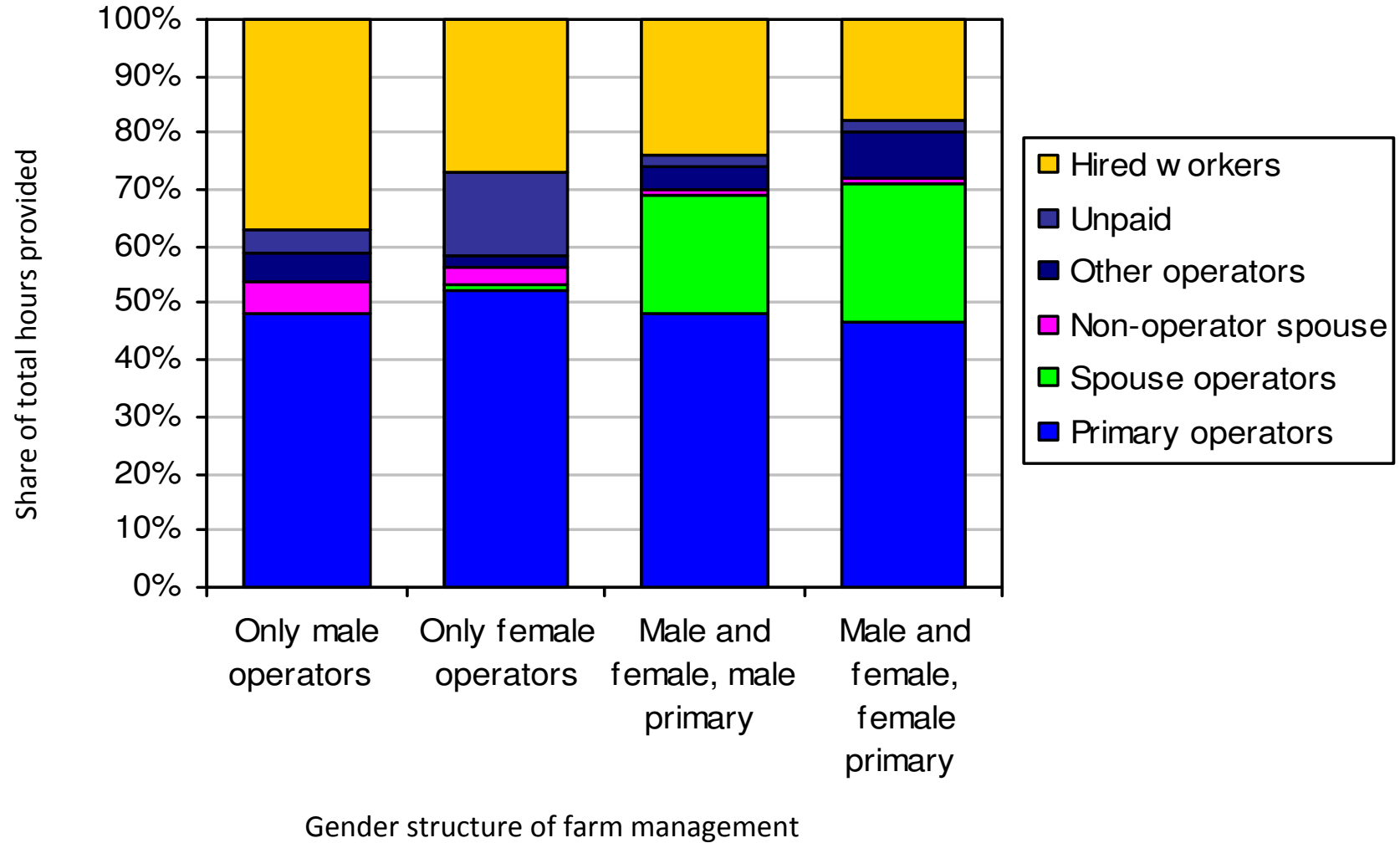
Table 4. Distribution of census-farms by the gender mix of the operators associated with one, two or three-household census-farms, Canada, 2001.

