

# Gender in Agriculture Report



Prepared by CARE International  
in the West Bank & Gaza



# Why Gender?



## Labour Force Participation

- In 2004, Palestinian women's participation in the labour force was 12.8%.
- In 2007 it increased to 15.7% (compared to 67.7% for men).
- The rate was higher for rural women at 20.4%, likely attributed to rural women's role in farming activities.
- In 2010, this figure stood at 16%, one of the lowest in the world.
- Youth participation (15-24 years old) in the labour market is relatively low, at 44.2% for men and 8.2% for women.

# Why Gender Analysis?



- **Aim :**

To provide **information** to determine the most **effective strategies to support gender equity** throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

- **Methodology:**

Inclusionary research methods were employed to collect relevant information, incorporating feedback and interests of CARE staff and partners especially in the design and use of a Gender-related questionnaire and Focus Group discussion.

**Questionnaire:** a gender-based questionnaire, divided into two main parts:

- Part 1: questions about survey respondents
- Part 2: questions about gender and agriculture.

**Focus Groups:** The aim of the focus groups discussions was to draw out more profound information on reproductive and productive gender divisions of labour, access to and control over resources, and gender-specific practical needs and strategic interests.

- A total of **18 focus groups** were scheduled in **9 communities** throughout the West Bank and Gaza, totalling roughly **180 people**.
- **Mixed** groups of men and women, as well as **separate** groups were held. In total **6** focus groups were held exclusively for women, **7** for men, and **5** mixed.
- Participants were selected from among households that practice diverse agricultural activities.

# Average Profile of Survey Respondents



- 50% of respondents are project participants
- 957 individuals, 48.1% in West Bank and 51.9% in Gaza
- 49.3% women and 50.7%
- Majority between 36-60 years
- 85.1% are married
- 79.3% are male heads of households, 11.3% are female heads of households, and 9.3% from households headed by both men and women together
- 47.2% received basic education, 23.4% the general grade, 19.9% are illiterate, and 5.8% have a Bachelor's degree
- The survey included questions about the following sectors: chicken rearing, fruit and vegetable farming, livestock rearing, and beekeeping in terms of respondents' (a) age, (b) gender, (c) place of residence, (d) social origin, (e) material status, (f) number of family members, (g) average monthly family income, (h) monthly expenses, (i) education level, and (j) health status.



- The following slides outline some of the major findings of the questionnaire and focus groups under the following domains:
  - 1) Division of labour
  - 2) Time spent
  - 3) Ownership



# 1. Division of Labour



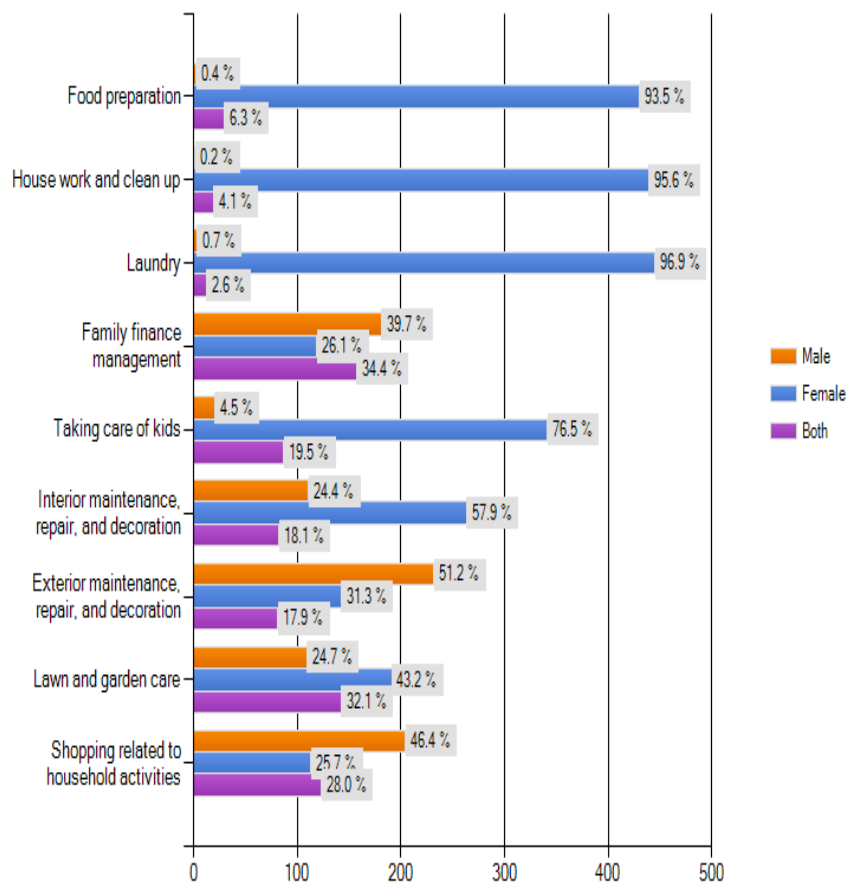
- The questionnaire's findings affirmed that engaging women in agricultural activities outside of the house without ensuring that men take on some household chores eventually leads women to be overloaded with a **double burden**.
- When women take on alternative income-generating projects, they enjoy **neither increased access to nor control over resources** because they are still burdened with the vast majority of household tasks.
- While the double burden is a key concern, it is also worth mentioning that many **women expressed their willingness to increase their burdens** in order to offer extra financial support to their families.

