

DUE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS, WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL YIELDS IN BURKINA FASO AVERAGE

18% LOWER
THAN MEN'S

FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS IN ETHIOPIA MAKE

34 CENTS
FOR EVERY DOLLAR EARNED BY MALE ENTREPRENEURS

IN MANY COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, FEWER THAN

50% OF WIDOWS
REPORT RECEIVING ANY OF THEIR LATE HUSBAND'S ASSETS

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions and more information about the Africa Region's gender program, please contact:

Markus Goldstein
mgoldstein@worldbank.org

- OR -

Katherine Manchester
kmanchester@worldbank.org

The World Bank
1818 H St. NW
Washington, DC 20433
USA



GENDER IN AFRICA TODAY

GENDER INNOVATION LAB

GENDER IN AFRICA

Governments, development practitioners, and international organizations are taking a new interest in the gender dimensions of poverty and development. In FY 2013, **99% of World Bank lending to African countries took gender into consideration.** But because of lacking data, large gaps remain in knowing what works best, what doesn't and why. The World Bank is committed to identifying key lessons on women's economic empowerment in Africa and to use them to inform and assist policymakers and development practitioners to better address gender constraints. To make it happen, the World Bank is engaged in rigorous impact evaluations to determine what works and what does not to reduce gender inequality.

WOMEN MAKE UP 40 PERCENT OF THE GLOBAL LABOR FORCE, BUT ACCOUNT FOR

58% OF UNPAID EMPLOYMENT

SPEARHEADING THESE EFFORTS IS THE AFRICA REGION'S GENDER INNOVATION LAB

FROM THE GROUND

- In Burkina Faso, women's agricultural yields are **18% lower** than male farmers in the same household: On average, women farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa produce less than men - a problem driven by women's heavy household responsibilities, lower use of inputs, and frequent choice of low-value crops.
- Female entrepreneurs in Ethiopia make **34 cents for every dollar** earned by male entrepreneurs: Female-owned firms are less profitable than men's because of the type of work they do, as well as discrimination in credit markets.
- In 16 Sub-Saharan African countries, **less than half of widows** (or their children) report having received any of their late husband's assets: Customary practices, such as limiting women's rights to inherit land, perpetuate inequalities amongst men and women across generations.

Early results highlight the nuances of gender inequality across Africa and underline the tremendous benefits of effective development programs that integrate gender.

The Gender Innovation Lab is finding solutions that are:

COST EFFECTIVE

For only \$18 per girl per year, a program of adolescent girls clubs provided livelihoods training, life skills, and a safe social space – and helped more girls move into income-generating activities. Participants showed tremendously positive changes in their life choices about reproductive health, career and self-esteem.

PROFITABLE

In Uganda, men and women working in the same sectors receive the same earnings. But most women are not aware that male-dominated industries are more profitable; providing accurate information could encourage women to cross over into more lucrative work, and **close the gender gap in earnings.**

SCALABLE

Female farmers in many African countries experience lower yields than male farmers. Thanks to new data from Nigeria, Ethiopia and Malawi, the GIL and the LSMS-ISA are quantifying which constraints hold female farmers back the most – **a necessary first step for designing effective policy to increase yields.**

CONTEXT-SPECIFIC

In Liberia, 60% of the population is under the age of 24 and most are unemployed. The World Bank's Adolescent Girls Initiative **boosted employment among trainees by 50%.**

SUSTAINABLE

In Rwanda, providing land titles led owners to invest more in soil conservation – **and women were twice as likely to make these investments as men.**