Gender mix of the operators of census-farms	One household census-farms				Two household census-farms			Three (or more) household census-farms	All households			All census-farms
	Census-farms with one operator	Census-farms with two operators	Census-farms with three or more operators	All one household census-farms	Census-farms with two operators	Census-farms with three or more operators	All two household census-farms	Census-farms with three or more operators	Census-farms with one operator	Census-farms with two operators	Census-farms with three or more operators	
Percent distribution of number of census-farms across household categories (row percent)												
All census-farms	62	29	2	93	4	2	6	1	62	34	4	100
One operator - male	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
One operator - female	100	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
Two operators - male/male	0	16	0	26	74	0	74	0	0	100	0	100
Two operators - male/female	0	39	0	50	1	0	1	0	0	100	0	100
Two operators - female/male	0	91	0	91	9	0	9	0	0	100	0	100
Two operators - female/female	0	0	0	0	31	0	31	0	0	100	0	100
Three operators - male/male/male	0	0	12	12	0	13	18	70	0	0	100	100
Three operators - male/male/female	0	0	29	29	0	61	61	10	0	0	100	100
Three operators - male/female/female	0	0	13	13	0	33	33	5	0	0	100	100
Three operators - male/female/male	0	0	52	52	0	47	47	2	0	0	100	100
Three operators - female/male/male	0	0	40	40	0	35	35	25	0	0	100	100
Three operators - female/male/female	0	0	47	47	0	41	41	9	0	0	100	100
Three operators - female/female/male	0	0	47	47	0	35	35	12	0	0	100	100
Three operators - female/female/female	0	0	30	30	0	10	10	50	0	0	100	100
Percent distribution of number of census-farms across categories of census-farm operator gender mix (column percent)												
All census-farms	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
One operator - male	92	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	92	0	0	57
One operator - female	8	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	5
Two operators - male/male	0	4	0	1	85	0	62	0	0	14	0	5
Two operators - male/female	0	87	0	27	8	0	6	0	0	77	0	26
Two operators - female/male	0	8	0	3	5	0	4	0	0	8	0	3
Two operators - female/female	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Three operators - male/male/male	0	0	10	0	0	14	4	83	0	0	30	1
Three operators - male/male/female	0	0	12	0	0	25	7	6	0	0	16	1
Three operators - male/female/female	0	0	12	0	0	6	2	1	0	0	7	0
Three operators - male/female/male	0	0	57	1	0	49	13	3	0	0	41	2
Three operators - female/male/male	0	0	5	0	0	4	1	4	0	0	4	0
Three operators - female/male/female	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0
Three operators - female/female/male	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Three operators - female/female/female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Canada's linked pop-ag censuses have a history of providing the basis for a richness in understanding gender roles and farm structure (e.g., Bollman)

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001.