Conclusion: Women cannot have increased control over their agricultural projects or more decision-making power **unless reproductive and household labour is shared more equitably** between men and women. When women end up with a double burden then the **incentive to work outside of the home** is **devoid** of any **empowering factors**.

# Gender division of household activities

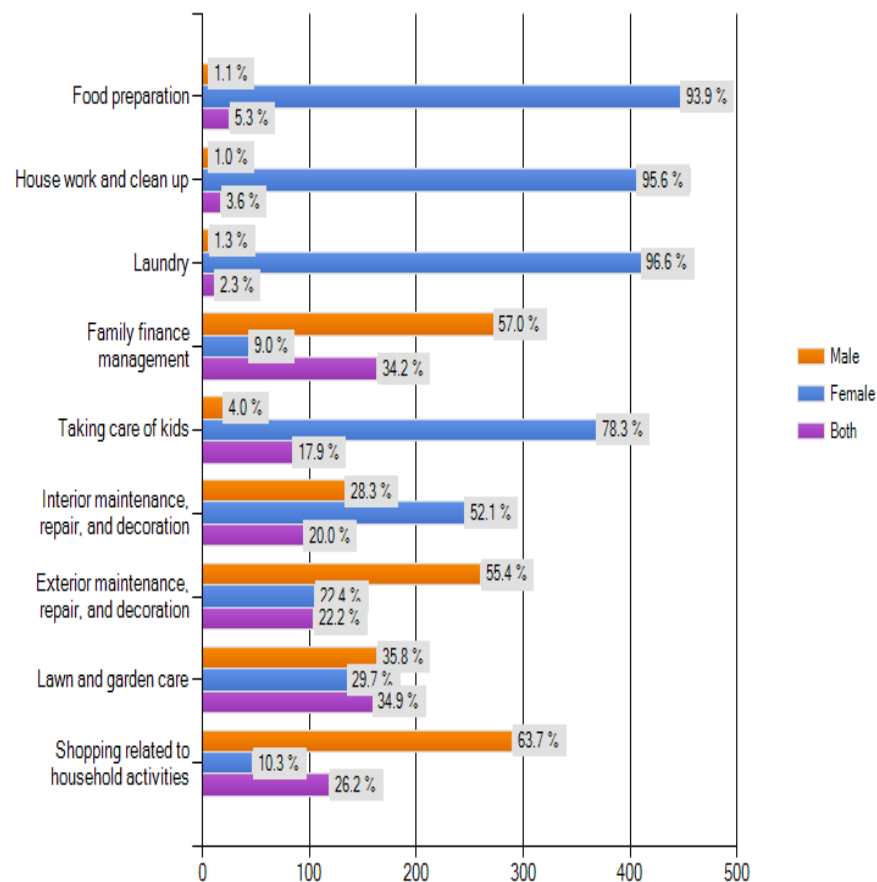


4.11 Which household activities are typically performed by males, females, or both?



As perceived by women

4.11 Which household activities are typically performed by males, females, or both?



As perceived by men



## 2. Time Spent

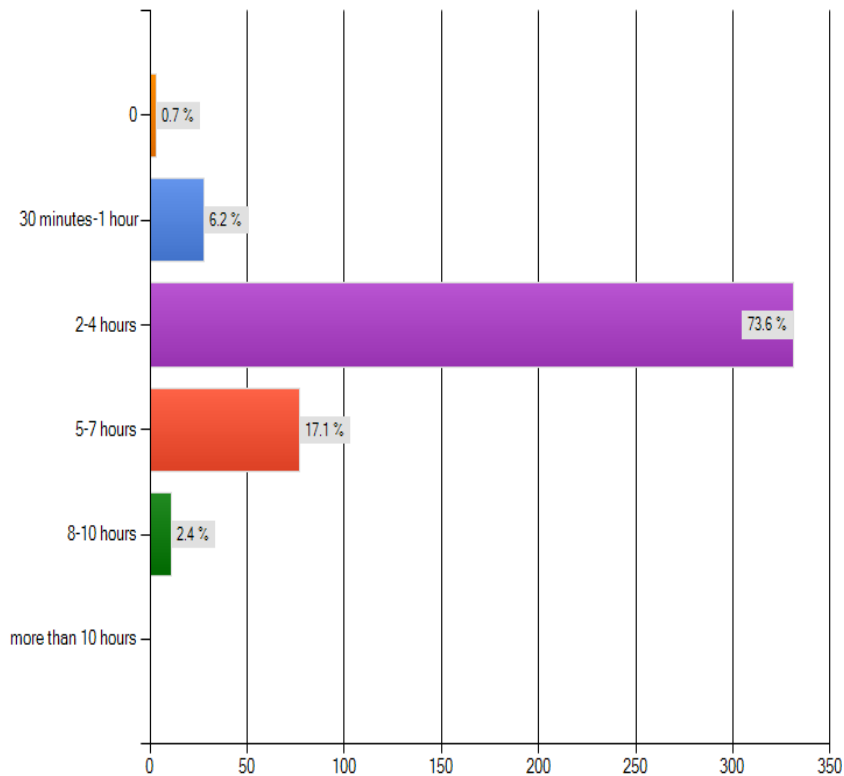
- Time spent on agricultural and household activities **varies according to the type of activity**: chicken and beekeeping projects require less time than livestock activities.
- The **closer the project is to the home**, the more likely it is that **women will manage it** (e.g. small chicken coops). This helps women to save time by remaining in the household vicinity, and avoiding travel outside of the home, which they feel is not entirely socially acceptable.
- The **smaller the project, the less time invested by men**. When a project is relatively large, demanding of physical strength, and outside of the house, it is men who manage it.

Conclusion: Overall, **women spend more time than men** when we include both productive and reproductive activities, but men prefer to take on larger agricultural projects that require a lot of time because as breadwinners they believe it is their responsibility to take on projects that provide the most income.

