



Presented at the FIG Working Week 2023,  
28 May - 1 June 2023 in Orlando, Florida, USA

# FIG WORKING WEEK 2023

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Protecting  
Our World,  
Conquering  
New Frontiers

## Promoting Women's Land Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

### Potential Mitigation Measures to Gender Inequality in Land Access and Land Tenure Security

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**Gender inequalities in land access  
and land tenure security  
represent severe barriers to  
sustainable development and are a  
violation of human rights**





In developing countries, women account for 60-80% of food production and 15 % of the Africa's GDP, **BUT they rarely own the land on which they work.**

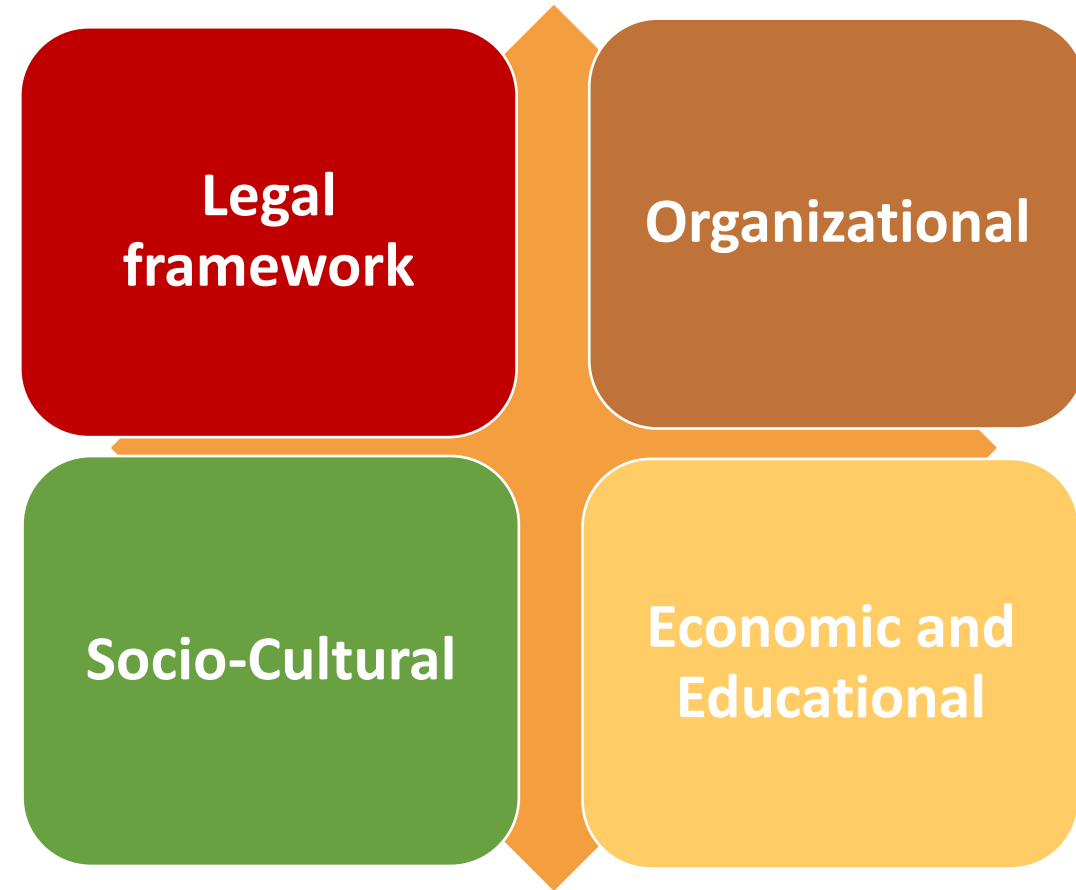
Globally, 49% of the adult population classify themselves as owners, 15% as renters, and 29% as users of family property. **HOWEVER, less than 15% of all landholders are women**, ranging from 5% in the Middle East and North Africa to 18% in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Nearly 1 in 5 adults feel insecure about their land or property rights. Sub-Saharan (26%), the Middle East and North Africa (28%) have higher insecurity proportions. **SSA women (48%) are particularly more vulnerable, especially when they become widows or divorced.**

## If women had the same access to land, education and markets as men, they would have:

- Economic gains and increased likelihood to engage in non-farm entrepreneurship activities. They would be able to promote the human capital development of their offspring.
- Increased farm yields by 20–30% which in turn would reduce the number of hungry people by 12–17%.
- Stronger bargaining and decision-making power within and outside the household.
- Enhanced tenure security and less likelihood to become economically vulnerable in old age or following an event of the death of or separation or divorce from the spouse.
- Greater ability to mitigate and recover from climate shocks and natural disasters.

**Several factors contribute to gender inequality in land access and land tenure security**



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Legal Framework	Organizational	Socio-cultural	Economic and Educational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal pluralism: Statutory Law, Religious law, Social Law, Customary law</li> <li>• Legal discrimination</li> <li>• Gaps in legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak Institutions</li> <li>• Inaccessible Institutions</li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Limited formalization of rights</li> <li>• Lack of reliable land registry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriarchy</li> <li>• Matrilineal and patrilineal inheritance</li> <li>• Polygamy, informal marriages</li> <li>• Health stigmatization</li> <li>• “Self-hurt”, “Brother” syndrome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial instability</li> <li>• Lack of access to finance, information, knowledge and technology</li> <li>• Lack of participation</li> <li>• Lack of legal literacy</li> </ul>



For great ills, great remedies  
are required at  
international,  
regional,  
country, and  
local level



## International efforts

CEDAW,  
BPfA

VGGTs

2030  
Agenda

FELA, FFPLA,  
LADM, STDN,  
LGAF

## Regional efforts

2063 Agenda

Maputo  
Protocol

The African  
F&G on Land  
Policy

## Country and Local Level efforts

**Legal  
Reforms**

**Institutional  
Capacity**

**Attention to  
Social  
Institutions**

**Women's  
Economic  
Empowerment**



## Country and Local Level Efforts

Legal Reforms	Institutional Capacity	Attention to Social institutions	Women's empowerments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote gender-sensitive legal frameworks</li> <li>• Consider women's experiences and concerns</li> <li>• Advocate globally to support and pressure local implementations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get laws out of paper</li> <li>• Assign responsibility and accountability</li> <li>• Promote gender-sensitive land registration programs</li> <li>• Go digital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote research</li> <li>• Raise awareness within the community and household</li> <li>• Enforce legal literacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to education</li> <li>• Access to jobs and managerial positions</li> <li>• Access to information, knowledge, technology and capital</li> </ul>

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**Thank You!!!**

**Obrigada!!!**

**Bedankt!!!**