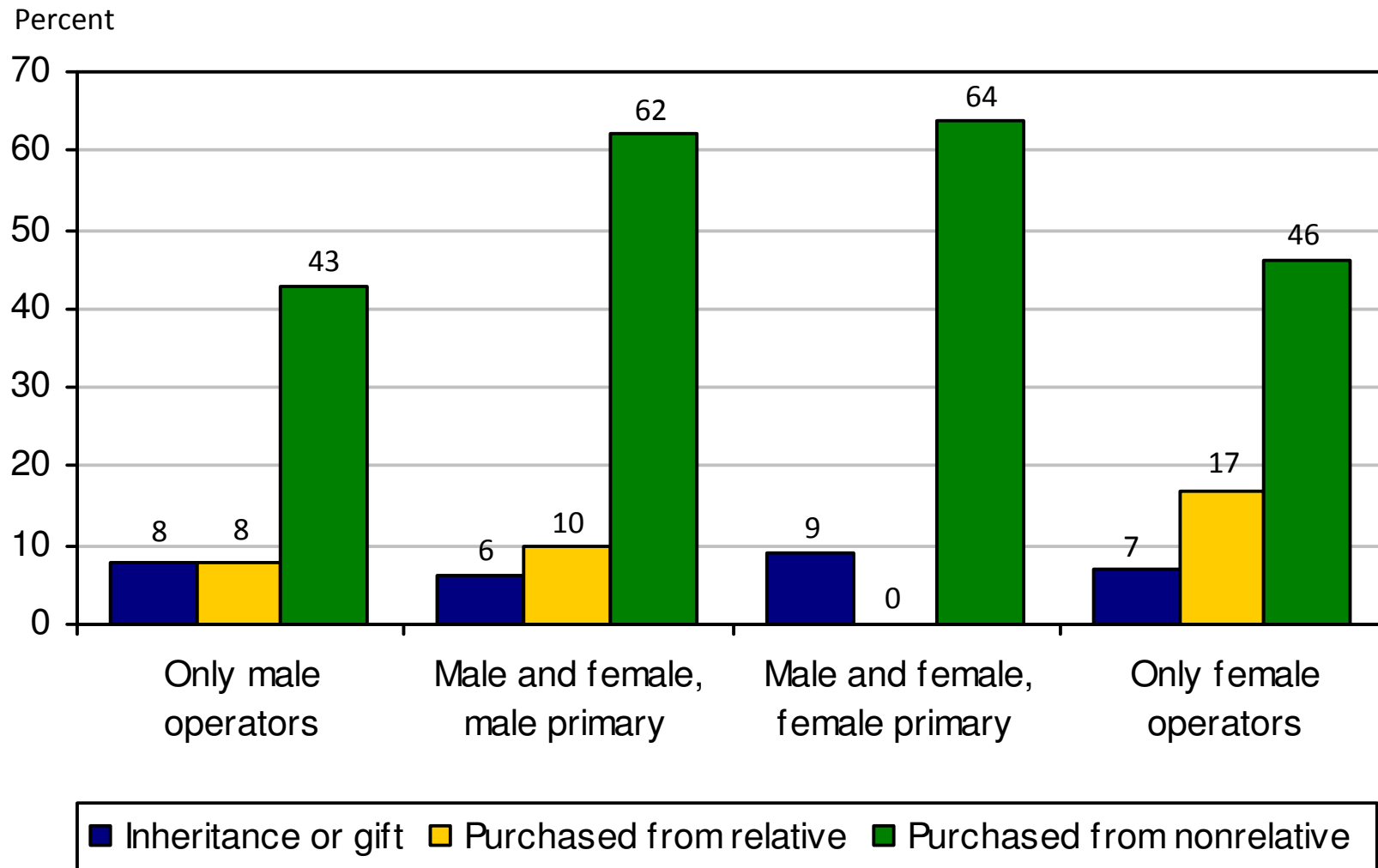
Source of farm labor on U.S. family farms, by management gender structure, 2008



Source: USDA, ARMS, 2008, version 1

Beginning farms means of acquiring owned land, by gender management structure

(Excludes farms with primary operators 65 years old and older)



Source: USDA, ARMS, 2008, version 1.

Concluding comments

- Recognition that human capital is a crucial asset; the past was solely focused on agricultural output statistics
- Gender lacks significant visibility, but evidence of improved recognition and data availability
- There is a need for sex-disaggregated data at sub-household level to reflect intrahousehold differences to understand decision-making and control of assets
- There is a lack of understanding of the issues, including gender, involved in immigrant and migrant labor
- Better understanding of how institutions and producer groups treat women, e.g. inheritance laws, access to input, credit and land, access to extension services, i.e., Annie's Project in US

Important developments

- MDGs—tracking their progress
- FAO (2005) Agricultural censuses and gender: lessons learned in Africa
- FAO (2009) statistical toolkit with specific sex-disaggregated census/survey questions
- SOFA (2010) focus on women in agriculture and rural development

Evidence of more positive efforts

- Increased collaboration of international donors, users, and producers of statistics
- Provision of direct technical support, e.g. the 2009 FAO toolkit
- Global Strategy Report
- National statistical strategies which recognize the importance of gender
- Data dissemination, e.g., Country Stats, financed largely by the Gates Foundation