# Time spent on household activities

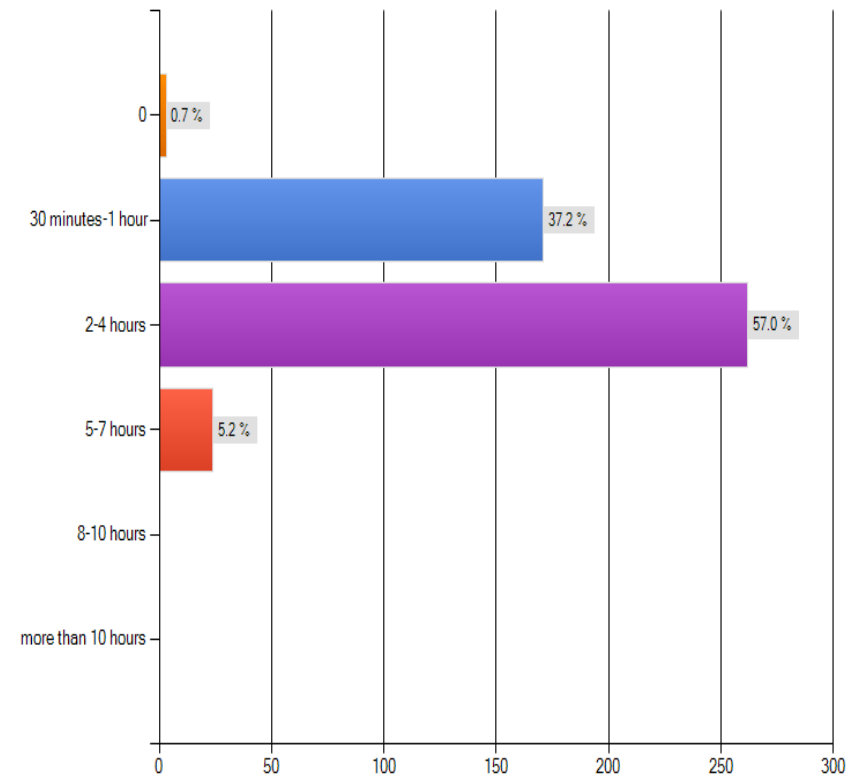


4.12 How much time do you spend on household activities on a daily basis?



As perceived by women

4.12 How much time do you spend on household activities on a daily basis?



As perceived by men

### 3. Ownership



- The **larger** the agricultural **project**, the more often **men have ownership** over it.
- **Women want** to have **ownership** over their agricultural projects more so in order **to contribute to the families' income** than as an act of asserting their rights.
- **Women are worried about having larger assets**, especially those who farm vegetable produce, as they are already fully occupied dividing their time between family duties in the reproductive sphere and work in the agricultural fields.

*“A man is responsible for providing for the family, so he should work on big projects, because small projects do not cover all the family expenses. Also, women don’t know how to manage big projects and she also has no time, as she should also be doing her work inside the house - her main responsibility” - male participant, Gaza*

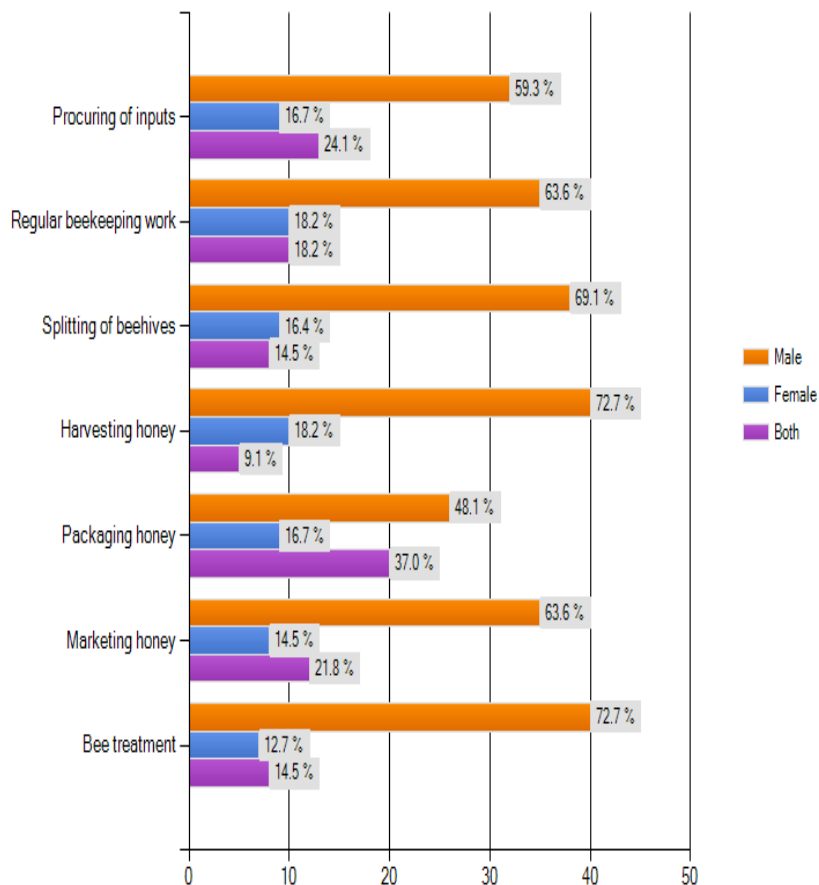
Conclusion: When agricultural **projects** are **registered** in a **women’s name**, it **does not mean** that **she will** automatically **have** increased **decision-making power**. In some cases a man will actively choose not to help with the project because he feels embarrassed that the project is owned by his wife.



# Gender division of productive labour, according to women

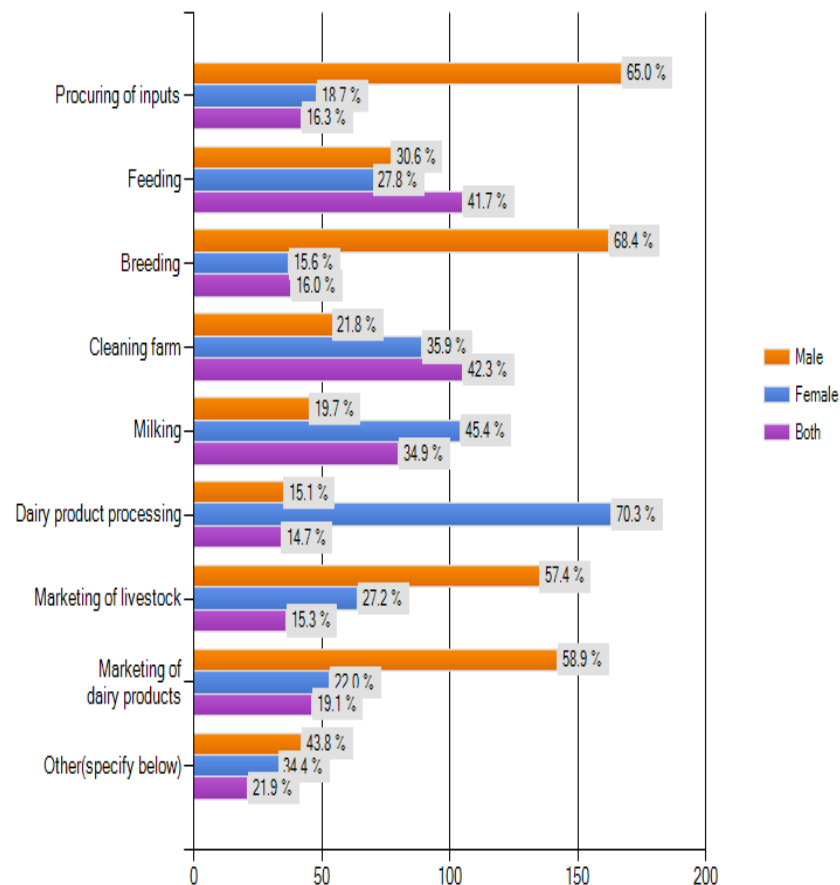


4.5 Which beekeeping activities are typically performed by males, females, or both?



Beekeeping

4.1 Which livestock breeding activities are typically performed by male, female or both



Livestock

## Recommendations continued...



- 1) To establish women's cooperatives to help provide culturally acceptable opportunities for women increase their employment opportunities. Collective empowerment renders greater results than individual empowerment, as targeting women individually often simply over-burdens them without altering the existing negative gender power relations.
- 2) To address gender gaps and breaking down barriers to women participation in the decision making processes in and out house along the value chain
- 3) To facilitate gender- balanced access to and control of agricultural resources. For example, access to agricultural equipment will enable women to spend less time in the field and free up more time for household work.
- 4) To engage men in issues of gender labour, time spent and ownership, and also aim at engaging youth as potential agents for change.
- 5) To link women 's farming groups to the market and with the private sector.



# Thank You

